



Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know, we are all still dealing with the impact of COVID. Recent case numbers locally and nationally are a reminder that the virus is still with us and has not gone away yet. The Scottish Government has chosen to continue remaining restrictions rather than remove them for this reason. In our school, we see a number of pupils absent due to COVID and we also have a number of staff absences due to COVID. Last week, we asked S3 to learn online from home for three days and two months ago, we asked a similar thing of S1-S2. I apologise for the inconvenience this undoubtedly caused families and I assure you, we will do everything in our power to avoid this in future. The schools closure page on the council website shows that this is an approach a number of other schools are currently forced to take and is an issue many schools are wrestling with on a daily basis.

Our aim is to keep everyone in school as much as possible. Some of our parents/carers have asked for clarity around our use of the Assembly Hall – what are we doing in there and why? Under normal circumstances, if a teacher is absent, a colleague will take their class. Sometimes we need to bring in supply staff to give us additional capacity. During the pandemic, supply staff have been in great demand as you can imagine and nationally, there are not enough to go around – this is not only a Dumfries & Galloway matter. Therefore, in Lockerbie Academy at present, we sometimes need to bring several classes together to work in the Assembly Hall, where a member of Senior Management can supervise a larger group – each class working on the tasks set for them by their own teacher. This is not ideal, but is our way of avoiding as far as we can, the need to send pupils home to learn online again.

We all hope this will be over soon and look forward to putting it behind us. Meantime, thank you for your patience and support as we work through this together.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Asher

Head Teacher