

Carrick Academy Parent Council Head Teacher Report October 2020

1. **School Roll and Staffing** – Our actual school roll was 409, greater than what was estimated. As a result of this we have been able to keep Catherine Patterson (PT Guidance) at Carrick Academy.

We have 4 Probationer Teachers joining us this year, they are:

- Jack Hannah (PE)
- Heather Shedden (Mathematics)
- Natasha Smith (History)
- Shannon Wilson (Business Education)

Leigh Phillips is currently on maternity leave after giving birth to her son Alfie.

2. **Covid-19** – I have previously shared all information with parents about the proposed changes to the curriculum following the announcements by Scottish Government. When we returned to school in August, the decision was taken that all children would return to school with no social distancing measures required. I am delighted to report that our children and staff returned to school and are following all the new cleaning protocols that we have in place. Soon after our return, the Government stated that everyone should wear face coverings and we are complying with the guidelines. I have recently ordered washable face coverings for all children; these should be with us soon and they will be distributed when they arrive.

All cleaning materials and PPE are being supplied by SAC and are not being paid for from school budgets.

We were downloaded an additional 10 days funding to support with the pandemic. I have used this to support the delivery of Advanced Higher subjects as not all pupils are able to travel to other schools for their curriculum. Andrew Irvine was appointed by the local authority as our 'Covid Recovery Teacher'. He is covering classes for any staff that are absent and working with young people in Pupil Support.

Scottish Government has provided funding for pupils who do not have access to IT at home. A number of our pupils were identified and they will be issued with a 'Chromebook' before the October holiday.

John Allen has created school guidelines on the use of Microsoft Teams to support learning should we move to a 'Blended Learning' model. There are two guides, one for staff and one for pupils/parents. The school was divided into two groups, Group A and B; these have had to be revisited in August due to the following: taking account of the new S1 and ensuring siblings are together in the same week, new pupils coming into the school, senior option changes. Each pupil has to be assigned a group ensuring that all subjects do not exceed the maximum room capacity when the cohort

come to school each week; this is a complex task and each child and subject choice has to individually looked at. As a result of this, there is no room to change groups. The updated lists and Microsoft Teams guide have been shared with parents.

Covid Testing - If your child has symptoms: a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or the loss/change to taste and smell then you should keep them at home and arrange to have a test done. Please inform the school that you are having the test and the results when they arrive. If the test is negative, the child can return to school.

If we have a positive test in school, the Health Protection Team will take over. All parents would be contacted by letter. The HT has all the necessary paperwork in place to support 'track in trace' should it be required.

3. **Mental Health Workers in School** – Kristoffer Gray is now in post and supporting young people; they can attend via the 'drop in' at lunch or be referred by Guidance/SMT. The second post has not been filled and the job has been advertised again.
4. **SQA Results** – We are pleased that our young people were awarded the estimated grades assigned by school staff. We are already planning for next year and staff are gathering assessment evidence as young people progress through the courses. SQA have not confirmed how they will award qualifications this session or any changes that they are making to courses. All staff are gathering assessment evidence as they work through courses to evidence pupil achievement.
5. **October School** – J Rusk has shared the classes on offer with children and parents.
6. **Young People out of School** – All excursions, with the exception of Duke of Edinburgh, have been cancelled. Turnberry have agreed to pay the money back in full as they are unable to honour the booking; prom payments are in the process of being returned.

A group of junior pupils were due to go to Dukehouse Manor on a 3 night residential, this was initially changed to another date but it has since been cancelled. The company were proposing keeping the pupil deposits so we have engaged the legal team at SAC to support us in recovering all costs. When this is complete, we will be able to refund parents.

All monies for the Yearbook have been returned.

7. **PE Sports Kit** – The PE dept have changed the supplier of their sports kit. Parents can now purchase kit direct using the link below:
<https://www.pslteamsports.com/carrick-academy.html>