



## Education, Communities & Organisational Development

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Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter the final week of the first term of session 2020/21 I thank you for supporting school leaders and staff in respecting the systems and processes in place to protect them and our young people at this time. I fully understand how difficult and frustrating it can be, however now more than ever, with positive test results increasing, we must maintain strict routines in our schools and limit access to buildings. We have been very fortunate that there have been no outbreaks affecting our schools and settings and we thank all our young people for their part in ensuring that the health and safety routines are being adhered to. However, unfortunately a small number of young people are not adhering to expectations and so I would once again ask for your support in reinforcing the necessity for this. To help I highlight a few essential 'tips' under the headings of the four capacities which are the core pillars of Curriculum for Excellence and necessary attributes we aspire all of our young people to possess.

- **Responsible citizens** – the importance of respecting other people and wearing masks when required (i.e. in corridors, moving between classes, on school transport and in communal areas), putting litter in bins, remembering to social distance if leaving school to go to shops for lunch, notifying staff of any spillages or hazards.
- **Confident individuals** – knowing what is right and what is wrong, challenging their peers who are not adhering to routines or processes, looking after their own physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and knowing who to go to for support if required e.g. Principal Teacher of Guidance, school nurse etc.
- **Effective contributors** – the 'new normal' will be with us for some time and so it is essential that young people remain resilient and can cope with changes which may occur for example staff absence, changes to assessments for courses, accessing support materials through Scholar, SQA or eSgoil etc. Regular attendance at school is essential for maintaining routine, wellbeing and continued learning.
- **Successful learners** – schools may look different however learning continues and it is especially important that there is minimum disruption to learning for all. Young people need to be prepared to adapt to remote or blended learning if outbreaks do occur and also to keep up with classwork, study and homework should they be ill or unable to attend school for any reason.

Our overall aim in Education is to improve outcomes for our young people in Moray which includes building their skills for learning, life and work, attainment, achievement and ensuring they maintain a healthy physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Considering others as well as self is vitally important and so I urge all young people to consider their actions and the impact this has on others. For example in one secondary school last week young people activated the fire alarm 6 times in one day which impacted on everyone within the school building, particularly those with additional support needs as well as having a negative impact on learning and teaching time.

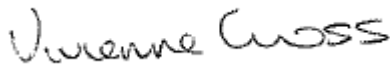
For those of you who have young people in the Senior Phase years at school (S4-S6) we fully understand that this is a time of uncertainty for all as we do not know what the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examination diet will look like next year. We impress upon all young people the importance of all the learning and assessment they are currently undertaking. Curriculum for Excellence develops skills and knowledge which are essential for learning, life and work and so please encourage your child(ren) to take full advantage of this.

The holiday period is nearly upon us and this provides time to rest and relax and prepare for the term ahead leading up to the Christmas break. As we move in to the winter season we are also mindful that it is normal for colds and flu symptoms to be prevalent and so I remind everyone of the particular Covid-19 Symptoms as per NHS guidance which can be accessed [here](#). Daylight hours are few and far between from now until Christmas and so please encourage your child(ren) to get as much fresh air as possible.

At the start of the session I sent you a parent guide and learner top tips and I include a link to these on the Moray Council Website under [Back to School 2020](#). Please reinforce the health and safety processes and procedures and the continued need for this as we will return to another term of our new normal in school.

My sincere thanks to you all for your support to date, please look after yourselves in the hope you remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely



**Vivienne Cross**  
**Head of Education (Chief Education Officer)**