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Date: 14/08/2020



Education and Families

Kenneth Ross
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Dear Parent / Carer

I wanted to send you some information about our first three days back at school. Standing at the gates on the first days to welcome the children and the young people back was really quite an emotional experience for us all.

I would also like to thank you very much because every single young person in our school:

- Was happy to be here (although one or two pretended otherwise)
- Arrived on time
- Was in school uniform
- Knew where to go
- Followed the safety protocols 100% with no fuss
- Behaved impeccably throughout the day
- Looked out for each other

So, in recognition of all of your achievements we are sending you the Cardinal Newman High School Honorary Teacher Certificate.

PE and Practical Subjects

Next week (17 August) young people should bring PE kit to school in their school bags. We have identified six areas where they will be able to change safely before and after PE. Teachers have designed a PE programme that meets government guidelines, but still allows young people to play, exercise and build healthy lifestyles.

Work is still ongoing on other practical subject areas to ensure that we can provide as much of the pre lockdown curriculum as possible, and develop other types of teaching and learning which we can safely provide.

The weather has been a bit of a bonus on our first days back. Bad weather will undoubtedly present challenges to what we currently have in place.

Timetable

We are now delivering our curriculum model over a two-week rotating period. Basically, every young person has a double period each day of their "even" subjects, (2, 4 and 6). The following week they have double periods of the "odd" subjects, (1, 3 and 7). Period 5 on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday is always a single period. The model allows us to deliver all pupil entitlements every two weeks.



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This model allows us to follow health and safety guidelines including:

- Less movement around the school
- Longer blocks of teaching
- Less 'changeovers' at the ends of periods
- Able to keep distinct groups together for longer periods

Morning Interval / Lunchtime

We were a bit worried about the new arrangements for pupils to pay for and order food. Happily, this all seemed to work very smoothly with no problems reported. Importantly, everyone who wanted lunch was able to have one. You should receive another text today (Friday 14 August) from NLC providing further instructions on onboarding codes. You may already have received this by text. It was also sent to every pupil GLOW email address.

Fusion App

This allows all children and young people to pre order lunch and any snack for morning break (before 9.30am).

Any problems accessing the online payment service let us know.

Leaving school at lunchtime

We have been encouraging pupils to stay in school at lunchtime whenever possible, particularly new S1 pupils. We are unable to prevent young people from leaving the school premises if they want to purchase their lunch elsewhere or go home for lunch. If you wish your child to remain in school at lunchtime you should reinforce this at home. If you let us know we will do our best to ensure your child remains on the premises at lunchtime.

Young people need to follow the safety measures in place when entering shops and premises.

No young person is allowed to leave the school during interval.

Parent visits to the school

The advice from the Scottish Government is that all visitors to schools should be discouraged. This includes parents and carers. Please do not come into the school buildings (or school yards) unless there is an absolute necessity for you to do so. If you do need to enter the school building, face coverings must be worn as well as contact details provided at reception. Any parents/carers in school need to socially distance.

We are keen to see you back in the building as soon as possible. The school also belongs to you. As soon as we are able to lift any part of this restriction we will let you know.

If you do need to speak to us for any reason – telephone reception. We will be happy to help.

Important Reminder

All the arrangements we have put in place are aimed at reducing risk. It is very important that no young person attends a school if they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus (a new cough, a fever, or a change in or loss of taste or smell).

If you or your child have any symptoms you must immediately self-isolate and book a test via the NHS Inform website. You must also inform the school immediately if you have symptoms and of the result of any test. This is really important.

Mr Ross

Mr Ross continues to recover at home and we hope to see him back here with us before too long.

School Chaplain

Fr Denny was in school yesterday and we began planning our priorities for the spiritual life of the school for the coming year. We will let you know about dates and any events as soon as we are able to have them in the school.

Vote of thanks

As you know, I have thanked teachers and other school staff over the last months for their hard work and professionalism since the health crisis began.

I would like to publicly recognise another group of colleagues who have been amazing but do not always get the recognition they deserve:

- Our cleaners
- Our janitors
- Our catering staff

They come to their work early in the morning and are last to leave the building in the evenings. They do their work quietly and professionally with no fuss. They keep the building safe and they always go the extra mile to ensure the young people are safe and looked after. I think they deserve all of our thanks – and more.

With every best wish.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R Smith
Acting Head Teacher