



**Lourdes Secondary School**

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**Head Teacher**

Gerry McGuigan

GM/LM

Tuesday 9 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Return to School – Further Information**

As detailed in Friday's update all pupils will return to school at some point next week beginning on Monday 15th March with S5 and S6 only.

Pupils will generally attend mornings or afternoons and they will be given timetable information by the end of the day on Wednesday 10th March by Year Group Heads and Pastoral Care Staff through Teams.

Pupils who access their lessons through the Learning Zone will receive information from Miss Gaughan with regard to their arrangements. Miss Dolan will also be in touch to finalise transport arrangements for those who travel by taxi.

All pupils must remain in their allotted AM and PM slots. It is not possible to change these due to the significant requirement of schools to provide a safe and secure environment and to maintain a 2 metre distance between pupils. Pupils who unilaterally turn up for different sessions other than those allocated will unfortunately have to be sent home.

More detailed information regarding timetables will be given to pupils when they arrive in school on the day of their first attendance as detailed in Friday's newsletter for parents.

<b>Morning sessions timings</b>		<b>Afternoon sessions timings</b>	
S4, S5, S6 -	8.45am to 11.45am	S4, S5, S6 -	12.30pm to 3.30pm
S1, S2, S3 -	9.15am to 11.45am	S1, S2, S3 -	12.45pm to 3.15pm

All pupils will attend one teaching session each day. In addition, S4 on two days (Monday and Thursday) will attend for both sessions and will need to bring lunch with them. The Cafeteria will be open only for pupils in receipt of free school meals.

Pupils will be taught in one subject, by one teacher, for the duration of the session. They will not change class as they would in a normal timetable. To reduce movement and contact there will be no breaks out with the classroom (except to go to the toilet) during each session. Breaks may be given in the classroom and pupils should bring water/snacks if required.

All pupils will be required to be in full school uniform, to wear a face mask (medical exemptions excluded) and to bring their I-pad fully charged. Two metre social distancing will be in place at all times and the one-way system will be in operation. If possible, pupils should not arrive too early in school but should aim to arrive just before class starts. They should not gather in groups in the playground or social areas but should make their way directly to class.

Pupils attending PE should come to school in their PE kit – there will be no changing facilities and all PE will be outdoors.

The voluntary home COVID Testing Scheme will be available for all pupils who are coming into school regularly. Consent forms and tests can be collected along with a very detailed set of instructions from the school office.

The rationale for this model has the following aims:

- A maximum of 15 pupils in any one class
- To provide as full a curriculum as possible for as many pupils as possible. In a restricted model it is not possible to offer all children a full curriculum but we will provide as much as possible.
- To have all pupils attend school every day (for at least part of the day)
- To attempt to minimise risk and ensure the safety of pupils and staff (a full risk assessment has been completed for the return of staff and pupils). Teaching sessions of 3 or 2.5 hours eliminate the normal corridor movement of pupils greatly reducing the number of contacts for both pupils and staff.

Starting times for both mornings and afternoons have been staggered to further reduce pupil contact.

Pupils who attend for mornings only should leave the school at 11.45am or leave after accessing the Cafeteria for a school lunch. Pupils who attend for afternoon only can come into school during lunchtime from 12 noon onwards to access the Cafeteria for a lunch or arrive in time for afternoon class.

Thank you once again for all your support – we are all doing the very best we can for our children.

Best Wishes

Mr McGuigan  
Head Teacher