

Headteacher update:

Staffing

Two new teachers have started - Maths and English. A full-time teacher has been allocated to the school under the Closing the Gap initiative to free up time for other staff to work on online learning. This represents a 1.1% increase in teaching staff.

Covid 19

Covid-related absence – 10 pupils off, as of 12.11.20, mainly close contacts. Staff absence is less than average for the time of year.

Parent consultation meetings will be online using new platform. Pupil Support Officers are engaging with families who may need support re. online access.

Parents agreed that the relaxation around school uniform (e.g. hoodies over uniform) is helping to keep pupils warm while windows and doors are kept open in classroom. Temperature standards need to be maintained which may lead to higher heating bills. JW is hopeful this will be funded by Scottish Govt through the block grant to CEC.

SQA

SQA have been issuing guidance for assessment of different subject areas since October, still not all finalised. National 5s will probably be assessed through three formal assessment blocks. There will be no prelim for Nat 5.

Higher and Advanced Highers will have prelims. The SQA timetable was discussed, some pupils will have exams on consecutive days – a particular issue for subjects following Maths and English. Parents advised to write to SQA and their MSP with concerns – some concessions have been made so more could follow.

Susan Bennett (DHT with responsibility for SQA) will come to the next PC meeting in January to give an update.

Lets in school

John Wilson was asked about sports lets. Edinburgh Leisure sports lets have recommenced (a CEC rather than the school's decision). Concerns about the cleaning of equipment, which will be used by pupils in PE the next morning. Currently Edinburgh Leisure staff have 15 minutes at the end of the session to sanitise all equipment. Would be preferable if school cleaners could do it to ensure it is done well. PC will write to CEC to request this.

Thanks

JW thanked parents for the cooperation of their children – young people are responding really well to having their breaks outdoors and wearing masks in school.

Parent Council update

Traffic island

No update from CEC on traffic island between Inverleith Park and school entrance. We were last told that it was imminent, but work has not started. A parent raised the issue of road safety, this is a very longstanding topic.

Projects

PC and Bro Enterprise team have collaborated to produce Mood Booster boxes of treats for pupils who have to self-isolate. A lady from Carlisle Court has made 60 lavender pouches to add to the boxes.

RBS have donated 20 rugby balls for use during outdoor breaks.

S1 survival kits – hoping to make this a sustainable project with S5s involved in planning for the S1s who will join in their final year.

Bike security

Bike security – three pupils' bikes were stolen from the shed yesterday (10th November). Very worrying as the thieves came into the shelter while young people were arriving. The bikes stolen were targeted, cable locks were cut. Staff chased the thieves but they cycled off at speed. Were wearing masks and hoodies so even though there are witnesses it will be difficult to identify them. Much discussion over what more the PC and the school can do to prevent thefts. Bike theft is a huge problem across the city, but everything we can do to help will be valuable.

Update: Janitorial staff have been asked to lock the bike shed at 8.40 a.m. – further arrangements to allow some leeway for latecomers are being discussed.

Proposal to have a separate Zoom meeting for any parents/carers who would like to discuss bike safety to look at the best way forward. Details will be circulated, but please email us at: clerk.bhspsc@broughtonhighpc.org if you would like to take part in these discussions.

S6 leadership team

Discussion re the selection process for S6 leadership team, particularly the non-gender-based selection of Head Pupils. JW agreed that the school could communicate the process more clearly for young people and parents.

Face coverings on buses

We have received some comments on social media about Broughton pupils not wearing masks on buses on their way to and from school – not an issue specific to our school. We request that all parents/carers discuss this with their young people regarding both covid regulations and the school's reputation.