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| **Question 1** |
| I’m keen to be kept updated on any plans when the school is in a position to do so with regard to school reopening and plans for the new term. When will you be in a position to do this?  At the moment, we are operating under the same information that is available publically. Nationally, Local Authority senior leaders and professional associations are working together alongside Scottish government colleagues to consider potential arrangements for reopening of schools. We are feeding into these discussions at school level but we are at an early stage and have had no indication yet of a concrete timeline for this happening. As soon as these decisions are taken at a national and local level, I will be in touch with parents to provide all the relevant information of what this means in the context of Stewarton Academy. |
| |  | | --- | | **Question 2** |   If Ryan has any information on how they will be able to support pupils transitioning from primary school to the Academy that would be helpful. It would allow parents to reassure their children, who may be anxious about the uncertainties over this time, particularly as they are missing out on the usual transition programme.  How will the new S1 be supported in their transition to Stewarton?  This is a key area of development for us at the moment as a staff. Mrs Ward, Depute Head Teacher and head of S1/2, is leading on developing a two-pronged approach for transition. The first element of this approach is through our social media and communication channels. Hopefully, you have seen through the course of this week our series of department transition videos for P7 pupils and their parents. This will continue with messages from key departments and staff across the school to help reassure our families at this unsettling time and to provide all the information they need as they prepare to join us at Stewarton Academy.  The second part of our planning is focused on what we can do when schools re-open. Understandably, this is at a more fluid stage until we know what this can look like. What I can do is reassure you that we are, and will continue, working closely with our associated Primary school colleagues to ensure that we have as deep an understanding as possible of the young people that will join us and are able to meet their needs. I can also assure you that we will put their wellbeing first as we reintroduce them to more formal learning.  One of the strengths of our existing transition programme is that there have already been a number of opportunities for P7 pupils to join and work with us at Stewarton Academy through STEM, sport and music and for our staff and pupils to visit and work with them in their own schools. I am confident that this will stand us in good stead moving forward. |
| **Question 3**  Are there plans to offer more focussed support to children who were getting learning support before this?  In short, yes. Everyone’s transition back into school when the time comes will be different depending on their experiences over the last couple of months. We will account for this, looking to support needs where we know they exist and to identify and support them where we don’t. Communication between home and school will be vital in this process to ensure that we are providing the support required for our young people but this will definitely remain a key priority. |
| **Question 4**  Does the school have an idea when the option choices will be confirmed so the pupils know if they can do there 1st choice subjects? Specifically, S3 going into S4.  Mr Hardie is getting in touch with pupils and parents this week and (if required) next week where subjects are not running as a result of uptake or staffing etc. The number of pupils impacted is very small and the chances are that if you have not heard from Mr Hardie by now, pupils moving from S2 to S3 and S3 to S4 have their first choices. We will be in a position to confirm this by the end of next week.  The Senior Phase is a different matter as we are still waiting on a number of options forms to be returned and our Pupil Support team are currently getting in touch with pupils and parents where this is the case. In the event that we need pupils in the new S5/6 to look at their options again, Mr Johnston will be in touch directly. It would be a huge help if pupils and parents could get in touch with Mr Hardie (S4) or Mr Johnston (S5/6) about their options if they have not done so already or to inform us if their intention is to leave school at the end of this session. |
| **Question 5**  Will S3 pupils be starting their 7 subjects for S4 home schooling in June as they would have done normally?  Our current S4/5 have essentially made this switch to S5/6 already as their courses have been completed and we wanted to provide them with the opportunity to remain engaged in learning.  At the moment, we are working towards the beginning of June to move our S1, S2 and S3 into their new year groups. We face logistical issues in terms of making this happen with reduced access to the timetabling systems for staff, the ‘distribution’ of new timetables when they are ready and the need to update our online Teams and learning groups for online learning to continue. Mr Hardie is working flat out to overcome these issues with support from Principal Teachers and our fantastic office staff and more information will follow as we approach the end of May. |
| **Question 6**  Are there any plans for summer schools to be held at the Academy to make up the shortfall for senior phase pupils?  This is not something that is being considered at the moment as a school. When we have the national guidance on plans for re-opening, I would expect that the SQA will also update us regarding arrangements for next session to ensure that pupils are not disadvantaged by the time available to complete courses. From that point, we will re-assess our school-level arrangements. |
| **Question 7**  How will the school buses operate with social distancing?  The bus companies will work with East Ayrshire Council to plan and implement necessary arrangements for social distancing, health and safety. |
| **Question 8**  Which year groups will be allowed back first and how will these operate? On a daily or weekly turnaround? |
| **Question 9**  Will there need to be extra staff if classes are going to be split? |
| **Question 10**  Will pupils be staying in the one classroom and will staff take turns to teach lessons? |
| **Question 11**  Will practical lessons such as drama, music and pe be able to run?  I think it is prudent to answer questions 8-11 together as the response is similar. As I said in question one, the initial guidance we receive from the Scottish Government will inform East Ayrshire Council and our own approaches to dealing with the logistics of the questions asked here. At the moment, it is unclear how pupil return will be phased and what impact social distancing and health and safety measures will have on our approaches to delivering learning and teaching. Some subjects are obviously much more challenging from a social distancing perspective but we will give due consideration to what we CAN do in each of these and focus on delivering lessons and learning to as high a standard and quality as we can. |
| **Question 12**  Will there be one cohesive system for pupils to access work if remote learning is going to persist throughout the year?  Yes. We have been learning a lot as we go with this and are constantly refining our approach to maximise engagement and enjoyment for pupils. We will work collaboratively with our colleagues across the council and beyond to learn from effective practice and keep developing our online approaches. One of the positive consequences of the lockdown has been the focus on developing our digital learning provision and, even in the event that all children return on a full-time basis, this is something I think can benefit our learning and teaching and, indeed, pupil attainment and achievement in the long term. |
| **Question 13**  Will there be any ICT provision available for those pupils without adequate ICT at home?  Yes, as is the case currently. If ICT provision is proving a barrier to learning and engagement, please contact your child’s Pupil Support teacher as soon as possible. Their e-mail addresses have been shared through the message section of the School App. |
| **Question 14**  When will pupils in S2 have any idea as to whether they have got the first option choices?  Please see response to question 4. |
| **Question 15**  How is social distancing going to be maintained in the school?  We will follow national and local guidance on this issue. As soon as we are in a position that we have this information, I will share it with parents and pupils via our usual communication platforms. |