



Smithycroft Secondary School
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Head Teacher
Patrick Oberg

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all had a restful October Break. We have had a busy year so far and wanted to update you on a few things.

Mental Health Awareness

On Friday 3rd December we are planning a 'Pink for Paige' day. This is to celebrate the life of Paige Lloyd, who would have been with us in S4 this year. It will be a non-uniform day where young people will be encouraged to wear something pink – her favourite colour – and also 'buy' a wristband to raise money for Mental Health awareness charities. In the afternoon, we are holding a walk around Hogganfield Loch to provide an opportunity for people to get outside, exercise and talk to each other. More details will be coming home soon.

Our youth hub – based at the heart of the school – is up and running to support young people with all kinds of wellbeing and practical issues. An introductory video can be seen here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUkwwgUSLRj4>

Covid-19

Despite speculation, the guidance for schools remains unchanged. Please remind your young person of the importance of hand sanitizing and wearing their face covering. Remember also that all young people are advised to complete twice-weekly Lateral Flow testing, please see the school website for details if you would like your young person to take part.

Case numbers in school are very low and the impact on the school presently is little.

Leadership in School

Ms Bilbao and Mr Brown have been working hard to create more leadership opportunities for young people and to get their voice heard in school. Our new Senior Pupil Leadership Team is about to be launched and this will be the first of many formal means by which we will do this. A Junior Pupil Leadership team will follow. In addition, subject departments are creating leadership roles for S6 within their areas and our new Community Award class are supporting younger pupils with their learning.

We have created many leadership opportunities for staff also. Six staff are supporting our Pastoral Care team as 'Associate' Pastoral Care teachers this year and a number of Principal Teachers are taking on leadership roles at Senior level. The following staff will be supporting Mr Brown in his capacity as Year Head with the following classes from 1st November:

Mr Hendrie – 2.1

Ms Long – 2.4

Mr Gardiner - 3.2



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School Website: <http://www.smithycroft-sec.glasgow.sch.uk>

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Community support

In conjunction with local residents, St Thomas' Primary and Glasgow City Council, we held our first community litter pick last Thursday. This was a great success and we intend to make this a regular event. Our next pick will be 24th November. You may have seen some related coverage in the local paper!

Parent Pay

Across Glasgow, Parent Pay, an online payment system, is being rolled out to help organise school payments. Look out for your individual activation letter coming home next month.

SQA

At present, we are anticipating still a 'normal' exam diet next year. This is planned to run from April 26th to June 1st.

The SQA does have contingency arrangements in the event of further Covid disruption and we are monitoring the situation and planning accordingly. In the meantime, all prelims and other exam support for young people will go ahead.

Thank you for all your continued support and please get in touch if you have any issues we can help with.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Oberg', written over a large, loopy flourish that extends to the right and then loops back under the signature.

Patrick Oberg