

People Directorate

Head Teacher: Elaine Harrigan

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Our Ref: EH/LJ

Your Ref:

Date: 15 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

UPDATE – TERM 1

As we approach the September holiday weekend, I write to inform you of current progress and highlight some important information in relation to a number of points since our return in August. It has been a very busy time and young people have settled well into their new school routines. As you are aware, Scottish Government Guidance continues to change and, as a school, we react appropriately to all new advice given.

1. Prize Giving

This year we have had to do things differently. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our traditional Prize Giving event and have instead created an online celebration of our prize winners. Our virtual Prize Giving presentation will be available to view online at www.girvanacademy.sayr.sch.uk from **Thursday 17th September**. We are delighted to welcome ex-Girvan Academy student, Jennifer Veitch as our Guest Speaker. Congratulations to all of the young people involved.

2. Health & Safety

We continue to implement our school Health & Safety plan. This plan is under constant review and we adapt with each new piece of advice given to us by updating our live risk assessments. Young people are adapting well to the wearing of face coverings and enhanced hygiene routines are working well. We continue with separate indoor interval/lunch procedures with S1-S3 in the school dining hall and S4-S6 in the library area. Hot food will now be served on our return after the September weekend and young people will be encouraged to pre-order their meals. Our one way system ensures limited crowding in corridors and young people are now in the habit of entering and exiting the building between periods. I would also ask you to reinforce with your child the importance of wearing a face covering and physical distancing when not in the school building, eg: lunch time, start/end of the school day.

3. Physical Education – PE

The wellbeing effects (physical, social, emotional and mental) of physical exercise are clearly known and we continue to provide young people with both core PE and PE SQA qualifications. Due to COVID-19 guidance, outdoor PE will feature as the default position, regardless of the weather. With this in mind, I would ask that you provide your child with appropriate clothing for wet weather PE. This may include items such as: waterproof jacket, change of footwear, socks, bag to store wet clothing etc. The PE department will remind young people of the requirements on an on-going basis. We pride ourselves in a high level of PE participation and we would like to thank young people and their parents/carers for their continued support at this time.

4. Parents' Evenings/Reports

Unfortunately, we are currently unable to hold parents' evenings within school at this time. We will, however, continue to report to you over Session 2020/21 on your child's progress. Should you wish to talk about your child's progress, please contact our Guidance team in the first instance via telephone or email:

Bargany House – Mc Dupuy (email: kirsty.dupuy@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Doune House – Ms Hutchison (email: marion.hutchison@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Trochrague House – Mr Booth (email: dominic.booth@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

5. Parent Council

Our Parent Council Chair, Sharon Trotter, invites you to attend our **online** Parent Council Meetings this session:

GAPC - Meeting 1	Monday 5 th October 2020
GAPC - Meeting 2	Monday 2 nd November 2020
GAPC - Meeting 3	Monday 7 th December 2020
GAPC - Meeting 4	Monday 1 st February 2021
GAPC - Meeting 5	Monday 1 st March 2021
GAPC - Meeting 6	Monday 10 th May 2021
GAPC - Meeting 7	Monday 14 th June 2021

The Zoom links to join each meeting are noted below:

GAPC - Meeting 1	https://zoom.us/j/93861405557?pwd=akRjaUMweFBXWWN6V2M5NHB0d0lwQT09
GAPC - Meeting 2	https://zoom.us/j/91042020017?pwd=TVZZcWFJTGVaWmlzNTdqTEJSZmtLQT09
GAPC - Meeting 3	https://zoom.us/j/96383393698?pwd=eIV0YUoyWldHV3YvZzVLUGk0UzFtZz09
GAPC - Meeting 4	https://zoom.us/j/99422823635?pwd=OU9RMW5sc09sdINhTWpsdFBtMDBLQT09
GAPC - Meeting 5	https://zoom.us/j/91443583055?pwd=KytVRGhock5sWm0xeHp2MHVqRmhJQT09
GAPC - Meeting 6	https://zoom.us/j/95932302591?pwd=Z3krdFBvb1U2d1F2Ni9tcDdjBFFDUT09
GAPC - Meeting 7	https://zoom.us/j/93761814435?pwd=ZENya0NsMUdTRzMxbzlibXV6Wk8zUT09

6. S6 Prom

As you can imagine, our S6 group are keen to get plans underway for our S6 Prom. At this stage, I have advised that we do not commit ourselves financially until we know if the Prom can go ahead. I have discussed with the S6 group and we have agreed that we will wait until January to move forward with any plans.

7. Access to the School Building

At this stage, there is no access to the school building after the end of the school day. This means that after school clubs and events such as school discos will not take place until we are advised that is safe to do so.

Finally, as always, I thank you for your ongoing support at this time.

Yours faithfully



Elaine Harrigan
Head Teacher