

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT TO THE PARENT COUNCIL

Tuesday 22 February 2022

Breakfast Club

Mrs Fergusson, Mr Little and S6 Volunteers have successfully run our Breakfast Club for over a month now. It provides a 'Soft Start' and breakfast for over 16 pupils. Parents are also invited to attend. The plan is to extend our provision to 8.15 to 8.45am daily with a drop-in run by our volunteers. Morrison's donates all the food as a community project.

In-Service Day Staff Professional Learning

The focus of the in-service day on Tuesday 15 February was learning and teaching. A group of staff have been learning about 'Cognitive Load Theory' which is the theory of how children learn. They have been trialling techniques that reduce the load on the working memory during a lesson as well as strategies to strengthen long-term memory such as revision techniques and note-making. Led by Mr Gardner, they shared some of their learning with the rest of the staff in a series of workshops.

Supported Study

A new programme of supported study is currently being planned. It will run in the weeks before Easter. Targeted pupils have also been invited to attend 'Study Hall', which is supervised study after school where pupils can get access to computers and a peaceful place to work. Contact with home to encourage attendance has been very effective and welcomed by most parents.

Beach Volleyball Courts

The planning for the **beach volley ball courts** is well underway and work is about to begin. The works will commence on **Monday 21st February 2022** and will take 8 weeks to complete. They are aiming to have the project complete and handed over for the Easter school break. The contractor is proposing to form a temporary access into the area of the works from Craigholm Road. This will ensure the construction traffic is completely separate from the school and no parking spaces will be lost for the duration of the works. The area will be fully fenced off and secure during the construction process.

Refurbishments to School Building

Planning is also underway for the **refurbishment of the Science dept.** This will involve reconfiguring the science stores and technicians' rooms as well. Because it is such a big job, they will begin after the Easter holidays to get it completed by our return to school after the summer. Two temporary classrooms will be installed at the back of the school which is currently the new car parking area near the bike sheds. These will be ready for use by **18 Apr 2022**. The two Biology rooms will be completed first. This will take place from **19 April 2022**. Contractor then has access to the whole Science Dept. during the Summer Break. All work is due to be completed by **19 Aug 2022** and the start of the new term.

Upcoming Events

Tues 1 March – S4 Parents Evening

Fri 1 April – School closes at 2.30pm for Easter holidays (reopens on Tues 19 April)

Tues 26 April – SQA Exams begin

Next meeting Tuesday 29 March 2022