



18 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Prioritising the Return of the Senior Phase and COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing**

I am writing to update you on our plans for the part-time return to school for pupils in the senior phase and also about COVID-19 lateral flow testing.

#### **Prioritising the Return of the Senior Phase**

On 16 February 2021, the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, confirmed the Scottish Government's intention to start a gradual part-time return to school from Monday 22 February.

Initially, this limited return will involve small groups of senior phase pupils attending school with 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.

For the majority of subjects, and the majority of pupils, the learning will continue to take place via Teams. We have only considered learning in school where absolutely necessary and only for subjects where there are the **highest levels** of practical work that require in school facilities and **cannot** be undertaken remotely.

On the page after this letter you will find an overview of the in school provision which will start from Monday 22 February and pupils should look at the information in the 'teacher' and 'usual timings' columns which relate to the timetable they received in August. There are also some *Frequently Asked Questions* after the timetable so that pupils can familiarise themselves with the arrangements before returning to school. In addition to this timetable, class teachers will confirm the exact arrangements via their class Teams page.

#### **COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing**

S4 – S6 pupils and staff who are attending school, either as part of the return for practical activity or as part of the existing mini-school, will also be offered a COVID-19 lateral flow testing kit. This allows them to carry out home tests which are processed within 30 minutes. Although these tests are not compulsory, we would encourage pupils and staff to do these to help keep us all safe.

If a pupil is due to be in school from next week, then they will be able to collect their lateral flow testing kit on the first day that they are in the building. A member of staff will visit each class to distribute the testing kits to pupils who have completed the consent form (see below). 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.

The official documents relating to these tests, including a letter and privacy notice, can be found in a separate attachment to this letter. After reading these documents, we require your child's consent (or your consent if your child is not yet 16 years old) before we can issue them with a testing kit. You can fill in the electronic consent form using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=af6sSGo3tUKfacnke7-5xOPeWFy-ixxHtS70S5unRi1URVJWVFowSki4QzQxVEo2RIIWQ1daRkVnQSQIQCNOpwcu>

We will share a pupil version of this letter on the S4, S5 and S6 PSE Teams pages where pupils will have the opportunity to ask any questions in advance of completing the consent form. When a pupil requires another test kit this can be collected on a day they are in school.

If you have any questions about the phased return for practical activities or about the COVID-19 lateral flow tests then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Meikle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i'.

Colin Meikle  
Headteacher

## Practical Activity Timetable

Monday AM (8.30 – 11.30 am)				Monday PM (12.30 – 3.30 pm)			
Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings	Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings
Art	Dr Kelso	N4 & N5	Monday Period 3, Tuesday Period 6 & 7 & Thursday Period 6	Art	Ms Buchanan & Mrs Taylor	Higher	Monday Period 6 & 7, Tuesday Period 2, Wednesday Period 4 and Thursday Period 3
Computing	Mr Campbell	N4 & N5		Computing	Mr Campbell	AH & N5	
Dance	Miss Mackay	N5 & H		Practical Cookery	Ms Arbuckle	N5	
Lab Science	Dr Saddler & Mr McKnight	N5		PE	Mrs Mitchell	Higher	Monday Period 2, Tuesday Period 5, Wednesday Period 3, Thursday Period 2 & Friday Period 3 & 4
PE	Mrs Mitchell	N4 & N5					

Tuesday AM (8.30 – 11.30 am)				Tuesday PM (12.30 – 3.30 pm)			
Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings	Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings
Admin & IT	Mrs Brown & Mrs Hendrie	N4 & N5	Tuesday Period 1, Wednesday Period 6 & 7, Thursday Period 5	Admin & IT	Mrs Brown & Mrs Hendrie	Higher	Monday Period 3, Tuesday Period 6 & 7, Thursday Period 6 & 7 and Friday Period 1
Art	Ms Watt & Mr Hartley	N4 & N5		Art	Mr Hartley	AH & Higher	
Computing	Mr Speirs	N4 & N5		Comp Games Develop	Mr Polland	NPA	
Music	Mr McLaren & Ms Mitchell	N4 & N5		Drama	Ms Thompson & Ms Donaldson	Higher	
Hospitality <i>(from 8<sup>th</sup> March)</i>	Ms Arbuckle	N5					

Wednesday AM (8.30 – 11.30 am)				Wednesday PM (12.30 – 3.30 pm)			
Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings	Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings
Drama	Mr Emery & Ms Cunningham	N4 & N5	Monday Period 4, Tuesday Period 3, Wednesday Period 2 & Thursday Period 4	Drama	Ms Cunningham	AH	Monday Period 1, Tuesday Period 1, Wednesday Period 6 & 7, Thursday Period 5 and Friday Period 2
Music Technology	Mr McLaren & Ms Mitchell	N5 & H		Music	Mr McLaren & Ms Mitchell	Higher & AH	
Computing	Mr Speirs	N4 & N5		Photography	Ms Buchanan	NPA	
			Practical Cookery	Mr Gilliland & Ms McGill	N5		

## Practical Activity Timetable

Thursday AM (8.30 – 11.30 am)				Thursday PM (12.30 – 3.30 pm)			
Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings	Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings
PE	Mr Webster	Higher	Monday Period 4 & 5, Tuesday Period 3 & 4, Wednesday Period 2 & Thursday Period 4	Graphic Comm	Mr Goonan	N4 & N5	Monday Period 6 & 7, Wednesday Period 5 & Thursday Period 3
				Practical Woodwork	Mr Cheyne	N4 & N5	
				Hospitality <i>(from 8<sup>th</sup> March)</i>	Mr Gilliland	N5	

Friday AM (8.30 – 11.30 am)			
Subject	Teacher(s)	Level	Usual Timings
Drama	Ms Thompson & Ms Donaldson	N4 & N5	Wednesday Period 3, Thursday Period 2 and Friday Period 3 & 4
PE	Mr Beattie	N4 & N5	
Acting & Theatre Perform	Ms Donaldson & Mr Emery	NPA	Monday Period 2, Tuesday Period 5, Wednesday Period 3, Thursday Period 2 & Friday Period 3 & 4
Art	Mr Hartley & Dr Kelso	Higher & AH	
Computing	Mr Polland	Higher	
Graphic Comm	Mr Goonan	Higher & AH	

### **When should I attend school?**

There are two timetabled blocks on a Monday to Thursday and one timetabled block on a Friday. You should look at the 'Practical Activity Timetable' to see if or when your class is due to be in school. You will need to know your subject, teacher, level and when your subject would normally be on your timetable. You should also check your class Teams page as your teacher will give you more specific information.

You should only be in school for the times relating to your subject. You should not arrive at school earlier than 5 minutes before the start time and you should go straight to your class. At the end of the session it's also important that you make your way home. This will allow you to complete the work of your other classes either in the morning or the afternoon.

### **Will I attend school every week at this time?**

Every subject is organising things slightly differently to suit what works best for them. You may be asked to come to school using any of these models:

- All pupils in the class are in for the whole timetabled time – look at the 'Practical Activity Timetable'.
  - Pupils attend by appointment only – information will be provided by your class teacher via Teams when you should attend.
  - Split session – you might be asked to come for half of the session, e.g. 8.30am to 10am instead of the full time.
  - Week A/Week B – half the class might attend one week and half the class might attend the other week.
- You should also check your class Teams page as your teacher will give you more specific information.

### **What should I do if I am unable to attend my practical activity session?**

We will be following normal attendance procedures for these sessions. If you are unable to attend due to being unwell or self-isolation, an adult should phone the school office to let us know. If you do not attend a session, we will contact home via an absence text.

### **How long will these arrangements last?**

These arrangements will start on Monday 22 February and will continue either until we receive more information or until you have completed the practical activities which are necessary to do in school.

### **Where should I enter the building?**

You should come into school and exit school using the rear school entrance (near the music/PE departments). This will be the dedicated entrance and exit for pupils attending school for practical activities.

### **What should I wear to school?**

You are coming into school only for the practical activity related to your subject so you should come appropriately dressed to take part in that activity. This means that you do not need to wear your uniform.

### **What health and safety arrangements are in place for the return to school?**

You will all take part in a health and safety briefing the first time they are in school so that you know the arrangements for when you are in school. These follow the same routines for cleaning which we were accustomed to prior to the Christmas break.

You should wear a face covering the whole time you are in school and this includes in the corridors and in the classrooms or teaching spaces. 2 metre physical distancing from all other pupils and adults is also compulsory. This includes on the way to and from school and in the local community (including shops).

**What if I miss another subject due to being in school?**

If you are in for a morning session, you should be ready to log back into your remote learning from 12.20pm (Period 5) onwards. If you are in for an afternoon session, you should engage in remote learning until 11.30am (end of Period 4). It is your responsibility to catch up with any work missed for other subjects. We have planned our timetable to broadly follow when you have subjects in school. You can also use your core periods (RME, PSE and PE) as catch up time. If you are finding this difficult to manage then you should contact your Pupil Support teacher who will help you plan a schedule for your work.

**Do I need to complete a COVID-19 lateral flow test?**

If you are attending school, you will also be offered a COVID-19 lateral flow testing kit. Although these tests are not compulsory, we would encourage you to do these to help keep us all safe. If you are due to be in school from next week, then you will be able to collect your lateral flow testing kit on the first day that you are in the building. A member of staff will visit each class to distribute the testing kits.

**What if I also attend the mini-school?**

The provision in the mini-school has not changed and pupils of key workers or who have asked to attend school should continue to do so as normal. However, if you are scheduled for a class in school then you should attend it at the agreed time.

**Can I stay in school for lunch?**

There will be no lunch facilities available for pupils attending school for practical activities.

**What if I normally get a free school meal?**

If you normally get free school meals, there will be a 'grab and go' pack available for you to collect at the end of the morning session (11.30am) or at the beginning of the afternoon session (12.30pm).