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Date: 31/3/21

Dear parent / carer,

Planned return to school – Monday 19th April 2021

You will all by now have received the latest communication to parents and carers from our Head of Service team dated 26th March 2021. It is anticipated that all young people will return to school on **Monday 19th April 2021**. The Scottish Government will confirm arrangements on Tuesday 6th April 2021 after a further meeting with the Education COVID Recovery Group.

It has been wonderful to have our young people back with us to continue with their learning and spend time with friends. Feedback received indicates that this, albeit limited return, has been very successful. We are particularly grateful to Len and Jim from the Adventure Scouts and to Mr Osborne and Mr McCallum for the time spent outdoors with our young people in S1-3.

As we plan for a full return to the school building, we will continue to promote the measures in place to keep everyone safe, including regular cleaning throughout the day and regular asymptomatic testing for young people. Testing has been extended to S1-S3 pupils and face coverings will play a key role in keeping everyone safe in our schools.

All young people and staff will be expected to wear a face covering at all times, unless they are medically exempt. They should only be removed when eating and drinking.

Monday 19th April 2021 arrangements

All learners will attend Personal Support for one hour before attending normal timetabled classes. We will continue with staggered lunches to keep S1-3 separated from S4-6 as much as possible.

Most children have now received their free CGS hoodie and, since classrooms will be well ventilated, these can continue to be worn in classrooms until the weather becomes milder. If your child has not yet received their hoodie, please advise them to speak to their Personal Support teacher who will pass their name and hoodie size to the school office.

Testing

Young people attending school will be asked to test themselves twice a week. We advise that testing should take place on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Young people participating in the testing programme will be issued with a pack of Lateral Flow test kits when they attend school for the first time. Letters have been issued to all parents and consent forms must be completed before test kits are collected. Should your child take a positive test you must inform the school immediately, arrange a COVID test and self-isolate.

Although testing is voluntary, we would encourage all our young people to take part.

School Transport

Pupils should use school transport as normal. Face coverings should be worn on all school transport.

Lunch and Interval Time

The school canteen will provide refreshments at break time and lunch will be available. Young people who are entitled to a Free School Meal will be catered for as normal. Should any learner wish to go offsite at break or lunch time, they should follow government guidance. Face coverings are required in any local business and young people should follow social distancing guidance. This may be difficult for learners, because of the different rules inside the school, but all these rules still apply beyond the school gate. Young people should not be in large groups whenever they are outside of the school grounds.

Safety

We will continue to ensure that safety measures are in place to help reduce the risk of the spread of the virus. This will include regular hand washing, use of hand sanitiser and the use of PPE. The school will also be cleaned thoroughly each day. Day cleaners will ensure cleaning takes place regularly. Toilets will also be cleaned throughout the day.

Entering the building

S1-3 learners should continue to enter through the doors at the school office and S4-6 through the doors at the janitor's office. The hand sanitiser should be used by everyone as they enter and exit the building.

Face covering

Young people will be required to wear a face covering in both communal areas and in class. Disposable masks will be available from the school. However, we strongly encourage young people to bring their own face covering to school. Face coverings must also be worn on school transport.

Social Distancing

It is anticipated on our return after the Easter break, the 2 metre physical distancing requirements for young people inside the school building will be removed.

Additional In-Service days

The Scottish Government have allocated two additional service days to allow school staff to assess and moderate learners' work.

Additional day 1 – Friday 14th May 2021

Additional day 2 – Thursday 27th May 2021

Planned In-Service day – Friday 28th May 2021

Easter School

To support our senior learners an Easter School programme will be available in Chemistry, Art and Modern Languages. Teachers have indicated to their learners when they should be in school.

Change of Timetable

Normally, we would change our school timetable in May, ensuring young people experience their new subjects before the start of the new session. However, to ensure our senior young people are given every opportunity to complete their course work and achieve their potential, we will not be changing our timetable until a later date in June. We will inform you as soon as this situation becomes clearer.

Pupils displaying symptoms

Parents and young people should continue to remain vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19. If your child, or anyone else in your household, shows COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, coughing or lack of smell or taste), you should not send them to school, but should instead follow government guidance. Positive tests should immediately be reported to the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the mammoth effort and commitment that has been in evidence from our teaching staff, support staff, school partners, parents, carers and most of all, our learners throughout this incredibly challenging term. Your support, encouragement and kind words have helped us come together as a school community and it's been a pleasure to see this happening.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday,



Head Teacher