



Milne's High School

Education & Social Care

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26 January 2018

Dear Parent

I would like to take this opportunity early in the term to update you on some important matters.

Health and Safety

A few incidents have recently flagged up the need for our whole school community to take matters of health and safety more seriously. We are experiencing a higher level of complaints from the public than usual about road safety, problems of litter and foul language in the village attributed to some of our pupils.

I would be most grateful if you could discuss these matters with your child and reinforce the key messages being conveyed by the school on health and safety issues as well as appropriate behaviour in the local community.

I would like to reiterate a message from previous correspondence that parents encourage their child to be as safe as possible as they travel to school – particularly encouraging cyclists to wear helmets and display lights when appropriate while ensuring those who walk to school stay on the pavements and be alert to the dangers of passing traffic.

Additionally, I would like to thank all parents who have supported our requests in terms of not using the school carpark as a drop-off point and for collecting children promptly at the end of school events. We are very grateful for the support we receive from parents.

Uniform

We continue to make good progress on this matter and thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that pupils wear the required uniform. Almost all are wearing appropriate black trousers/skirt, black footwear and their school tie correctly. There is, however, a cohort who are not buying into this ethos and we seek parental support in helping us to make the uniform a main priority as it sets the tone for high expectations which can permeate into the positive behaviour we wish to promote.

Parental Engagement

This continues to be a key priority and our very supportive parent council have developed a strategy to encourage more parental involvement including the following events:

- On Monday 22 January, a parental survey was emailed by the school on behalf of the parent council chair, Mrs Rhonda Geddes-Stewart
- Mid-February – Issue of whole school parental evaluation as issued this time last session
- The parent council will be present at parents' evenings to gather parental views – they will be based in Room 30 and delighted to welcome you should you have time to drop in for a chat
- Parent council evenings will be hosted in the community. The parent council meeting on 19 March will be held in Lhanbryde Primary School. The Head Teacher will be available an hour prior to the meeting to hear parents' views about whole school improvement ideas

At the start of term on 9 January, we held a very well attended Parental Engagement evening. This was suggested by the parent council to focus on the 33 Period Week and Tracking; two issues that parents had raised as requiring further explanation. We have collated the questions asked and these can now be found on our website or by request at the school office. Should you have ideas for further evenings then please do not hesitate to contact the parent council. They can be contacted directly or via our school office.

Welcome

We have a new Depute Head Teacher, Mr Adam Macleod, who joined us at the start of term. Mr Macleod has a specific remit for ensuring appropriate learning pathways and support for all students and his post is funded from our allocation from the Scottish Government's Pupil Equity Fund.

Edict Profiles

All pupils have opportunities to reflect on their learning through learning conversations with their teachers and these are recorded on their on-line Edict profile. Please encourage your child to access their profile at home to show you their targets for subjects and progress made.

Show My Homework

Just a reminder that parents can be involved in learning at home by accessing the 'Show My Homework' website where you can see all the homework that has been issued in different subject areas. This enables you to encourage your child to complete homework on time or seek support if required.

Start of term for pupils

The key theme for assemblies held during the first week was around the wellbeing indicator: achievement. The core values of the school were discussed with examples of how these can be used by pupils as guidance for how to conduct themselves and by doing so help to enhance the reputation of the school. Another theme discussed at assemblies was the need for personal hygiene to stop the spread of the many bugs including flu prevalent in the community at this time of year.

For our senior students, we are in the midst of Prelim exams, an opportunity for students to prepare for their final exams in May. A bespoke package 'January Horizons' has been developed for those students who do not have formal exams and this is an opportunity for them to develop the skills and experience required for their individual pathway. This will be replicated by an authority programme 'Meaningful May' during the May examination diet.

Success

One of our students who has had a very exciting start to the term is Rory Milne in S2. As you may have seen on national TV, Rory has won a Blue Peter competition, coming first from over 9,000 entries chosen by Nick Park. This involved designing a prehistoric creature that could work well as an animation - in line with the new Nick Park film being released in January, 'Early Man'. This is a massive achievement and Rory has spent the day at the Aardman Animation Studio in Bristol as well as being part of the filming process in the Blue Peter studio where he met the cast and crew of the film and attended the movie premiere. He then had the chance to meet and interview Nick Park and many of the actors from Early Man. This has been such a brilliant achievement for Rory who has been much sought after by the press and describes this as an amazing experience. You can catch Rory's show on BBC iPlayer and I am sure you will enjoy watching this. Well done Rory!

You can keep up to date with success stories like Rory's on our school's Twitter account, website and the end of term newsletter.

Dates for the diary:

Wednesday 31 January – S1 Parents' Evening

Monday 5 February – Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 14 February – Senior Phase Recital Evening (Music)

Thursday 22 February – Senior Phase Parents' Evening 1

Tuesday 27 February – Senior Phase Parents' Evening 2

Monday 19 March – Parent Council Meeting (To be held at Lhanbryde Primary School)

Wednesday 28 March – Young Musician of the Year

Thursday 29 March – End of term

I thank you for your ongoing support of our vision for Milne's High School.

Yours sincerely



Trish Cameron
Head Teacher

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.