

Our Ref: RS / LMCL
Your Ref: Parent / Carer 160421
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Education and Families

Kenneth Ross
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Dear Parent / Carer

I wanted to send you some information about our return to school on Monday 19 April.

All young people return to school full time on Monday 19 April. We are delighted to welcome them back and look forward very much to seeing them back with their teachers and classmates.

Timetable

Week commencing 19 April is week 1 on the timetable.

Social Distancing – Secondary Schools in Scotland

From Monday 19 April, there is no requirement for 2m distancing between pupils. Teachers and other adults should still maintain a 2m distance between themselves and other adults, and themselves and pupils, where possible.

We have also been asked to:

- Discourage physical contact
- Mitigate against congregation during breaks and when moving from class to class and school to home

These last two measures are obviously more difficult but we would ask you to help us reinforce the message.

Face Coverings in Secondary Schools

All secondary pupils (S1-6) must continue to wear face coverings at all times in the school building (with the exception of practical PE activities and when eating and drinking).

All young people should wear face coverings when they are travelling on dedicated school transport. There is no longer a requirement for physical distancing on school transport.

Parents and carers should also wear face coverings for pick up and drop off at school, even if this is outside the school perimeter.

We appreciate that some young people will be unable to wear a face covering for good reasons and that position will be respected.



Young people should ensure they:

- bring their own face coverings to school and not share these with others;
- store these safely in a washable, sealable bag or container when not in use;
- wash reusable face coverings in hot water at the end of each day; and
- safely and hygienically dispose of disposable face coverings after use.

Hygiene Practices

We will continue to promote personal hygiene in our young people. Frequent hand washing or sanitising, for a minimum of 20 seconds, should take place at regular intervals throughout the school day. Particular focus is given to before and after breaks, eating or drinking and entering/leaving the building/classroom.

PE

All young people can now participate in outdoor contact and non-contact physical activities. Indoor PE is still not permitted under current guidelines.

As we are currently not using changing rooms young people should come to school wearing their PE kit on days they are timetabled to have PE. They should wait until they get home to change. They should wear full uniform on other days. There will be dedicated spaces for young people to safely store their bag and other belongings during PE activities.

Bad weather will undoubtedly present challenges to our plans for PE – when the weather prevents outdoor PE we will provide indoor health and wellbeing activities as an alternative.

I will keep you up to date on future changes to PE guidelines.

School Uniform

Thank you for ensuring your child continues to come to school in full uniform. In the weeks before Easter all young people were in full uniform every day and they looked great. As soon as PE guidelines allow, we will ask all young people to attend every day in full uniform. If we can help with school uniform please contact the school.

Fusion App – School Canteen

Young people can now pre order lunch and snacks from Monday 19 April using their app. If you have any problems accessing the online payment service let us know.

If pupils are going offsite at lunchtime, then they should follow the rules for wider society and should sanitise on leaving and returning. Young people need to follow the safety measures in place when entering local shops and other premises.

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

Parent visits to the school (including playground)

The latest advice from the Scottish Government is that all visitors to schools should continue to be discouraged. This includes parents and carers. Please do not come into the school buildings (or schoolyard) 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 belongs to you. As soon as we are able to lift these restrictions we will let you know and we very much look forward to welcoming you back into the building.

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

Important Reminder – Young people with symptoms of COVID19

All the arrangements we have put in place are aimed at reducing risk. It is very important that no young person attend 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 PCR test via the NHS website. You must also inform the school immediately if you have symptoms and of the result of any test.

Extension of Asymptomatic Testing (LFD Testing) for S1-3

The extension of LFD testing for all S1-3 pupils begins after the Easter break. Please refer to the information I sent you previously or to the school website if you wish to take part in the asymptomatic testing programme.

Thank You

I want to thank all of our parents and carers for your patience and understanding during the school closure. I also want to thank you on behalf of all the teachers and staff here in Cardinal Newman High School for your very kind words and messages of encouragement and praise for our online learning programme and for our efforts to continue to support all of our young people.

We very much hope for and look forward to a normal, safe and productive term from now until summer.

With every best wish for you and all the family

Mr Robert Smith

Acting Headteacher