



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils of Craigroyston,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a lovely holiday!

As you may know, I have now returned full time to my role of Headteacher of Craigroyston Community High School following maternity leave. I would like to thank you for the very warm welcome back! It can be difficult returning from maternity leave, but it has been made so much easier with everyone's kindness! Thank you also to the parents and carers who attended the information session on Wednesday evening – it was lovely to see you all again and to meet those of you who are new to the school!

Each week we will be sharing important information with you via this newsletter.

## **Priorities**

### **Staffing Concerns**

I am aware upon return of the staffing issues that we are currently experiencing. This has resulted in many classes having cover teachers, being without a class teacher for a number of weeks or months and learning being significantly disrupted. I have spoken with staff, parents and pupils this week and I am keen to assure you that staffing is my key priority. I will be working on this to ensure that classes have consistent teachers and appropriate work and hope to see this settle in the coming weeks.

If you would like to speak with me regarding staffing concerns please do contact me.

### **Pupils Wandering the School**

It has been brought to my attention this week that there are a number of young people wandering the school and avoiding classes. I have seen this on many occasions and have been speaking with the young people about why this is the case. Some of the time it has been related to the lack of consistent staff in classes but on other occasions there hasn't been a particular reason. We need to ensure that our young people are safely in classes, Support for Learning, the Senior Attainment Hub or the Wellbeing Hub. This is important not only for their own learning and safety but also for the general ethos of the school. I would like to ask that parents and carers encourage their child to attend their timetabled classes and we will do our very best to support them too.

## **School Security**

### **School Gates**

As you may be aware, from November, the gates of the school have been locked during school time, except during breaks and lunches. This came after a number of incidents where people, unknown to us, had been able to access the school. To ensure that our young people are kept as safe as possible during the school day, the gates have been

locked and additional staff appointed to manage this. This is still a fairly new intervention so please bear with us as we manage this change to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible.

### **Magnetic Locks**

In line with improving security in our school, new magnetic locks have been installed and are ready to go live. These locks are installed on all the doors leading off the dining hall and first floor. Staff will use a fob to access these doors. The doors will open for our young people during the changes of classes but otherwise they will be closed. These locks will be an additional layer of security and safety. This is very much the same as other schools and we are delighted that these locks have now been put in place. Pupils were informed of this change at year group assemblies held this week.

### **Damage to School Property**

On return I was very disappointed to hear that since summer there has been significant damage to school property resulting in a huge financial cost to the school. This includes breaking doors, damaging flooring and writing on walls which has resulted in whole areas needing repainting. As explained at assemblies, we are keen to keep our school as clean and presentable as possible so that we can have a positive learning environment. Also, the financial implications of this are causing some concern. We will be contacting parents and carers of pupils who have been identified as causing damage to discuss next steps.

### **Staffing**

This week we welcomed Laura MacLean (Acting Business Manager) and Dimitri Bakalas (PSA) – I hope you're both settling in well and enjoying Craigroyston!

We also said goodbye for now to Duncan Black (Acting PSL) who has taken six months off to enjoy a travelling career break with his family! Have an amazing time, Mr. Black! Mirren Summers has now taken over as Acting PSL (Arran House).

Adverts live on myjobscotland for an August 2026 start:

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

### **Headteacher Highlights**

It has been lovely being back and there have been many highlights this week which include:

- the incredible, positive, warm welcome back from staff, pupils and parents – it has made returning from maternity leave so much easier! Thank you again!

- well attended Parent/Carer Information Evening with positive and constructive feedback
- really positive behaviour and attitude shown by almost all pupils at the year group assemblies earlier this week
- 58 pupils attended the Pupil Leadership Team information session for the relaunch of our PLT and there was great enthusiasm and many applications made for various roles – we're very much looking forward to rebuilding this!

### **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)

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

*'We're going up, up, up, it's our moment  
You know together we're glowin'  
Gonna be, gonna be golden'*

**'Golden' - Kpop Demon Hunters**

**That's us - Craigroyston Community High School! 😊**

Thank you once again for the warm welcome back! I am very much looking forward to working with you over the coming weeks and months and I will do my very best to ensure that our young people and school are given every opportunity to succeed.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and enjoy the snow if it finally decides to come! 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