



Bellahouston Academy
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Head Teacher
Barry Mochan BA(Hons)

1st of April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Spring Break and Return to School on Tuesday the 20th of April

As you will be aware, Monday the 19th of April is an inset day, and pupils will not attend school. At the moment, we are planning to welcome our young people back to school on Tuesday the 20th of April at 8.50am, and - at the moment - expect that pupils will follow the same timetables which were used from August-December 2020. Should any Scottish Government advice issued before then lead us to amend these plans, I will be in touch over the break to ensure you are aware of any revised arrangements in good time. At the moment, I would like to remind you of the following:

- All young people (unless exempt) should bring a face covering to school and wear these when inside the school building, including when they are in class. All pupils who are exempt should ensure - if they have not done so already - that the school are aware of their exemption;
- All young people should ensure that they are fully aware of and follow the rules designed to keep safe those within our school community;
- All young people should bring their fully-charged iPad to school;
- All young people – should they wish to participate – will have access to Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing, and should see Ms O'Donnell in the school office if they intend to take part;
- If a pupil has a positive Covid-19 test, the school office should be made aware as soon as possible;
- S4-S6 pupils should ensure that they are fully aware of (and thoroughly prepare for) the assessments they will undertake during the first Formal Assessment Period from April 20th-April 30th.

Formal Assessment Periods

I wrote to you earlier in the week to detail our planning for Formal Assessment Periods for those in the Senior Phase. These Formal Assessment Periods will allow teachers to gather appropriate evidence for candidates undertaking National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher qualifications, and submit fair and accurate grades to SQA. Our planning involves two Formal Assessment Periods from April the 20th to April the 30th, and May the 17th to May the 25th.

Our decision to organise our assessments in this way is to ensure that our young people are well aware of the assessment requirements for each subject, and how these will be overtaken in the time remaining, and also to ensure that we set aside time when learning and the delivery of effective feedback (rather than assessment) can be our primary focus. Whilst it may be the case that some young people will have a number of assessments across a wide range of subject areas taking place within these Formal Assessment periods, I would encourage them to remember that these individual assessments are generally significantly shorter than a traditional "prelim" exam. In addition to this, many of the individual assessments (and particularly those





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undertaken in the April Formal Assessment Period) will cover only specific aspects of course content, rather than the full breadth of the course. I can reassure you that we have been careful to ensure that the volume of assessment our young people will undertake is reflective of SQA guidance; the assessment burden will be no greater than is required.

I realise that the last few months have been a challenging time for many of us, and I am sure that we all hope for a return to a more normal way of life as soon as is possible; on behalf of our staff, I wish to express my gratitude for the support we have had from parents/carers, and the engagement we have had from our pupils. I hope that you and your loved ones are able to have a restful break over the next few weeks, and that our young people return to school feeling refreshed and ready for the challenges which await them. I would also like to wish a very Happy Easter to those within our school community preparing to celebrate it, and a peaceful and blessed time to those who will shortly begin observing Ramadan.

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