**Our Ref:** LMCA/MMcK

**Date:**

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the recent communication from the Head of Education, I wish now to alert you to specific arrangements in regard to your child’s return to school. The whole staff team absolutely share the sentiment of being delighted to welcome our young people back to school.

**Date of Return of Pupils**

We are undertaking a soft-start as per the communication issued from dates 12-14th August. This will take the following format:-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date | Pupils to attend |
| Wednesday 12th August | S1 to Cumnock Academy S4 to Auchinleck Academy |
| Thursday 13th August | S2 to Cumnock Academy S5 to Auchinleck Academy |
| Friday 14th August | S3 to Cumnock Academy S6 to Auchinleck Academy |

Given this planned partial attendance of pupils, we would ask that any families for whom this causes significant difficulty, to please telephone the school and we will try to support this, bearing in mind that emergency critical childcare ceases on Thursday 6th August for Early Childhood Centres and Friday 7th August for school-aged children.

Following this soft-start, all pupils will be expected to return to school full-time on **Monday 17th August,** other than young people with ongoing health issues, quarantining or self-isolating.

**New School Day**

Many thanks to all who contributed to our consultation on the timings of our new school day. The new timings are as shown below. Please note in particular the slightly longer days Monday to Thursday and the shorter day on Friday.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monday to Thursday** | |
| 8.45 – 8.55 | PLP |
| 8.55 - 9.45 | Period 1 |
| 9.45 - 10.35 | Period 2 |
| **10.35 - 10.50** | **Interval** |
| 10.50 - 11.40 | Period 3 |
| 11.40 - 12.30 | Period 4 |
| 12.30 – 1.20 | Period 5 |
| **1.20 – 2.00** | **Lunch** |
| 2.00 - 2.50 | Period 6 |
| 2.50 - 3.40 | Period 7 |
| **Friday** | |
| 8.45 – 8.55 | PLP |
| 8.55 - 9.45 | Period 1 |
| 9.45 - 10.35 | Period 2 |
| **10.35 - 10.50** | **Interval** |
| 10.50 - 11.40 | Period 3 |
| 11.40 - 12.30 | Period 4 |
| **12.30** | **Lunch** |

**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 in both 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. Where pupils are dropped off at school by car, we respectfully ask that this is not directly at school gates to prevent entry areas becoming overcrowded. Clearly this will not be the case for young people with additional support needs who require to be dropped off in school proximity. Your child does not require a face covering for school transport, but is absolutely 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. Your school will also provide further information on pick-up and drop-off areas at the start and end of the day.

Please note that specific transport and drop- off times will be confirmed later this week

In accordance with government guidelines, parents will not be able to enter the school, and arrangements will be made with you directly should an emergency occur and you are required to come to collect your child.

**Catering**

Please note that pre-order system will be in place for young people in our both of our schools, Further details of school catering can be found at this link. <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/schoolmeals>.

I would very much appreciate it if you would support our pre-order system wherever possible to help us in ensure the efficient distribution of food to our young people and keep everyone as safe as possible.

Food will be pre-packed and will feature hot and cold options and pre-packed cutlery. No breakfast or break food will be available at the very start of term, but this will be under constant review and provision will be expanded in time as we begin to settle back to routine, so we ask that parents ensure that young people have access to breakfast and bring a snack, if needed, until further notice. We are happy to assist any parents or carers who may have difficulty with this. Please alert us if this is the case.

Pupils can continue to bring a packed lunch and we ask parents to work with us in actively encouraging young people to remain on the school site for lunch, as we are unable to supervise any provision made outside of school.

**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.

**Some Practicalities….**

In summary, we absolutely appreciate that this will be a return to school involving a huge mixture of both anxiety, but also indeed joy as young people see their friends and staff again. As a final helpful list to parents, can you please support us by:

* Reinforcing hygiene measures and social distancing with your child(ren).
* Having your child bring tissues to school to capture any coughs or sneezes.
* Ensuring your child does not bring unnecessary items to school.
* Working with your school in a positive way, even if things are difficult, we all want to help.
* Reinforcing positive relationships between children and our staff.
* Using our meal pre-order system and giving your child a break-time snack and breakfast.
* Not dropping children off directly at school gates (where possible), this will help us prioritise this space for young people with additional support needs who require this access.
* Understanding that we are not permitted to allow visitors to school buildings, other than in emergency or other exceptional circumstances.

I would like to end by thanking you all so much again for your support of your child’s learning. We simply cannot wait to welcome them back to school!

Best Wishes

Peter Gilchrist

Head of Barony Campus