

Our Ref: RS / AMCG
Your Ref:
Contact: Robert Smith
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Date: 26.03.2021



Education and Families

Kenneth Ross
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Dear Parent / Guardian

Phased Return to School

- Our phased return arrangements from 15 March have worked very well and I want to thank you for your help in ensuring young people attend on their scheduled days. Attendance has been very good.
- It has been great to see all of our young people back. I know they have enjoyed seeing their teachers and classmates and have benefitted from some in school teaching and learning.
- I also wanted to thank you for your support with school uniform. Almost every young person has attended school in full uniform. I know from looking around the school just how rapidly some of the children have grown during this latest closure and uniforms may no longer fit! Some of you have been in touch to let us know that you have ordered or plan to purchase new uniform for after Easter. Thank you. If we can help with school uniform please contact us.
- Engagement with the online learning has remained high – please continue to encourage your child to follow their online timetable until Thursday 1 April.
- Last day of school before Easter holidays is Thursday 1 April – normal closing time. We reopen Monday 19 April.
- Easter School for S4/5/6 – we have planned a **Senior Phase Virtual Easter School** which will run from Tuesday 6 until Friday 9 April. We will send you the Easter School timetable next week with joining instructions for all the classes/levels.
- We are planning for a full return to school for all pupils on Monday 19 April.

Senior Phase Pupils – SQA Provisional Award Road Map in Cardinal Newman High School

- **Senior Phase pupils return full time to school on Monday 19 April.** Young people will focus on developing the skills and knowledge they need for the assessments / evidence gathering which will take place in May. Young people will have conversations with their class teachers, pupil support teachers and year head to ensure they have all of the information they need in advance of any assessments.
- **It is important that you are aware of your child's Working Grades** across all of their subjects. This is the grade we currently estimate your child to be achieving. This may change after all of the evidence



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has been gathered and moderated. We recently sent you full reports for all S4/5/6 pupils which contain their Working Grades for all of their subjects. Please refer to the reports for further information. We will send you a copy of your child's Working Grades week beginning 26 April.

- It is vitally important that young people in S4/5/6 continue to work hard to consolidate or improve their Working Grades. They should **begin now to prepare for evidence gathering and assessments by study and revision, past paper completion, engaging with the online learning** and associated tasks etc. If any young person needs any help on what they need to study or what their next steps should be, they should contact their class teacher, guidance teacher or year head either in person next week when they are in school or using Microsoft Teams.
- **4 May until 24 May 2021 - evidence gathering.** We have planned an assessment timetable for all young people in senior phase. This will allow all subject departments to administer assessments a maximum of three times if required. The assessment timetable also allows time for young people to undertake any necessary practical assessments (e.g. music, modern language, hospitality etc.) and ensures that no young person is asked to undertake more than one assessment each day. We will send you a copy of the assessment timetable next week. Young people will be given a paper copy of the assessment timetable when they are in school next week and an explanation of how the timetable will operate. We will upload the assessment timetable to all Microsoft Teams.
- We are currently setting up a dedicated **SQA Qualifications 2021 page on the school website and an email address (sqaawards21@cardinalnewman.n-lanark.sch.uk)** to provide you with information and for you to ask any questions you might have. This will be operational after the Easter Holidays.
- Throughout April, May and June we will be developing and agreeing subject and whole school quality assurance procedures to ensure our systems are as robust and fair as possible. Teachers will also be involved in moderation processes with other teachers and schools across the local authority. **Please note remaining 3 INSET Days on Thursday 6 May; Monday 7 June; Tuesday 8 June.**
- During May and early June, the **SQA will request, review and give feedback on samples of assessment evidence from our school.** We will check our Provisional Grades against the SQA feedback.
- Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 June (INSET Days) – we will **finalise the quality assurance of our Provisional Grades.**
- 21-24 June – We will write to all **Senior Phase pupils and parents with Provisional Grades** for each National Qualification. Parent and carers can use the school website and dedicated email address to ask questions or seek clarification.

Holy Week

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday and we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem followed by his last supper, crucifixion and death just a few days afterwards. Like last year, we will be unable to mark Holy Week as we would like but we will be having Holy Week prayers each morning and we have prepared a special Holy Week online assembly for use by all classes and year groups on Holy Thursday. Please remember all of us here in Cardinal Newman High School in your Easter prayers.

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

Every best wish for you and your families



Robert Smith

Acting Head Teacher