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Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well as we approach the festive break. You may be aware that due to COVID restrictions the vast majority of schools across Scotland, including Garnock Community Campus, have made the decision to cancel all Parent Evenings this session. This decision has been taken in the best interests of all members of our school community. As a result, we have been working with parents, staff members and pupils to review our communication methods with Parents / Carers, especially regarding key moments in a pupil's educational career, for example, SQA exams, Options and Transitions.

At present, there is a significant and varied amount of communication that already happens outwith Parent's Evenings. These include:

- Tracking reports
- Progress letters home
- Text messaging
- Satchel:One (Homework and Home Learning)
- Phone calls
- E-mail
- Social Media posts/ website updates (where applicable)

After consultation, we have decided to include an extra tracking report for Senior Phase pupils (S4-S6) prior to the mock assessments in late January. This will provide a snapshot of progress prior to the mocks and then we will follow this up with a more detailed tracking report after the mock assessments. There will also be an opportunity to contact your child's teacher later in the session. For BGE pupils (S1-S3), we will produce a virtual open tour for S1 and curricular events for S2-S3, focusing on option choices. There will also be an opportunity to contact the class teacher to discuss options should it be necessary. As always, if you feel you need to speak to the school about your child, then please feel free to contact the school and we will direct the enquiry to the most appropriate person.

Going forward, the school will be continuing to develop the use of Satchel: One to issue homework to pupils. This is also an excellent way for parents to have an overview of homework issued. Please contact the school if you still haven't signed up as a parent / carer.

Currently, the main method of communicating home is via text message. While this is effective, it has many limitations and we are unable to send documents using this method. We have already implemented the use of an app called Xpressions and I would ask that you download and sign up to this app via the details below:

- Downloading the free Apple IOS or Android app
- Visiting Xpressions.groupcall.com from any internet browser on your computer, laptop or mobile

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Finally, as I write this, I am immensely grateful of the outstanding work of our staff during these difficult times and the way in which the pupils have responded to the additional COVID restrictions. As we move closer to the break, it is essential that all guidelines that are in place are followed by pupils. Unfortunately, this will mean that many of the festive activities that normally happen will be cancelled this year. Pupils will be in classes in their arranged seating plan up until the last day of term. This is especially important for Test and Protect purposes so that if a positive case happens, the correct pupils are identified quickly for self-isolation if necessary.

We finish for this term at 2.30pm on Wednesday 23rd December and return on Wednesday 6th January.

From everyone at Garnock Community Campus, we wish you a safe, festive and relaxing break.

Yours faithfully

Alan Dick
Head Teacher