



Lesmahagow High School - Newsletter - October 2021

Welcome to our October newsletter!

We hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well.

It has been a busy month in Lesmahagow High School. Our Senior Pupil Leadership Team have been appointed, S3-S6 reports have been issued and our virtual prize giving has been recorded. This week, all pupils have been participating in a range of activities to celebrate Maths week, which has included an S1 outdoor learning activity and competitions. Well done to all involved!

All pupils are reminded to bring a face covering to school each day, unless exempt. Thank you for your help.

School closes at 12.30 pm on Friday, 8th October for the October holiday and re-opens on Monday, 18th October at 8.40 am. We hope you have a lovely October break.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Barbara Lee

Acting Head Teacher

House Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects

Our House Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects were appointed last week.

Kerse House: Captains - Jenna Rollo and Kaylee Paton, Vice Captains - Mia Crooks and Aneesa Mohammed

Logan House: Captains - Ruari Smith and Marcella McEvoy, Vice Captains - Kian O'Rourke and Elise Ward, Prefects - Sam Alexander and Rachel Bell

Milton House: Captains: Brooke Sharkey and Rachel Struthers, Vice Captains - Demi Slater and Emma Spence

(Photo to follow!)

Congratulations to all and thank you to everyone who voted.

Covid-19 mitigations for schools

Following the First Minister's update on 15th September, we circulated a letter from Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director, providing an update on the latest Covid-19 mitigations for schools. This contained advice regarding self-isolation, contact tracing, the universal offer of one dose of the vaccine to 12-15 year olds, lateral flow testing and the extension of the need for face coverings to be worn in Secondary Schools until at least the October break. A copy of this letter can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/4979mcp7>

More recently, an update has also been received from Public Health Lanarkshire with information regarding the actions to be taken by those considered to be at 'low risk' contact with a positive case. Parents/carers of pupils in the class or year group where a positive case has been identified will be directed to an information letter from Public Health Lanarkshire as required. For your reference, a copy of this letter can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/zmk7mhdw>

We will continue to provide further updates as required.

Removing Core Curriculum Costs

Removing Core Curriculum Charges

Core Curriculum: The definition of 'core curriculum' is classroom-based activity within the eight core curriculum areas in the broad general education in primary and secondary schools, plus activity associated with preparation for SQA qualifications in the senior phase.
<https://www.gov.scot/news/music-tuition-and-core-curriculum-fees-removed/>

Aim:

To remove limitations on participation by children and young people whose families are not able to meet costs associated with core curriculum charges.

Funding:

ScotGov, Ministers and COSLA have set aside £6m of funding for the academic year 21/22 to support this policy. All schools will have the opportunity to access this funding to enable them to remove core curriculum charges.


This would include (but not limited to):

- Home Economics ingredients and materials
- All Art materials
- All materials required for design, manufacturing and technology subjects
- Scientific calculators for secondary pupils
- Theatre trips associated with SQA drama qualifications
- The purchase of recorders where this is required for a class-based learning experience in primary schools.
- Provision of specialist equipment to support classroom learning during themed weeks (e.g. STEM week)

This would not include:


- After-school clubs, incl. transport.
- School trips with limited educational outcome (consideration will be given to these at a later date as part of the manifesto commitment regarding ending charging for school trips for pupils experiencing disadvantage).
- School uniforms and PE kit *
- Access to devices *
- Optional music tuition *

*Covered under a separate manifesto commitment.





Here are some examples of core curriculum charges, which should be mitigated in schools:

- Homework diaries
- Calculators
- Jotters
- Art materials
- Stationery
- Woodwork or other technical projects
- Tupperware boxes for home economics
- Swimming



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1 - This session, core curriculum costs will be met centrally. Further information on what is covered and what is not covered can be found in the infographic and video attached.

Always keep in mind:

Mitigating costs is key!

<https://sway.office.com/OIVeViWNN5DniWq#content=YGIQAJT9C8u8fC>

Participatory Budgeting

Pupils have been considering how 5% of our Pupil Equity Funding should be used to support learners. Ideas from all members of our school community are welcome and everyone will have the opportunity to vote to decide the final outcome. If you have any questions relating to Participatory Budgeting, please speak to Mr Rae, Teacher of History and Modern Studies.

Computer Refresh

Our computer network is being upgraded from Monday, 4th - Thursday, 7th October. During this time, there will be no access emails or the internet within the school building. Please phone the school office if we can be of any help.

S1 reports, which were due to be issued on Wednesday, 6th October, will be emailed as soon as the computer service is resumed. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Prize Giving

A link to our virtual prize giving will be emailed as soon as editing has been completed. Congratulations to all of our prize winners.

Morning interval and lunch-times

All pupils must remain within the school grounds at morning interval.

Pupils can bring a packed lunch and interval snack with them in the morning if they wish to do so.

We also encourage all pupils to remain within the school grounds at lunch-times.

Hot food purchased out with the school can't be brought into the school.

Lateral Flow Testing



Lateral Flow home test kits can be collected from Mrs McCallum in the Street or Reception area before the school day or from the Street Area at intervals and lunch-times. Further information can be found on the school website and at the links below.

[Lateral Flow Testing - Parent Letter](#)

[Lateral Flow Testing - Consent Form](#)

[Lateral Flow Testing - Privacy Statement](#)

Recommended testing days are Sundays and Wednesdays. Please upload your result to the Government website as soon as possible after you get your result.

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the advice provided by NHS Lanarkshire regarding test and protect procedures, which can be found on the school website at: [NHS letter](#)

Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting takes place on Tuesday, 5th October.

New members are always welcome. Please let the school office know if you would like the link to be sent for the meeting.

The minutes of previous Parent Council meetings and dates of future meetings can be found on the Parent Council's page on our school website:

[Lesmahagow High School Parent Council](#)

Hope to see you there!

Dress down day

Friday, 8th October, will be a dress down day, with donations being passed to Women's Aid. This will be organised by our Working With Others group.

Uniform

Our pupils are looking very smart in their uniform each day. Further information about our uniform can be found at: [Lesmahagow High School Uniform](#)

We would like to remind all parents and carers that we have a supply of pre-loved uniform items and winter clothing that are available from Mrs Smith, PT Equity and Inclusion, Pupil Support or Senior Management. A list of items that are currently available can be found at: [Uniform list](#). Thank you to everyone who has donated uniform items. All uniform items that are no longer required are gratefully received.

Meet our Digital Ambassadors



Our Ambassadors will be leading and supporting Digital Learning events throughout the year. They are also planning on running a lunch time coding club after the September weekend. If anyone has any problems using Google classroom, Google drive or any other software that supports Digital Learning, our Ambassadors are on standby to help. More information to follow.

Education Maintenance Allowance



If you stay on at school, you may be entitled to an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) - a £30 weekly allowance. EMA provides financial support to help young people from low income households continue their education. Further information can be found at: [EMA](#)

School Holidays

The October holiday takes place from Monday, 11th to Friday, 15th October.

All school holidays for this session can be found at: [South Lanarkshire School Holidays 2021-22](#)

Proposed school holidays for Session 2022-23 can be found at: [Proposed South Lanarkshire School Holidays 2022-23](#)

SQA Exam Timetable 2022

The SQA Exam Timetable for 2022 has been published on the SQA website. A copy of the timetable can be found at: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/1439.html>

The 2022 exam diet will only take place if it is safe to do so and SQA will monitor public health advice.

Results day is Tuesday 9 August 2022.

Contact us

School Office – 01555 896010

Email: office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk

All enquiries should be directed to the school office in the first instance and the relevant Pupil Support Teacher will be in contact.

Senior Leadership Team

Miss Barbara Lee (Acting Head Teacher) – gw07leebarbara@glow.sch.uk

Mr Alastair Gray (Depute Head Teacher) – gw14grayalastair@glow.sch.uk

Mr David Robertson (Depute Head Teacher) – gw10robertsondavid8@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Pamela Docherty (Acting Depute Head Teacher – Inclusion Support Team) – gw19dochertypamela@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Linda Wright (Acting Depute Head Teacher) – gw07wrightlinda5@glow.sch.uk

Pupil Support Team

Mr Jim Mallaghan (PT Pupil Support – Kerse House) – gw07mallaghanjames@glow.sch.uk

Mr Andrew Hill (Acting PT Pupil Support – Logan House) – gw09hillandrew4@glow.sch.uk

Mr Fergie Robson (PT Pupil Support – Milton House) – gw07robsonfergus@glow.sch.uk

Support for Learning Team

Mrs Hazel Laird (PT Support for Learning) – gw07lairdhazel2@glow.sch.uk

Faculty Heads and Principal Teachers

Miss Louise Parsons (PT – English and Modern Languages) – gw07parsonslouise2@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Aileen Mullen (PT – Mathematics) – gw08mullenaileen@glow.sch.uk

Mr Mark Smith (PT – Humanities) – gw07smithmark9@glow.sch.uk

Dr Irene Nicol (PT – Science) – gw10nicolirene@glow.sch.uk

Mr Neil Ross (PT – Health & Wellbeing) – gw10rossneil@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Cairn Robertson Cheyne (PT – Expressive Arts) – gw14robertsoncairn@glow.sch.uk

Mr Marc Campbell (PT – Technology and Digital Literacy) – gw14campbellmarc@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Gemma Smith (Acting PT Equity and Inclusion) – gw10smithgemma8@glow.sch.uk

Miss Iasha Iqbal (Acting PT DYW) – gw11iqbaliasha@glow.sch.uk