

Dear Parent,

I am delighted that we expect all secondary school pupils to be able to return to school full-time following the Easter break (subject to final confirmation by the First Minister next week). Although pupils are to return without physical distancing, a number of mitigations will continue to be put in place to reduce risk where possible. I have outlined some of these mitigations below. These are broadly the same as those in place during Term 1 and are already familiar to pupils. Year heads will also place full instructions for pupils on our yeargroup Google Classroom pages.

All pupils will return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Pupils should arrive at school in time for an 8.40am start as normal.

### **Timetable**

There will be no registration period; instead, pupils will immediately follow their normal timetable (these can be viewed on ParentPortal if forgotten/lost).

### **Health and Safety**

In order to reduce crowding, pupils will be asked to continue to use multiple entrances when they arrive at school each morning:

- Pupils in S1-3 should enter using the front entrance
- Pupils in S4 should enter using the maths corridor entrance
- Pupils in S5 and S6 should enter using the PE corridor entrance

Pupils will be instructed to use hand sanitiser on arrival and regularly throughout the day, in particular before and after breaks. Sanitiser will be provided at each entrance, in the social area and in all classrooms. Enhanced cleaning schedules will remain in place with an increased focus on 'touch points' such as door handles, toilets etc. The school is treated fortnightly with an electrostatic spray which coats all surfaces and effectively 'envelops' any virus.

Face coverings must be worn by staff and all pupils (S1 to S6) at all times in social areas, corridors and classrooms.

Classrooms have been arranged in rows rather than in groups, and pupils will be asked to sit in the same seat each time they attend a particular class. They will be asked to use a wipe to sanitise their desk area and equipment at the start of each lesson. Pupils should remember to bring the necessary equipment with them to avoid the need to borrow pens, pencils, calculators etc.

Outwith the classroom, pupils will be asked to walk on the left-hand side of the corridor. Stairs will operate on a one-way system between periods to reduce face to face crowding. During breaks, pupils will be asked to remain in their 'friendship bubbles' as far as possible and to spread out around the full school building. Our canteen staff will make arrangements to reduce queuing as much as possible at lunchtime by using separate locations for pre-ordered meals and designated hatches for different yeargroups. Pupils may prefer to avoid lunch queues altogether by bringing a packed lunch.

Contact with children and adults from outwith the school establishment will continue to be minimised; consequently, I would ask parents to contact pupil support or office staff by telephone rather than visiting the school (other than by pre-arranged appointment). Pupils may not leave the school grounds at intervals and lunchtimes.

### **Learning and Teaching**

Although pupils will follow the full curriculum, some activities may be modified slightly to reduce risk. In PE lessons for example, lessons will take place outdoors where possible and activities will be selected which minimise pupil-to-pupil contact. In practical classes such as science, drama or home economics pupils will be asked to work with the same partner(s) in each lesson where possible etc.

All work will continue to be posted on Google Classrooms to provide learning for any pupils who are absent or self-isolating, and to provide a useful revision resource.

Our supported study programme for pupils in examination years will operate as normal at the end of the school day. The supported study calendar is available on the school website and yeargroup Google Classroom pages.

### **Uniform**

Normal uniform should be worn and should be washed/cleaned as normal. There is no requirement to wash uniforms more frequently. As doors and windows will be open to maximise ventilation, pupils may wish to wear a jumper under their blazer. In order to maintain standards of uniform, this should if possible be a plain black jumper (without logos).

### **Pupil Attendance**

If children are at all unwell, they should remain at home and you should follow the relevant medical advice. Please telephone the school office in the normal way if your child is unwell, and provide an absence note when your child returns to school. If your child is tested for Covid-19 and the test result is positive, please telephone the school office without delay to inform us to allow contact tracing to be carried out.

If a child feels unwell or presents with any of the symptoms of Coronavirus during the course of the school day, we will ask that you collect your child as quickly as possible and arrange for your child to be tested. We have been asked to exercise a 'zero tolerance' approach to Covid-19 symptoms in school and will therefore err on the side of caution in reaching decisions about sending pupils home. Again, if your child tests positive for Covid-19, you should inform the school office immediately.

Pupils in the highest risk category, or those who have been shielding on medical advice, will require a personalised risk assessment. It is important that we are aware of this information. If your child falls into this category, and you have not already informed us, please email the school office to alert us. Please mark your email for the attention of Mr Muirhead who oversees first aid matters in the school.

### **Covid-19 Testing**

Lateral flow tests are available for any secondary school pupils who wish to use them. Tests were issued today to pupils in S1 and S2 for whom a completed consent form has been received. S3 pupils will receive their test kits tomorrow. Arrangements have been made for senior pupils who have run out of testing kits to collect a fresh supply on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April. If you require further information, please contact our school office who will be happy to help you.

### **Buses**

As you know, First Bus had been in the habit of providing additional buses at the beginning and end of the school day which drop off and pick up our pupils from the school car park. Please note that First Bus is no longer operating this service.

Whilst I would encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school where possible, I am conscious that many of you will choose to bring your child to school by car, especially in poor weather. Please try to drop off or pick up your child a short distance from the school to reduce this congestion if you can. If using the school car park, I would ask you to avoid stopping directly in front of the school building or in the disabled parking bays; instead you should use the drop-off zone on the left hand side of the car park. As there will be no buses, you are also welcome to use the bus lane (on the opposite side of the car park) as an additional drop-off/pick-up zone.

### **School Calendar**

Please note that the Scottish Government has added two additional in-service days to allow teachers to undertake the quality assurance required as part of the process of determining provisional awards for SQA. These additional in-service days will take place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Key dates for the remainder of the session will be as follows:

- Last day of school Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Reopen Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April
- May Day Holiday Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- In-Service Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (local elections)
- May Weekend Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- May Weekend Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021
- In-Service Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021
- In-Service Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021
- Last day of school Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021