



24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils

Many of you will be aware that yesterday, John Swinney, the Depute First Minister (DFM), made a statement in Parliament which detailed the ambition of The Scottish Government for all children and young people to return to school full-time in August 2020. You can access the statement by following this link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/re-opening-schools/>

The DFM stressed that it is an aim which the Government is now working towards but it “remains conditional and dependent upon ongoing scientific and health advice.”

As you know, we recently shared with you our school recovery plan which detailed arrangements made for ‘blended learning’, social distancing in school and the times different year groups would be in school. Following the statement yesterday this plan will now act as our Contingency Plan. We now know this contingency plan will only be put in place if the scientific and health advice states that it is unsafe for young people and staff to return to school full-time. We will now revert to planning for all of young people returning full time in August knowing we have our contingency plan ready should it be required. We have previously sent out full time timetables for all of our pupils and these will be the timetables pupils will follow for a full time return.

The Scottish Government has now established a sub-group of the COVID19 Advisory Group to focus exclusively on education and children’s issues. The purpose of this group is to provide advice which will support schools to return on a full-time basis in August. The DFM stated: “I would expect that various conditions would need to be in place.” We will be taking into account all advice that is issued regarding this in our planning for August.

As you all know, one of the major challenges has been the fast moving and ever changing nature of the advice and guidance as it responds to the scientific and medical advice. Advice can change from one day to the next. As a school we have continued to be responsive, flexible and agile in changing our plans as we receive the latest advice. Our plans for a “normal” return in August were already at an advanced stage prior to lockdown. As always we will keep you fully updated with our plans and latest advice during the school holidays.

As we move towards the summer holidays I would like to wish you all as relaxing a break as possible. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for our virtual prize giving and celebration. You will be receiving the link soon and it is not to be missed. As I never tire of saying the response of our school community, our pupils, parents and staff, to this most challenging of years has been nothing short of amazing. We have all worked so hard together to try and minimise as best we can the negative impact of this situation on our young people and we all deserve our summer break now.

We can't wait to see you all in August. Stay safe, stay strong and take care.

Kas Mohamed