



Friday 14th May 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and all your family well.

There are a number of pieces of information we need to share with you in this newsletter.



COVID-19

The First Minister announced this week that we are moving to tier 2 on Monday 17th May. Although this increases our opportunities to meet with other people we still have to be mindful that the virus is still around us and we cannot afford to drop our guard. We are awaiting Scottish Government guidance for schools and will let you know of any changes to how the school operates. Face-coverings must still be worn by everyone in school and sanitising hands and cleaning work stations continues until further notice. Can I remind parents and carers that all learners are encouraged to complete a twice weekly lateral flow test? To obtain a testing kit you should complete the consent form sent to you prior to the Easter holiday, this form is also available on the school website. Once this has been received electronically, a testing kit can be picked up from the School Nursing Assistant based in the medical suite between 1.45pm-2.00pm daily.



Senior Phase Assessments

Assessments for S4 -6 learners are under way currently and our staff are providing support for them in many different ways to help them achieve their potential. Should you want to discuss this process please contact your son or daughter's Principal Teacher of Guidance.



Leavers Arrangements

This is the bitter-sweet time of year when we bid farewell to our learners who are moving on, but we also acknowledge that for them it is the start of a new chapter in their lives.

Here is information regarding the process all leavers must follow.

As you know, the assessment window in all Aberdeenshire secondary schools closes at the end of the day on Friday 28th May. **Learners who are in S5 or S6 can leave as soon as they have completed their last assessment.**

There are a number of S4 learners we know have still to complete N4 assessments and opportunity on Monday 31st May, Tuesday 1st or Wednesday 2nd June. **The national leaving date in Scotland is Monday 31st May and so all other S4 learners who are eligible to leave can leave on that date.** A reminder of the eligibility – learners must be 16 by 30th September this year. If their birthday falls after that date then they must either stay on for S5, stay on but leave at Christmas, or apply for exceptional entry to college, which means that they attend college from August 2021 instead of attending school.

Leavers forms can only be obtained from the relevant Principal Teacher of Guidance and must be fully completed before they can be accepted by the office.

If a learner is returning to school next session, and does not have N4 assessments to complete then **they need not attend school on Monday 31st, Tuesday 1st or Wednesday 2nd June.** Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th are, of course, INSET days and we expect everyone back for the change of timetable on Monday 7th June.

Timetables for senior pupils will be sent out by email week beginning Monday 31st May and a time will be allocated later that week for changes to be made if necessary.



Banff & Buchan Area Meeting

On Tuesday 4th May I attended the Banff & Buchan Area meeting to discuss the school's results for the previous session. This is an annual meeting and provides our elected members with the opportunity to ask in depth questions about the attainment of our learners, and also gives me the chance to tell our Local Councillors about everything that the school and our learners have achieved over the past year. Yesterday I was invited to attend this meeting for the annual review of our results. I was glad of the chance to say how proud I am of you, the learners and the school as a whole as I think during both lockdowns, and the bit in between, our learners were afforded the best learning and teaching experience.

Our Local Councillors congratulated the staff on their ongoing hard work and for seizing the new opportunities presented during the pandemic, and asked that the Committee's thanks be passed on to staff pupils and parents for their efforts through the most trying of times



Employability Festival

On Friday the 21st of May at lunchtime, our S3 Employability pupils will be hosting an '**Enterprise Festival**'. Here they will be selling products they have developed, designed and created themselves. They did their best to work on this through lockdown - without being able to meet up with team mates - and have spent the last few weeks in school getting all the practicalities organised. They are doing a great job and are excited to share their products with other learners and staff.

We are looking for support from learners and so give advance notice of this.

All profits will be going to the school's chosen charity.

In line with Covid safety, all feasible safety measures surrounding money handling will be adhered to.



Little Lights Project

In 2019 we embarked on a project with the charity CLAN Cancer Support called Little Lights. As part of this each participating school received educational support materials to be used in school and a miniature lighthouse to be decorated. Our lighthouse was worked on by a number of pupils from a range of year groups, and as you can see from the picture is extremely well decorated. Our lighthouse will now be part of Light the North, a lighthouse trail for members of the public to view at different points in the local community and our lighthouse will be on view in Justrite in Fraserburgh from 9th August to 1st October. Our lighthouse sculpture was sponsored by a collective of charities and business in the Fraserburgh community and it is at there request that it is exhibited there. I hope you will be able to view our art work between these dates.

Here are before and after pictures of our lighthouse.



Wellbeing Week

Throughout the week of 10th-14th May, Fraserburgh Academy celebrated being back in the Academy by focussing on Wellbeing and #GrowingResilience and taking part in the Aberdeenshire Wellbeing Festival. A wide range of activities took place as can be seen in the programme and photos below.

Aberdeenshire Wellbeing Festival at Fraserburgh Academy 10th – 14th May

- ▶ **Monday lunchtime - Positivity Rocks Craft Activity – Social Area.**
- ▶ **Monday afternoon – community litter pick.**
- ▶ **Tuesday lunchtime – Basketball in courtyard – table tennis and in gym hall.**
- ▶ **Tuesday lunchtime - planting activity in school garden.**
- ▶ **Wednesday lunchtime – Netball in courtyard – badminton in gym hall**
- ▶ **Wednesday lunchtime – Art activity at music mural in courtyard.**
- ▶ **Thursday lunchtime – S1 & S2 Wellbeing Craft Club in room E9.**
- ▶ **Friday lunchtime – Happiness Symposium in library.**
- ▶ **Everyday – Resilience tree activity at registration.**
- ▶ **Everyday – Wellbeing books and display in library.**



Carbon Capture Project

Latest news on our carbon Capture planting project – we are delighted to announce that we have our raspberries planted in the new Polytunnel, and we also have our blackberry bushes growing on some of our perimeter fencing. We are looking forward to seeing these grow and bear fruit over the summer. Thanks go to a team of senior students and the welcome help from all at the Junction!

Our funding partner is Keeping Scotland Beautiful.

As ever, should you have anything you would wish to raise with the school please do not hesitate to contact us using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Irene Sharp
Rector