



11 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent Update 3 - Supporting All Students During Lockdown

We hope that you and your families are safe and well in this incredibly challenging time as we find ourselves back in a position we had very much wanted to avoid. I am writing to you to update you on our progress in terms of providing ongoing support for all students and their families over this second period of the school closures.

We were very aware that the reality of the school closures was a difficult one for many of our young people as soon as we closed to most students in March 2020 and for many, unfortunately, the situation will be difficult again with this closure. Aspects of normality that had been regained have been again stripped away from our students, not just in terms of their learning in school, but also in terms of the freedoms and independence they had been starting to enjoy once more, in a limited way, and the contact with friends and family that they rely upon. On top of this are the worries and concerns around the effects of the new variant of Covid-19 on young people, the impact of the current situation on family life and the uncertainty of the future are all very real for them.

From a school point of view, our contact with students and families is a fundamental part of school life, whether the contact involves informal daily conversations with both students or parents/carers or more formal phone calls or meetings. Not having the bulk of young people in school and having direct contact with them clearly impacts on this aspect of schooling.

I am delighted to be able to outline for you our updated Pupil Support Plan to provide ongoing support for our young people and their families while they are not with us in school. We would also like to stress that support is available as normal and is **not restricted** to supporting learning at this time.

Mr Stephen Milligen, Acting PT Guidance, will take over Guidance responsibility for 2L4, 3L4 and 4C1 from 11 January 2021.

Pupil Support Plan:

- During the period of the school closure, from W/B 11 January, we will begin to make contact with each family. We will continue to use the mobile phones supplied by the Authority in the first lockdown, and have more on order. Contact will be either by phone or by email and families can express a preference for frequency and the type of contact that suits best in the first contact.

- While school/home contact would normally be by senior management, Guidance staff or Support for Learning staff, during this period and because of the number of contacts required, we have re-established our wider Pupil Support Team (named below). This team will work as Key Contacts for families, for example in the case of siblings there will be one contact for the family rather than individual students. If they do not manage to make contact by phone, they will send a text to let you know who they are and that they have tried to call.
- The Pupil Support team will be increased W/B 11 January when a new set of mobile phones arrive. Once this is in place and Key Contacts are finalised parents will be informed, via Group Call, of the name of the allocated Key Contact and their contact details.
- The Key Contacts will all link back to the allocated Guidance Teacher/Head of House who will take forward any support requested or raised through conversations with families.
- Parents/Carers can also email the school email address and queries will be passed to relevant staff. There may be a slightly longer response time than normal due to the restrictions of remote working and the fact that many staff are also overseeing the learning of their own children at home while also providing and updating school work online. Please bear with us.

The Pupil Support Team includes:

Name	Role	Notes
Mrs Burgess	Depute Head Teacher (Liddell House)/Designated Child Protection Officer	
Mr Jamieson	Depute Head Teacher (Clerk Maxwell House)	
Miss Lyon	Acting Depute Head Teacher	Mobile phone pending – will call from school
Mrs Edge-Loake	PT SFL	
Ms Colquhoun	SFL	
Mrs Brandie	PT Guidance	
Mrs Murphy	PT Guidance	
Mr Saffhill	PT Guidance	
Mr Milligen	Acting PT Guidance	
Mrs Simpson	Guidance Support	
Miss Slaney	Youth Worker	
Mrs Wood	Teacher of HE/Acting PT Guidance	
Miss Graham	Teacher of RMPS	Mobile phone pending – will call from school
Miss Brack	Teacher of Inclusion	
Miss MacDonald	Teacher of Inclusion/RMPS	
Mrs Young	SFL	Mobile phone pending
Mrs Harley	SFL	Mobile phone pending

Mrs Blyth	SFL	Mobile phone pending
Mrs Furneaux	SFL	Mobile phone pending

In addition to the Pupil Support Team, **Caroline Steele, our Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisor**, will continue to provide vocational support to young people who require it. This could be in terms of supporting college applications (these are due to open at the end of January but this has not been confirmed at present), providing advice on subject choice or any other relevant matter.

The situation we find ourselves in is a constantly changing one but one where it is important to look after each other in any way possible until we have our young people back with us in a safe school environment.

We hope the supports outlined will be of help in these difficult times.

Yours faithfully

D Burgess

Mrs D Burgess

Depute Head Teacher