

## HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT TO THE PARENT COUNCIL

Tuesday 31 August 2021

### SQA Attainment

Despite an extremely challenging year, our Senior Phase pupils achieved very well in their SQA qualifications. 100% of young people in S4 achieved at least 5 qualifications. This was the result of relentless monitoring, home visits and targeted support – we never give up. 63% of last year's S4 achieved at least five qualifications at National 5. At S5 and S6 attainment continues to be strong, consistent or improving at every level. Just under half of our S5 achieved at least 3 Highers and 28% achieved 5 Highers. By S6, just under half achieved at least 5 Highers and 27% achieved at least one Advanced Higher.

Our SQA assessment and moderation procedures, led by Mr Gardner (SQA Co-ordinator) and our principal teachers, were extremely rigorous and robust. All pupils were given the opportunity to discuss their Provisional Grades with their teachers so that they were clear about the evidence the grades were based on. This worked very well and we have only four appeals being submitted. Our teachers worked really hard to get the grades right and ensure pupils got the results they deserved.

SQA exams will go ahead in 2022 if it is safe to do so. Course modifications from last year remain in place and teachers will be gathering assessment evidence on a regular basis throughout the session to ensure we can evidence attainment and make robust estimates should the exams be cancelled again.

### Staffing

The school is currently fully staffed. New staff have taken up post as follows: Mrs McLean (Maths); Miss Logan (Modern Studies – NQT); Miss Scobie (PE – NQT); Mr Hall and Ms Rolfe (Pupil Support).

The Scottish Government has provided additional funding for staffing to support Covid Recovery. Mr Hall and Ms Rolfe are part of this funding. Their purpose is to 'close the gap' created by school closures. They will work with targeted individuals and groups. We have also used additional Covid funding to appoint Mrs Johnston (English) and Mrs Urwin (Maths) two days a week to support attainment in literacy and numeracy in S4.

### Covid-19 Health Protection Measures

We have retained all our health protection measures at present and once again, pupils have been extremely responsible and followed all the regulations without fuss. Measures will be reviewed after the next government update. We have a small number of pupils who have tested positive who are self-isolating and only a few staff absent awaiting PCR tests. Teachers are continuing to use Microsoft Teams to upload resources and assignments so that self-isolating pupils can continue their learning. We are promoting the use of Lateral Flow Tests with all pupils and the take up has been good. Support and advice from South Ayrshire Council and the NHS Health Protection team continues to be very good.

### School Refurbishment

Over the summer the English rooms were painted and recarpeted, the boys' toilets were completely refurbished and the foyer was repainted. New signage has also gone up around the school.

### Upcoming events

Tuesday 7 September – Senior Phase/UCAS information evening (virtual)

Friday 17/Monday 20 September – Holiday weekend

Tuesday 28 September – Parent Council Forum