

Reconnecting Our Future

Parent and Pupil Briefing – Friday 25th September 2020



I hope you are safe and well and taking good care right now.

Every week we hear in the news of further outbreaks of COVID-19 across the country and it is a stark reminder that we must continue to support each other to live within the guidance set to ensure we are all safe.

It has not been an easy time for our young people and staff but I am proud of how well they continue to cope and adapt. I hope the support we are providing is helping everyone get back to some sort of normality particularly with their learning.

We are continuing to reinforce the messages around face coverings and social distancing and appreciate the additional support you, as our parent/carer community, have been providing at home. These messages are so important to keep us all safe and keep continuity in schools. I realise there are many views on face coverings in school, but where pupils are unable to socially distance, the use of face coverings is providing another necessary barrier to reduce the risk for all staff and pupils working in the building.

As in previous weeks it is essential we communicate the key messages with you as our parent community and ask for your continued support to help our young people understand the messages we deliver. Below are some key areas for action from this week that I'd appreciate your support with.

Face coverings -

We are still seeing a mixed response to pupils wearing face coverings and as such we are looking at additional measures to improve this but we cannot do this alone and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Further measures we have set in place include:

- Additional assemblies delivered to explain to pupils the reason for face coverings
- Facebook and School Blog reminders that the expectation is all young people should wear a face covering (unless exempt - Pupils in this category have been given a card to note they are exempt)
- If a pupil is not wearing a face covering a text will be sent home to encourage the wearing of a face covering
- On the second occasion this happens it will be followed up with a phone call home and discussion with parent/carers

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering for valid health reasons please let us know so that they can be issued with an exemption card.

Chewing Gum

Chewing gum in school is still a concern. A couple of weeks ago we took the decision to ban this on the school grounds due to the increased hygiene risk it poses particularly when it's not disposed of properly.

Can we ask you to reiterate the message to our young people that chewing gum is not allowed in school.

Classroom Ventilation

There has certainly been a change in the weather this week and it is noticeably colder. Classroom windows need to remain open to allow fresh air to circulate. The heaters in school need to remain off as these pose a risk as they are blowing internal air around. Please ensure your child comes to school with warmer clothing. Outdoor jackets can be worn in class also if they choose to do so.



Depute Head Teacher Appointment

This week we held the final interviews for the Depute Head Teacher post vacated by Mrs Stewart back in August. We started the process with 21 applicants, an astonishing amount of forms to process, but a very fortunate position to be in. During every stage of the appointment process we saw a high calibre of candidates that made the selection extremely challenging.

Final interviews were held yesterday and I am pleased to announce that the successful candidate appointed is Mrs Sharon Sharkey. Mrs Sharkey is already a huge asset to Nairn Academy and our young people and I am confident she will do an amazing job. We wish her every success in her new role.

Thank you for taking the time to read our briefing and your continued support. Please take care and stay safe.

Best wishes
Alan Bruce
Acting Head Teacher

