WELCOME BACK

We wish to welcome our 1170 young people back to school and into school for the first time. We have been joined by 220 new S1 young people as well as about 40 or so other young people who have joined us from other schools. We look forward to seeing how well they all get on in Session 2019-20. What can they expect—well, as part of our curricular review, we have brought in new classes in Lower School, new options in Middle school and a huge array of college courses and apprenticeship options in Senior school. Schools are changing and we are embracing these changes—young people in Uddingston can have very different ‘learner journeys’ from those we had all those years ago. For example, in S1 you can specialise in digital literacy, move into STEM in S2, cross into Mandarin in S3 and attend College or even sit Highers in S4. When you get into S5, you may choose to look at a Foundation Apprenticeship and in S6 you may decide to pick up National Progression awards or the Scottish Bacalaureate through study of Advanced Higher. Our review last year has opened so many more doors for our young people, and we will continue to work hard to provide maximum opportunities for young people to excel. We are not a school who expects everyone to follow the same pathway and so we have created numerous opportunities for young people to achieve success.

RESULTS

Our youngsters achieved a huge amount last Session. In the formal examination diet, the SQA awards, young people achieved outstanding results in National 3, National 4 and National 5, providing us with a fantastic basis with which to work with when they continue their studies in Senior School or College. Our Higher results were outstanding as indeed were our Advanced Highers, with a large number of young people achieving what they needed to leave school and continue their studies outside and beyond school. Our Foundation Apprentices all did terrifically well, and many are completing Year 2 this session, whilst others have secured full-time employment in their chosen sector. From Uniformed Services to Early Childcare, Engineering to Hospitality, we had young people at colleges and workplaces from Glasgow and Motherwell to East Kilbride and Hamilton, and this year we have record amounts of young people going on Foundation Apprenticeships and the GradU8 courses. Well done to all of our outstanding young people—they all worked very hard and every one of them deserves the pride and respect we feel for them. Some of our superstars are pictured below—well done everyone!
Every Summer we return and we are joined by new staff, either starting their teaching careers with us, or continuing them with us.

In the Summer, Mr Archibald (DHT) retired, and Mr Telfer (DHT) joined SLC on secondment until next June. Mrs Bailey left to go back home to England, Mr Annetts started his career break, Mrs Hyams left for a post in College and Miss Rocks left for a post in Glasgow.

The Senior Leadership Team has had a refresh, and this session we are:

J McKay HT—no change there, despite your requests! Mr Wilson DHT S5/6—still no change. Now the changes......

Mr Anderson DHT is now Head of Pupil Support;
Mrs McTiernan DHT is responsible for S1/2;
Mrs McGuigan DHT is responsible for S4;
Ms Murray is Acting DHT for the Visually Impaired Service; and
Mr MacGregor is acting DHT responsible for S3.

There are a couple of other staff remit changes as a result;
Ms Murphy is acting PT Skye House (for Mr MacGregor);
Ms Stirling is acting FH PE (for Ms Murray);
Mrs McDermott is acting PT Support for Learning;
Mr Thompson has taken over the Pupil Support pupils previously with Mr Annetts.

We have also been joined by the following permanent staff;
Mrs Dempsey in English; Miss Hall and Miss McAllister in Modern Languages; Miss Hanney in Modern studies; Miss Mosayebi in Biology.

We also have a number of new staff starting their careers with us and who will be with us until the Summer;
Ms Mundle in Modern Studies, Ms Harrison in Bus Ed, Mr Robertson in Computing, Ms Mather and Ms Murdoch in English, Ms Durning in Art and Ms Logan in PE—we hope you enjoy your first year of teaching here with us.
PARENT PAY
All young people should have received a letter concerning Parent Pay. All schools in south Lanarkshire are in the process of moving to this online payment system, and at the end of last session, it was our turn. All young people have an activation code and username which you use to create your own account at www.parentpay.com. The instructions afterwards are pretty straightforward. We will need to use this to pay for school trips etc as the only cash the school can take are through things such as non-uniform days etc. The canteen can still take cash, but you are able to top up a card online for use in school. Ask your youngster to pick up a letter at the Office if they have mislaid it.

HOCKEY ACADEMY
The Hockey Academy Session 2019-20 has started up again. This is an absolutely wonderful opportunity for our young people to work with a leading club, @UddyHockey, and a renowned coach to further their careers in the fast growing sport. Young people commit to a morning and afternoon from school as well as evening training at the Hockey club, being coached at a very high level by International coaches in a terrific learning environment. Our young people learn the skills, techniques and game management required to excel in Hockey, as well as the team-building skills, inter-personal skills, communication skills and resilience required to succeed in school and beyond. We are delighted to again be supported by the Hockey Club and hope that our intake really enjoy their experiences—good luck everyone!

PUPIL APPOINTMENT TEAM— BUTE HOUSE PEF POST
Mrs Kelly and I were delighted to be joined by Taylor, Karmen and Tione as the Pupil Appointment Team for Bute House. Together, we interviewed staff who had applied for the post previously held by Mr Annetts, who is on a Career Break. The youngsters asked probing questions of the candidates who were seeking to be the Pupil Support Teacher for about 50 or so Bute young people, funded by the Governments Pupil Equity Fund initiative. This is the 2nd year of this programme (it is concluded in February) and we have been delighted with the progress made in this—young people have more frequent and more in-depth learner conversations with more staff to help them negotiate growing up in 21st Century Scotland in an evolving Secondary School.
For the past few years we have been asking young people and parents from the Parent Council to be involved in interviews and appointments, and indeed, in observing lessons and helping us make better informed decisions. It has been an invaluable source of assistance and one we will continue—well done to the team and to the staff. Mr Thompson was appointed as the Bute House Equity officer and Ms Brown as the S1/2 liaison officer following the Pupil Appointment Team interviews.
LOCKERS

S1 will be issued letters regarding lockers wb Monday 2nd September for distribution the following week—all other young people who wish to retain a locker of rent one will also be able to collect a letter this week.

DATA CHECK SHEETS AND PERMISSIONS

We would ask that all data check sheets and photograph / ICT permission returns are back in school this week. We need these to be able to promote pupil attainment through the newsletter and twitter as well as to allow young people access to the school ICT network. Can we ask that if you have changed your phone number or do so through the year, that you let us know so that we can update our systems. We will also be trialling a revised attendance procedure throughout the year. Currently everyone receives group-call if your young person is not registered in the morning—we will also be phoning home from 8 am in the morning to a number of identified young people who have attendance and latecoming issues, as well as looking at another groupcall in the afternoon. It is important that what we hold on our system matches your own details.

PARENT COUNCIL

Our Parent Council meet monthly to discuss how we can work together to improve the provision we have for young people. We are a chatty bunch who always welcome new members, and wish to invite you to come along. Members of the Council have been instrumental in how we as a school have shaped our curriculum to meet the growing needs of our young people, they have helped appoint staff at all levels, and have helped us in planning the direction we move forward in. I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it at our meetings—follow us on twitter or the school website for date details.

PEF—PUPIL EQUITY FUND

The Pupil Equity Fund is a fund set up by the Government to help support schools to close the attainment gap between those from different economic and social backgrounds. Every school in Scotland has been given such funding, and it varies school-by-school. This year we have used this funding to provide a number of learning opportunities for young people through the breakfast club, STEM, digital literacy, Pupil Support, Numeracy and Literacy, as well as RISE and RISE+, our uniform, kit and trip subsidy programme and our S1 Ready to Learn programme. We have tailored programmes involving parents and carers, groups of young people as well as a much more widespread approach targeting everyone eg the S1 Ready to Learn kits—if it works it works! We involve the Pupil Council, the Parent Council and our staff in our planning for PEF, and throughout the year, you will see and hear more about PEF as programmes develop.

DIARY DATES

4th September S5/6 UCAS evening 7pm and Parent Council 7 pm
20th September—non uniform day
27th—30th September—Holiday

REMEMBER—this year there are 7 INSET days. We have had 2 already (those in August) and we have another 5 which are;
18/19th November
7/12 February—attached to the holiday
7th May—with the 8th May being the changed 75th Anniversary VE Day Mayday holiday