



# IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY

Ambition • Respect • Responsibility

Head Teacher: Mrs. L. Sloan  
Kilwinning Road, Irvine KA12 8SJ  
Tel: 01294 278 756  
Email: [irvineroyal@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk](mailto:irvineroyal@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk)

LS/CPW

19 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I wish to start by thanking you for your fantastic support this term. School has been very busy but rewarding and as we approach the much needed November weekend, I feel it is important to recognise the efforts made by you at home, by our staff and of course our fantastic young people.

At Irvine Royal, we are one community and your part in said community is vital. You will be aware, following the First Minister's announcement on Tuesday that North Ayrshire remains in tier three of the strategic framework. It is the aim of all to ensure that North Ayrshire move into tier two and thus it is vital that you follow the previously shared COVID advice and that you do not send your son/daughter to school if they display the following symptoms:

- . High temperature
- . Loss of smell or taste
- . New or continuous cough

The health, safety and wellbeing of all is our main priority and as ever, we will continue to work with Public Health Scotland to ensure that we are mitigating risk as best we possibly can.

## **Face Coverings**

After issuing IRA face coverings to S5 and S6 pupils, and indeed black reusable face coverings to S1 – S4, I am delighted to say that the need to issue disposable face coverings of a morning and during the day has significantly decreased. When your son/daughter returns on Tuesday, please ensure they have their reusable face covering with them. Special mention also to S4 – S6 pupils, who have now adjusted to wearing their coverings in classes.

## **Parents' Evenings/Reporting**

We took the decision to create an extra S2 report on top of the Tracking which was issued – the extra report was a substitute for the scheduled S2 Parents' Evening which was due to take place on 03.11.20.



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Following feedback, we will not be taking this approach with S3/S4/S5/S6 – you will receive a survey from us, and we will ask you to respond by indicating which teachers/subjects you require a telephone call from. We would ask that you only request a call if there are any issues/concerns or indeed your son/daughter requires further support in this subject area.

We have not made a decision as yet with regards the S1 Parents' Evening – this is not due to be scheduled until March and we know that so much can change between now and then.

### **SQA Assessment & Timeline**

You will be aware that all National 5 exams have been cancelled for session 2020/2021. At this stage, Higher and Advanced Higher exams are going ahead. The SQA have been providing us with subject specific guidance over the last couple of weeks and as it stands, schools will assess pupils on an ongoing basis and this evidence, as well as a final in-school assessment, will be used to determine the final National 5 grade. For the purpose of supporting all learning in the senior phase, we are in the process of formulating a flexible assessment timeline for all subject areas. They will be issued following the November weekend.

### **Mentoring**

Mentoring in S5/S6 is going well. Levels of engagement from the targeted pupils is high. The S4 Mentoring provision will be finalised when we return. We have been working hard to analyse and interrogate the S4 tracking data to ensure that we are targeting the right pupils.

### **Supported Study**

A timetable has now been issued to all pupils in S4 – S6, this is in addition to the various lunchtime supports that are currently available.

### **Options**

Work is well underway for the 2020/2021 options process. This year we have produced a very comprehensive options booklet which details the many courses available across all subject areas. This will be issued to all S2/S3/S4/S5 pupils in advance of their options interview, which you will be invited to attend.



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In addition to this, all subject areas are working on the production of short videos promoting their subject whilst also outlining the career pathways available. For your information, options interviews will commence at the following times:

S2 into S3	-	w/b 25.01.21
S3 into S4	-	w/b 01.02.21
S4 into S5	-	w/b 08.02.21
S5 into S6	-	w/b 08.02.21

## **Royal Resources**

We are operating a school uniform 'swap shop'. We have a significant amount of new clothes that we are happy to distribute to those who require it. If you require items of uniform or wish to find out more about it, please contact our PT Family Learning, Ross Muirhead on: [gw14muirheadross@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk](mailto:gw14muirheadross@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk)

## **Digital Technology**

We have now issued around 200 chromebooks/dongles to those who did not have a digital device. As it stands, we require a further 21. This will ensure that all pupils at Irvine Royal Academy have a device which they can operate from home. A massive thanks to our office staff for contacting parents/carers to ensure that those in need have had their needs met.

## **Celebration of Success**

After reviewing our current Promoting Positive Relationships Policy – we are committed to the celebration of success as an integral part of our approaches. Starting at the end of the month, assemblies will be scheduled to celebrate and indeed acknowledge those pupils who are working hard, achieving and generally living out our school values. This new approach will see the introduction of Subject Awards – this will complement the current Head Teacher Awards. It is our intention to organise an 'in-house' event prior to the Christmas break. This event will recognise those pupils who have gained 90% or more of their allocated merits. Pupils will be surveyed on what they want the celebration to look like.

## **Fork In The Road**

It gives me great pleasure to bring to your attention Irvine Royal's first ever podcast. This has been created by Miss McNeil (PT Developing the Young Workforce) and Mr Kelso (Teacher of English) and will focus on all things related to World of Work and future employment opportunities. The new podcast will be shared via our School Twitter page and on our website.



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## **The Royal Raven**

The Languages Department now have their very own You Tube channel. Yesterday, episode one of 'The Raven' podcast was released – it featured some first class fiction from one of our S1 pupils. Stay tuned for further releases.

## **Green Spaces**

You may have noticed from our Twitter post that we are looking for help/support to upgrade our three outdoor spaces. We are keen to transfer all three areas into outdoor classrooms, social spaces with benches. If you are able to support this initiative in anyway at all, please contact the school or email me directly: [linziesloan@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:linziesloan@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## **Day of Kindness/Anti-bullying Week**

A special thanks to our senior pupil leadership team for their organisation today. Thanks to all parents/staff/pupils, for their kind donations for the Foodbank – it is greatly appreciated.

## **Website**

We are in the process of working with a company to redesign our school website. The new website will be a 'one stop shop' containing all the key information pertinent to our school – more information will follow in due course.

As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school if you have any further queries/comments.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours faithfully

*L Sloan*

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Head Teacher





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