



Summer Term

Once again, many thanks to all parents and carers for your continuing support with the various restrictions that we have had to put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully the impact of the recent national lockdown will be a relaxation of some of these restrictions in the weeks and months ahead. Thinking about this summer term in school, if you have a cursory glance at the school calendar you might be shocked to notice that only seven weeks remain until this academic session ends at 2.55pm on Friday 25 June! A closer look at the school calendar promises a very busy seven weeks ahead. Rest assured, the staff team at Lochside Academy will continue doing an outstanding job over the next seven weeks to ensure that what happens in school keeps schooling as normal as possible for young people approaching the summer break. With this being the case, I wanted to just send you this short update on some recent developments in school, bring your attention to important information and highlight key dates for you to be aware of.

Neil Hendry, Head Teacher

Dates for Diary

Please note that all secondary schools in Scotland have been allocated two additional in-service days this term for undertaking SQA work relative to senior-phase pupils. These additional dates are highlighted below with other important dates for your information:

Fri 28 May: In-service Day (Closed to pupils)

Mon 31 May: Senior Phase Induction Day 1 of 2

Tue 1 June: Senior Phase Induction Day 2 of 2

Fri 4 June: In-service Day (Closed to pupils)

Mon 7 June: School timetable changes for all pupils

w/b **Mon 7 June:** P7 Transition programme

Wed 9 June: P7 Parents Virtual Meeting (Option 1)

Thu 10 June: P7 Parents Virtual Meeting (Option 2)

w/b **Mon 14 June:** Annual Awards Ceremony Week

Fri 25 June: Term ends at 2.55pm

COVID-19 Update

You will be aware that the Scottish Government moved all local authorities, including Aberdeen City, from level 4 restrictions to level 3 restrictions on 26 April. For secondary school pupils, this change from level 4 to level 3 does not create any changes for what is expected of them or what they can do, except in Physical Education. As of 26 April 2021, secondary pupils can, within level 3 restrictions:

- Take part in contact sport outside
- Undertake individual activities indoors

Face Covering Update

As you will be aware, Scottish Government rules have introduced the wearing of face coverings at all times in secondary school buildings by pupils of all ages and school staff. We all have a responsibility to follow the public health measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and the wearing of face coverings is central to the government's strategy to achieve this. With this in mind, it must be stressed that not wearing a face covering in the appropriate places, unless exempt, is absolutely unacceptable and discussing this and impressing this with your child(ren) is greatly appreciated. As a reminder, face coverings must be worn:

- on all school and public transport to and from school;
- entering and leaving the school, during classes and moving around in the corridors to get to classes;
- queuing in the canteen area at break and lunchtime, but not whilst eating.





Staffing

Following recent interviews for recruiting and appointing new staff in school, I am pleased to report that Miss Kelsey McNeil and Miss Anna Cormack have been offered permanent posts as teachers of English starting in August 2021. I am also pleased to report that PC Harry Jackson will be our new School Based Police Officer starting on 31 May 2021. Congratulations to all and we look forward to you joining the staff team at Lochside Academy and making a positive difference in the lives of our young people.

Mobile Phones

Since returning to school buildings full-time following second lockdown at the start of this term, the number of young people using mobile phones irresponsibly or inappropriately has been quite obvious.

Examples of irresponsible use of mobile phones has included crossing roads looking at phone screens instead of moving traffic and walking in school corridors/stairwells between classes and texting others in the process. Examples of inappropriate use of mobile phones has included attempting to use mobile phone in class without permission and texting or posting messages online that affect the mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of others.

Used responsibly, mobile phones can enhance learning and teaching, communication and social experiences and can bring a sense of security to parents as their children enjoy more independent activities, such as walking to and from school unsupervised. Such devices can also be powerful tools when utilised by teachers to enhance learning and teaching.

It is necessary, however, for me to highlight the risks associated with young people bringing their own mobile phones into school to you. In addition to this, school staff have been asked to highlight pupils who use mobile phones inappropriately in terms of low-level disruption in classes and more serious misuse such as bullying and harassment of others. Such behaviour is unacceptable in any context and where this happens we will take action as appropriate.

Please do check the phone of any child(ren) you are responsible for on a regular basis and speak to them about safe and appropriate use of mobile phones. Working together we will support young people with safe and appropriate use of mobile phones.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Lochside Academy is celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week, hosted by the Mental Health Foundation, which runs from 10th – 16th May 2021. This year the theme is Nature and how connecting with the natural world can support good mental health.

Mark Rowland Chief Executive of the Mental Health Foundation said: "Mental Health Awareness Week has grown to be one of the biggest awareness weeks in the UK. This year the theme is on nature and its central role for our mental health. Since the beginning of the pandemic, millions of us turned to nature to help us get through lockdowns and our research shows that good mental health depends on us being able to connect with nature in some way and its power in both prevention of and recovery from poor mental health.

Some of the ways people can participate in Mental Health Awareness Week:

- S1 –S3 pupils at Lochside Academy will have opportunities each day to understand more about mental health and in particular how this has been affected by the pandemic.
- During Mental Health Awareness Week, why not try to make a habit each day of connecting to the nature in your local area? Stop to listen to the birdsong, smell the freshly cut grass, take care of a house plant, notice any trees, flowers or animals nearby. Take a moment to appreciate these connections.
- Share images/videos/or just sound recordings of the nature on your doorstep (and how this made you feel) on social media using **#ConnectWithNature** and **#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek**
- Use Mental Health Foundation resources in your family, school, workplace and community to join with thousands of people who will be finding new ways to connect with nature in their local environment.