



**Bellahouston Academy**  
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**Head Teacher**  
Barry Mochan BA(Hons)

19th of May 2021

Dear S4-S6 Parent/Carer,

### **S4-S6 Pupils: Learning From Home**

As you will be aware, our local area has recently experienced a rise in positive cases of Covid-19; this has obviously impacted on our school, and other nearby schools.

Those who have tested positive for Covid-19, and those who have been in close contact with anyone who has recently tested positive for Covid-19, must self-isolate for a period of 10 days. This has meant that some of our pupils have missed time at school; I know that this will have caused worry and uncertainty, particularly for those in S4-S6 who are currently undertaking assessments relevant to their SQA qualifications. Some of our pupils and their parents have communicated concerns that - should they miss a significant amount of days at school because of the need for self-isolation at this important time - young people may experience difficulties in producing assessment evidence which reflects their best work.

In agreement with Education Directorate, it has been decided that our S4-S6 Senior Phase pupils (and Senior Phase pupils from some other local Secondary Schools) will, from Monday the 24th of May until Friday the 11th of June, learn from home. They will attend school when:

- They are scheduled to undertake an assessment;
- They are invited by their teacher to attend a Supported Study session focusing on assessment preparation;
- They are invited to attend school to complete unfinished coursework or unit assessments.

It is hoped that this will lessen the potential for young people to have to self-isolate, as they are less likely to have had close contact in school with someone who has subsequently tested positive for Covid-19.

### **Arrangements For Learning From Home**

When learning from home, our Senior Phase young people can expect to follow their current timetable, and will have access to their teacher (through an online learning platform such as Teams or Google Classrooms) during each of the lessons on their existing timetable. Materials and resources will be also provided by their class teacher to guide work in preparing for assessments.

### **Independent Revision**

We will also make available a quiet space within school for young people to undertake independent revision. Some pupils may be more comfortable preparing for assessment in





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school, rather than at home. We would ask that young people make us aware of their need for such a space beforehand, so that we can ensure adequate rooming and staffing is available. More details on how pupils should make us aware of their intention to attend school for independent revision will be issued over the coming days.

### **Return to School**

At the moment, we expect to be able to welcome our S4 and S5 pupils back to school in the week beginning the 14th of June. We are in the process of planning a Leavers' Ceremony for our S6, and will issue details shortly on how we plan to enjoy such an event whilst complying with Covid-19 mitigations and restrictions. School leavers must return their school-issued iPad, along with the charger and any other accessories which belong to the school, before they leave Bellahouston Academy.

I am sorry that the recent increase in the rate of Covid-19 infection in our local area has meant that the return to school following Spring Break has been far from easy, and I understand that the arrangements above are unlikely to reflect the expectations we had when returning to school in April. However, I believe that these arrangements will alleviate the concerns our young people and their families have recently communicated about learning and assessments being disrupted by the possibility of self-isolation.

I will write to you again later this week to confirm further details regarding the arrangements within this letter. In the meantime, please get in touch if you have any questions. If you wish to discuss any issues relating specifically to your child, please get in touch with their Year Head DHT (S4 - Mrs Watt, and S5-S6 – Ms Cairns), or Pastoral Care Teacher to discuss.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Barry Mochan  
Headteacher  
Bellahouston Academy

