



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils of Craigroyston,

I hope you've all had a great week! We've had a very busy time here at Craigroyston which you will find out about in the newsletter below.

## **Priorities**

### **Staffing Concerns**

We continue to experience staffing issues but we have made progress this week in terms of creating more time for our own teachers to take classes consistently. Furthermore, we have Miss Maloney returning on Mondays to work with the Higher Drama pupils in preparation for their upcoming performances. We're very excited to have Miss Maloney back in school! I will update you on staffing and changes to the timetable in a separate letter next week. We are hopeful that we will have more positive news to share. If you would like to speak with me regarding staffing concerns please do contact me.

## **School Security**

### **Magnetic Locks**

As mentioned in the newsletter last week, the new magnetic locks are now in place. There have of course been a few teething problems but, overall, I am really pleased with how the implementation has gone! I think once the system is fully embedded we will begin to see a real positive change. Generally, our young people have adapted really well to the doors and understand why we have them. We have been gathering feedback from pupils and staff but will let the current system run for another week before we review and make any changes. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been on hand to assist with the doors and have dealt with issues promptly.

### **Toilets Open During the School Day**

Pupils have raised concerns that toilets have not been open during the school day. I would like to reassure them that this is not the case. During the school day the toilets outside my room and outside Mr. Shalaev's room are open. At breaks and lunchtimes the main toilets in the canteen are also open. All faculties also have a key for other disabled toilets around the school should they need to be opened during class times. Up until now there have been issues with a number of young people gathering in the toilets during class time so we are monitoring this. We just want to make sure that every young person is where they should be during school time!

## **Staffing**

On Monday we welcome Cameron Stevenson who will be joining the Health and Wellbeing Faculty as a Teacher of PE. He will be backfilling Stephanie Hamilton when she goes on maternity leave. Mr. Stevenson is starting before Miss. Hamilton leaves to allow time for a handover. Welcome, Mr Stevenson!

Adverts live on myjobscotland:

- 3 x PSO (permanent)
- PSO - temporary (this is to work with our Care Experienced young people)

Interviews for the permanent posts of the following posts will take place week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January:

- Teacher of Computing – permanent
- Teacher of Home Economics – permanent
- Teacher of Business – permanent

These posts are for an August start.

Internal appointments:

- Congratulations to Lisa Nairie and Lucy Watson who will job share the role of Acting Support for Learning Leader in the short term!
- Congratulations to Carla Barnes, Carly Manson and Micall Ferrier who will take on the role of Acting PSOs until permanent appointments are made.

### **Headteacher Highlights**

There have been many highlights this week which include:

#### **S6 Pupils – University**

This year, 36 of our S6 pupils have applied for university through UCAS. This is very exciting and they have applied for a range of different courses including medicine, midwifery, mechanical engineering and equine science!

27 pupils have already received positive offers and we have more pupils being given an unconditional than ever before! Keep up the great work S6s!

#### **Support for Learning**

We are looking forward to launching a new Senior Hub for our pupils who access S4 - S6. This will provide a calm, supported space for studying, completing coursework, and preparing for assessments. The hub will promote independence, help develop young people's organisation, and support positive study habits, helping young people to meet high expectations during an important stage of their learning. This is also exciting news for our S1–S3 pupils, who will also now have their own dedicated Support Hub. This will allow staff to provide more targeted support for younger learners, responding to

individual needs. If you would like any further information about this, please contact Lisa Nairie (Acting CL Support for Learning)

### **Pupil Support**

S2 have had PSE talks this week from Fast Forward around vapes and substance misuse. All pupils showed a mature attitude and engaged incredibly well the lessons!

### **Languages**

After their amazingly successful visit to Paris for the Youth Ocean Conference, the S4 N5 French pupils, are putting together a rap and presentation on the topic of oceans to present to our cluster primaries. They are currently Language Leaders and as well as promoting languages, they are also reminding us of the challenges we face in having to improve our environment.

### **Social Subjects**

Ms. Irvine (Teacher of History) would like to say a special thank you to her senior class who helped her this week! Ms. Irvine is diabetic and had very low sugar. When she recognised this her class immediately got to work providing her with juice and (their own!) chocolate as well as making sure that she okay! Ms. Irvine is very thankful for their kindness and quick reactions! Well done to the seniors!

### **Important Contacts**

For us to support your child in the best way possible, it is really important that the relationship between home and school is strong. Please find below our contact information so you can contact us directly.

#### **Craigroyston Community High School**

Telephone – 0131-477-7801

Facebook – Craigroyston Community High School (you can message this directly)

#### **Senior Leadership Team**

Shelley McLaren (Headteacher) [Shelley.McLaren@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Shelley.McLaren@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk)

Claire Stewart (DHT – Arran House) [Claire.Stewart@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Claire.Stewart@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk)

Sarah Ellis (DHT– Bute House) [Sarah.Ellis@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Sarah.Ellis@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk)

Adam McFarlane (DHT – Mull House) [Adam.McFarlane@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Adam.McFarlane@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk)

### **Pupil Support Leaders and Support for Learning Leader**

Mirren Summers (Acting PSL – Arran House) [Mirren.Summers@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Mirren.Summers@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk)

Craig Yardley (PSL – Bute House) [Craig.Yardley@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Craig.Yardley@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk)

Helen Hunter (PSL – Mull House) [Helen.Hunter@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Helen.Hunter@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk)

Yvonne Linning (Support for Learning) [Yvonne.Linning@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Yvonne.Linning@craigroyston.edin.sch.uk)

At present Mr. McFarlane is absent from school. If you have a concern, please contact Mrs. Hunter (PSL – Mull House) in the first instance. If you have a wider school concern, please contact me directly.

Ms. Linning is also not in school at present. If you have a concern regarding Support for Learning, please contact Mrs. Ellis (DHT) in the first instance. If you have a wider school concern, please contact me directly.

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Burns' Supper	6pm - 8pm (assembly hall)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Senior Phase Parents' Evening	4pm- 7pm (assembly hall)

### **Burns' Supper – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January (6pm-8pm)**

It would be great to see as many people as possible at the Burns' Supper on Thursday! It's one of the best nights of the school calendar and a great way to celebrate with both staff, pupils and your own family! Thank you to Mrs. Brown and Miss. Dunlop for organising this! It's going to be a fabulous evening! £5 a ticket for adults.

### **And finally... Quote of the Week**

*'To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan but also believe.'*

**Anatole France**

I hope you have a lovely weekend! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Shelley

Shelley McLaren

Headteacher

Craigroyston Community High School