

Our Ref: JK

Date: 5th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I encourage all members of our school community to read the recent communication from the Head of Education. The letter issued yesterday addresses several important practical matters and can be found here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/stjosephsacademy/uploads/sites/2043/2020/08/05055216/Schools-return-letter-to-parents-and-carers.pdf>

In addition, further school level guidance can be found here and includes detail beyond that found within this letter:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/stjosephsacademy/uploads/sites/2043/2020/08/05075537/Re-Opening-Guidance-for-Pupils.pdf>

Please take time to consider the content of the above in the coming days. I have summarised some key points as follows.

Date of Return of Pupils

Date	Pupils to attend
Wednesday 12 th August	S1 and S4 Only
Thursday 13 th August	S1, S2 and S3 Only
Friday 14 th August	S1, S5 and S6 Only
From Monday 17 th August	All pupils

Uniform

All pupils should wear full school uniform as normal. However, we do understand that there may have been a delay in securing some uniform items and as such appreciate that it may take a week or two for all pupils to acquire all elements of our uniform. As always, we will provide discrete and free support to families where necessary.

Wellbeing and Learning

Your child's wellbeing will always be our prime concern and staff are ready to welcome your child back to school in a welcoming way that links to our ongoing work on relationships across all of our schools.

Transport and Arrival of Pupils

School transport will run as normal and pupils should access their assigned transport in the usual way. Those pupils who are using school transport for the first time this session or who are joining us in S1, should have received correspondence from SPT which details the location of bus stops

and/or pick up arrangements. Please check junk e-mail folders to source this correspondence if you do not believe that it has arrived yet.

Your child does not require a face covering for school transport but is welcome to wear a covering should they prefer to do so. Sanitation of hands will be expected on bus entry (for public and school transport) and staff working as escorts in taxis will be wearing a face covering.

Where pupils are dropped off at school by car, we respectfully ask that this is not within school grounds unless cars are parked in a designated parking bay first.

Parents/Carers and Visitors

In light of government guidance, no parent/carer will be allowed to enter the school. If a need arises to collect young people during the school day, we will call parents/carers and share details of a pickup time and location.

Catering

Yesterday, East Ayrshire Council launched a new online pre-order portal for school lunches. This portal will allow pupils and staff to order school meals from their own devices. Anyone wishing to use the school canteen for lunch should register as soon as possible. Young people and staff login with their curricular username and password. Staff will work with pupils to resolve access issues next week. More information can be found here:

<https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/Schools-Catering/School-meals-pre-order-portal.aspx>

We strongly encourage all families to utilise the pre-order portal **but also politely request that those families not in receipt of free school meals opt for a packed lunch between Wednesday 12th and Friday 14th August.** This will afford catering and school staff appropriate time to co-ordinate the way in which meals can be distributed across the site.

There will be no catering provision at break time. As such, we ask that all pupils bring a snack to school that can be consumed during break.

COVID-19 Management

- Please do not send your child to school if they, or any of your household, have symptoms of COVID-19, please alert us to this immediately should this occur.
- Please arrange to pick your child up from school immediately if you are contacted to advise that they are symptomatic, and follow subsequent medical advice. Schools have to ensure that any child/young person who is symptomatic is taken home as soon as possible.

SQA Appeals

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the way in which parents/carers and young people conducted themselves yesterday when contacting school staff. While immensely proud of the achievements of our young people, we know that in some cases it will now be necessary to submit an appeal. For those young people who now need to complete paperwork prior to appeal, this will happen on Friday 14th August. In a small number of cases, S5/6 pupils may be invited into school on Thursday 13th if the result of the appeal impacts college or university entry this session.

We very much look forward to welcoming our pupils back to St. Joseph's. For a wide range of supporting information, please access the school level guidance which can be found here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/stjosephsacademy/uploads/sites/2043/2020/08/05075537/Re-Opening-Guidance-for-Pupils.pdf>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'J. Kane', written in a cursive style.

Mr Kane