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18 February 2021

Ref: LM/fm

Dear Parent/ Carer

Phased return to school for senior pupils 22-2-21

Following confirmation from the Scottish Government on 16<sup>th</sup> February, I am now in a position to share with you our plans for a phased return of senior pupils from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Rationale

Our rationale for the phased return for senior pupils is based on the following guidance:

<https://education.gov.scot/media/ry4bk2eg/returnofseniorphaselearners.pdf>

From 22<sup>th</sup> February 2021 there will be a limited return of senior phase pupils which 'is for the purpose of completing the learning and teaching of critical practical work in relation to qualifications in 2021 that can only be carried out in school.' All other learning will be carried out remotely as before. The number of pupils in school is limited to 5%-8% of the school roll.

'Based on a maximum of 5%-8% of the school roll, the key principles of the guidance are to:

- Support learning in subjects where there are the **highest levels** of practical work that require in-school facilities and **cannot** be undertaken remotely
- Maintain remote learning for all across the BGE and senior Phase to protect continuity of learning and teaching'

In reviewing the practical work that can only be completed in school and the requirements of 2 metre physical distancing, a timetable has been put together and pupils will be invited in on certain days to complete their work. It is important that they attend their allocated slot as we are limited to a maximum of 48 pupils across all subject areas. Invites will be sent out later today or tomorrow morning.

In order to make the most effective use of any time in school and to minimise risk of transmission learning will take place in extended 4hour blocks of time in a single subject. The 4hour block provides the approximate time allocation of a senior phase course in a week. Pupils invited into school should expect the following:

- 8.45 am to 1.00 pm block of learning – they should enter the school at the front door and go to their designated classroom
- Pupils will have a staggered 15minute break during the morning – they will be assigned a designate indoor and outdoor area.
- Pupils will be able to order lunch at morning break for pick up at 1pm
- Pupils will be designated an area to eat their break and lunch.
- Town pupils will return home from 1.00pm
- All pupils and staff will be required to keep a 2m distance at all times in all areas of the school estate and on school transport.

- Pupils and staff will be expected to wear face coverings in all areas of the school estate and on school transport.
- Senior pupils and staff will be issued with type IIR masks to wear in classrooms.
- Senior pupils and staff will be offered the twice weekly testing (information on this will be issued separately)

I am awaiting confirmation on transport provision for pupils who use school transport and will advise as soon as possible. One of the 2 following scenarios will be put in place:

- Transport pupils will be picked up from their 'home' pick ups as normal for an 8.45 am start. They will then be picked up from school at 1.15 and return home and continue with their remote learning for their other subjects

**OR**

- Transport pupils will be picked up from their 'home' pick ups as normal for an 8.45 am start. They will then be picked up from school at 3.00pm (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) 3.50pm (Tuesday and Thursday). They will be allocated to a room with ICT provision to allow them to continue their learning in other subjects. It would be useful for them to bring their own device and headphones if they have. Please note that if pupils are in for a whole day, they will need to bring lunch with them or use the school canteen facilities which will be available to them. They will not be able to leave the school site to buy food.

I will advise as soon as possible which option will be put in place.

Please note Keyworker Children provision will still be in for the whole of the school day and transport will be provided.

Remote learning will continue in all other subjects at this time and pupils should continue to work on their coursework across all subjects in the weeks ahead so that they build the knowledge and skills that they will need to support any evidence required to access progress and attainment.

Thank you for your understanding with this and as ever if you have any queries, please get in touch via the school office.

Regards

Ms L Menzies