

Notre Dame High School

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KC/MF

24 June 2020

Dear Parent,

I write to further update you on the situation affecting pupils attending Notre Dame High School. Last week we circulated details regarding the proposed recovery model adopted by all Inverclyde Secondary schools.

Summary: Current advice is that ALL pupils return to school on all five days for the new term from August.

The Scottish Government has recently issued guidance that anticipates that schools will open for 100% of pupils in August. This means we expect that your child will be in school full time from the start of term.

We are issuing the groupings and days your child should attend school as **a precautionary measure just in case the Scottish Government advice changes at the last minute.**

We will communicate with you just before your child starts school to confirm the exact arrangements in place. Please be assured that the groupings are being issued as a contingency measure and will only be in place if absolutely necessary.

Model

As you know, pupils will return to school on 12 August 2020 and would have followed a blended learning model. In her recent letter to you, our Director of Education shared what this would have meant in practice for secondary pupils in Inverclyde. (See below).

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Group A	Group B	Group A	Group B	Group A
Week 2	Group B	Group A	Group B	Group A	Group B

Arrangements had been made for all pupils with surnames A-L to form Group A.

All pupils with surnames M-Z would form Group B.

This gave a split of almost exactly 470 pupils in each group.

If this model is required to operate at any time, it is not possible to deviate from the alphabetic split due to the fact that many classes and year groups are full.

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School website: <http://notredame.inverclyde.sch.uk>

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Physical Layout

Signage will be used around the building to keep pupils safe moving around the building – these comply with current restrictions to minimise transmission of the virus. We must be very aware of this continuing serious health risk and ask for your support in reinforcing that our young people must follow the guidance of staff when in classes, social areas and corridors. We have hand sanitiser stations around the School and expect that all pupils cooperate fully with maintaining the highest standards of hand hygiene.

The School Day

Pupils should enter and leave the building in the usual way in order to avoid congestion at certain points. On entry to the building, everyone must either wash their hands or use hand sanitiser. Pupils may be permitted to visit the toilet during class times as there will be a reduction in the number who can use the communal toilets at break times.

As far as possible, pupils will follow their normal timetable, but in order to minimise movement, we have decided to suspend Registration. This means that school will still start at **8:50am but pupils should go directly to their period 1 classes** where they will be registered as normal.

Reminder of Expectations

- There will be prominent signage in every classroom, corridor and social area to remind pupils of our expectations and I must stress that we expect our young people to act and behave in a responsible manner, following all advice and guidance, in order to minimise risk and keep everyone safe.
- Everyone is responsible for the cleaning of their own work stations. This means that pupils will be required to wipe down their desks/tables/keyboards etc. with antibacterial spray at the start of every lesson.
- Frequent handwashing is required throughout the day so pupils will be directed to wash their hands and/or be provided with hand sanitizer. These will also be located in key areas throughout the building.
- We will encourage pupils to make full use of their lockers to avoid excess materials like bags, jackets etc. being taken to classrooms.

I would like to thank you in anticipation of your support in these very important matters and reassure you that the health and safety of all is a key priority when we return to school.

Notre Dame High School has been affected heavily by Coronavirus and we look forward to the process of restoring our school community to full strength, supporting our young people to achieve the highest standards.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K. Couttie

Mrs K Couttie

Head Teacher

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