

Renfrew High School

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Head Teacher: Mr Andrew Sutherland

My Ref: AS/JM Your Ref:

Date: 25/10/24

Contact:



Renfrewshire
Council

Children's Services

Director: Janie O'Neill

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family had a restful October break. As a school we are gearing up for what promises to be a busy and successful Winter term. I hope you find the information in this update useful.

Improving Communication

Thank you to the 212 of you who recently completed the survey on improving communication. This has provided us with extremely valuable feedback to ensure our communication methods meet your needs.

We are pleased to see that 67% of respondents were very or somewhat satisfied with our overall communication. However, we acknowledge that 11% expressed dissatisfaction, and we are committed to addressing these concerns.

The survey highlighted that text messaging was the preferred method of communication followed by Satchel One and emails. Only 4% preferred any form of social media (1% for X, 1% for Facebook and 2% for Instagram) for general communication and 0% for urgent communication, we have therefore taken the decision to transition away from using social media as a communication tool. This decision aligns with our commitment to model good practices for our students, recognising the potential negative impact of social media on their mental health. Some established social media channels will continue to be used until we have agreed on a more appropriate means to celebrate ongoing successes with the aim to fully transition away by January 2025.

We appreciate your ongoing support and feedback as we strive to improve our communication and enhance the educational experience for our students.

Parent Portal

As previously mentioned, we will be moving to the use of Parent Portal to share key information such as reports and tracking information. We are piloting the reports section of this for S1-3, however, everyone should register to access other information such as attendance data. Please follow the link below to register for Parent Portal if you have yet to do so:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/10557/parentsportal.scot>



Main Contact

As part of the survey on improving communication, 19% stated that you weren't aware of the main contact for your child.

The main point of contact should always be your child's Pupil Support Teacher, who can be reached via the school office on 0300 300 1414. Each Pupil Support Teacher is aligned with a house group as below:

- Clyde – Mrs Keenan
- Dee – Mrs Birnie (until Miss Martin returns from maternity leave)
- Forth – Mr Malcolm
- Kelvin – Mr McKechnie

If, for any reason, you are unable to reach your child's Pupil Support Teacher, Depute Head Teachers (DHTs) will be the next point of contact. Until S4 each DHT has responsibility for a year group and in S5/6 they will be aligned to a house group as below:

- Mrs Shaw – S1 and S5/6 Forth
- Mr Paton – S2 and S5/6 Dee
- Mr Conway – S3 and S5/6 Clyde
- Mr Milligan – S4 and S5/6 Kelvin

As you will understand, the staff are busy throughout the week and may not be able to respond immediately but will always endeavour to return calls as soon as possible.

Prelim Dates

Our senior phase pupils (S4-6) are already preparing to embark upon their prelim exams. Following feedback from pupils, parents/carers and staff, we have moved all prelims before the Christmas holidays. Pupils will be issued with finalised timetables for these exams within the next two weeks and I can confirm that they will run from 27th November to the 17th December. As per my previous communication, it is essential that pupils keep on top of their work throughout the year rather than trying to cram closer to the prelims or exams. I would again like to draw your attention to the [ACHIEVE](#) resource that has been purchased for use by all our senior pupils. Benefits of using ACHIEVE include the ability to:

- Study and revise using digital textbooks which cover a wide range of National 5 and Higher courses.
- Test your subject knowledge with interactive assessments that give you instant feedback.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses for each of your courses using the self-evaluation toolkit.
- Extend your learning using the free web links put together by our team of subject specialists.
- Develop your exam technique by trying SQA past paper questions and solutions.

Citizens Advice Bureau – School Support Service

Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau offers advice sessions across the authority and can assist with a variety of enquiries including, but not limited to: money and debt, financial capability, welfare benefits, housing, free school meals, clothing grants, and employment. They offer free, impartial, and confidential advice from their highly trained advisors. Advisors are available in high schools across Renfrewshire with the next Renfrew High slot being Thursday 7th November. To make an appointment, please call 0141 889 2121 or visit <https://schoolsupportservice.10to8.com>



Not Far? Leave the Car Campaign

As part of our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of our students and the community, we encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school whenever possible, rather than being driven. This not only promotes physical fitness and resilience but also helps reduce traffic congestion and environmental impact around our school. This year Renfrewshire are running a Not Far? Leave the Car winter sustainable travel campaign. This is a competition that will run from Monday 21st October to Friday 20th December where participants download the Better Points app (find more in the link below) and each time they travel to school by walking, wheeling, cycling or public transport they will earn a ticket into a weekly prize draw for £10 per week. More information and further details can be found [here](#).

Additionally, we kindly remind everyone to be courteous to our neighbours if dropping their child off at school. Please respect driveways, avoid blocking paths and drive carefully around the school adhering to the 20mph limit at drop-off and pick-up times. By working together, we can create a safer and more pleasant environment for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and support with this.

Dates for the Diary

- Wednesday 30th October - S5/6 Progress Evening (appointments now open)
- Thursday 7th November - S4 Progress Evening (appointments open 6pm Mon 28th Oct)
- Wednesday 20th November - P7 Open Evening 6pm
- Tuesday 26th November - Careers and Curriculum Evening 6pm
- Thursday 28th November - St. Andrew's Day Ceilidh 6pm
- Monday 2nd December - St. Andrew's Day Holiday
- Wednesday 11th December - Cluster Dance Showcase 6pm
- Tuesday 17th December - Winter Festival 6pm
- Wednesday 18th December - S5/6 Snowball
- Friday 20th December - Last Day of Term

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Sutherland
Head Teacher



