



# Currie Community High School

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Head Teacher: Ms. Jennifer Smith

## HT Daily Update - 21<sup>th</sup> August

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, we have come to the end of our first full week back and it has been a very positive week indeed. I have been in and out of classrooms this morning and young people have been very forthcoming in sharing their weekly highlights with me. We look forward to seeing our pupils again next week and we are very much getting back into the way of school routines. The school feels vibrant, calm, purposeful and a place of safety for all.

Some updates for you as we go into the weekend:

### **Learning, Teaching and Assessment:**

We are currently engaging in discussions about high quality learners' experiences and are very much focused on a Hybrid model for learning and teaching to be enhanced by our use of digital technology, in particular the use of Microsoft Teams. Over lockdown, we became very familiar with this software and upskilled ourselves to ensure that young people were receiving a high quality learning experiences from a distance. Now that we are back in school, there is a real opportunity to capitalise on the good work that took place to enable digital literacy to support learning at every level. We as a staff are focused on this strategy as a matter of priority. We will be too, looking very carefully at how assessments are managed from S3-6 and this will be governed by any changes or adjustments that SQA make. We will of course communicate these to you as soon as we receive the updates. We will be issuing young people with homework as of Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August. This will all be issued and submitted through Teams.

### **Live teams:**

I intend to do a live Teams broadcast to all young people on Monday morning at the start of period 1 class. The purpose of the broadcast is to first and foremost praise young people for their compliance with health and safety measures and approach to learning since returning to school. I am delighted that our young people have taken their responsibilities very seriously in ensuring we do everything possible to keep everyone safe. I will continue to remind them of the 'do's' and 'don'ts' so that there continues to be a shared understanding across the pupil body of expectations. This will include the importance of distancing, the option of face coverings, washing/sanitising hands and general conduct in class and in and around the building. It will also be an opportunity to set the tone for the week ahead and to provide any other updates. I look forward to trying this new way of communicating!

**S1 pupils:**

Our S1 pupils have done amazingly well to get around the building on their own this week. If they don't know where they are doing, they have been asking and there are lots of adults on hand to help. I have also been suitably impressed with their enthusiasm and thirst for learning. What a great start! You should be very proud. We certainly are. They have fitted in beautifully and are well and truly pupils of CCHS.

S1 pupils did receive their usernames and passwords this week and thanks to Mr Schmidt for coordinating all of this. Please can you keep a record of this information somewhere safe just in case it is misplaced. Thank you.

**S6 students:**

Any S6 students who have a study class period 1 are permitted to come into school period 2. Those students should work from home and use Teams to support their learning and should sign in at the office for the start of period 2. If they also have a study class period 2, we are saying for now that we would like all young people in the building by the start of period 2 so the expectation would be that they would study in the LRC at this time.

**Communication:**

This will be my final daily update for now. I do hope you have found them useful. As I have said previously, communication is so important in a school and I have enjoyed sharing with you updates and information in what has been a return to school like no other. I will of course continue to provide a full communication every Friday through my HT '*week been, week ahead*' bulletin and the first official one of the session will be sent out to all of you next Friday. Please continue to talk to us, ask questions, share reflections and give us plenty of feedback. We always want to know how we can make things better. You can contact us in the following ways:

<https://curriehighschool.co.uk/index.php/contact-us/>

[Admin@currie.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@currie.edin.sch.uk)>

Have a fantastic weekend. You all deserve it. The reason our young people are responding so well and coping brilliantly with being back to school is the preparation and unwavering support at home as well as the trusting, positive relationships with staff in school.

I go into the weekend an inspired and very proud Head Teacher. I feel so honoured to be leading such a wonderful school community and I look forward to our partnership continuing to go from strength to strength.

Kind Regards,

Ms Jennifer Smith  
Head Teacher

