



Milne's High School

Education & Social Care

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14 August 2018

Dear Parent

I write to welcome back our school community as the new session gets underway this week. I am pleased to report that a rigorous review of last session shows continued progress in our journey towards being an excellent school. Prior to the summer break, local authority officers visited the school and noted that the school offers a calm and positive learning environment with strong relations between students and staff. We have an ambitious Improvement Plan which will be available alongside our new Standards and Quality Report on our website in the coming weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents who are in full support of our desire to be our best and ask that you carefully read the contents of this pack and return the required documentation.

Changes to the structure of the school week

As you will no doubt be aware, a major structural change this session is the introduction of the 33 period week. As there will be no registration in the morning, it is crucial that all students are in class and ready to learn from 8.45 am each morning and as such there will be an increased focus on attendance and time-keeping this session. Buses have been arranged to collect students on a Friday to allow lunch provision from the canteen but it is not envisaged that this timeframe will allow students the opportunity to leave the school campus to obtain lunch and return in time for the bus departure.

Uniform

We continue to make great progress in the large numbers of pupils who are smartly dressed to school in the required uniform. Unfortunately, a small minority continue to ignore repeated requests to wear the uniform with a few still wearing jeans, leggings and non-black footwear. We will maintain our focus in this area during the coming session.

Keep in touch

It is essential that we hold up to date contact details for each student as there are times when we need to contact parents at short notice. We encourage good communication with parents and ask parents to contact the school office in the first instance with any queries. We have a school Twitter account @milneshigh to publicise our achievements and have re-designed our website; we also aim to introduce a Facebook page later in the session.

There will be an open consultation for parents on Monday 3 September from 5.45 pm until 6.45 pm just before our Parent Council meeting which begins at 7.00 pm. Joining the parent council allows you the chance to have your say on how to further improve the school and you will be made very welcome should you choose to stay. The open consultation is an opportunity for parents to talk to me individually about any issues concerning school improvement. Please come directly to my office and if I am engaged with other parents, then let me know that you are waiting.

The role of the Guidance Teacher

The Guidance teacher is the named person for our students. For Spey house, the Guidance role is provided by Ms Gardiner with Tynet house provision overseen by Mr McGuire. For some students with additional support needs, their named person will be the Principal Teacher of Additional Support Needs, Mrs Burchell, and these parents will be informed separately. If you are in any doubt then please contact the school office and they will direct you appropriately.

SQA attainment

I am pleased to report that we are continuing the positive trend of last session with our recent exam results. The support of staff and parents is greatly appreciated in this success. There are some students who may be disappointed with their results and they will be supported through the course choice process and in classes to ensure that they have the best chance of success this session. Instead of an overall report in the senior phase, parents will continue to receive monthly tracking reports for students in S4-6. Aspiration is one of our core values and raising attainment features heavily in our School Improvement Plan for next session.

Our vision, purpose and values

Last term, there were opportunities for parents, pupils and staff to have their say on re-designing the vision, purpose and values of our school. An updated statement will be prepared and issued for consultation later this term. Many of our consultations with parents are in electronic format and it is helpful if we have up to date email addresses for as many parents as possible.

Our local community

We aim to be a positive and valued part of our local community. Last session, there were increases in complaints from members of the public regarding the conduct of our students, some of which resulted in the involvement of the community warden or the police. These were generally about the thoughtlessness of dropping litter, the use of foul or abusive language and walking on the road with no regard to oncoming traffic. We seek your continued support and encouragement to ensure that your child upholds the school values around the local community at all times.

Health and Safety – dropping off and collecting students

We continue to witness regular incidents which endanger the wellbeing of others as parents use the main car park as a drop off point for their children at the start and end of each school day. I respectfully request that parents are considerate in this matter and use the turning circle adjacent to the school from where your child can walk safely to the school.

I have previously written to parents to request that students are collected from evening events or school trips in a timely fashion. Although there was some improvement last session, most evening events or trips still required a member of staff to wait with a young person for a considerable time after the conclusion of the event for parents to collect their child. It is imperative that **all young people are collected no more than ten minutes after the conclusion of an event or return of a trip.**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the school community a good term and thank parents for your ongoing support. Should you have any concerns then please let us know about them as soon as possible by contacting your child's Guidance teacher in the first instance or by telephoning, e-mailing or writing to the school and I look forward to seeing you at some of the forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely



Trish Cameron
Head Teacher

Key dates for the diary:

Wednesday 22 August – College begins

Monday 3 September – Open consultation with Head Teacher 5.45 pm – 6.45 pm
Parent Council meeting 7.00 pm

Monday 10 September – Career Ready 'End of Internship' Presentation

Monday 17 September – BGE Open Evening

Friday 5 October - End of Term

Monday 22 October – Term begins

DISCLAIMER: This letter and any attachments are solely intended for parents of Milne's High School students. This must not be copied or re-distributed in any way.