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Ref: LM/fm

17 June 2022

Dear Parent /Carer,

It has been great to welcome parents and carers back into the building this week at our celebration events – over the 2 nights we had around 300 of you back in the building, who would have thought that it would have taken it this long.

At the evenings, I outlined my reflections on the last year and also how we are looking to move forward. A summary of this will be made available to all parents on our website next week.

Well done to all our young people not only those who were in attendance on Wednesday and Thursday. All of our young people have made a positive impact on the success of our Turriff Academy Community. The 23,000 plus merits that have been awarded this year which highlights this. Our next celebration will be on the last day of term and these merits along with performances at our whole school events: Swimming Gala, Team Event and Sports Day etc will be added together to reveal the House Champions for 2021-22.

### **Turriff Academy Parent Council**

Our Parent Council AGM took place this week and it was really pleasing to form our Council for the year ahead. If you would like to find out more about the work of the Parent Council, please e-mail the chair Ashley Strachan on [turriffacademypc@hotmail.com](mailto:turriffacademypc@hotmail.com)

At the meeting, I highlighted that staff are keen to start organising trips again. I raised the point that we are facing a potentially challenging time ahead regarding finances. I advised that staff have been exploring possibilities and would like to gauge interest. The link below will allow you the opportunity to feed back your views on the kind of experiences you would like us to explore.

[Feedback on School Excursions and Events - please complete by 24-6-22](#)

Mr Forsyth has asked if he can meet with your young people to explore levels of interest around a trip to Barcelona next year. Please note that this trip has not been organised, it is purely an opportunity for him to gauge interest for the possibility of a trip in summer 2023.

The following information was shared at our Parent Council and as such I now share with the Wider Parent Forum

**1 - Whole Family Wellbeing Fund - this may be of interest to some of your parents so please share with your Parent Forum. This has been shared with schools**

The attached information sheet is to inform you of a new stream of financial support for low income families.

## **What is the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund?**

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is a Scottish Government initiative to help families overcome challenges before they reach crisis point. The purpose of the funding is to support **low-income families** who need help to pay for essential items including:

### **Food, fuel and clothing and other essential practical items needed in the home.**

The Scottish Government have made funding available for Direct Aid provision to be administered by Children's Services Social Work to support children, young people and their families experiencing financial hardship. This will enable social workers to provide direct cash support based on assessments of need of individual families and help prevent further crisis.

### **Who is eligible?**

Anyone who has children (under the age of 18) in their household is eligible for support through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund if they are on a low income and experiencing financial hardship. A family does not already need to be known to social work to be eligible. Families can self-refer or can be referred for financial support.

## **2 - School Uniform Consultation**

- The Scottish Government has committed to introduce statutory guidance in Scotland which aims to address equalities issues around uniform policy and reduce the cost of school uniform, as this can be a significant barrier to participation in learning. This consultation seeks views on:
  - what should be included within the guidance
  - the role that school uniform plays within the ethos, culture and day to day school life
  - the considerations available to schools and education authorities in reducing school uniform costs
  - the draft principles which are intended to be incorporated as part of national school uniform policy

### **Who is this consultation for?**

This consultation is open to anyone with an interest in school uniform policy, but especially pupils, parents and carers, education authorities and education authority school staff and those who provide school uniform items. The link for the consultation is here - <https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/school-uniforms-statutory-guidance-scotland/>

## **P7- S1 Transition**

I look forward to welcoming our new S1 pupils on Tuesday next week for their 4 day transition experience. It is an exciting time for them and as well as meeting their teachers here, they will also be supported by our Senior House Buddies.

### **Return of Resources Reminder:**

If any pupil (especially returning S5/ S6s) have textbooks or other resources at home, please return them as soon as possible so that we can redistribute them for the learning ahead.

**Dates for your Diary:**

<b>21-24 June</b>	<b>S1 Transition</b>
1 July	Last day of term 4
22 August	Inservice Day 1 – staff return
23 August	All pupils return

Regards



Ms L Menzies  
Head Teacher