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Our Ref: PG/MF

Date: 19 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

This week has certainly been challenging in terms of the weather and I do hope that you and your family are well.

The forecast is predicting a rise in temperatures over the weekend and hopefully we will see a more settled pattern of weather for the remainder of the Prelim Exams.

Prelim Exams

Unfortunately the weather this week has had an impact on three days of exams. Mr Picksley has been working on solutions and an updated copy of the prelim timetable will be sent out as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we plan new arrangements.

School Improvement and Parent/Carer Feedback

Thank you to all parents/carers who were able to attend recent parents/carers evenings and completed questionnaires.

One of the areas that has been highlighted as an improvement area is to be clear when we are asking for parental/carers views and what we have done when we do consult with parents/carers. In recent years we have used a questionnaire provided to all parents/carers but only received 3 returns - therefore the returns made at parent/carers evenings are very important.

Wherever possible if parents/carers highlight an area for improvements via the questionnaire and provide their name and state they are happy to be contacted, we will try to be in touch and discuss the points.

A particular issue that was raised in the last years collation of questionnaires raised a point related to pupil safety. This was particularly highlighted by those parents whose young people were in S2 last year - only 81% of parents of S2 young people in session 22/23 felt their young person felt safe in school. This was something we took seriously, and a number of actions were taken forward - the same parents now with S3 young people report that 94% feel that their young person feels safe in school. Also 93% of parents with a young person in S2 this session reported that they felt their young person feels safe at school.

We recognise that things can change with maturity and cohorts, however, a number of things were taken forward to support this improvement. These were: -

- Regular assemblies to remind young people of our expectations.
- Regular reminders in pupil bulletins and support from parents/carers through newsletter.
- Robust and supportive conversations with young people and the families of young people involved in inappropriate behaviour.
- Use of the Glasgow Wellbeing online tool to monitor wellbeing.
- Extensive and successful restorative and solution focused approaches.
- Small group inputs and further inputs about positive relationships in PSE.

We look forward to continuing improving at SHS and I will regularly update you on feedback and what we are doing to take any improvements required forward.

Swimming/.



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Swimming

S1 & S2 pupils will be swimming in PE from Monday 22 January onwards. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop vital lifesaving skills, which are particularly pertinent given our proximity to rivers and bodies of open water.

Swimming also provides many mental and physical health benefits which can help to keep young people healthy and happy, as well as developing qualities such as resilience and confidence. Non-swimmers will be fully supported by expert teaching staff and can be assured that the shallow end in the pool enables all users to be able to stand comfortably at all times.

Young Scot Cards

Does your young person still look like the photo on their Young Scot National Entitlement Card? Some cards have the photo that was taken of your young person when they were in P7. Many retailers refuse the card as proof of age on the basis that photographs are out of date. If you need to update the photo visit getyournec.scot and select 'Want to change or replace your card?'

If your young person hasn't already applied for the free bus travel product to be added to their Young Scot National Entitlement Card, then check out Transport Scot Pass Collect where you'll find more information on Transport Scotland's new App to help young people aged 16 to 21 access free bus travel. Young people under 16 will need their parent/carer to apply for the free bus travel product to be added to their Young Scot National Entitlement Card. Visit getyournec.scot and select 'Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme?'

Moray Parent Project Information/Exchange Counselling

The Moray Parent Project (Exchange Counselling) are offering the following online supports for parents/carers:

23 January @ 12:30 - Stress <https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/stress-online-weekly-wellbeing-workshop-for-parents-7>

24 January @ 4:00pm - Self-esteem & Confidence: <https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/self-esteem-confidence-online-weekly-wellbeing-workshop-for-parents-5>

25 January @ 4:00pm In Elgin High School - Live event - Anxiety: <https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/in-person-elgin-high-school-anxiety-wellbeing-workshop-for-parents-2>

29 January @ 12:30pm - Self-esteem & Confidence: <https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/self-esteem-confidence-online-weekly-wellbeing-workshop-for-parents-6>

30 January @ 4:00pm - Stress: <https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/stress-online-weekly-wellbeing-workshop-for-parents-8>

5 February @ 12:30pm - Anxiety: <https://www.exchange-counselling.com/event-details/anxiety-online-weekly-wellbeing-workshop-for-parents-7>

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
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