



Notre Dame High School

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KC/MF

31 March 2021

Dear Parent,

I have held off issuing this letter regarding the arrangements for the Summer Term to ensure that you receive the most up to date information.

We are planning for all pupils to return to full time schooling from Monday 19 April 2021. We expect to remain in Level 4 for w/c 19 April, but hope to confirm that from the 26 April we will move into a lower level. Education HQ will confirm the full return the week before school begins. Please check your email for this communication. We will also highlight on our Facebook (ndhs1).

On our return, there will be no requirement for social distancing between pupils, but we would like to encourage this whenever possible, especially in the Senior Phase. The pupils responded so positively to the additional requirements this Term and are to be commended for their approach.

Given that school transport remains viewed as an 'extension of the school estate' social distancing is not essential but again will be encouraged between pupils on school transport. All pupils will require to wear a face mask (unless exempt.)

Staff will be required to maintain 2m distance from pupils and other adults as before.

All pupils will be required to wear masks at all times inside buildings as now other than when they are eating or drinking or if they are exempt e.g. in classrooms, in communal areas and when moving about the school. There has been a huge increase in those bringing their own mask – we are very grateful for your support in this regard.

All school staff and secondary aged learners i.e. all pupils from S1-S6, are encouraged to participate in the twice weekly lateral flow testing programme. **A further letter will follow to all S1-S3 parents (headed Test and Protect) and a Consent form will be attached to this.**

In the new term, Senior phase pupils **can** attend college for practical work but may wish to confirm with Mrs McDonald DHT, on 19 April.

Contacts of positive cases should now get a full covid test – previously direct contacts were asked to self-isolate and only get a test if they developed symptoms – requiring a test is a change to previous advice.

Pupils on the shielding list should not attend school in areas at level 4 or under lockdown. You may require to consider this from 19-26 April if your child falls into this category.

Unfortunately, whilst in level 4 restrictions around indoor PE remain in place. Inverclyde figures are very low at the moment and we have to hope that this will help us when Scottish Government assess levels. Caution during the Easter holiday will help also.

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Consortium Arrangements for Senior pupils: Schools will work together to re-start face to face consortium classes where safe and appropriate. For some courses, the remote learning offer has been working well so a blended model may be in place to minimise unnecessary travel. Schools will communicate directly with all young people involved in consortium to ensure they are able to access all elements of the learning and assessments while maintaining a safe learning environment for all involved.

Reporting positive cases over Easter holiday

Can we ask that all parents send any information re positive cases relating to pupils to Education HQ over the Easter break. Please either call this in on 01475 71 2824 or email to:
covid.educationhq@inverclyde.gov.uk

Additional in-service days

You will see from the letter issued yesterday, that all secondary schools in Scotland have been given an extra two in-service days next term to support school staff in the process of finalising assessments relating to the SQA process across the Senior Phase. In Inverclyde these will be on:

Tuesday 4 May 2021 and Thursday 10 June 2021

Primary Schools **will** be open on these days so younger siblings should attend school as normal.

The In-service day already scheduled for 1 June 2021 will also go ahead. This was an existing date and applies to both Primary and Secondary Schools.

Education HQ issued a very important document on the Alternative Certification Model (often referred to as the ACM) earlier this week. We will issue a short summary of this document also. This outlines the procedures that schools have put in place to enable us to certify the pupils' work outwith the exam procedures that normally operate. Please check your junk folder if you have not received this document – contact the school if unable to locate this.

Thank you for your support of Notre Dame High School over the most difficult term – all staff are very grateful for your patience in helping pupils with remote learning and responding to all our communications and amended requirements often at short notice. Pupils have shown fantastic resolve and are an inspiration to us all.

Yesterday we recorded a Mass for Mr Gerry McHugh's First Anniversary which will be shared on Sunday April 11 2021 (see ndhs1). We still feel his loss very acutely, but have been able to remember him fondly in so many ways over the past year. During this Mass we will dedicate our school values to Gerry and this way he will live on within our school as well as our hearts.

Again, I wish you and your family a Happy Easter and look forward to a new term with all staff and pupils back in our building.

Yours faithfully



K Couttie
Head Teacher

