Dear Parent / Carer

As of Monday (9th September), all our young people have been placed in an educational setting. These are, as you know, interim arrangements because of the fire at Woodmill High School on the 25th August.

Transport and arrangements for the school day are in place at all our host venues and these have generally been working well. Given the scale of the operation required to accommodate and teach a school across six sites there will inevitably be some teething problems – and I would stress that these are initial arrangements that allowed us to get our young people back into learning quickly.

We are reviewing timings around the school day, listening to all involved and responding to any issues or changes that may be required within our hosting and teaching arrangements. We are also starting to receive additional resources, materials and IT equipment to support learning and teaching.

The general feedback from our students has been positive. Our young people have worked hard, under trying circumstances, to get back into a productive routine. Whilst our situation is not ideal, our young people and school staff are demonstrating resilience and commitment. By Wednesday of this week I will have been to all of the new settings and will have spoken with all of our young people on site.

It is important we get into a pattern and routine that supports effective learning and allows teaching and support staff, as well as pupils, some continuity in their new settings.

Please see some important updates and information below. As our planning develops and progresses over the coming weeks develops I will provide you with regular updates.

Again, I thank you for your support as we continue to develop and improve the offer for our young people.

**Additional Staffing**

We are in the process of appointing a number of additional teaching staff and pupil support assistants to complement our existing team. Extra teaching staff will help us establish more consistent staffing solutions for your young people, at each of our teaching sites. This will help us establish routines for everyone as quickly as possible.

**Timetabling**

I am working with our own team of staff and a timetabling lecturer from Edinburgh University to improve our curriculum offer. We are trying to improve the efficiency of the timetabling across S4-6 to allow a greater range of course choices. If we can run the senior curriculum more efficiently across the teaching sites it will, in turn, increase our teaching capacity within the BGE (broad general education) groupings S1-S3. This work will also help improve the consistency of teaching staff each year group works with.
**Pupil Appointments**

If your young person has a scheduled appointment, please contact Woodmill High School staff via our normal school number of 01383 602406. From there we can coordinate information with the appropriate teaching centre and lead staff on site.

**MyFife Cards**

At present our young people are being asked to use cash in canteens, and we are providing vouchers for free school meals. We are investigating the possibility of transferring MyFife Card accounts for pupils now hosted by other local schools. As we move on we will also look at ways to refund money already placed on cards, where necessary.

**DAS**

A range of work and adaptations have been undertaken by council teams at Blairhall Primary School to make sure the facilities are suitable for our young people. This includes installing a new changing bed, hand rails and furniture as well as replacing lots of fixtures and fittings.

We want our young people to feel as settled as possible in their new environment. I aim to set up a meeting with DAS parents during the school day in the near future so that we can discuss all the arrangements for your young people in more detail.

**Year Group Communications**

As well as continued updates from me as headteacher, you will receive regular updates from your year group’s link leader. We have also created a web page for each year group and DAS on the school website to help you find the latest information and updates – see the Advice & Support pages at [http://fifedirect.org.uk/woodmllhs](http://fifedirect.org.uk/woodmllhs)

**Late Coming and Missed Buses**

Please encourage your young person to give themselves plenty of time in the morning so that they arrive at the bus pick up points at St Columba’s and Abbeyview car park with time to spare before the buses leave for QAHS, Beath and IHS. If a pupil misses the school bus for any reason, they should report to St Columba’s reception where we will attempt to contact parents and make appropriate arrangements to transport them to their teaching site.

**Woodmill Building Update**

The WHS building is currently a controlled site. Demolition and clearing of parts of the site are well underway, as are plans for an industrial ‘deep clean’ of other areas affected by smoke and water damage. Contractors allowed some of our teaching staff who work on A, B and C corridors, some limited access to the building at the end of last week. However, we are still waiting for a contamination report to see if some building contents can be recovered.

I will provide additional information as well as updates as we move from towards our medium and longer term planning, on a regular basis.

Mr McIntosh