



17th February 2021

Update for Pupils, Parents and Carers – Limited Senior Phase Return for some Practical Work from 22nd February

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on our plans for a very limited return of some senior phase pupils studying certain practical subjects from the 22nd February. This follows the recent announcement made by the First Minister, publication of guidance on which subjects and under what circumstances limited return is allowed, and further guidance on the safe opening of schools for these circumstances. **Please note that the following applies to pupils in S4/S5 and S6.** The guidance states the following :

- All learning and teaching that can be delivered remotely in the senior phase should continue to be so. This applies to most subjects that our senior phase pupils are studying.
- There are a limited number of subjects where important aspects of the course work cannot be delivered remotely. This might be because access to specialist equipment or resources is required or access to specialist software that is not available to all from home is required.
- In our school these subjects are : Hospitality: Practical Cookery, Practical Cake Craft, Practical Woodworking Skills, Art and Design, Drama, Computing Science, Graphic Communication, Admin and IT, Music Technology and Music (pupils performing on Drumkit only).
- In all other subjects the coursework can be covered and delivered remotely and at the moment does not require pupils to be in school for this purpose.
- A very limited return for pupils in S4/S5 and S6 who are taking these subjects at National Qualification level will take place across Scotland from the 22nd February. Pupils will only require to be in school for the amount of time to complete aspects of the coursework that cannot be delivered remotely. The time pupils will require to be in school and the number of sessions they will need to attend for will vary from subject to subject.
- **2 metres distancing between all pupils and pupils and adults must be in place at all times in school.**
- All previous health and safety mitigations such as hand sanitising, the wearing of face coverings (unless exempt), work station wipe downs, increased ventilation and enhanced hygiene measures must continue to be in place
- Schools should not have any more than 5%-8% of their school roll in school at any one time for this purpose. For our school this is approx. 80 pupils.
- Key worker children who are already attending and where all attempts to identify alternative childcare arrangements have been exhausted will continue to attend school.
- Pupils with individual special circumstances which mean they should attend school will continue to do so. There will be a slight increase in the number of pupils

attending school with these circumstances. Our teachers in the Hub will contact parents individually to discuss and plan this together.

In light of the above we have put together the following timetable which will start on **Monday 22nd February**. Each subject slot will last all morning from 9:00am until 1:20 to allow as much time as possible to complete the necessary coursework as quickly as possible. **Pupils will be told by their teachers via their Class Teams which days and which classes they should attend.** Not all classes for each subject will be in school on the same day. In order to ensure 2m distancing is in place in each classroom some classes have been divided into new groups. Pupils will be told which group they are in and the classroom/workshop they will be using by their teachers. However here is the overview of the weekly timetable for these pupils.

Please note that for all other pupils – pupils in S1-S3 and pupils in S4-S6 for subjects not listed below, remote learning will continue to be delivered in the current way via Teams.

| Day | Subject | Class |
|-----------|--|-------|
| Monday | Hospitality: Practical Cookery | E1 |
| | Hospitality: Practical Cookery | A2 |
| | Practical Woodworking | E1 |
| | Art & Design | E1 |
| | Drama | E1 |
| Tuesday | Computing Science (N5) | B1 |
| | Drama | B1/B2 |
| | Practical Woodworking | A1 |
| Wednesday | Hospitality: Practical Cookery | A1 |
| | Practical Cake Craft | A3 |
| | Practical Woodworking | A2 |
| | Computing Science (N5) | A1 |
| | Graphic Communication | A1 |
| Thursday | Admin & IT | C1 |
| | Admin & IT | C2 |
| | Admin & IT | C3 |
| | Art & Design | C1 |
| | Art & Design | C2 |
| | Music Technology | C1 |
| | Graphic Communication | C1 |
| | Graphic Communication | C2 |
| Friday | Hospitality: Practical Cookery | D1 |
| | Admin & IT | C1 |
| | Admin & IT | C2 |
| | Admin & IT | C4 |
| | Art & Design | D1 |
| | Music (drumkit) – to be arranged with pupils (Weds or Fri) | |

School transport will run in the morning for those pupils who require it to get to school for the classes above and will pick up for return at 1:20pm.

Because of the enhanced requirement to keep as much distancing as possible while pupils are in school breaks will be taken within the subject area that pupils are accessing that day. Unfortunately, in order to keep everyone as safe as possible, pupils will not be able to go and meet friends who are in school in other subject areas during breaks. We understand that this is not ideal but let's hope the guidance will allow this aspect of school to return back to normal as soon as possible and safe to do so.

As was previously the case pupils should not come to school if they are displaying COVID19 symptoms, if family members begin to display symptoms, if anyone in the household has tested positive or if they have been contacted by Test and Protect and advised to self isolate.

Staff and Senior Pupil Testing

The government also announced that they would be introducing the option of self test kits for all staff and pupils who are accessing schools and we have now received our first supply of self test kits for this purpose. The government is strongly encouraging all senior phase pupils returning to school to take part in this as it will help to identify any of us who are asymptomatic and therefore reduce possible transmission in the school community. Self testing is voluntary and no pupil will be stopped from attending school if they do not wish to take part (providing they are not displaying symptoms or requiring to self isolate). We will soon be contacting parents and pupils with more information about this and the procedures for picking up tests, giving consent and how to self test.

For all of our pupils in the Senior Phase, whatever subjects you are doing, we know that you all want to be back in school as soon as possible for face to face learning and teaching and to catch up with your friends. Let's hope that the transmission numbers continue to fall so that we can plan for you and all of our pupils from S1-S6 to get back into school as soon as possible. Your teachers will continue to work hard on ensuring your remote learning puts you in the best possible position for success in your National Qualifications. If you are working and engaging with your teachers you will not be falling behind because everyone across the country is in the same position. Your teachers are very much on top of the latest SQA advice and guidance on changes to the courses, assessment and provisional grades.

If you have any questions at all about the arrangements outlined above or you are unsure when to attend once your subject teachers have been in touch via Teams then get in touch with your Pupil Care & Support teacher.

In the meantime we look forward to seeing some of you soon. We will update all of our parents and pupils across the different year groups as soon as we get new information.

Stay safe, stay strong and take care.

Kas Mohamed
Head Teacher