



CASTLEHEAD HIGH SCHOOL



Camphill, Canal St, Paisley, PA1 2HL

Tel: 0300 300 1300

e-mail: castleheadhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

web address: www.Castleheadhigh.com

Head Teacher: Mr Gordon Menzies

Children's Services

Director: Janie O'Neill

Dear parent/carers of young people in S4-6,

Following the prelim exam diet in January, we surveyed senior pupils and staff regarding their experience and possible changes that could be considered to the format to support young people better in their continued learning and attainment. During this consultation, we discussed the possibility of moving away from the traditional 'one-off' prelim exams and moving to a continued assessment block approach where assessments are completed during double periods in class time. This approach has been successfully used in several other schools across the local authority since the Alternative Certification Model was used in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In March, we invited staff from these other schools to present to some of our staff on their assessment block approach, and this was also discussed with our Parent Council.

Following all this information, we have decided to move to this approach next session.

The reasons for this are:

- More timely assessment data to allow for interventions and supports for our young people to be implemented earlier.
- Increased rigour around target setting, learner conversations, and progress for young people.
- Earlier discussions regarding presentation levels.
- Reduced disruption to learning and teaching during the prelim exam diet.

The assessment block approach provides three key formal assessment points during the school session in October, December, and February/March. This will be supported by the following tracking periods and parents' evenings. Please see below key information for senior pupils and parents/carers next session:

Early September: Tracking 1 - Aspirational Target Tracking to parents/carers

Early October: Assessment Block 1

Late October: Tracking 2 for parents/carers



Castlehead is a **Nut Aware** School. Please do not bring products containing nuts into school.





CASTLEHEAD HIGH SCHOOL



Early November: Parents Evening 1 – in person

December: Assessment Block 2

Early January: Tracking 3 to parents/carers

Mid-January: Parents Evening 2 – online

Late February/Early March: Assessment Block 3

March: Tracking 4 – Estimates to parents/carers

In August, parents/carers will receive an assessment timetable with the specific dates and periods that young people will be sitting key assessments for all three assessment blocks.

During our consultation, some staff highlighted concerns about pupil anxiety and not having the experience of sitting an assessment in the main exam hall. We will ensure that certain subjects complete assessments in the main hall during assessment block 2 in December.

I have informed senior pupils of this change during an assembly, and further information and key dates will follow with our school calendar in August.

Senior Information Evening- Save the date

Our Senior Information Evening will take place on Thursday 28th August from 6:00 to 7:30pm. The event is open to all S4-6 and their Parents and Carers.

The evening is focused on helping to prepare our senior pupils for their final years in school and intended post-school destination. The event will feature a range of workshops from both Castlehead staff and partners.

Further detail about the event will be shared at the start of the new term in August.

With very best wishes to you and your family

Gordon Menzies

Head Teacher



Castlehead is a **Nut Aware** School. Please do not bring products containing nuts into school.

