

Dear Parent,

Please see below details of two recent Scottish Government announcements affecting schools. Both affect only senior phase pupils (S4, S5 and S6), although the information contained may be of interest to all parents.

Partial return of senior phase pupils:

As you will know from the media, there is to be a partial return of senior phase pupils from 22nd February to allow schools to complete practical assessments for SQA purposes (in addition to the vulnerable pupils and children of keyworkers who are currently attending Hubs). This partial return allows for only small groups of pupils in school at any one time, and will be timetabled in such a way as to avoid movement around the building. Pupils will be asked to follow strict hygiene measures, to wear face coverings and to maintain a full 2m social distance from other pupils and staff.

We are expecting further information from the Scottish Government later today which will allow us to finalise the arrangements for this partial return. Mr Fisher (Depute Headteacher) will email the parents of pupils in S4-6 on Monday with details of these arrangements. In the meantime, pupils who study the following subjects can (provisionally) expect to be invited to attend school to undertake practical assignment work in the coming weeks:

- Administration – National 5
- Art & Design – National 5 / Higher / Advanced Higher
- Computing – National 5 / Higher
- Design & Manufacture – National 5 / Higher
- Drama – National 5 / Higher / Advanced Higher
- Fashion & textiles – National 5 / Higher
- French – Higher
- German – National 5
- Graphics – National 5 / Higher
- Mandarin – Higher
- Music – National 5 / Higher / Advanced Higher
- Music technology – National 5
- Practical cookery – National 5 (S5 and S6 students only)
- Practical cake craft – National 5
- Practical woodwork – National 5 (S5 and S6 students only)
- Psychology – Higher
- Spanish - Higher

-

Covid testing in schools:

The Scottish Government is working with local authorities and schools to put in place a testing programme for staff and senior phase pupils (S4-6) in order to identify asymptomatic individuals in school environments at the earliest possible opportunity. Testing is encouraged, but is not compulsory.

This [letter for parents](#) and [fact sheet](#) provided by NHS Test & Protect outlines the testing programme in more detail, and these [frequently asked questions](#) contain some useful additional information.

Please note in particular the following points:

- Pupils who expect to be working entirely from home in the coming weeks should not participate in the scheme at this stage (i.e. pupils who are not required to complete internal assessments for SQA as part of the partial return on the 22nd February as described above).
- Participating pupils will be provided with three boxes, each containing three individual tests. This provides a total of 9 individual tests which will last approximately four and a half weeks.
- The kits are for home testing and tests should be undertaken twice per week at regular intervals (and ideally in the morning before attendance at school).
- Testing is **voluntary** and no one will be required to complete a test if they do not wish to, nor will pupils be prevented from attending school if they choose not to access testing through this scheme.
- Participants' test information is provided directly to NHS Test & Protect through the return portal.
- Testing should not be undertaken by anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 with a PCR test in the past 90 days.

Both you and your child should read the [privacy notice](#) provided by NHS Test & Protect, and the [consent form](#) that requires to be completed for each participating pupil. If you are happy for your child to participate in this scheme, you can submit your consent electronically by following this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKaf8QisLSFHnHNJzl-gCRhUM1JMREtRUzU4RIJGUUxFUUxTQzM1TjFXNC4u>

In order to minimise the number of pupils visiting the school to collect kits at any one time, it is important that pupils adhere to the attached [collection schedule](#). When collecting testing kits, pupils must remember to wear a face covering and maintain a 2m social distance at all times. **Please note that testing kits cannot be issued unless a consent form has been received.**

I am conscious that this is a lot of information, and may be difficult to follow. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you require any clarification or advice.

Finally, I should also like to take this opportunity to let you know of my intention to retire in September, and to thank you for your tremendous support and kindness over the years. I had hoped to tell pupils in person, but this will sadly not be possible in the current circumstances. The last 20 years of my career have been served at Williamwood High

School, and I cannot adequately express what a privilege it has been to work with such outstanding young people and such a supportive parent body. My sincere thanks to all of you.

Best wishes
Willie Inglis

William Inglis

Head Teacher

Williamwood High School