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If phoning or calling please ask for:
Date: 11/3/21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Phased Return from 15 March 2021

As you will be aware, the First Minister announced that all learners, S1-6, are to have at least one day in school, each week from 15th March until Thursday 1st April. The phased return will prioritise Senior Phase (S4-6) to allow our Senior pupils to complete course work and prepare for future assessments. This announcement to include BGE (S1-3) pupils was unexpected and has presented us with a significant challenge.

As indicated in my message to you yesterday, we intend to bring Senior Phase into the school week beginning 15/3/21 on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, with S1 and S2 in on Wednesday and S3 on Thursday.

In order to minimise movement within the school, we will have two teaching blocks in Senior Phase and four in BGE. Senior Phase subject columns will be distributed across the weeks up to the Easter break.

Safety

All staff and all pupils must wear a face covering when inside the school building. Everyone **must maintain 2m social distance at all times**. All rooms will be ventilated and regularly cleaned. Everyone will regularly use sanitising gel and wash their hands. **There will be no social areas in the school**. Packed lunches are recommended and basic canteen lunches will be pre-ordered and delivered to classrooms. Please continue to pay for school meals online and do not rely upon the machine in school. If young people choose to leave the building at lunchtime, they must not return to the building until their next class is due to begin. **School uniform will be required for all learners, including those in the Hub.**

Subjects remaining online

Some subjects will remain online, including Mrs McGeachy following the birth of twin sons. I'm sure you will join me in offering huge congratulations to the growing McGeachy family – great to be able to share some good news with you! If your child has **Administration and IT** or **Business Management**, work should continue on Google Classroom from home. We have a new Depute HT, Ross Little, starting with us after Easter and he will be taking over these classes. This will be the same in **History, English** and **Wider Achievement**. If your child has any of these subjects, they should continue to work from home and **not come into school for that session**. However, if this presents any transport difficulties, please approach your guidance teacher or the Senior Leadership Team and space will be set aside for private study.

Testing

We are strongly encouraging all of our Senior Phase pupils to carry out (at home) the COVID-19 tests that we are supplying (free of charge) on behalf of NHS Scotland. The tests give results within 20-30 minutes and are designed to pick up COVID-19 in people who are asymptomatic (not displaying any symptoms). They are also designed to break the transmission chain and keep all of us safe. It is important we all play our part in this. All of our staff in school will also be carrying out these tests, they are relatively easy to carry out and they come with full instructions.

Testing should be carried out on a Wednesday and Saturday morning. Results should be recorded at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Presently (from 15 March until the Easter holiday), there is no requirement for pupils in the BGE to undertake these tests. However, from Monday 19th April 2021 all pupils will be offered COVID tests. Consent forms are required and learners over 16 can sign these themselves. We will arrange for consent forms to be sent for BGE learners to be signed by parents and carers.

Risk Assessment

The safety of our young people, families and staff remain our priority. Our full Risk Assessment will continue to be reviewed as national and local guidance alters. This and other Covid related documents are located at <https://bit.ly/SchoolClosure2021>

First Aid

If your child requires any first aid help at school for any reason, they will be tended to as usual by a trained member of staff, but that member of staff will wear full personal protective equipment. This will consist of gloves, an apron, a face mask and a visor. You may wish to discuss this with your child, as it is not what they are used to and could be potentially distressing for them to see staff dressed in this way.

Movement around the School

Young people should follow our one-way system. A reminder will be given to all pupils.

Cleaning

Cleaning will be completed in line with the current Scottish Government guidance, including an enhanced cleaning regime. Mitie will be supplying three day cleaners who will ensure regular cleaning procedures are in place. They will clean commonly touched surfaces and objects regularly, such as door handle, dining tables and toilets.

Toilets

School toilets have been identified for staff or pupil use. Signs have been placed on doors. Hand wash will be available in all toilets and Mitie's cleaning team will clean the toilets regularly throughout the day.

BGE Organisation

More information will follow as soon as detailed.

Senior Phase Organisation

The 3 days each will be organised as follows;

	AM (9-12.00)	PM (12.40-3.35)
MON	B	A
TUE	D	E
FRI	F	C

In order to help your child see whether should be in school, please to the table below.

Normal Senior Phase Timetable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MON	B	B	A	A	E	F	F
TUE	D	D	E	E	G	C	A
WED	E	E	D	D	G	G	F
THU	A	A	D	C	C	B	B
FRI	F	F	C	C	B	G	G

For example, if your child has Biology on their normal timetable during Wednesday periods 3&4, they are in Column D and should attend school on Tuesday Morning.

School Day

The times for each session are in the table above. There will be some flexibility around finishing times in order to avoid all learners leaving at the same time. It is essential that all our young people continue to observe social distancing when leaving, and indeed once outside the school building.

School Transport

Young people will have full access to school transport. Learners should follow the guidance displayed at bus stops and on school buses. Young people are required to wear a suitable face covering when travelling on school transport.

When travelling on a public bus or any form of school transport learners are reminded they must maintain a **one-metre distance** from all other passengers.

Thank you once again for your continued support and forbearance.

Yours faithfully,



David Fyfe