



Parent / Carer update – 14th August 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the end of our first week nears, I offer you some further updates in relation to our return.

Our Safe Working Practices

In all classrooms, young people have washed their hands with hand sanitisers and wiped down their working surfaces with anti-bacterial wipes on entry and exit. This will continue to be repeated every period of the day for the foreseeable future



Our Tayside Contracts colleagues are regularly cleaning in classrooms with a focus on touch points

A strict 'Keep Left' protocol is in place in all corridors

A Marquee has been erected in the South Playground to allow young people to socialise outside whilst still being covered



🏰 To support distancing between senior and junior year groups, young people should enter the building (at the start of the day and lunchtime) as indicated below:

- S1, S2 and S3 pupils – Front Entrance
- S4 – Plaza (Clock Tower) Entrance
- S5, S6 – Maths Entrance

🏰 The doors will open at 8.30am for young people. After hand sanitising:

- S1 – S4 pupils should go to the Dining Centre, Marquee or Tiered Seating area until the 8.40am warning bell. At this time, they should report to their first period class
- S5 – S6 pupils should go straight to their first period classroom rather than one of the social areas.

A copy of our 'Welcome Back' presentation to pupils has been made available today to all parents / carers. We have also posted a copy of our school's Risk Assessment on to our website.

Our Revised Timetable

To support social distancing, we have staggered interval and lunches in the following way:

▲ Mon - Wed

Time	BGE		Time	Senior Phase
8.45 – 9.35 (50)	1		8.45 – 9.35 (50)	1
9.35 – 10.25 (50)	2		9.35 – 10.25 (50)	2
10.25 – 10.35 (10)	Interval		10.25 – 11.15 (50)	3
10.35 – 11.25 (50)	3		11.15 – 11.25 (10)	Interval
11.25 – 12.15 (50)	4		11.25 – 12.15 (50)	4
12.15 – 13.05 (50)	Lunch		12.15 – 13.05 (50)	5
13.05 – 13.55 (50)	5		13.05 – 13.55 (50)	Lunch
13.55 – 14.45 (50)	6		13.55 – 14.45 (50)	6
14.45 – 15.35 (50)	7		14.45 – 15.35 (50)	7
15.35 – 15.40 (5)	Staggered exit		15.35 – 15.40 (5)	Staggered exit

Thurs - Fri

Time	BGE		Time	Senior Phase
8.45 – 9.35 (50)	1		8.45 – 9.35 (50)	1
9.35 – 10.25 (50)	2		9.35 – 10.35 (50)	2
10.25 – 10.35 (10)	Interval		10.25 – 11.15 (50)	3
10.35 – 11.25 (50)	3		11.15 – 11.25 (10)	Interval
11.25 – 12.15 (50)	4		11.25 – 12.15 (50)	4
12.15 – 13.05 (50)	Lunch		12.15 – 13.05 (50)	5
13.05 – 13.55 (50)	5		13.05 – 13.55 (50)	Lunch
13.55 – 14.45 (50)	6		13.55 – 14.45 (50)	6
14.45 – 14.50 (5)	Staggered exit		14.45 – 14.50 (5)	Staggered exit

SQA Update

The Depute First Minister announced on Tuesday 11th August that all Senior pupils who had estimates lowered by SQA for all National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications, for session 2019-20, would have their estimate award honoured. Moreover, he also announced that pupils who had been 'upgraded' from their estimate would have no change made to their result this session. Our out-going S6 pupils have been contacted and are welcome to contact the school to be informed of their estimate grades. Updated results will be in school on 21st August 2020 and young people will receive new certificates from the SQA in due course.

We as a school offered the opportunity to all new S5/6 pupils to receive their estimate grades via their respective House Teams on 13.08.20 in order that our young people could ascertain what affect, if any, this announcement would have on their individual results.

We await a further announcement regarding a revised Appeals process mentioned by the Depute First Minister on Tuesday. At that point, no details were provided as to what the purpose of this system would be.

Changes to the Guidance Team

We welcome Miss Meldrum who has joined the Guidance Team from Carnoustie HS. Miss Meldrum comes with considerable experience and has been appointed as a Guidance teacher in Cawdor House, supporting all Cb classes.

Mr Milne, who has also been appointed as a permanent PT Guidance remains as the Guidance teacher for all Kb classes.

I am delighted that we have been able to retain the services of Miss Stahlberg (who will now support Birnam House) and Mr Edwards (Forres House) at least until October in our Guidance Team.

New S1 Intake

Huge thanks to all the families of our new S1 pupils who sent their son/daughter/young person in for the second day of their Induction on Wednesday 12th August. The young people looked extremely smart, were very co-operative and feedback was very positive at the end of the day. We look forward to welcoming our S1 pupils back on Monday 17th August for their first day with the entire school cohort in attendance.

Registration Process

I would ask that you email, text or call the school when seeking permission for young people to be out of school or when explaining a pupil absence. This will reduce the amount of paper coming into period 1 teachers and our colleagues in the school office.

Young people should now go to the office to collect their leave of absence before exiting for an appointment.

School Crossing Patrol (SCP)

Due to the staggered lunches, the SCPs will be on duty during the S1 – S3 lunch break each day as well as at the beginning and end of the school day.

Technical Department

It is our normal and preferred practice for safety glasses and aprons to be worn in workshops at all times. In recent years these items have been provided for young people by the department. Under current guidelines relating to Covid 19 we cannot continue the arrangement for aprons because they would have to be washed between every use. Therefore, the use of an apron will become optional. Teachers will indicate instances when aprons are more desirable because of the nature of the activity and on these occasions young people can either use their own personal apron or a disposable one made available to them. The arrangement for provision of safety glasses remains unchanged. An exception to the above will apply in Practical Metalwork. Senior pupils taking this subject will be issued with a fabric apron that will be retained in school for their own personal use.

C Dickson
PT Technical Education

Dropping Off / Picking Up

Please do not use the bus bays outside of the school for drop off / pick up. These are needed for all of our school buses.

As noted in earlier newsletters, please use West Park Rd or Shaftsbury Rd.

Congratulations

And finally...

Congratulations to our young people who have cooperated with staff and helped us all to return to school in a safe, supportive environment.

It is great to have all of our young people back.

Yours sincerely,



Barry Millar
Head Teacher

