**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

**Head Teacher: Calum Johnston BED (Hons)**

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**Date: 16th February 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will no doubt have heard that earlier this afternoon that the First Minister confirmed that from 22nd February 2021 that ‘some’ senior pupils will be able to return to school to undertake essential work in some practical subjects. She also announced that further details would follow about a more significant return to school in the near future. I hope this update provides you with a sufficient summary of today’s updates.

**Pupils in S1/6.**

The First Minister today announced that she would further review arrangements to further reopen school to all pupils on Tuesday 2nd March. She noted that if scientific data allowed this then it would be unlikely to occur before Monday 15th March 2021. This clearly means that remote learning is with us for at least the next 4 school weeks.

**Pupils in S4/5/6**

Over the past few weeks a number of alterations have been made by the SQA to some courses essentially meaning that pupils are no longer required to complete all coursework that would be expected of them in a ‘normal’ school year. For example, the assignment section of science courses has now been removed thus eliminating the need for pupils to return to school to complete science experiments which would normally contribute towards their overall grade. Our staff are fully aware of these changes and have been tailoring remote learning to suit the revised demands of the SQA courses.

Furthermore, on Friday 12th February it was announced that Physical Education, upon senior pupils returning, should only take place outdoors until further notice. We were not expecting this which means that we are now reviewing our existing plans for all pupils studying PE who are going to be assessed in their National 3/4/5 or Higher courses in Badminton, Basketball, Trampoline, Figure Skating and Dance.

In short, today’s announcement means that only pupils studying the following subjects will now be invited to return to school at specifically identified times over the next few weeks.

* Practical Woodwork
* Spanish
* Computing
* Administration
* Music
* Drama
* Art and Design

All other pupils will continue to study remotely at home under existing arrangements.

As previously intimated we are only permitted to allow between 5-8% of our school roll into the building at any one time which for us amounts to no more than 52 pupils at any given time. Classes therefore will have to be staggered to allow us to be compliant with these rules. Some subjects will invite pupils in for time slots of 2/3 hours whilst others will be invited in for the full school day. Where pupils are invited into school for the full day catering arrangements will be available from the school canteen and morning breaks and lunchtime will be provided. This may be staggered to avoid pupils in the school HUB.

Pupils who are to be invited to return to school will be sent an email from either their class teacher or the faculty head this afternoon or tomorrow morning at the latest and this email will contain the information about dates and times when they should come to school. Parents/carers will also be sent a text message informing you of the identified sessions for your child over the next 4 school weeks. Your support in encouraging all pupils to attend their identified school sessions is greatly appreciated and our other school staff (non-practical subjects) are aware of who will therefore be unable to study remotely during these times. Further information on Physical Education will follow in due course and by the end of the week at the latest.

In order to facilitate the safe return of staff and pupils you will also have read my recent communications about Lateral Flow Testing Devices.

I can now confirm that the following arrangements are in place for pupils to come to school to collect their Lateral Flow Test kits. *Please note that if a pupil is invited to come to school for more than one subject then they only need to collect one set of test kits and can choose which slot to attend.*

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| **Subject.** | **Collection time from school main entrance.** |
| Practical Woodwork | 10-10.30am Friday 19th February 2021 |
| Spanish, Computing, Administration | 10.30-11am Friday 19th February 2021 |
| Music, Drama, Art and Design | 11am – 12pm Friday 19th February 2021 |
| Physical Education | Details to be confirmed. |

All pupils are asked to wear appropriate face coverings when they come to school to collect their test kits and when pupils do return face coverings will be mandatory for all pupils when inside the school building. Please remember that whilst blank consent forms will be available for pupils on Friday that pupils under 16 are required to have their form signed by their parent/carer. Pupils can come to school on their own to collect test kits but these will not be issued unless consent forms are signed by parents/carers for under 16’s.

2m social distancing rules will also be strictly in place both for collection of test devices and during time in classes. Pupils must enter the school building at the main entrance and proceed directly to the faculty they are scheduled to work in. We are strongly advised that senior pupils should not mix with pupils who have been coming to school daily since January so the senior toilets and canteen will be used for returning senior pupils and the junior canteen and toilets for pupils accessing the daily school HUB provision.

I hope that you find this information useful and if I can be of any help in answering any questions please just contact me or the relevant member of staff using the usual channels.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy