



12 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Return to School – August 2021**

I am writing to provide you with details of our plans for the return to school next week.

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 Tuesday 17 August	In-service – staff only In-service – staff only
Wednesday 18 August 2021	
<b><u>Information for S1 Pupils</u></b>	
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.	
<b><u>Information for S2 – S6 Pupils</u></b>	
S2 – S6 pupils should arrive at school no earlier than 10.30am and will start their day at 10.40am by going to their Tutor class to re-familiarise themselves with our routines.	
From period 4 onwards they will follow their timetable (the same one as before the holiday).	

**From 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.

**Senior Phase pupils (S4, S5 and S6)** should arrive no earlier than 8.35am and proceed directly to their period 1 class for an 8.40am start.

All pupils will finish school at the same time which is 3.35pm (Monday to Thursday) and 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. We will therefore still have the following arrangements 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.
- Face coverings must continue to be worn at all times (in and out of classes and in the community at lunch). 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). All pupils can purchase food from the school canteen or S2 to S6 pupils can leave school to purchase lunch.
- Our established protocols for hand sanitising, workspace cleaning and the one-way system will remain in place.
- The requirement for physical distancing between staff and pupils remains in place.

- All pupils have been offered COVID-19 lateral flow tests and we would encourage all pupils (and staff) to carry these out twice a week on a Sunday and Wednesday. These tests should (where possible) be carried out prior to the return to school. If you do not have any lateral flow test devices at home these can be collected on the first day in Tutor class. You can also get lateral flow test kits from many local walk-in test sites or order them online or by phone.

In order to issue testing kits, we require your consent for your child to participate in the programme and we cannot issue a kit until we have consent. We already have consent for the majority of our pupils and if you completed it last session there is no need to complete it again. However, if you have not previously given consent you can fill in the electronic consent form using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=af6sSGo3tUKfacnke7-5xOPeWFy-ixxHtS70S5unRi1URVJWVFowSki4QzQxVEo2RIIWQ1daRkVNQSQIQCNOPWcu>

- 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' and we will therefore remove the zoning in the school grounds during break and lunch. 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.

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.

All pupils started their timetable before the holiday but we recognise that a small number of pupils in the Senior Phase may wish to make a change to their timetable in light of their SQA examination results. The process for making any changes will be outlined to pupils on the first day and any changes must be completed by Wednesday 25 August. After this date it will not be possible to change a subject.

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