



Dear Parents/Carers,

So here we are at the end of another very busy, and snowy, week in lockdown with Learning@Home. Below are some updates which I hope you find useful. As always, please do get in touch with any feedback through our website or to our admin@tynecastle.edin.sch.uk account.

S3 Parents' Night

Thank you to Gareth Oakley, the Chair of our Parent/Carer Council for being in touch with some immediate feedback. It was a mixed picture, with some staff and families being completely successful, some the reverse and most mixed. Our staff really appreciated the thanks around phone calls and emails too. We had been very hopeful that this system, which is being used across the country, was now fully operational following success the previous week for two Edinburgh schools, but this has unfortunately not been the case. We will be meeting urgently to decide how to progress for S2 Parents' Night which is on 1 February.

S2 Parents Information Evening

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to this on-line event with Mrs Ramsay and me on Tuesday 27 January from 6pm. The link for the Team will be made available on Monday. Do please send any questions to our admin account prior to this marked S2 Parents' Information Evening. There will be the opportunity to ask live questions too.

S1/2 Learning @ Home

Please note that Maths are introducing synchronous learning for some lessons next week. This means that the teacher is on Teams at the same time as the students. This might be answering questions, screen sharing or two-way video.

Learning@Home for S1-6

Please also note that we have started to introduce Key Adult on a Friday morning. Please do encourage your child to log-in. The focus here is checking in and pastoral support.

Please continue to remind your child to register through our website too. Teams is able to analyse when your child logs on and how much time they spend working so that they can be monitored by their class teacher. However, whole school registration is also vitally important so that we can analyse this and target support to young people who are having difficulties.

HMIE – Professional Dialogue

We were delighted to be selected as the first secondary school in Edinburgh to engage with HMIE regarding our Digital Learning as part of their audit of provision across the country. It was great to be able to share the innovative work of our staff, the successes we have had and also share what supports would be of benefit to us too.

Burns' Night

Sadly, tonight would have seen us host a fabulous evening for our school community. This event has grown again in popularity over the past few years and our Parent & Carer Council make a wonderful job of providing food and entertainment. Please put the date in your diary for next year when hopefully we will return with the best Burns' Night ever.

Health and Wellbeing

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to highlight the supports available on our website for health and wellbeing. I know that it is difficult with this snowy weather but daily exercise is so important for our children and ourselves. Daily exercise is incorporated into the S1/2 programme and S3-6 have core PE, PSE and RME slots where a walk, an online exercise class or some mindfulness could really make a difference to how well they are coping. We have been discussing this week in school the fact that we thought that this lockdown was a short sprint but it is now looking like a 5k if not a 10k. It is so important that we all pace ourselves and remember to take care. As always, if we can help with this in any way then please let us know and don't forget that Place2Be continues to be available too.

I do hope that you manage to have a good weekend, and whether sledging, walking or curling up with Netflix that you and your family have time to rest.

Until next week please do take care, stay connected and, most importantly, stay safe.



Hazel Kinnear

Head Teacher