



12 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Transition to Craigmount High School – August 2021

We look forward to welcoming our new S1 students to Craigmount High School. Ensuring a smooth transition for this year group has been one of our priorities when planning our return for the new term and I am writing to provide you with details of our plans for the start of term.

The First Minister announced on Tuesday 3 August that schools should continue to apply the mitigations that were in place at the end of last term, with the exception of some modifications. This approach to retaining mitigations is expected to remain in place for a period of up to 6 weeks (until the end of September). We will advise you of any changes to the guidance and when this will take place once we have further information from the Scottish Government.

As we start the new term, there will be a phased return on Wednesday 18 August to allow us to work more closely with our new S1 pupils at the start of the day as they did not have the opportunity to visit Craigmount High School prior to the summer holiday. This will also allow us to meet with S1 pupils in class groups due to the restrictions on assemblies during the first 6 weeks of term.

The following table gives an overview of the first week and shows when pupils will return to school:

Week Commencing Monday 16 August 2021	
Monday 16 August	In-service – staff only
Tuesday 17 August	In-service – staff only
Wednesday 18 August 2021	
<u>Information for S1 Pupils</u>	
S1 pupils should arrive at school for 8.30am and will be directed by staff to meet in the courtyard (in the middle of the school grounds).	
S1 pupils will be guided to their Tutor class by S6 pupils and they will work with their Tutor group during periods 1, 2 and 3 as part of our S1 induction. Their break time will be between periods 2 and 3.	
From period 4 onwards they will follow their timetable but will be guided around the building by S6 pupils.	
All S1 pupils should bring a packed lunch during the first week to allow time for their pin numbers to be set up to use our canteen. If your child receives a free school meal they will receive a pack lunch from the canteen for the first week.	

Thursday 19 August 2021

All pupils in all Year Groups will attend school as normal from the beginning of the school day.

Please note the following important arrangements which will continue:

BGE pupils (S1, S2 and S3) should arrive no earlier than 8.20am and proceed directly to their Tutor class when the 'warning bell' sounds at 8.25am. Tutor will start at 8.30am.

Pupils will be guided to their classes between periods and will meet in the courtyard after break and lunch so they can also be guided to their classes.

All pupils will finish school at the same time which is 3.35pm (Thursday).

Friday 20 August 2021

All pupils in all Year Groups will attend school as normal from the beginning of the school day.

During periods 3 and 4 there will be induction activities for all S1 pupils and they will not attend their timetabled classes. S1 pupils should bring their PE kit on Friday to take part in these activities.

Pupils will be guided to their classes between periods and will meet in the courtyard after break so they can be guided to their induction activities.

All pupils will finish school at the same time which is 12.20pm (Friday).

We are looking forward to having all our pupils back in school. However, this is not a return to normality and the guidelines for schools differ in places from those in wider society due to the unique features of the school environment. You may be familiar with some of these routines if you have an older child at Craigmount or these may be new to you. However, a number of the mitigations differ from those in a primary school. The following arrangements will be in place:

- There will continue to be a phased start to the school day as follows:
 - BGE (S1 – S3) pupils should arrive for the start of the school day and should be in class by 8.30am. There is a 'warning bell' at 8.25am and pupils should start making their way to class at this time.
 - Senior Phase (S4 – S6) pupils should arrive for the start of the school day at 8.40am and go straight to their period 1 class.
- Pupils should enter the building using their designated door. There will be a reminder about which door pupils should use on the first day they return. However, S1 should enter through the stairs leading to the concourse, S3, S5 and S6 should use the main school entrance and S2 and S4 should use the door at the back of the school.
- School uniform is expected and pupils should **not** wear their PE kit to or from school. The updated guidance permits the use of changing rooms for PE and this means that we are returning to our expectations that pupils wear their uniform every day. We issued our uniform policy prior to the holiday and have attached it again to this e-mail for reference.
- Pupils are expected to follow the hand sanitising routine as well as clean their own workspaces and follow our one-way system.
- There is a requirement for physical distancing between staff and pupils.

- Face coverings must continue to be worn at all times (in and out of classes). It is expected that pupils bring their own face coverings. However, we have a limited number of face coverings available if a pupil forgets their own.
- Staggered lunches will remain and pupils will be expected to be outside during break and lunch (weather permitting). S1 pupils must remain in the school grounds at lunch time and, for the first two weeks, they will be based on the Eastfield.
- Pupils should not attend school if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if a positive result is obtained from the lateral flow test.

There are also a number of changes in the guidance which means that pupils do not have to remain in so called 'bubbles'. There are also updates to the rules for self-isolation in the event of being a close contact and we will provide you with more details of this if/when necessary.

As you may be aware, all pupils in secondary schools have access to COVID-19 lateral flow testing kits. This allows them to carry out home tests which are processed within 30 minutes. They are designed to break the transmission chain, therefore although these tests are not compulsory, we would encourage pupils to do these to help keep us all safe.

We will distribute testing kits to our new S1 pupils during their induction in the morning of Wednesday 18 August. However, we require your consent for your child to participate in the programme and we cannot issue a kit until we have consent. You can fill in the electronic consent form using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=af6sSGo3tUKfacnke7-5xOPeWFy-ixxHtS70S5unRi1URVJWVFowSki4QzQxVEo2RIIWQ1daRkVnQSQIQCN0PWcu>

The official documents relating to these tests, including a letter and privacy notice, can be found in a separate attachment to this letter. If you would like your child to take part, we would appreciate if you would provide your consent before Tuesday 17 August to allow the kits to be issued on Wednesday. We recommend that tests are completed twice a week – on a Sunday and Wednesday – and results should be logged as per the instructions provided with the testing kits. You can also get lateral flow test kits from many local walk-in test sites or order them online or by phone.

Before the summer we sent out a number of forms. If these have not yet been returned, we would appreciate if your child could bring them to school on the first day and give them to their Tutor teacher. If you have not received the forms they will be issued during the first week. We would also ask you to ensure you have activated your Parent Pay account.

If you have any further questions once the school reopens next week then please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pupil Support teacher.

We hope to be able to remove some of these mitigations in the coming weeks and months if it is safe to do so and to re-introduce aspects of our school life which have been missing in the last 18 months. In the meantime, we look forward to the start of a new session and to welcoming all pupils back to school next week.

Yours sincerely



Colin Meikle
Headteacher