

29 September 2020

Our Ref: AR/kr

Stranraer Academy

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STRANRAER
Wigtownshire
DG9 8BY



Any enquiries please contact

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well during this time of continued uncertainty. I want to take this opportunity to update you on several issues regarding your child's educational experience at Stranraer Academy.

COVID-19

Face coverings are mandatory in all social areas and on public transport. There are still too many young people who are not adhering to this and it is causing distress to other members of our school community. As you know, we are still at risk from Coronavirus therefore I must insist that your child complies with our expectations. These are that he/she comes to school with their own mask and wears it at appropriate times.

TOILETS

Since the start of August, the school has incurred costs of several thousand pounds to repair damage to the toilets caused by vandalism. This included knocking sanitisers and soap dispensers from the walls. As a consequence, for a brief period, the main toilets were locked during class time. The toilets in the pods, however, remained open. Given that the vandalism was principally in the boys' toilet, however, the decision has been taken to re-open the girls' toilet throughout the day. That said, it is our expectation that young people will go to the toilet during break or lunch and I would ask for your support with this. This is to minimise disruption to learning and teaching.

COMMUNICATION

We are always keen to maintain good communications with parents/carers and strive to listen to your concerns with the aim of resolving any issues you may have. The most effective way in which to do this is by bringing concerns to the school via your child's Pupil Support Teacher. In the unlikely event that the Pupil Support Team cannot help, you can always contact your child's Year Head, or myself. I would urge you to take this course of action.

Disappointingly, it has come to my attention that a small minority of parents have been using social media as a means of communicating concerns. While this may be a means of venting frustrations, it seldom – if ever – leads to a solution longer term and does little to foster positive relationships between parents/carers and the school.

FIRE ALARMS

There have been two hoax fire alarms since the start of August. On both occasions, the young people were caught quickly through the swift actions of staff and dealt with appropriately. The school is also exploring the possibility of installing CCTV to help combat this issue and to add extra security to the school.

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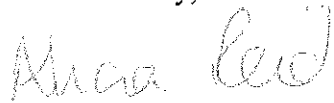
May I remind parents/carers that named clothing such as Stone Island or Nike is not appropriate for school. Pupils should be in full school uniform every day including blazer.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Young people travelling on the school bus are expected to co-operate with the driver at all times. Failure to do so may result in a temporary withdrawal of the right to travel.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this further please contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Alicia Reid
Head Teacher