

Our Ref: RS/AMCG
Your Ref:
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Date: 05.03.2021



Education and Families
Kenneth Ross
Head Teacher
Cardinal Newman High School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the announcement by the First Minister on Tuesday of this week of a phased return to school for all secondary pupils from 15 March.

This builds on the Phase 1 return to school, which commenced on 22 February and included limited numbers of senior phase learners invited into school to carry out essential practical work for national qualifications.

I am currently working with colleagues to ensure a rationale and clear purpose for the young people who are coming into school from 15 March and to ensure we make the most effective use of any in-school time.

Our plans will maximise the number of young people who can be in the building while maintaining remote learning for others.

Our plans will also prioritise in-school time for young people in S4-S6 working towards national qualifications.

Blended learning models of the type we are now being asked to implement are complex to operate; particularly as we need to maintain 2m physical distance between young people and teachers at all times.

To illustrate the challenge: A single English class of 30 children in a single classroom with a single teacher in our normal model will become 7/8 children (depending on the size of the classroom) in 3 or 4 separate classrooms requiring 3 or 4 teachers. The demands on physical space and other resources, most importantly the number of teachers we have available in the building, are many and complex.

I know you will be keen to know the specific details of our phased return arrangements for each year group and how they affect your child as soon as possible. I will write to you again by Thursday 11 March with this information and with an update on the health and safety guidelines for the phased return to school.

From 15 March, we will continue with our current arrangements for vulnerable and key worker children. They should attend school as normal.

Please be assured that we will do everything we can within the published guidelines to deliver a model for teaching and learning which best suits the needs of the young people in Cardinal Newman High School.

We know that any return to school is also important for young people's health and wellbeing and we look forward to seeing them back in school from 15 March.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

With every best wish

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Robert Smith
Acting Head Teacher



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Until 2021

