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Wallace Hall Academy, Primary and ELC

"Together we grow, learn and achieve"

Head Teacher: Barry Graham

9th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your family enjoyed the October holidays and that everyone is ready for the new term. We are still living in uncertain times due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) but we will continue to keep you updated on how national and local authority regulations impact on Wallace Hall via our weekly email update.

Can I remind you that our generic information is no longer included in our termly letters home and can now be found in our annual Secondary Information Booklet which you will find in the Secondary School Bag on the main page of our school website: www.wallacehall.co.uk. We also sent you an electronic copy of this booklet via Groupcall in September.

Staffing

Mr Peter Adair retired as PT of Mathematics at the end of last term and we wish him well for the future. Mr Grahame Arrowsmith has relinquished his role as PT ICT and Business with responsibility for Employability and will continue as a classroom teacher in the department four days per week. Mr Steven Rae and Mr Jack Steele have stepped back from their respective PT duties for Home Economics, Health and Wellbeing and PE. I would like to thank Mr Adair, Mr Arrowsmith, Mr Rae and Mr Steele for their support.

We welcome to Wallace Hall Mr Sean Bell who has been appointed as PT Mathematics, Business and ICT with responsibility for Employability, Miss Sarah Hennessy as our new PT of Home Economics, PE and Health and Wellbeing, Miss Poying Ho who is joining us as Teacher of Mathematics and Mrs Jane Green who will be in school one day per week focusing on nurture through Restart and Recovery. Miss Gillian Watret will also be in Wallace Hall Academy on a Monday to work with the Employability team and Mrs Val McNeil, one of our current Additional Support for Learning Assistants, will be working 17 hours per week with our PEF team.

P7 Open Evening

Our annual P7 Open Evening will not be able to take place as it normally would this year. We are exploring virtual options so that pupils and parents/carers can find out about the school. We will communicate our plans via the School's Social Media and Website.

Reporting

Pupils in S1 will receive an Interim Report on **Tuesday 17th November** with their Final Report sent out in May 2021. Pupils in S4, S5 and S6 will receive an Interim Report on **Tuesday 24th November** with a further report being issued in March where comment will be made, if applicable, regarding preliminary examinations. The S2 Final Report will be sent home to parents on **Wednesday 16th December** and the Final S3 Report sent home on **Thursday 28th January**.

Parents' Evenings

Schools have been asked to consider the most appropriate forms of parental engagement. However, for the avoidance of doubt, 'traditional' parent/ teacher evening ('parents' nights') cannot take place at the current time. We are currently working on our plans and will let parents know as soon as we have made a decision.

Poppy Scotland

Poppies will be on sale during the lead up to Armistice Day. Our S6 Office Bearers will take the poppies round registration classes to give pupils and staff a chance to donate. We would encourage everyone to support this appeal.

The 2-18 Parent Council

Our 2-18 Parent Council AGM was held on Thursday 29th October via Microsoft Teams. Mrs Louise Cochran was re-elected as Chairperson, along with Mrs Caroline O'Hara as Vice-Chair. Thank you to all parents who joined us for this meeting.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our 2-18 Parent Council meetings will continue to take place virtually for the foreseeable future. All parents/carers are welcome to participate in the meetings and details on how to join are available on our school website and social media pages.

The next meeting of the 2-18 Parent Council is planned for **Monday 7th December 2020**. The meeting will start at 7pm. More information including previous minutes and Agendas can be found on the school website: www.wallacehall.co.uk.

The Parent Council has three sub-committees; Learning and Teaching, Primary Fundraising and Events and Secondary Fundraising and Events. If any parent/carers is interested in being on one of these very important and invaluable sub-committees, please get in touch at the email address below. Note: you do not have to be a Parent Council Member to be on a Sub-Committee.

If you would like more information on any aspect of the 2-18 Parent Council or would like to get involved, please contact our Parent Council Chairperson via email at: wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com.

School Photographs

A reminder that the school photographer will be in school on Thursday 5th November to take pictures of all our S1–S6 pupils.

Study Support Programme

Learners in S4, S5 and S6 will be undertaking a number of assessments throughout the year in all of their subjects. It is important that learners prepare effectively for these assessments so that they can perform at their best. Learners will receive advice and guidance from subject teachers about the best ways to carry out study and revision at home for specific subjects. By the senior phase, students need to accept a share of responsibility for their own learning and an essential part of this involves regular study at home.

To help our students, we are once again running our study support programme so we can offer lunchtime and after-school support throughout the year. You should have already received a separate letter giving full details of the extensive study support opportunities on offer for all students. Details of all after-school and lunchtime sessions are also published on the school website in the Academy section (<https://www.wallacehall.co.uk/pi-study-support>), and we would encourage all students in S4, S5 and S6 to take up the extra support our teachers are providing for them each week.

Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch date and menu are still to be confirmed. Christmas lunches for secondary pupils will cost £2.00 and further information will be sent home nearer the time.

Health and Wellbeing Update

All S1-S6 pupils participate in Health and Wellbeing lessons on a fortnightly basis. These lessons are delivered by tutors or outside organisations and aim to support our young people in improving their overall health and wellbeing. Please find below a summary of the general topics that will have been covered by the end of this term.

Current Year	Term 2 (October- December)
S1	Healthy Lifestyle Anti-Social behaviour (talk from PC Adair)
S2	Financial Awareness Employability
S3	Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood LGBTQ+ & Equality Drink Aware input
S4	Stress Control Dealing with stress, anxiety, mindfulness, coping strategies
S5	Substance misuse and alcohol - input from PC Adair Financial Awareness
S6	Future Planning Employability skills, researching courses, UCAS/College applications, interview skills and mock interviews

Growth Mindset workshops

Following the success of the Growth Mindset workshops last year, we are delighted to welcome Jen Kemp from Live-N-Learn back this year to work with our current S4 students.

This year the Growth Mindset workshops are taking place on **Wednesday 2nd December** in the Bailey Hall for all S4 students. All pupils will undertake workshops on the importance of having a positive outlook and mindset for their forthcoming exams with the focus on Mindset in Action, time management, attitude, effective study strategies, positive destinations and grasping opportunities. Useful study times and hints will also be demonstrated and discussed with pupils. Recently S4 pupils have been working on a preparatory lesson that has been provided in relation to this input.

Career and Future Planning

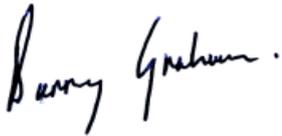
Pupils in the senior phase at Wallace Hall Academy have access to our Career and Future Planning Team where they can find lots of useful information on University Open Days, UCAS, SQA, Student Awards Agency Scotland, Work Experience, and Apprenticeships etc. Information on preparing for life beyond school is also regularly posted on our school website and social media pages. We would strongly encourage all senior pupils to make good use of this information when planning their next steps into education or employment.

The School Calendar

We will shortly be sharing an assessment calendar with parents of our senior pupils. This will allow teachers to see which other assessments are scheduled so that pupils don't have too many at the one time.

A copy of the school calendar for Term 2 and Term 3 of this academic year is attached which lists key events – Appendix A. You will also find an up to date version of this on the school website (wallacehall.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Graham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

B Graham
Head Teacher

Appendix A

	Date	Event
Term 2	26/10/20	First Day of Term
	29/10/20	Parent Council AGM
	29/10/20	School photographer – ELC, Primary and Families
	05/11/20	School Photographer - Academy
	17/11/20	S1 Interim Report sent home to parents
	24/11/20	S4/S5/S6 First Reports sent home to parents
	02/12/20	S4 LIVE-N-LEARN Workshops
	07/12/20	Parent Council meeting – 7pm. Meeting will be via MS Teams
	16/12/20	S2 Final Report sent home to parents
	16/12/20	S2 Options Assembly or equivalent
	18/12/20	Last Day of Term

	Date	Event
Term 3	05/01/21	INSET Day – Teaching and Support Staff only
	06/01/21	First Day of Term
	13/01/21	S2 Options Interviews begin
	22/01/21	S2 Options Interviews finish
	28/01/21	S3 Final Report sent home to parents
	05/02/21	S3 Options Interviews begin
	15/02/21	Mid-term holiday
	16/02/21	Mid-term holiday
	17/02/21	Mid-term holiday
	18/02/21	INSET Day – Teaching and Support Staff only
	19/02/21	INSET Day – Teaching and Support Staff only
	26/02/21	S3 Options Interviews finish
	01/03/21	Blood Donations 12-30pm 8.30pm
	02/03/21	S4/S5/S6 Final Report sent home to parents
	03/03/21	S4/S5 Options Interviews begin
	18/03/21	S4/S5 Options Interviews finish
	26/03/21	Last Day of Term

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to organise many of the events we would normally have entered in our calendar until we receive further guidance from Scottish Government and Education Scotland.

Please keep an eye on our school website and social media pages for any updates.

Dates are also subject to change and notification of any such amendments will be issued in due course.