



CASTLEHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Gordon Menzies

Children's Services
Director: Steven Quinn

16th February 2024

Dear Pupils, Parent/Carer,

In October 2023, I wrote to parents/carers to inform you of the discovery of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in the roof of our gym halls, games hall and fitness suite facility. Since this discovery, our pupils have been transported to the Lagoon Leisure Centre to participate in Physical Education.

Yesterday, Renfrewshire Council informed you that a decision has now been taken to install steel beams in the facility to strengthen the roof. If given approval by councillors, Renfrewshire Council will appoint a contractor to complete the work in order that our facilities are safe to use for our pupils and staff. As stated in this communication, the work is expected to be completed over the summer holidays to minimise disruption in our school. Therefore, our Physical Education provision at the Lagoon will continue until the work is completed.

In December, I also wrote to parents/carers of pupils in S4, S5 and S6 to inform them that due to the discovery of RAAC, we would be completing our prelim diet at the Paisley Town Hall. We took this decision to provide our pupils with the full exam experience and also prepare our pupils fully at an alternate establishment should our halls be unavailable in April/May for the final SQA exams.

While it is possible for us to keep some of the exams in our school, some of the larger exams will be relocated to the Lagoon Leisure Centre. The plans that we put in place for the prelim diet will be replicated for these larger exams during the final SQA exam diet, this will include transporting our pupils to and from the Lagoon. Like the prelim exams, pupils who are entitled to access Alternative Assessment Arrangements will complete their final exams in school.

I will write to parents/carers of our senior pupils once these plans are finalised over the coming weeks.



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I met with senior pupils this morning to inform them and will be providing groups of pupils with the opportunity to visit the Lagoon Leisure Centre prior to the SQA exams to offer them an insight into the facilities that we will be using. This will be dependant on coursework demands and exam preparation needs. We will continue to work with the team at council HQ and with OneRen to make sure the venue is set up to offer the best possible exam experience, and we will use pupil feedback to help us do that.

I appreciate the continual disruption this is having to PE lessons and the disruption to the final SQA exams will be frustrating for some of our young people, but I hope you are assured that the safety of our pupils and staff is a priority and the plans we will have for the final exams will ensure we deliver the best possible experience for our pupils.

With very best wishes to you and your family,

Gordon Menzies
Head Teacher



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