



Head Teacher Update 02/10/20

Dear Parents /Carers

Since my last update, there has been lots happening! Pupils are well settled and engaged in their learning and it has been a pleasure to pop into a number of classes and see this in action. This week I have been so impressed to see the work of our S3 pupils in Art, I had the opportunity to visit the English Faculty and saw how creative they've been with Blackout poetry to celebrate National Poetry Week and I was also invited to an Italian class when pupils were learning about culture as part of the celebration of European Day of Languages. I was most honoured to visit the Maths Faculty in order to present some well-earned certificates for pupils' efforts in the UKMT Maths Challenge! More about all of this in the update.

Learning and Teaching

This week we met with a group of S4 learners to gather views on their engagement and progress in learning over the period of their self-isolation. This will help us inform our Blended Learning Plans as we move forward.

Reminder S1-6 Interim Reports

Teachers are busy writing Interim reports for all pupils. S4-6 Interim Reports will be sent home prior to the October break and S1-3 Interim Reports w/b 02/11/20. You will also receive an update about what your child is learning in school to assist you in talking to your child about his/her learning

Connecting Classrooms

We are very proud to report that Holy Rood features in the TES this month and we hope that you will take a couple of minutes to read this by clicking on the link below: -

https://www.tes.com/news/how-use-online-partnerships-teach-climate-change?utm_source=tes&utm_medium=schools-twitter&utm_campaign=schools-campaign-autumn-20

This article reflects the wonderful contribution not only to learning about sustainability and climate change, but also the wider context of building relationships with our partners in Tanzania. It is testament to work ongoing for over two decades and demonstrates the commitment and desire to actively develop Global Citizenship.

S6 Leadership Team Update

We are delighted that 43 S6 pupils have been successful in their application to take on the role of Prefects. They have been linked to a year group or Support for Learning. These leadership roles are a wonderful opportunity for the pupils and are also extremely beneficial to the school and our pupils. The S6 Captains will have a monthly update meeting with the Head Teacher/Year Head and the full S6 Leadership Team will meet every 8 weeks. The team will be taking forward the following tasks: -

- Intro video for Tutor Time
- P7 Welcome Video to Primaries for website
- Mental Health leaflet (as requested via Pupil Focus Groups)
- PowerPoint feedback re Pupil Voice
- Pupil Voice Comments Display (“You said” “We did”)
- Parent/carer feedback – SWAY on Pupil Voice Focus Groups

One-way system

Our pupils are getting used to finding their way around school via the new one-way system which came into effect on Monday 28 September. We will review this new system after the October break.

Events in School....

European Day of Languages

To celebrate **European Day of Languages**, pupils have taken part in a range of activities this week. S1 pupils have been involved in mini competitions about Italian superstitions, while our S2 pupils discovered gestures that the French use while talking. With over 50 different languages spoken in Holy Rood, S3 classes have been learning about our Heritage Languages.

Maths Week

This week is Maths Week Scotland! S1 and S2 pupils have been participating in a Sumdog competition which continues until 2nd October. We have also been practising our Numeracy skills in tutor time this week through logical thinking and problem-solving tasks. We have some budding Mathematicians in S2 and S3 who this week received their awards for participating in the UKMT Junior Maths challenge during Lockdown. A special well done to the bronze award winners and to Iga Dekowska who achieved a Gold award and was the best in school. Wishing good luck to our four pupils taking part in **Mathematical Olympiad for Girls**, a UK wide contest next week.

National Poetry Day

To celebrate National Poetry Day and make the most of this excellent opportunity to enable the poet in us all, the English staff decorated the faculty with their favourite poems along with poems around this year’s theme: vision. Using a creative technique whereby pupils ripped out pages from books and used markers to cover over and discard words they did not like, pupils and staff created their very own Blackout poems – a perfect example of destruction as a form of creation. Displays and examples will adorn the English Faculty’s twitter page early next week @HolyRoodEnglish Something to look forward to!

Message to all parents/carers from Suzanne MacIntosh (Chair of Parent Council)

I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents that the school is always keen to hear views and ideas from parents and carers, on how you think we might improve any aspects of school life for our young people.

The Parent Council provides an important role in the improvement of school life by ensuring that parents views and suggestions are listened to and taken into account. At the Parent Council's most recent meeting held on Monday 28 September, we discussed issues including the impact of Covid-19, what steps are being taken to ensure a safe and supportive environment for our pupils to learn, and the withdrawal of the Leith bus service by City of Edinburgh Council - and how it might work for those families affected towards a fairer resolution.

If you have a topic you would like to discussed, or would want to hear more about how the Parent Council can influence improvements to school life, please contact the Parent Council via their direct mailbox: holyroodrcpc@gmail.com . The Parent Council would be really keen to hear your views.

Contacting School

Please contact your child's Year Head if you have any questions related to their learning or health and wellbeing.

Best wishes,

Joan Daly
Head Teacher