



Dalry Secondary School

Parent Council Meeting 11th November 2020

Headteacher's Report



It has been good to be able to have schools open again and to have young people engaged, once more, in face-to-face learning and teaching. In school, we are trying to make learning and teaching feel as normal as possible but it is important to note that there are many changes that make school life feel very different from anything that has happened in the past. The school has undertaken comprehensive risk assessments to make sure that it is as Covid safe as possible. Pupils are encouraged to wear face coverings in corridors and social areas inside the school. Where the teacher cannot maintain a 2m social distance from pupils or is working face-to-face with a pupil both parties will be asked to wear a face covering to protect each other from the risk of infection. Currently we are not able to have pupil assemblies; we are not able to welcome visitors into the school; we cannot welcome parents into the school, we cannot have parent evenings and no extra-curricular activities are able to take place. Fortunately, since Monday 2nd November we have been able to have PE lesson indoors.

I would like to commend the young people and staff for the positive way they have responded to this very difficult situation in school and for their cooperation in helping us to maintain safety for all school users.

As the weather now starts to turn colder, pupils and parents need to be aware that the advice from the Scottish Government remains that, unless the weather is particularly inclement and raining, young people will still have to be outside at interval and lunch times. Inside the building windows will be open to aid with ventilation, again it has been stressed that Covid safety is more important than thermal comfort so pupils need to wear clothing that keeps them warm.

Staffing

Mr Ross McFarlane made the decision before the end of lockdown that he no longer wished to continue in the position of Principal Teacher Support. Consequently, this position was advertised and interviewed over the last few weeks. We are delighted that Mrs Mary Acheson and Mr Liam Fleming have agreed to a job share arrangement, 0.5 FTE each, in this role. The exact aspects of the remits that each of them will carry out is yet to be finalised, however, Mrs Acheson and Mr Fleming should now be the initial point of contact for all parents if they want to discuss any issues involving their child.

Mrs Kirsty Kaye has been appointed as admin assistant to the school office.

SQA Exams

Young people at Dalry Secondary School continue to achieve excellent results from SQA. The quality assurance procedures we had in place to generate estimate grades for SQA were robust and effective, consequently, a very small percentage of the results announced on the 4th August at DSS were changed by SQA.

School improvement plan update

School improvement plans have not yet been completed or requested from the local authority; however, it will be our intention to focus on the completion of some of the tasks detailed on last session's improvement plan and on Covid recovery to ensure that all young people are up-to-date with their learning.

1. Making better use of monitoring and tracking procedures.
2. Continue to improve the pace, breadth and challenge in the classroom
3. Complete the learning and teaching policy.
4. Improve our moderation processes that generate estimate grades for NAT 5 courses.
5. Ensure young people in both the Broad General Education and the Senior Phase are up-to-date with their learning and well prepared to continue to progress with their learning.