

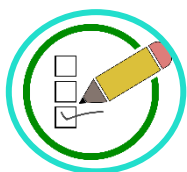
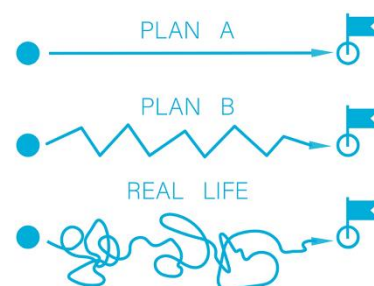


EYEMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL | PARENT BULLETIN

26TH FEBRUARY | 2021 |

PLANS VS REALITY

What a year it has been so far! We know we are making progress but sometimes it can come in very roundabout ways! It's true that we are 'trying to do everything we normally do, but in a more difficult way' and this also applies to the business of learning. It has been fantastic to see some pupils back in school this week, focussing safely on practical tasks – hearing the sound of laughter in the building was a real highlight for me this week. My encouragement to everyone is to acknowledge the difficulties, keep going, seek support and aim for success. Together we can get through these difficult times to the other side.



We have put together a survey about remote learning for parents to fill in. This complements the pupil survey which was filled in by nearly half of our pupils. It takes a few minutes and asks for parent views about learning, what's working well, and possible barriers. You can [click here](#) to access it.



We are working out how we are going to be assessing our pupils' achievement this year, given the interruptions we have had. We are clear that a period of consolidation will be needed for pupils, and then to spread out assessments over a longer period of time. As we have more details about a possible return to school for some senior pupils before Easter we will let you know our detailed plans.



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Easter Eggstravaganza Prize Draw!

Roll up, roll up, for the most exciting Prize Draw in town – the Parent Council Easter Eggstravaganza!

With our usual fundraising options curtailed due to Covid restrictions, we have decided to organise an online Prize Draw to raise funds to support school in supporting our students. **Tickets will go on sale via our school Facebook page from Monday 8 March.**

To create a fabulous Easter Hamper we're asking anyone who can to please send an Easter Egg or any other item to school – chocolates, wine, or any other new item we could use to make up a themed hamper. This doesn't have to be food – we can make up bundles of all sorts of themed prizes, for example 'A Big Night In' might contain DVDs, books, games, as well as snacks, a Pamper Hamper could contain all sorts of lovely bath and skin products you get the idea. Everything will be welcome – no prize is too small to be useful.

Our lovely office staff will take donations at reception – if your child is coming to school please send items with them, otherwise please just drop them off yourself.

Parent council are organizing the approaches to local businesses to ensure that no-one is asked more than once, but if you have your own business and would like to make a donation please email Eyemouthhsparentcouncil@gmail.com with details.

We are so grateful for support received so far from local businesses, some of who are also our parents – and even one student - who have rallied to the cause with messages of support and generous donations. Prizes so far include vouchers for a Snorkel Safari from Snorkel Wild, a family nature tour from In Our Nature, a 'grab and go voucher for four' from Jarvis Pickle, a seafood voucher from Joe's Catch, voucher for tool hire from Alan Redpath Tool Hire, hamper items from Reston Provisions, Mr Neep, Soul Sisters at Ayton, AJB Spence and Son and Anderson & Sondergaard Charcuterie, pet hamper items from Galadin Vets, a gardening hamper from Homebase, a pony ride from Eat Sleep Ride, voucher from Harbro Country Stores, voucher from Fiona Genney's Tropic Skincare, Easter bucket from Braw Buckets, bottles of Kombucha from Left Field Kombucha, two wellness sessions from Lynsay Oliver Wellness, bath and wellness lotion from Kimberley's NYRO, Easter eggs and vouchers from Tesco Galashiels, hamper and glass dish from Room No 3, a gift hamper from The Borders Distillery, Hawick, bamboo toothbrush from Sea the Change, plus other pledges of support from Scott Brown Cars, Ancroft Tractors Ltd and the Salvation Army. Our local councillor, Carol Hamilton is generously donating vouchers for Morrisons and Occasions. We also have two minibreaks up for grabs - a weekend in a cabin at Pease Bay for up to five people donated by Carrie and Andy Haddow, and a weekend in a holiday flat in South Queensferry for up to four people donated by Raquel and Kenryck Lloyd-Jones (both to be taken once Covid restrictions allow). Sophie & Campbell McNeil are donating a food and drink hamper, and our very own S4 student, Monty McNeil is donating a voucher for homemade traybakes from his business Delishh.

This is our big opportunity to raise funds for this year. So far, since August, Parent Council has already funded Christmas festivities for every class, cameras to enable school to offer higher photography next year, apple pencils to support marking of student work via ipads, t-shirts for the First Year Friends, and a language learning programme to support the modern languages department.



The Parent Council is hugely grateful to the Community Councils of Cockburnspath, Coldingham, Grantshouse, and Reston and Auchencrow for their recent support which has enabled us to fund **24 Apple pencils for teachers to use to mark student work on the ipads**. At the time we put in our bids to the councils, we had no idea that students would not be returning to the classroom after the Christmas break, and the pencils have therefore proved even more valuable than anticipated.

Each Council donated £408 using funding they had received from the Drone Hill Community Fund to enable them to respond to the challenges to their communities posed by Covid. Their grants meant Parent Council could support school with £1608 to fund 24 Apple pencils, enabling teachers to mark pupil work digitally. This has supported home learning, enabling students to receive timely and quality feedback on their work while unable to be in school. The pencils will continue to be invaluable when students return to the classroom since Covid guidance strongly encourages reduction in paper use – they also allow teachers to use their ipads to write on while connected to a screen in class.

Staff and students across the whole school have benefitted, with pencils distributed to all teachers across all subjects in school.

We have already received a lovely piece of feedback from Miss Walker (biology) who said: 'Please pass on to the parent council how appreciative I am for my Apple Pencil. It has made marking and providing feedback so much easier. I am loving it!'

In making the grants the community councils all said they would be keen to hear about the difference the pencils had made, so we will shortly be asking all teachers for feedback.

Students can contact their Pastoral Teachers for support [here](#).

There are also opportunities to meet with your year group and Pastoral Teacher on a weekly basis. Students can access these through Teams.



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