



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
Head Teacher **Richard McGowan**
Lesmahagow High School

Our ref: RMcG
Your ref:
If calling ask for:
Phone: 01555 896010
Date: 7 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Return to school – Wednesday 12 August 2020

Many thanks for your patience in waiting for information in relation to the return of Lesmahagow High School pupils to school.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all our young people back next week. A reminder about the phased return for next week:

Wednesday, 12th August – Only S1/S5/S6 pupils with the usual 8.40am start and 3.35pm finish

Thursday, 13th August – Only S1/S4 pupils with the usual 8.40am start and 3.35pm finish

Friday, 14th August – Only S2/S3 pupils with the usual 8.40am start and 12.30pm finish

All pupils return full-time at 8.40am on Monday, 17th August.

Health & Safety

In order to reduce crowding, pupils will be encouraged to use both doors at the front of the school when they arrive each morning. Pupils will be instructed to use hand sanitiser on arrival and regularly throughout the day, in particular before and after breaks. Sanitiser will be provided at each entrance, in the Street Area and in all classrooms without sinks. Cleaning schedules will be enhanced and there will be an increased focus on 'touch points' such as door handles, toilets etc. The school will also be treated weekly with an electrostatic spray which coats all surfaces and effectively 'envelops' any virus. Hand hygiene and 'catch it, kill it, bin it' messages will be reinforced in school and I would be grateful if you could reinforce this message at home and provide your child with paper handkerchiefs to 'catch' any coughs or sneezes when at school.

Face coverings are not required in schools and physical distancing among pupils is not necessary. Staff are, however, required to maintain normal physical distancing from one another and from pupils, so may need to wear a face covering if working closely with a pupil for example. Pupils who wish to use face coverings may, of course, do so.

Classrooms will be arranged in rows rather than in groups, and pupils will be asked to sit in the same seat each time they attend a particular class. Pupils should remember to bring the necessary equipment with them to avoid the need to borrow pens, pencils, calculators etc. Books and jotters can be passed between pupils and teachers, but this will only happen where necessary (for example for marking). Pupils should routinely carry any necessary books and jotters with them in their schoolbags. Pupils will be asked to place bags on the floor, rather than on chairs, desks or tables.

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**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**



**Healthy
Working
Lives**

Outwith the classroom, pupils will be asked to walk on the left hand side of the corridor. During breaks, pupils will be asked to remain in their 'friendship bubbles' as far as possible and to use as much of our outside space rather than being in the building.

Break times will be staggered. Pupils who go outside into the fresh air as much as possible, weather permitting.

Lunch times will be staggered as well. We will use the Street Area, S6 area and our outside seating areas for lunch, weather permitting. Pupils from S2-6 will be permitted to go out of school for lunch if they wish to do so. Pupils are permitted to bring their own packed lunch if they prefer. As normal procedures S1 pupils are not allowed to leave the school grounds at lunch time until further notice. Strictly no food or beverages purchased from outside catering premises (chip shops/cafes etc) can enter Lesmahagow High School. Where possible, young people will spend most of their break and lunchtime outdoors and should bring an appropriate outdoor jacket to school.

End of the school day – departure from the school will be staggered and pupils will leave the building using the nearest exits/fire exits to avoid congestion. Details of our modified school day are attached.

Contact with children and adults from outwith the school establishment will be minimised; consequently, I would ask parents to contact pupil support or office staff by telephone/email rather than visiting the school (other than by pre-arranged appointment).

Pupil Attendance

If children are at all unwell, they should remain at home and you should follow the relevant medical guidance on [NHS Inform](#) and [Test and Protect](#). Please telephone or email the school office in the normal way if your child is unwell, and provide an absence note when your child returns to school. Ideally this would be submitted by email for the attention of your child's pupil support teacher. Attendance will be monitored in the usual way and a text message sent if a child is absent and we have not received notification from a parent. If your child is tested for Covid-19 and the test result is positive, please telephone the school office without delay to inform us.

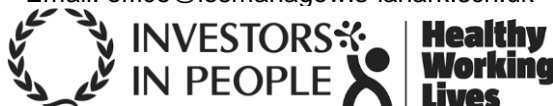
If a child feels unwell or presents with any of the symptoms of Coronavirus during the course of the school day, we will ask that you collect your child as quickly as possible, following the guidance on NHS Inform and Test and Protect. We have been asked to exercise a 'zero tolerance' approach to Covid-19 symptoms in school and will therefore err on the side of caution in reaching decisions about sending pupils home. Again, if your child tests positive for Covid-19, you should inform the school office immediately. If someone in the household starts displaying symptoms, your family should self-isolate and follow the guidance on NHS Inform. You should advise the school of your child's absence and the reason for this absence.

Learning and Teaching

Although pupils will follow the full curriculum, some activities may be modified slightly to reduce risk. In PE lessons for example, staff will try to select activities which can take place outdoors, which are lower risk and which involve less pupil-to-pupil contact. In practical classes such as Science, Drama or Home Economics pupils will be asked to work with the same partner(s) in each lesson where possible. Please be reassured that strategies to mitigate risk in classes will, however, not adversely impact on learning and teaching.

The remote learning that pupils undertook between April and summer will be revisited and consolidated to ensure that there are no gaps in pupils' learning, and we will then move forward at pace to ensure that courses are covered in full. In senior classes, some additional time may be devoted to assessment and the gathering of evidence for SQA purposes in the unfortunate event of any disruption to next year's examinations or pupil absence from examinations.

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The school library will remain open and pupils will be able to borrow books as normal. Library books will be quarantined for 72 hours.

Uniform

Normal uniform should be worn and should be washed/cleaned as normal. There is no requirement to wash uniforms more frequently. Details of our uniform policy is available from our [website](#). The uniform provides our young people with a sense of belonging and pride and at this difficult time it will help re-establish a return to some kind of normal for our pupils.

Fusion App

All schools are launching a new school meal app called Fusion to allow pre-ordering of lunches within minutes. This will mean a cashless approach within the school. More details and codes will be issued soon.

School Calendar

There will be no mass gatherings such as assemblies, parents' evenings, information events, concerts, dances etc. during term 1 at least, and the school calendar will be adjusted accordingly. Given the uncertainty surrounding the timescales for the easing of restrictions, the calendar will remain a fluid document. I will issue the draft version of the calendar to staff for comment and will prepare a final version to be posted in the Parents section of the school website as soon as possible.

Parking

If arriving to school by car, please park as far away as possible from the building to avoid congestion. Parents are discouraged from using the carpark at the start and the end of the day. If you can, please consider walking or taking another form of active travel.

If I could ask for one thing as young people return, it would be that they work positively with staff to make our school a safe space for all of our learners by showing common sense in their actions around the school as we find our way collectively.

If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Take care and we'll see everyone next week.

Yours sincerely



Richard McGowan
Head Teacher