



Turriff Academy
Victoria Terrace
Turriff AB53 4EE
Telephone 01888 530900
Fax 01888 568966
turriff.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.turriff.aberdeenshire.sch.uk
Parent Council Email address -
turriffacademypc@hotmail.com

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Dear Parent/ Carer

At the end of another busy week, I have a number of things to update you on:

Senior School House Committees

Senior staff and Guidance teachers have been interviewing members of the House Committees who wish to take up the leadership role of Captains and Depute Captains for each of the 4 Houses. These interviews finish today and I will be meeting with the successful candidates at the end of the day. This information will be relayed to the rest of the school at the weekly pupil briefings period 1 on Monday 14th.

I look forward to working with Captains and Depute Captains to look at how they can develop their House Ethos and look at imaginative ways of running House Events to count for the House Championship during these unusual times.

I would like to thank all candidates for taking the time to apply and for preparing so well for their interviews this week.

NHS updates

I currently attend regular NHS briefings which enables discussions around Frequently Asked Questions. A summary of these questions and the subsequent answers are attached to this update. Please note these will also be posted on the school website.

Cleaning resources in school

You may be aware that we have had a couple of incidents this week, where a very small minority of our young people have been unsafe in their behaviour using the sprays that are used to wipe down our surfaces. These incidents have been followed up. However, I know that there has been some anxiety with regard to the appropriateness of having this cleaning material in school. Details around its use are included in our risk assessments and it is important to take note of the following information:

Covid Guard when diluted to the correct level : the product is not corrosive, hazardous or an irritant so should not cause harm. Only Janitors plus the Science technician have access to concentrated Covid Guard and have been trained in the procedures to ensure correct dilution. All other staff, and pupils under direction from staff, have access only to the correctly diluted product. The risk is therefore negligible.

Documentation issued by E,C&S advises :

“Appropriate cleaning will also be required where pupil groups relocate and use spaces vacated by another group. Consideration should be given to appropriate equipment being provided to enable young people to wipe down desk/chair/surfaces before leaving the room”.

The diluted product has very low risk. Young people may be asked to assist with cleaning down table surfaces under staff supervision. If they are not comfortable using the product that is fine and they won't be asked to use it.

Staff have also been advised to be vigilant in the use of the spray and will alert us to any issues immediately.

S1 Pupils

A number of S1 pupils have been asking when they will be allowed to 'go up the street' at break and lunchtime. At the moment all S1 pupils are required to remain on the school campus and access facilities on site. This will be reviewed with a decision made about this for after the October Holidays.

Tracking and Monitoring

As we reach the middle of term 1, staff are having conversations with senior phase pupils about their progress and discuss targets for the year ahead. Parents will receive an initial tracking report before the October Break.

For our S1 to S3 pupils, progress is also being tracked and if we have any immediate concerns parents will be contacted to discuss next steps.

We will be introducing homework alerts home, to alert parents of any young person not managing to complete homework. All staff would welcome your support in encouraging your young person to complete homework that may be issued to help consolidate and enhance learning.

If you have any concerns about your young person's progress, please contact the following member of the Guidance Team in the first instance. There may also be the opportunity to discuss subject specific queries with the Faculty Head of that curricular area.

Delgaty Pupils :	Miss Marshall
Forglen Pupils :	Mrs Grant
Hatton Pupils :	Mrs Tetlow
Craigston Pupils:	currently Mrs Ferguson is not able to answer queries and as such the Senior Leadership Team member should be contacted:
S1 and S3	Mrs Clarke (DHT)
S2 and S5	Ms Bisset (DHT)
S4	Mr Martin (DHT)
S6	Ms Menzies (HT)

And finally.....

We have received a lot of positive feedback about how our young people have settled into school and in the community, which is great to hear.

It is important to keep this positive image going and for all pupils to remember that when they are out in the community that they continue to remember to follow the current advice:

- **When in shops they need to remember to wear their face coverings or they may not be permitted entry into the premises**
- **Try to keep numbers in groups to a minimum and not to block pavements preventing other members of the community from using pavements and walkways**
- **Tidy up – litter should be put in bins or taken back to school deposited in bins.**

Thank you for helping re-iterate this message with your young person(s). By working together we make it better for us all. I hope that you all have a good weekend.

Ms Menzies
Head Teacher
Turrieff Academy