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## Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on our recent return to school after the summer break. I hope that you had a restful break and were able to enjoy the good weather.

It has been great to welcome our pupils and staff back into school after such a lovely summer break.

On Monday's In Service, we welcomed new staff and prepared for the new session including looking at our School Improvement Priorities. We also discussed our SQA results, which were excellent and are a real testament to the hard work, commitment and resilience of the pupils, their families and our staff. Time was also spent reaffirming our approaches to Learning, Teaching, Assessment and our Curriculum. In the afternoon we worked with a training provider to look at our approaches to behaviour, as part of our ongoing professional learning.

On Tuesday, our pupils came back to school, and it has been fantastic to see our building so busy again, and so many pupils wearing school uniform. If you need any support to access items of uniform, please contact your young person(s) Guidance Teacher.

On Tuesday we also had Year Group assemblies, where I formally welcomed our pupils back into school, highlighted our very positive SQA results and confirmed our expectations and school values.

Our School Values (Hharks) can be seen below:



Our expectations around the Habits of Work and Learning (Howls) were also discussed:

**Hard Work** 

Aim High

Be Kind

I also highlighted and explained our **School Improvement Priorities** for this session to the students. These are:

## 1. Self Evaluation

- a) with a particular focus on the interrogation of data to bring about improvement
- b) pupil voice
- c) leadership development at all levels

## 2 Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Curriculum

- a) To improve learning, teaching, and assessment across Alford Academy.
- b) To improve the curriculum offer, across Alford Academy supporting the attainment and achievement of individual pupils.

## 3. Health & Wellbeing

To improve the health & wellbeing of all our stakeholders as we work through our recovery, renewal, and improvement through the pandemic.

So, as you can see, we have had a very busy first few days back. Over the next week we plan to share our school calendar for this school year with you.

We look forward to working with you this session.

Yours sincerely

Angela M. Wotherspoon (Mrs)

Sugela H. Wotherson

**Head Teacher**