

26th June 2020



Arran High School

NOTE FROM MRS FOSTER

The last day of term has arrived. I have to admit that it feels very flat indeed; the building is quiet and there is none of the anticipation of the weeks of summer holiday in front of us. You will have received my letter outlining the situation as it exists at the time of writing; we are preparing for a full return to school in August, though this has still to be confirmed. While it is a perplexing time for us all here, I am pleased that there is a possibility that we will be able to return to some semblance of normality and that direct learning and teaching will be able to take place.

On that note, I am extremely pleased to say that we now have a permanent Faculty Leader of Music and Computing. Mr Dickie, who was in school on a temporary basis, was the successful applicant and will take up the post on our return in August. I anticipate that the school will be fully staffed, which is an excellent position to be in going forward. Finally, I would like to thank our Education Business Officer, Alma Graham, who is leaving us at the start of August. I am sure that those of you who attended this school will know her as she has been in post for more years that she cares to remember! She is an 'institution' here, and it is hard to imagine Arran High School without her. I will miss her (and her wonderful tablet) and I know that all of the staff will too.

I hope that you all have a relaxing break and I am looking forward to seeing all of our pupils back in August.

NOTE FROM MRS DICK

Summer for me has always meant adventure, which will come as no surprise to many of you. For many of you summer may also be about adventure, holidays, an upsurge in work commitments with the tourist season beginning, or just time to relax and enjoy life being less hectic. This year is different with many uncertainties with regards to lockdown and where we might be and what we may or may not be able to do. I hope for everyone that you have time this summer to relax and focus on what is important to you and I look forward to seeing everyone back again in August.

NOTE FROM MRS BUNTING

I hope you all continue to be safe and well. Over the last few weeks staff have been very busy putting together plans to welcome you all back in August. I hope the summer break will leave you refreshed and ready to learn! Meanwhile, please take the opportunity, where it is safe to do so, to meet up with friends and make the most of what Arran has to offer. I look forward to seeing you all in person again in the autumn term.

Staffing Update

Lynn Murdoch who currently works at Ardrossan Academy will be taking over from Alma Graham as the Education Business Officer for the island mid July.

We are pleased to welcome back Andrew Dickie as Faculty Head of Music and Computing this year.

We are anticipating, unless anything unforeseen happens, to have a full staffing compliment for August.

Senior Leadership Team Remits

We have uploaded a short video to the year groups Teams explaining the remit responsibilities change.

For the most part Mrs Bunting will take on Mrs Foster's remit including Learning and Teaching, Tracking and Monitoring, SQA and Senior School Wider Achievement.

What is changing is that Mrs Bunting will gain responsibility for personalised support from Mrs Dick and Mrs Dick will take over all year head responsibilities for 3-18, including the operational day to day issues that arise.

If you would like more information please contact us.

SQA Results

Pupils will receive their results on the 4th August either by post or by text if they have already signed up for that option with the SQA.

Summer Contact

Though we are normally off for the summer period, we will be in touch when we have updates on what is happening and will do our best to keep you informed. Please keep a look out for updates sent by email or posted on social media/school website.

School Transport

Arrangements are managed by North Ayrshire Council Transport Hub in partnership with SPT.

As capacity on transport is reduced, they are working to try to make the best arrangements possible for the students.

Thank you to those who have indicated that they may be able to help on a temporary basis and have responded to the transport survey.

Online Art Gallery

Thank you to everyone that has submitted work for our online Art Gallery on our Facebook page. There has been some wonderful pieces.

If you still wish to submit work for the gallery please do so by sending it to Mr Wedge by email or Teams and he will arrange for it to be uploaded to the gallery.

Please visit our Facebook page to enjoy the artwork.

Strava Summer Challenge 2020

Can you complete over 120km??? Start date 27/6/20-11/8/20

Cyclists should half their km so a 10km cycle = 5km travelled. This will make things more even with our runners / walkers and paddlers.

Home workouts = 3km every 30minutes of activity.

Every activity gets 10 house points if you # your house. #Sannox #Iorsa #Rosa #Shuraig 50 additional house points if you log the most distance over the summer holidays

Create your own twitter account and follow @Arranhighpe and screen shot your completed challenge ?

Screenshot your total distance covered in the dates shown and post to the above twitter page.

Prizes allocated when we come back to school to the top 10 individuals gathering the most distance and house points will be allocated for everyone else completing the initial challenge! Go team!!!!

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/arranhighparentcouncil>

Text Books/School Equipment

There are a number of school leavers this year including all the departing S6's. It is imperative that all text books and equipment belonging to the High School is returned. However, at this point in time due to current restrictions this is not possible. Please could you ensure that you gather together all of the above items and have them ready to return to the school building when it is safe to do so. We will be in touch when this will be possible.

Award ceremony

We will publish the list of prize winners in August as usual but will postpone the award ceremony until everything is back until normal.

Lockers

The cleaning staff have cleaned the outside of the lockers and where there is obviously food inside have accessed them and thrown the food away. We will arrange the locker change over and leavers' access to the lockers as soon as we can in August when the travel restrictions are lifted.

Change of School Counsellor

From July, Beth Moon (previously based at Kilwinning) will be providing 2 days of counselling based on Arran. A small proportion of this time will also be used to work on the local authority's aim to provide counselling to young people age 10 and above and we will keep you informed as the plans for this become more concrete.

I know that many young people have benefitted from the support that Fiona has given to the school community; Beth will work hard to build new relationships with the staff and young people on Arran and the aim is to provide a consistent service to the young people on Arran.

2020 Fèis Arainn

The Feis will take place online this year, beginning on Monday 27th July. Classes will not be interactive but consist of pre-recorded YouTube tutorials which participants will be able to access via a link on the Fèis Arainn website and Facebook page. This year there is no registration fee but there will be an option to make a donation via a link.

There is a wider range of subjects this year, including some Gaelic language, and as not everything requires that people already have an instrument, we hope there will be something for everyone. Each subject will have four tutorials. It is also an opportunity for entire families to get involved and take part at their own leisure. The link will stay active for two weeks from 27th July.

There will be a virtual ceilidh involving all the tutors during the week too.

Please check the Fèis Arainn Facebook page and the website www.feisarainn.com for information on how to take part and access the tutorial link. Children can also watch short videos introducing all the tutors.

There will be a virtual ceilidh involving all the tutors during the week too.

Uniform

Another reminder to all parents/carers to please order any uniform that they require for when their child returns to school in August ASAP, to enable us allocate uniform and restock if required.

Orders and payments for items of uniform are to be made through your child's Parentpay account. Please ensure that you let us know the item required, the quantity of the items and the sizes.

If your child is an incoming S1 this should be done through your newly activated Arran High School Parentpay account. If you require activation details please email Julie @ gw09cannonjulie@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Polo Shirts £10
Sweatshirts £12
Cardigans & VNeck Jumpers £20
Tie £3.50

Uniform Sizes

Sweatshirts & Polos:

9 – 10 yrs	32"
11 – 12 yrs	34"
XSmall	36"
Small	38"
Medium	40"
Large	42"
XLarge	44"
XXLarge	46"

Cardigans & VNeck Jumpers:

13 yrs	32"
Small	34"
Medium	36"
Large	38"
XLarge	40"

Prefect and school captain applications

We are intending on making a change to the prefect selection process to give more students a voice in who is representing them.

SLT, Mrs Macbeth and Mrs Cannon have looked at a number of options and we are proposing to make the following changes:

Students apply and agree to stand as per previous years.

All students in the school have the option to nominate anonymously who they would like to be School Captain(s). Staff also have the opportunity to nominate.

Interviews for the position of School Captain(s) remain (to happen when we return in August).

Application forms, interview results and the nominations are taken into account when choosing the Prefect Team and Captains.

S6 will no longer be automatically become prefects; a smaller number will be elected with Captains and Vice Captains to lead them.

This will all be discussed the S6 on their return.

We know you will be anxious to order a red poloshirt, but please hold off for the time being.

Laptops

Laptops that were loaned out previously to support learning have been requested to be returned so that they can be maintained and ready for use again in August.

Virtual Adventures for 14-25 year olds

The British Exploring Society are offering virtual adventures for 14-25 year olds this summer called: Passport-free access to adventure at home.

Spend 30 minutes with one of our professional expedition Leaders, and experience being on expedition together with them and other Wildestan Explorers. From setting up a hammock to making insect traps for a home survey, you can be transported to your first basecamp, take part in new challenges, learn outdoor skills, and find out about the wilderness, without having to leave your home.

Start your Wildestan adventure here. Decide on your own journey in Wildestan by taking part in as many of our 30 minute sessions as you like, all are free. And if you really enjoy Wildestan over the summer, you can sign up for our free Wildestan Weekend at the end of the programme where you'll be able to test your new-found skills in the wild.

<https://www.britishexploring.org/expeditions/wildestan/>

Update on TeenCOVIDLife Survey & SHINE Review

Over 4400 young people have now completed the TeenCOVIDLife survey for 12 to 17 year olds. Approximately 30% of SHINE secondary schools took part in the survey and (numbers dependent) will receive a school-level data report to support their health and wellbeing planning for the return to school in August. The survey will close on the amended date of **Sunday 5th July 2020** so there is still time for pupils to complete it should they wish to.

For participating young people who provided email addresses for follow-up surveys, there will be a further TeenCOVIDLife survey in August, which will include some new questions on physical activity levels as well as revisiting the questions. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/generation-scotland/covidlife-volunteers/teencovidlife>

Could everyone please take a moment to ask their child to complete this as the more responses we get, the more accurate the data for Arran, which will help us plan what support young people need, and also give us data to back up any applications for additional funding.

Screen Machine Project

My name is Jo Reid, and I am currently studying a Msc in film, exhibition and curation at the University of Edinburgh. I am working with Regional Screen Scotland on a research project looking at childhood experiences of rural cinema, using the Screen Machine as a case study. Whilst adults are often consulted about film exhibition, children are frequently left out of the conversation, so I aim to collect responses from children and young people about their thoughts, feelings and memories of rural cinema going to gain a more complete understanding of how geography affects access to film, and to guarantee their voices are heard when developing and maintaining cinema in the future.

I am looking to hear from children and young people about their experiences of film watching and cinema-going in the Highlands and Islands in an hour-long video interview. Due to the lockdown it has been more challenging looking for participants. Please email j.reid-27@sms.ed.ac.uk if you are interested in taking part.

I am also sharing round a survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TFYHHFR>) and an art activity for further responses.

Art Activity - Create a picture of the screen machine. Think about how it makes you feel, what it's like waiting for the screen machine to arrive, what it's like to see a film there, who you go with etc. You can use whatever materials you like - pens, paints, pencils, crayons, collage - go wild! When you've drawn your picture, sign it, take a picture of it, and (with parent or carer's permission!) send it to s1432851@ed.ac.uk