

23rd April 2021



# Arran High School

## NOTE FROM MRS FOSTER

Hi everyone,

I am really pleased to have all of our young people back in the building at the start of what will be a really busy term!

Our focus is on learning and teaching, and walking round the school it is good to see that excellent work in classes is going on.

In particular, our senior phase pupils are participating in evidence gathering assessments so we have the necessary evidence for the SQA. They should all have a timetable of when these will take place so that they can prepare themselves as fully as possible.

I want to remind everybody that these are not 'high stakes exams'; they form part of a holistic overview of attainment from the start of the session. We issued working grades and target grades before the end of last term so that both parents and pupils are able to understand what could be achieved, with consistent effort, this term.

At the time of writing we have only eight and a half weeks left and we hope to let you know about plans for activities such as sports day etc. as soon as possible. Watch this space!

I hope you have a lovely and safe weekend.

## NOTE FROM MRS BUNTING

A warm welcome back to all our pupils and staff – it has been fantastic to have everyone back!

Once again our young people have proven themselves to be respectful and responsible citizens – a big thank you to them, and to you for your support, in making this happen.

As we move towards increasing socialisation and relaxing of restrictions it is even more important that we all adhere to the Government guidelines to help keep our Island community safe.

As the weather changes – it has been noticeably warmer this week – ventilation in school will continue to be important. Please can you encourage your young person to dress appropriately for the weather conditions and, until further notice, PE will continue to be outside regardless of the weather. Please remember to bring water!

## Options & Timetabling Update

Please could all outstanding options forms be returned to the school office (current S2-S5 pupils) by **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April** at the latest; spare forms are able to be collected from the school office. This will allow the next stages of the timetable to be developed and any recouring to be completed as swiftly as possible.

If pupils/parents wish to discuss potential pathways, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either myself or Mrs Macbeth. Careers' advice is available through My World of Work.

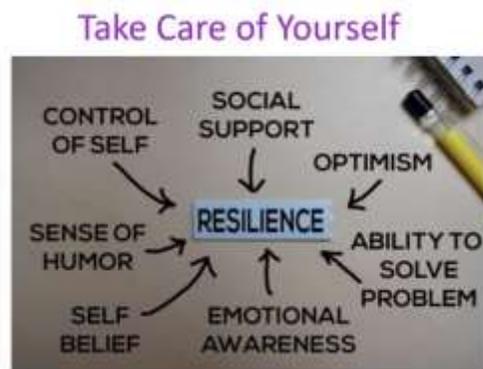
Appointments can be made with Jade Sim, our careers' advisor, from Skills Development Scotland.

Have a great weekend!

## NOTE FROM MRS DICK

In this newsletter you will see the updated remit/areas of responsibility for each of us on the senior leadership team. One part of my remit is to look at the strategies we undertake as a school to support young people's health and wellbeing in order to enable them to achieve academically. Quite recently I had a conversation with someone coming off a hill and they asked what happened to schools teaching and how we became responsible for health and wellbeing. It made me pause for thought and actually maybe my response should be that quite simply I am employed specifically to help, support, co-ordinate health and wellbeing for the students and my role is not to do with teaching a subject, but rather I work in education which encompasses all things. One advantage of this is that I also attend many different courses or events talking about the latest thinking and supports and I would like to share with you three slides that I found really useful and challenged my thinking.

The first is about resilience and what does this mean? I hear the term resilience banded about a lot but this diagram, courtesy of Dr Justin Emery explains what the component parts of being resilient are and what we are looking to build and support in all of us.



Second is what at first glance may appear slightly odd but it is about dealing with pain and the power of non-drug related treatments. A couple are not so relevant in our situation however I noticed that many of them are things we could be doing in school when someone is hurt in an accident or unwell and what can make a difference when we are administering first aid. Some of these we use already but one example in particular where Dr. Emery talked about focusing on all the areas that don't hurt was an interesting suggestion.



Lastly this slide talks about psychological first aid and when someone is upset by something that has happened what we can do to support. What I learnt and wish to share is that previously after an incident we would get together and talk about it, when someone comes to us for time out or just to sit, we would ask them about why. Now, we are going to sit and be with them allowing them to talk in their own time and for us to be there if they wish to talk but understanding that that may not be the support they want or need at that time.

**AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF PFA**

- PROMOTE SAFETY AND SURVIVAL
- PROMOTE CALMING, COMFORTING AND REASSURANCE
- PROMOTE SELF AND COMMUNITY EFFICACY
- PROMOTE CONNECTEDNESS
- PROMOTE HOPE

**WHY VAGUE PRINCIPLES??  
WHAT DOES ALL THIS ACTUALLY MEAN??**

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend and hope that this information supports you to understand the school's approach and gives you pause for thought too.

## SQA Update

As we move into Stage 2 of the Alternative Certification Model (ACM), the SQA has published the following information for parents/carers and pupils.

These can be accessed from these links:

### Parents/carers:

[https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/2021/update-from-the-national-qualifications-2021-group-alternative-certification-model-stage-2-parents-and-carers/?utm\\_source=SQAnews&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nq2021&utm\\_content=ParentBlog&mkt\\_tok=NTA1LVICSC0zMDAAAAF8dWT0fm9upp-xkjXkF7HHhpLLEnGskW1JKb7q5FjkmHW8-2JZ-sPCZrFT1nfiYdCpDrwboV8fbR3g2Y5H7qlGuzN62W3YJL5NtflQbb6M](https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/2021/update-from-the-national-qualifications-2021-group-alternative-certification-model-stage-2-parents-and-carers/?utm_source=SQAnews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nq2021&utm_content=ParentBlog&mkt_tok=NTA1LVICSC0zMDAAAAF8dWT0fm9upp-xkjXkF7HHhpLLEnGskW1JKb7q5FjkmHW8-2JZ-sPCZrFT1nfiYdCpDrwboV8fbR3g2Y5H7qlGuzN62W3YJL5NtflQbb6M)

### Pupils:

[https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/2021/update-from-the-national-qualifications-2021-group-alternative-certification-model-stage-2-learners/?utm\\_source=SQAnews&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nq2021&utm\\_content=LearnerBlog&mkt\\_tok=NTA1LVICSC0zMDAAAAF8dWT0faN2\\_Xnd4qc2K7zUbPdywmX3kgluns-NwvfPgGxbAFFQXi6u7WNxbDLp\\_DcELbHyvHyEeUHEF21WTL LAZvQVnmY-XFwauZgLbEb4](https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/2021/update-from-the-national-qualifications-2021-group-alternative-certification-model-stage-2-learners/?utm_source=SQAnews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nq2021&utm_content=LearnerBlog&mkt_tok=NTA1LVICSC0zMDAAAAF8dWT0faN2_Xnd4qc2K7zUbPdywmX3kgluns-NwvfPgGxbAFFQXi6u7WNxbDLp_DcELbHyvHyEeUHEF21WTL LAZvQVnmY-XFwauZgLbEb4)

The focus in school until May will be the continuation of teaching and learning along with some initial evidence gathering after which pupils will receive feedback, guiding them on the best way to make progress towards their target grades. Stage 3 will, in the main, take place during the month of May.

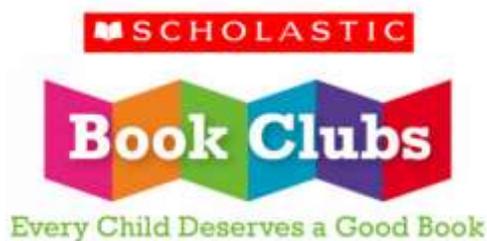
Normally all students in Scotland would sit the same exam at the same time, thereby maintaining security and fairness. This year, although exams in the formal sense are not being sat, it is still very important that assessments are kept secure. Please can I take this opportunity to ask that information regarding content is not shared on media platforms or between students. If for any reason a student is unable to be in school to complete an assessment please inform the school as quickly as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made.

### MySQA: email and text results service

Did you know that results can be received by email or text? Learners who register and activate their account by 5pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 will receive their results by text and/or email from 8am on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Those registered for MySQA will still receive their paper certificate by post.

To register, learners need their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and a valid email address. Learners already registered for MySQA should check their account details and correct and update their preferences. You can sign up to MySQA, the SQA email and text results service at [www.mysqa.org.uk](http://www.mysqa.org.uk).

## Literacy across the curriculum



Our new **Scholastic Book Club is up and running!**

Go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/arran-ka27/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online.

For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in Scholastic Rewards.

Please place your **order online by May 4th, 2021**

## Lunchtime Creative Writing

Mr McKee's creative writing club takes place every Monday lunch-time. Pupils of all ages are welcome!

## Extra-Curricular Sports Activities

Extra-Curricular clubs will return from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April between 3.45pm and 4.45pm. The clubs are as follows:

Monday – S1-S6 Mixed Hockey

Tuesday – S1 & S2 Boys Football

Wednesday – S1 – S6 Girls Football

Thursday – S1-S6 Mixed Netball & S3 & S4 Boys Football

Extra-Curricular buses will resume for travel home at the end of the day at 4.45pm.

Pupils have been choosing over the last couple of days which extra-curricular activities they would like to attend. Each session is restricted to a maximum of 20 pupils following government guidance. All extra-curricular sports activities will be taking place outside, so please ensure that your child is dressed for the weather.

Pupils have been informed today if they have been allocated a place on their chosen activity.

Lunch sports clubs will also be returning in the forthcoming weeks. Pupils will be advised of this soon.



## **Extra In-service Days**

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government has assigned two extra In-Service days for secondary school staff to administer, assess and moderate evidence gathering procedures for SQA candidates.

The dates that have been agreed by North Ayrshire are **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May** and **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May** 2021.

The school will be closed for all pupils on these days and there will be no live teaching provision. Thank you in advance for your support with this initiative.

## **Staffing**

We are pleased to announce that following an interview process that took place yesterday that we have appointed the following staff to permanent teaching positions in the school.

Mr Peter Early has been appointed the position of Maths teacher and Mr Graham Wilks will be joining us as a Physics teacher

## **School Library**

For the summer term Susanna Talbot from the Arran Library in Brodick will be working in the High School library on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Many of you may know her through the public or mobile library service.

She is currently engaged in a stock take of the library books and is here to help as much as she can with any book-related queries! Watch this space for new book updates.

## **Arran High School Buffs**

Just a reminder that we still have a stock of Arran High School Buffs available from the school office to buy. These can be purchased via Parent Pay. The cost of a buff is £5 each



## **The MacKinnon MacNeill Trust**

Heading for University/College?

1. Do you live in the West Highlands/Islands ?
2. Do you have a good school record?
3. Will your course include technology, computing, maths, science or similar?
4. Do you require assistance for your time at university/college?

If your answer is 'yes' to all 4 questions, then you may be eligible for one of a number of £2.500 pa scholarships from the MACKINNON MACNEILL TRUST.

'To assist the deserving highland lads and lasses'

Application forms are available from Mrs Foster or from Mt T Smith, Clerk to the Trust, 132 Ochiltree, Dunblane FK15 OPB or by email to [mactrust@outlook.com](mailto:mactrust@outlook.com)

The closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021



## **Forthcoming Dates**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May – In-service Day

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> & Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – In-service Days

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May - S1 Reports emailed home

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June – P7 Transition Days in the High School (further details to follow in the next newsletter)

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June – P7 Parents Meeting (time and format TBC)

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June – S2 Reports emailed home

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Provisional Date for Whole School Sports Day

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – School Closes for Summer Break (1pm Close)

## **Senior Leadership Remits**

Following the recent appointments of Mrs S Foster as Head Teacher and Mrs Heidi Macfarlane as Early Years Nursery Manager, it was required for senior leadership remits to be reviewed. Please find below a summarised version.

### **Mrs S Foster – Head Teacher**

- Strategic responsibility for school Vision, Values and Aims Strategic planning
- Strategic responsibility for Quality Improvement and Self-evaluation for self-improvement
- Strategic responsibility for School Leadership and Management, Learning Provision and Attainment, Successes and Achievements Strategic responsibility for School Policy
- Co-ordination and development of Policy and Process for Skills for Learning, Life and Work and Developing the Young Workforce
- Professional Advisor to Parent Council (ex Officio member)
- Parental Engagement – Family Learning

### **Mrs S Dick – Depute Head Teacher**

- Year head responsibility for Primary through to S6
- Parental Engagement – Pastoral
- Safeguarding and Child Protection – LAC/LAAC (Primary to Secondary)
- Transition Policy and Procedure – Primary to Secondary
- Development of policy and process in relation to Health and Wellbeing Primary to Secondary
- Nurture and positive School Ethos and Relationship – Primary to Secondary
- School Attendance Policy and Procedure – Primary to Secondary
- Health & Safety Policy and Procedure including Fire Evacuation link with MITIE
- Risk Assessment and off site activities policy and procedure – includes school excursions Primary to Secondary
- Risk Assessment and Off site activities policy and procedure – includes liaison with MITIE, PPP, NAC Compliance Team and Facilities Management – Secondary
- Organisation of School Awards Ceremony – Primary to Secondary

### **Mrs M Bunting – Depute Head Teacher (Acting)**

- SQA co-ordinator
  - Co-ordination of all school examinations, standardised assessments and deployment of invigilators
- Improvement of Learning and Teaching
- Strategic responsibility for High School Curriculum
- Tracking and Monitoring learning – formulation and operation of policy and procedure
- Transition policy and procedure (BGE to Senior Phase and 16+)
- Operational management of school timetable and co-ordination of options
- GIRFEC Co-ordinator including specifically personalised support – EYC through to Secondary
- Overview of recognition of Wider Achievement, including certification

## 23<sup>rd</sup> April Facts

### Saint George

The myth of Saint George (died April 23, 303) slaying the dragon originated in stories of his valiance and bravery brought back by the Crusaders who learned of him during the Middle Ages.

Legend has it that George arrived upon a village where a dragon was terrorizing the local people. To appease the creature, they had begun to sacrifice a sheep per day to feed its hunger until they no longer had any sheep. The King then decreed that they must sacrifice the local children to keep the dragon at bay.

Each day, the sacrifice was chosen by lottery until the King's daughter was selected. As she was being led to the dragon, George happened by. Horrified by what he discovered, he offered to slay the dragon.

During his battle with the dragon, George noticed a vulnerable patch of skin under its arm and charged forward with his sword, slaying the beast.

### April 23<sup>rd</sup> Is...

English Muffin Day

Impossible Astronaut Day

Lover's Day

Picnic Day

Take a Chance Day

World Book and Copyright Day

World Laboratory Day

### April 23<sup>rd</sup> History

1516 – A Beer Purity Law was put into law still in effect today in Germany. It was decreed on April 23, 1516, by Munich's Duke Wilhelm, protecting the country's beer drinkers from contaminants, chemicals, and any other additives that unsavory merchants might have thought of adding.

1564 – William Shakespeare was born. He went on to write 38 plays and invent dozens of English words.

1982 – *The Sword and the Sorcerer* was released in theaters.

1983 – #1 Hit April 23, 1983 – April 29, 1983: Dexys Midnight Runners – *Come On Eileen*

1984 The discovery of the virus causing AIDS is announced. ...

2005 – First YouTube video was uploaded, titled "Me at the zoo".