

Our Ref: RS/AMCG
Your Ref:
Contact: Robert Smith
Tel: 01698 274944
E-mail: enquiries@cardinalnewman.n-lanark.sch.uk
Date: 15/06/2020



Education and Families

Kenneth Ross
Head Teacher
Cardinal Newman High School
Main Street
Bellshill ML4 3DW
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Cardinal Newman High School – Update to Parents and Carers Monday 15 June 2020

In addition to the attached letters from the Executive Director Education and Families and Councillor Frank McNally Convenor of Education and Families Committee at North Lanarkshire Council, which they have asked me to send you, I wanted to provide you with an update on some of the work which we have been doing so far this month in preparation for your children returning to school in August.

I should say at the start of this update that all of our planning for the return to school in August is based on the current health and safety guidance and the associated measures, which we have had to put in place, and also assuming them still to be in place in August. As you know health guidance and advice has changed significantly since lock down measures began in March 2020. This advice may not be the same in August as it is now currently in June. Therefore, I would ask you to read and note the following information with that clearly in mind.

Week beginning Monday June 1

The senior leadership returned full time to the school building on Monday June 1. We have been planning for the safe return to school of all colleagues in June, for groups of new S1 pupils in June for our transitions programme, and for all of our young people on a modified blended learning timetable from August 2020. We are carrying out associated risk assessments, and agreeing the appropriate health and safety measures, which need to be in place.

Week beginning Monday June 8

Teachers and other school staff returned to school week beginning Monday June 8. Teachers were delighted to be back physically in the building, and to have opportunities to plan together for the safe return of all pupils in August 2020.

We have had a range of meetings with principal teachers and subject department colleagues to outline our priorities for August and teachers are now working hard to put those priorities in place.

There are ongoing planning meetings scheduled for weeks beginning 15 and 22 June 2020.

Week beginning Monday June 15



We have invited targeted groups of our new S1 pupils to visit the school and to meet key colleagues involved in our 'enhanced' transitions programme.

Teachers and other colleagues will be meeting targeted groups of children to provide them with the support and reassurance they need before their 'big move to high school' in August. We have been working closely with our associated primary schools and with the Primary 7 children and their families before and throughout lockdown, using a whole range of online tools and other media platforms. Our plans for the next two weeks will firstly, allow the children an opportunity to get out of the house, come to Cardinal Newman High School and meet some of their new teachers, ask questions about the issues which are important or perhaps worrying them – and maybe even give you some brief time to yourselves!

Enhanced transition meetings and visits will take place every day from **Tuesday 16 June through Tuesday 23 June**. We are confident that the programme, though necessarily shorter, will still be exciting for the young people involved and will be an experience that they and their parents will appreciate. Detailed plans of the visits have been issued to the children, parents and carers involved.

In addition to the enhanced transition programme, and following discussions with parents, we have now put appropriate health and safety measures in place to allow all primary 7 pupils an opportunity to come to the school for a 1-hour visit. We think this is very important, it is something we are delighted to do, and we have now agreed a programme with teachers and other partners to allow this to happen. The programme is not as comprehensive as we would wish, and is different to the experience we normally offer. It does however allow all children an opportunity, if they are able to accept, to come and meet us in person. Our primary colleagues have kindly issued the invitation to all Primary 7 parents and carers on our behalf and summarised information is set out below:

Friday 19 June

9.30am – St. John Paul II Primary School
11am - Holy Family Primary School
12.30pm - Sacred Heart Primary School
2pm - St. Gerard's Primary School

Detailed information about the visits has been sent to Primary 7 parents and carers.

If you would like any more information about our transition plans or indeed anything else, please contact us at cnwebteam@cardinalnewman.n-lanark.sch.uk or enquiries@cardinalnewman.n-lanark.sch.uk. These links can also be found in the tab "Our School" on the school website. You will receive a prompt response and we will do everything we can to resolve any issues you might have.

Some parents have already contacted us to thank us for the invitation but to say that they are unable to accept for a variety of reasons mostly associated with the current health crisis. If your child is unable to accept the invitation please do not worry. We understand this and we will make sure that if you have a child who is beginning their secondary schooling in S1 this August you will receive all of the information you need. We will send this to you.

Teaching and Learning from August 2020

We are working on our own school plans to deliver the blended teaching and learning model from August 11 referred to in the letters from the Executive Director and the Convenor of the Education and Families Committee. This will mean a mix of in-school teaching together with home and online learning. That effectively means that in Cardinal Newman High School, most of our pupils will be offered a partial in-school timetable, equivalent to a minimum of two days per week, supplemented by online digital learning. Specific year groups will attend for at least 2 days per week. As an example, this could mean S1-3 on Mondays and

Tuesdays, S4-6 on Wednesdays and Thursdays with Fridays perhaps identified for additional work with specific year groups. I offer this as an example. Consultation is still ongoing as to the model which best suits young people and you their parents and carers in the current conditions.

Whatever model is finally agreed, it will need to take account of the current physical distancing guidelines, which means we are not able to accommodate the normal number of children we would have in school every day.

We are working on a range of timetabling options, which assume specific year groups in school for shorter periods and over fewer days, possibly with staggered start, end and break times.

I know this will be challenging for all of us and will have implications for you as parents and carers. Be assured that we have specific plans in place to accommodate whatever model is agreed. I will send you the specific details; days, year groups, start and finish times, and importantly the curriculum offer, as soon as the plans are finalised. This will be before the end of term on June 24 in time for the August 2020 start date.

I note that the Executive Director in one of his letters to you sets out that; *“we hope to enlist the support of the members our representative parent groups for the approach we are advocating, which is grounded in clear national guidance and the professional advice of our own central officer teams.”*

If you as a Cardinal Newman High School parent or carer would like to contribute your own general opinion, a particular view or preference for any proposed model, or its implications for you and your family, please let us know using the links provided.

We have an online meeting scheduled with the Parent Council for Tuesday 16 June at 7.00pm on Microsoft Teams. Their input will be invaluable and will allow us to take into account a range of parental views when planning the Cardinal Newman High School curriculum delivery model for August 2020.

Further Information to be sent to Parents and Carers before end of session

In addition to the above information I will also send you some specific information on other measures we will have to put in place in Cardinal Newman High School around the school day from August and which I would ask you to support. Your support will be vital in the success or otherwise of these measures which include:

- Agreed entry and exit points and pupil muster zones.
- Drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- School transport.
- Access to the school by parents and other visitors [by appointment only] and how we agree and manage this.
- Access to the school yard.
- Attendance and absence procedures and how we inform parents and carers.
- Materials and belongings young people can bring from home to school.
- Encouraging young people to stay on-site for lunch to minimise unnecessary interactions.

At Home Learning August 2020

As set out above this will continue to play an important part in the teaching and learning, we will be providing from August 2020. Engagement by young people has steadily improved over the weeks since school closed. Once again, we would ask you to encourage your child to engage with the online learning provided. If you are experiencing difficulty accessing work set by staff for your child, you can get help and support from our school web team.

Similarly, if you are having difficulty with accessing computers, laptops, or any connectivity issues including access to broadband or Wi-Fi – **let us know**. We will do everything we can to help.

At home, online learning continues until the end of the session and young people should continue to access and engage with that learning.

School Uniform August 2020

I know this is an issue many of you are now thinking about. We have received several emails asking about our approach to school uniform when the pupils arrive back in August.

As you know, our school uniform is:

- Blazer
- White Shirt
- School Tie (S5/6 have their own tie design)
- Plain black tailored trousers or skirt

(No jeans, tracksuit, jogging pants, leggings or other leg-hugging trousers)

- Plain, black V-necked jumper (optional)
- No other sweatshirts, cardigans, jumpers etc.
- No football colours at any time – including for PE lessons
- No outdoor clothing other than the blazer is allowed within the school building
- Black shoes or plain black trainers

We will be expecting [where possible for this year] that all pupils maintain the good standard of school uniform we have built up over the years with your help and support. I know parents support the uniform policy and we will do everything we can to help you maintain our agreed dress code for your child.

Nevertheless, we know that this year is exceptional and there are other factors to be considered.

Many households have had their incomes adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and we know that there is not a lot of money to spare as you have to juggle household budgets. In addition, many suppliers are closed and families are rightly following government advice on staying at home where possible and for other health reasons.

Therefore, while we say that our uniform policy remains in force – we are realistic, and we know that you will do what you can to meet those standards.

We also know that on the first few days of the new session, uniform might not be what we normally see at the beginning of a new session, but will improve thereafter and we can help with that.

We have ordered ties and will have plenty in stock when the pupils return in August. We can distribute these when pupils return if they do not have them before they come back.

School Uniform Supplier

<http://www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk/>

Our main supplier is Logoxpres. I have attached a link to their website, which contains information on prices and individual items of uniform. I have spoken to the suppliers in the last week and if you wish to order

online, they will deliver all the items to the school for collection from Monday 3 August 2020. We will contact you over the summer period to provide you with details on how you can safely collect any items of uniform you have purchased online. The suppliers will be here in school on that day to hand over the items of uniform and to provide any further assistance you need. They can also deliver items ordered directly to your home for an additional fee (£5.50) if that is more convenient for you. You can also contact stephen@logoxpres.co.uk who will be happy to discuss sizes, fittings and any arrangements including home delivery.

You can also; perhaps more conveniently and economically, source products from other suppliers closer to home if that is a better option for you.

As always, we can provide help with uniform and if you would like to discuss this please contact us.

Other Help available

As regards any other specific issues, which you or your family might be, facing at this time (e.g. financial, housing, health etc.) and you need someone to help or provide advice, again do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We continue to work closely with the local authority and with other partners to meet any specific needs our young people and their families may be facing as a result of the current crisis and we are ready to provide that help.

Financial Assistance Team: - Fit@northlan.gov.uk TEL: 01698 332551

Education Psychology Team TEL: 01236 812380

Communities Together TEL: 01698 747483 Contact: [@communitiestogether.scot](https://twitter.com/communitiestogether.scot)

To summarise:

- I will contact you again before the end of this session with specific information on the blended learning model from August 2020.
- I will contact you again with specific information on the other related issues which are important for you and which I have mentioned in this update.
- Let us know your views about any of the information in this update or about any other issues, you might be facing.
- We will maintain standards of uniform as far as we are able in the current circumstances. If we can help let us know.
- Be assured that everything we are doing is to ensure the health and safety of all our young people, their families, and their teachers within the current health and safety advice and guidelines.

As I have said in previous communications to you, I know that some of you will have been greatly affected by this health crisis and that as parents and carers you may not be able to do what you always do in normal circumstances. We understand this and are ready to do everything we can to help you.

We continue to offer our school prayers for all of you and ask that you pray for us.

St. John Henry Cardinal Newman – Pray for us.

With every best wish from everyone at Cardinal Newman High School.

Yours sincerely



Mr Robert Smith
Depute Head Teacher

