

Dear Parent,

You will have received notification on Friday from Education Headquarters that our pupils are due to commence a phased return to School buildings as of Monday 15th March.

Some Senior pupils have been attending SQA practical subjects over the past few weeks and have been able to do so safely. The proposal for the next phase builds further on these arrangements.

I should say first, that pupils will return fully after the Easter Holiday (subject to continued reduced cases of Covid '19).

As of Monday 15th March, we will adopt a similar pattern to the one used in August. Pupils will be split alphabetically by their surname:-

Group A - Surnames A-L

Group B - Surnames M-Z.

The pattern will be as follows:

Day	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Monday	Senior Phase Group A	Senior Phase Group B	Senior Phase Group A
Tuesday	Senior Phase Group B	Senior Phase Group A	Senior Phase Group B
Wednesday	Senior Phase Group A	Senior Phase Group B	Senior Phase Group A
Thursday	Senior Phase Group B	Senior Phase Group A	Senior Phase Group B
Friday	Senior Phase Group A	Senior Phase Group B	

The days for S1 – S3 will be:-

Day	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Monday			S1,S2 and S3 Group A
Tuesday			S1,S2 and S3 Group B
Wednesday	S1,S2 and S3 Group A		
Thursday	S1,S2 and S3 Group B	S1,S2 and S3 Group A	
Friday		S1,S2 and S3 Group B	

In line with Scottish Government Guidance, we have prioritised Senior Phase pupils but S1,S2 and S3 pupils will have one day in school each week also. (See Appendix 1 for dates).

One important difference during this period is that all pupils will have to maintain 2m social distancing. I would ask that you discuss this with your son / daughter as we will still have up to 470 young people arriving at school and moving around at breaks and lunch. We must be aware of the increased risk of this new transmissible variant as we return to classes. We will try to minimise risk by staggering breaks and lunch but pupils need to play their part by staying apart. School Transport will run as normal (social distancing limit is reduced to 1m on transport).

We have also introduced Lateral Flow Testing for all Senior Phase pupils and for staff. Again, I ask for your support in encouraging your son / daughter to participate in the Testing Programme as if we all do so, it will significantly reduce the need to self-isolate and will enable us to remain at school. This has gone extremely well with the pupils doing SQA practical subjects and I am very grateful to these families for their support. Consent forms were issued by email but can be picked up at the School Office. Please also note that if your son / daughter tests positive, the protocol is that you book a PCR test (at a test centre) and the whole family self-isolates until the result is known.

A further new mitigation is that staff and pupils must now wear a face mask at all times (this applied to all pupils previously to when moving around the building and at all times including classes, for S4-6). Could I ask you to provide pupils with a re-usable face mask if possible to enable us to keep costs down? This is also important for ecological reasons.

When pupils are on their alternate days and not in school, they should still follow their remote learning programme. Obviously, the format of this may alter as staff will now be back in school full time and working with the half classes throughout the week.

Consortium pupils will remain in their base school until after Easter – details to follow.

This has been a very difficult time for all families. The pupils have shown fantastic resolve in being able to adapt to this situation. We will support them all in any way we can to get back to in-class learning and to work towards the end of June deadline for SQA Qualifications using the Alternative Certification Model that we have been working on. We will arrange to ‘meet’ with S4-6 parents to discuss this more fully and detailed information re assessment will be issued thereafter.

The Summer Term will look very different for us as there will obviously be no exam leave and the term will run right up to the 23rd June when we stop for the Summer Holiday. We must use this term as an opportunity to make up for the time we have lost since January and this will help pupils to move forward to the next stage in August whatever that might be.

We will issue further information for each stage, year group by year group, as regards options, transitions so that pupils are on track and fully prepared.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and cooperation. It is very much appreciated. We pray that we can put this situation behind us very soon.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Couttie
Head Teacher

APPENDIX 1

Date	Senior Phase Group (S4, S5 and S6)	S1, S2 and S3 Group
Monday 15/03/21	A-L	
Tuesday 16/03/21	M-Z	
Wednesday 17/03/21	A-L	A-L
Thursday 18/03/21	M-Z	M-Z
Friday 19/03/21	A-L	
Monday 22/03/21	M-Z	
Tuesday 23/03/21	A-L	
Wednesday 24/03/21	M-Z	
Thursday 25/03/21	A-L	A-L
Friday 26/03/21	M-Z	M-Z
Monday 29/03/21	A-L	A-L
Tuesday 30/03/21	M-Z	M-Z
Wednesday 31/03/21	A-L	
Thursday 01/04/21	M-Z	
Friday 02/04/21	Good Friday (HOLIDAY)	Good Friday (HOLIDAY)