

Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Contact:
Tel: 01236 632157
E-mail: ht@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk
Date: 7th February 2020



Education and Families

Mr Gregg Orrock
Head Teacher
Kilsyth Academy
Balmalloch Road
Kilsyth
G65 9NF
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of this school session I sure no-one can quite believe the circumstances in which we arrive at this point. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our young people for their resilience and their engagement with online learning over the last three months. I hope, that despite the ongoing restrictions, that all our young people and families are able to enjoy a well-earned rest over the summer.

I had envisaged providing you with additional information today regarding our return to school in August. We had been planning for a very different educational offering in August based around a number of significant restrictions and guidance. You may now be aware that the Scottish Government have indicated their hope that we will now be able to re-open on a full-time basis in August. That being the case, much of the information I would have issued will no longer be relevant. Therefore, not wishing to complicate matters too much, I will only send that information later in the summer if it is still required. In the meantime, North Lanarkshire Council will provide updates at their web-site and have asked me to send the following:

Please visit northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schoolplans for the latest updates on our plans for pupils return to school in August.

It goes without saying that whatever is agreed for our return to school in August, we will work within the guidelines to ensure pupils' safety, health and wellbeing as a priority. Given the covid-19 crisis, there will be very clear expectations of pupils with regards to hand hygiene and respecting the personal space of others, both in class and around school. It is also likely that there will be a range of movement restrictions in place including a one-way system. I fully appreciate that this now leads to another set of unanswered questions and once we have a clear picture regarding our return I will issue further information as appropriate.

Uniform

Regardless of the arrangements for return it is important that we try to establish as many of our normal routines and procedures as possible. With that comes the issue of school uniform. Earlier in the term I sent information from our uniform supplier, Baru in Kirkintilloch, regarding their arrangements for buying uniform. Uniform serves to give pupils a sense of identity and connection with the school as well as providing a means to identify pupils helping ensure campus security. Where pupils have uniform it is important that they wear this to school however, we fully understand that under the circumstances not all families will have been able to purchase new uniform and we will be adopt a mindful approach on our return.



SQA results/S5/6 subject choices

Pupils can expect to receive their SQA result on Tuesday August 4th. I would also encourage pupils to sign up for MySQA at:

https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/secure/my_homepage.jsp

This will allow pupils the opportunity to get their results by email or text before they receive their certificate. It will also allow pupils to check their personal details, specifically their name and address. This would normally have been done in school but was not possible due to the lockdown. Once a certificate is issued, SQA charge a significant amount to have this replaced therefore it is very important that these details are checked. If there are any errors, please inform the school by 30 June 2020 by emailing

traceyfox@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk.

If, on the 4th August any pupil has not received their results we would ask you to contact the school after 12.00pm. If, following the results, any pupil in S5 or S6 wishes to discuss changing their subject choices this will take place by appointment only on Thursday 6th August at the school. Pupils wishing an appointment should contact the school on Wednesday 5th August.

Other changes

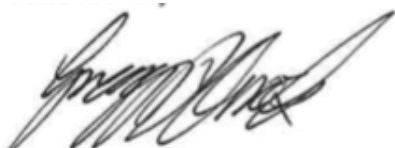
I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on a number of other changes affecting the school. Following a council wide review and restructure of management posts in secondary schools a number of changes will take effect from 11 August 2020. Firstly, a number of departments will come together to create faculties. These include a Languages Faculty (English, Modern Languages and Literacy) under the leadership of Mrs Timmons, an Expressive Arts and PE Faculty (Music, Art and PE) under the leadership of Mr Buchanan and a Technologies Faculty (Technical, home Economics and digital literacy) under the leadership of Mr McCallum. Furthermore, we are restructuring our current four house system to three houses and further information will be issued regarding this change.

The summer break will also see a number of staff leaving the Academy including Mr Strachan, Miss Davies, Miss Hamilton, Miss O'Hare, Miss Young and Mr Turnbull. We will also say farewell to Mr Conley who is retiring early from our Business Education department after 34 years service to the school, Miss Irvine, former PT Pupil Support after 30 years, and Depute Head Teacher Miss Reilly, also business education, who is also retiring early after 29 years service to the school. Agnes Wilson, our school catering manager, also retires this summer after 19 years in Kilsyth academy. All leave with our very best wishes for the future.

Furthermore, after a number of years as chair of the Parent Council, Matt Bendoris will step down from that role in the summer and I would like to thank Matt and all members of the parent council for your service in that role.

Finally, after what has been an exceptionally difficult and challenging few months can I take this chance to wish you all well. I hope you manage to stay safe, happy and healthy across the summer and enjoy a well-deserved rest. Maybe now we can look forward to a more normal school session in August and I look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school then.

Yours faithfully



Gregg Orrock
Head Teacher