



IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY

Ambition • Respect • Responsibility

Head Teacher: Mrs. L. Sloan

Kilwinning Road, Irvine KA12 8SJ

Tel: 01294 278 756

Email: irvineroyal@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

26TH January 2021

LS/IH

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wish to start by thanking you for your outstanding support over the last couple of weeks – I do not underestimate the challenges you have faced but even in such difficult times, you have encouraged your son/daughter to engage in the wealth of learning on offer.

Remote Learning

As was the position in my last communication, we are NOT offering live lessons for all subjects at all times. Our approaches towards remote learning continue to be varied and by all accounts this is proving to be effective. We continue to provide a combination of live lessons, pre-recorded lessons, independent activities and PowerPoint voice overs. We continue to provide paper resources for those young people who do not have a device (we are hopeful they will arrive in the next couple of weeks) and thus we are making a concerted effort to prioritise the importance of feedback.

Engagement Tracker

Our remote learning engagement tracker is fully operational and over the last two weeks, we have used this to help identify who has not accepted invites into Google Classroom, joined live Google Meets or indeed submitted any work. On the back of this, we have made phone calls/sent texts to those young people who fall into this category. It gives me great pleasure to say the levels of engagement have continued to improve and in many cases, the quality of work submitted has been excellent – great credit to those young people who are making the desired progress during these unique circumstances.

Parent/Carer Survey

Thanks to those parents/carers who took the time to complete the recent remote learning survey – we have now collated the data and I wish to share the following information:

- 90% of the parents who responded confirmed that their son/daughter had signed into Google classroom
- 77% stated their son/daughter has been involved in a live lesson.
- 74% confirmed that their son/daughter had received feedback on work submitted.
- The average rating of the school's performance/quality of support since we returned from the Christmas break was 4/5.

Many thanks to those parents who took the opportunity to single out specific staff for special recognition and to the many parents/carers who acknowledged the collective efforts of our team. On the back of the survey, our PT's Pastoral/Support Staff followed up with 46 parents who expressed a concern – hopefully all matters of this nature have now been resolved.





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Parent/Carer Virtual Drop-In

Many thanks to the parents/carers who joined me for my drop-in on Friday – the turn-out (nearly 60) was very encouraging indeed. Queries and suggestions from this forum will be followed up by key staff – we will be back in touch with individual parents/carers in due course.

Royal Resources

Our “Royal Resources” provision continues to go from strength to strength, we continue to have a large stock of winter jackets that we are happy to distribute should there be a need. In addition, we are happy to issue stationery packs/jotters etc should your son/daughter require it. If you need any additional resources please contact Mr Muirhead: gw14muirheadross@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Family Learning

A number of parent/carers have indicated that they would be interested in taking part in some IT training and in particular training around Glow/Google Classroom. Mr Muirhead is happy to facilitate this – please drop him an email if you would like to be involved.

Assemblies

Our virtual House Assemblies started this week for those pupils in S4 – S6

Arran – 26.01.21 – 8.50am

Bute – 27.01.21 – 8.50am

Cumbrae - 28.01.21 – 8.50am

Next week they will be targeted at **S1 – S3**

Arran – 02.02.21 – 8.50am

Bute – 03.02.21 – 8.50am

Cumbrae – 04.02.21 – 8.50am

Please encourage your son/daughter to join the Google meet (link in PSHE classroom) for their assembly, their Head of House is very much looking forward to seeing everyone.

Options

You will be aware that the mock options process is now well underway – you will be contacted in order to arrange a virtual one to one meeting to confirm your son/daughter’s course selection. In order to provide you with a bit more information on the option process/curriculum offering/pathways available, we would like to invite you to attend a virtual options information session.

- **S2 pupils/parents** – 02.02.21 – 6pm
- **S3/S4 pupils/parents** – 08.02.21 – 6pm

Please save the date, joining instructions to follow.





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Celebration of Success

You will be aware through social media that our Royal Recognition Awards are very much “alive and kicking”. Departments will continue to issue certificates (digitally) to those pupils who are showing a real commitment to their learning. It is important that we recognise and indeed celebrate those young people who are showing such high levels of dedication at this time.

HT Excellence Awards

Staff have until the close of play on Friday to submit their nominations – watch this space!!!

Theme of the Week

This week our ‘Theme of the Week’ is Wellbeing. We absolutely recognise that the current situation is having a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of many. Please do not suffer in silence! We are here to help and support you in any way we can - we fully understand that a deterioration in wellbeing means that in some instances, engagement in learning is of secondary importance. In the first instance, if your son/ daughter is struggling with their wellbeing, please make contact with the relevant PT Pastoral Support teacher:

Arran – Mrs Davidson

Bute – Mrs Clifford

Cumbræ – Mrs Gibson

Mrs Marwick

Mr Knox – ILP

Miss Wotherspoon – **PT Support for Learning**

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any approaches towards remote learning or otherwise.

Take care and stay safe!

Linzie Sloan

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Head Teacher

