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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



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Dear Parent/Carer

Blended Learning Plans– Senior Phase and S1-3

As per the government announcement on Tuesday 2nd March, we are now in a position to share the plans for blended learning and a part-time return for all pupils beginning on the 15th March. As intimated in my earlier update, this is incredibly challenging for us given the constraints of our building and the staffing required to meet the increased number of pupil groups. However, we have worked hard to ensure an equitable time in school for all senior phase students and the opportunity for all S1-3 students to reconnect with teachers in school before the Easter break on the 1st April. We have rewritten our school timetable to adhere to the government guidance and the following principles:

- **Maintaining 2 metre social distancing** for everyone at all times.
- **Minimal movement** of students around the school
- **1 metre social distancing on School transport**
- **Staggered social times**
- **Test and protect compliance – attendance monitoring** is crucial to ensure we know where students/staff have been and who they have been with throughout the day.
- **Fewer students in school** at any one time to ensure social distancing
- **Prioritise the Senior Phase students who are working towards completion of national qualifications**
- Some time in school for pupils in S1-3 to reconnect with teachers
- **Maximise time for outdoor learning**
- Maintain our 'Hub Classes' for children of keyworkers (currently 8 classes)
- **All pupils must wear a face covering when in the building.**
- The offer of **at-home testing using lateral flow devices to all staff and Senior Phase students**, with a **strong expectation** that this offer is taken up and at-home testing undertaken twice a week. This information will be emailed home again for any student who requires it. (we will send out this information again for all parents/carers in preparation for more pupils returning next week)
- The offer of **at-home testing using lateral flow devices will be extended to include all S1-3 pupils from 20th April when we return for our Easter Holiday.** (Further information will be issued separately)

Social Distancing and Hygiene

The overarching health and safety message remains unchanged for preventing the spread of covid-19:

All of our health and safety measures remain in place and we have enhanced these as required. These include:

- Wall mounted **hand sanitisers** at all entry and exit points into the school
- Each teaching area will have a **hygiene kit and routine**
- Maintaining **2 metre social distancing** for everyone
- Enhanced and visible **cleaning/hygiene routines** throughout the school day
- Supporting **health and wellbeing** of students and staff
- **Protocols for dealing with suspected cases** evident in staff and/or students during the school day including identifying an isolation room
- Signage, floor markings and adapting school movement rules to **ensure a one-way system**
- **Minimal movement** of students where possible
- Adapting our **emergency Evacuation procedures** to ensure social distancing at muster points
- **Fewer students in school** at any one time to ensure social distancing
- Classroom windows open where possible to **increase ventilation**
- **Open door policy** to reduce contact with door handles
- Risk assessments have been updated
- **Staggered social times**
- **No non-essential visitors** in school
- **Test and protect compliance – attendance monitoring** is crucial to ensure we know where students/staff have been and who they have been with throughout the day.
- the offer of **at-home testing using lateral flow devices to all staff and Senior Phase students**

School Uniform

Pupils will be expected to wear as close to normal school uniform as possible on their return to school. We will take a relaxed view to this as we are aware children may have grown and shops are closed. We trust you will make appropriate choices when it comes to deciding on what to wear to school.

The only exception to this is for **Senior Phase** students who are studying for a qualification in **PE**. They should dress appropriately for participating in PE outdoors if they are not undertaking theory work in a classroom.

S1-3 pupils should wear school uniform on the days they are in school. We would encourage them to wear appropriate footwear and a warm jumper and coat as part of the reconnecting programme will include outdoor learning (as per the government guidance) weather permitting.

School Transport, Pick up and Drop off

In order to accommodate a split school day school transport will pick up and drop off at the normal school times at the start and end of the school day. In addition to this buses will collect pupils and drop them off at the end of the morning session at 11.45am. They will then collect pupils and drop at school for the afternoon session at 12.30pm. The buses will collect pupils for the afternoon session at the usual stops beginning at approx. 12 noon. In summary, the buses will operate as follows:

- Morning Pick at usual times/pickup points
- Collection from school at 11.45am and drop off for those in for the morning session
- Collection from 12 noon for afternoon session usual pick up points
- Collection at 3.20pm and normal drop off

Pupils must maintain 1m social distancing on school transport and always wear a face covering. Food and drink should not be consumed when on a school bus.

Taxis for individual pupils will be arranged on an individual basis depending on their allocated times in school.

Pupils arriving at school by car should be dropped off and collected at the bus turning circle adjacent to the 3G pitch. This remains unchanged from the arrangements in place from August to Christmas.

Pupils and Parents/carers should not congregate or drop off in the school car park. If you are walking your child to school, you must wear a mask when in the school grounds. As before car sharing with different households is discouraged.

Where possible pupils should walk or cycle to school.

Pupils using public transport should adhere to the current public health guidance and wear a face covering.

On arrival at school, the following procedures are in place:

- **Senior Pupils** should arrive at the **CDT/PE** entrance and they will be collected by their teacher and taken to the area of the school they will be working in.
- Pupils in **S1-3** should arrive at playground area outside the **main entrance/community lounge**. They will be collected by their guidance teacher and/or House DHT and taken to their classroom.

Senior Phase Arrangements (S4-6)

As a result of the need to maintain 2m social distancing we have had to split each senior phase class in half. Pupils will be in **Group 1** or **Group 2** for every subject; this will be decided by class teachers and will be done on the basis of meeting the needs of the learners in each class, subject and accommodation requirements and availability. This means that a pupil could be in **group 1** for English but in **group 2** for Maths.

The timetable is based on our column structure over a three week period to ensure an equitable amount of time for every senior phase subject prior to the holidays. **All senior pupils will be expected to attend every day Mon – Thursday for a morning or afternoon session.** Teachers will post in Teams the details of which group and which day your child should attend.

Session 1: 8.30am – 11.45am (this includes a 20 minute break and these will be staggered to ensure no large gatherings)

Session 2: 12.30pm – 3.20pm

A timetable is included with this update for information but please check with your child which group and days apply to them. This will be shared by teachers and guidance teachers on your child's class Microsoft Teams. If you or your child are unsure which day and which session they should attend, **please ensure your child contacts their class teacher by glow email or checks the general posts section on Microsoft Teams.** As we are operating a blended learning programme until the Easter holidays the priority is on face-to-face learning. The work for students at other times will primarily be self-directed with a focus on consolidating learning and revision. Any additional work will be set by the class teacher when students are in school.

Broad General Education (S1-3) Arrangements

Each child in S1-3 will have two full days in school to reconnect with teachers before the Easter break. Logistically this is challenging due to the increased level of staffing and rooming that is required when trying to accommodate full year groups. On this basis and to reduce mass socialisation whilst ensuring each child has quality time with their guidance teacher and DHT Head of House we have split the year groups and planned the time in school based on a three week rota. A timetable is included with this update for information.

As per the government guidance all pupils in S1-3 should be prepared for time outdoors during their days in school (weather permitting).

There will be a reduced level of online learning during the last three weeks of term. Staff are unable to deliver the same amount of content and deliver face to face learning in school with a far greater number of class groups due to social distancing. One learning task for each subject will be posted online following the current online timetable. There will be no live sessions on line while teachers are delivering face to face classes.

The last week of term will focus on wellbeing activities which take place away from the screen. More information on this will be communicated with you in due course.

Hubs for Keyworker Children

Hubs for children of keyworkers and vulnerable pupils will continue for those who require a place. Pupils who have been attending the Hub will participate in class activities when their class is in school. More information about the hub will be emailed to all families concerned this week.

Intervals and Lunchtime

Pupils in school for a full day (S1-3) should bring with them a snack and a packed lunch and water. The water fountain is open for refilling bottles, however, we suggest that pupils bring their own bottle of water with them. We will provide lunch for any pupil who forgets to bring something with them.

BACS transfer payments will remain in place for those entitled to free school meals. Lunch will continue to be provided for pupils in the Hub.

We would encourage students if they have access to a tablet, iPad or laptop to bring it to school to use if they can. The majority of our devices have been issued to pupils to use while working at home and we have limited availability of devices in every classroom when we return next week. We have requested access to more devices but it is unlikely these will be available before the Easter break.

Links to the most up to date Government Guidance are included below for information.

- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-schools-reopening/>
- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/overview/>
- <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/covid-19-education-recovery/ceag-guidance/>

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back next week. As per the First Minister's statement we are hoping for a full return after the Easter break if public health advice allows. We will communicate the plans for after the Easter break when this has been confirmed.

If you have any questions about the information included in this update, please get in touch.

Best wishes

L Black

Lynn Black
Headteacher