



10th March 2021

Term 3 newsletter – week no. 10

Dear Parent / Carer / Young Person,

This newsletter will give you information in relation to our approach in relation to a gradual return to the school building, starting next week (Monday 15th March).

Accompanying this newsletter will be a year-group specific communication which will give more detailed information in relation to when your young person will be in school.

As communicated earlier this week, you are invited to a Q&A session, hosted by our Parent Council Chair, where members of the Senior Leadership Team will answer any questions to help aid the return of our young people.

This meeting takes place this evening (Wednesday 10th March), 6-7pm via Zoom. The link to join the meeting is below:

[Join Meeting](#)

Our In-school Learning Timetable (Monday 15th March – Thursday 1st April)

Following Scottish Government guidance, the rationale which we have worked towards includes:

- Priority given to Senior Phase learners (to continue at pace their preparation for SQA evidence)
- To support health and wellbeing, young people will be with their own teachers and with members of their class
- Ensure all classes are taught in 2-metre physically distanced teaching spaces
- Avoid in-school lunch arrangements to help manage 2-metre physical distancing (lunch will still be available for Harris Hub pupils)
- Ensure young people can access school transport at some point in the day
- Have S1-S3 and S4-6 pupils in the building at different times of the day

The time allocation per year group is:

S1	3 periods for two weeks, 5 periods for one week
S2	3 periods for two weeks, 5 periods for one week
S3	6 periods one week, 5 periods the next week
S4	11 periods per week
S5/6	10 periods per week

More detail can be found in the bespoke year group letter which will also be issued today.

Our plan to communicate the specific times our young people will be in the building

Year group-specific communications have been sent to accompany this letter.

Our Remote Learning offer (Monday 15th March – Thursday 1st April)

To ensure we focus on welcoming young people back into our building and that the learning experience is as rewarding as possible when in school, our remote learning offer will need to change as staff capacity will not allow a continuation of our current structure.

From Monday, all learning will be posted on Satchel One for young people to complete. This will include notification of any live learning episodes. Staff are encouraged to give feedback on learning as often as possible but will now not always be available during timetabled periods.

As suggested by Education Scotland and Dundee City Council's Children and Families Service, I am encouraging my colleagues to make best use of National and Local e-learning resources when preparing appropriate work for young people in the Broad General Education.

In S1 and S2, our Week A / B model will continue until 1st April.

I have asked my colleagues to continue with live learning, where appropriate and possible.

Ensuring the safety of all in our building

To fulfil Scottish Government expectations, we will have a heightened focus on safety procedures, particularly around face coverings and 2-metre physical distancing. The following safe working practices have been put in place to ensure a strong focus on health and safety:

2m distancing must be adhered to by all staff and pupils whilst in the building at all times.

Separate entrances will be used for the various year groups. They are:

Morning		Afternoon	
S4	Plaza (Clock Tower)	S1	Plaza (Clock Tower)
S5/6	Maths entrance	S2	Maths entrance
Harris Hub	Main entrance	S3	Main entrance

Young people will **exit** the building by the closest available doors. Teaching staff will direct young people to their exit.

In line with Scottish Government expectations, **all staff and pupils must wear a face covering** in all areas of the building. **This now includes all S1 – S3 pupils whilst in classrooms.**

All staff are encouraged to keep windows and doors open to **maximise ventilation**. Please bring appropriate clothing to combat cooler temperatures than the norm.

Antibacterial hand gel will be required to be used on entrance to the building and on entry into **every classroom**.

Workspaces will be cleaned with antibacterial spray on entry and exit from each classroom.

Young people and staff must **stay to the left** in corridors to support 2-metre physical distancing.

Face Coverings

In line with Scottish Government expectations, we are reviewing the number of young people who are exempt from wearing a face covering whilst in school.

Any young person in this category should provide a letter that informs us of a valid medical reason as to why they are exempt. We will not be recognising our white badges from next week and instead will be issuing lanyards for those who are exempt from wearing a face covering.

Uniform

Until our return on the 19th April, our young people and staff **do not** require to wear formal school uniform. This decision has been made to support families to ensure clean clothes can be worn when entering the building on each occasion.

Transport

The dedicated school bus services – 23s, 27s, 28s and 29s, provided by Xplore Dundee to support Harris Academy pupils to travel to and from school have continued to operate throughout lockdown to ensure that young people are able to access the Harris Hub. Currently, these services require all young people to wear face-covering and maintain 2m physical distancing when accessing these services.

From Monday 15th March, safe working practices on these services will be brought in line with all public transport.

All young people must wear face-coverings when accessing public transport. 1m physical distancing will also be in place on all services.

Young people who have been allocated a space on the Carse of Gowrie dedicated school bus service will continue to be able to make use of this service on either their journey to or from school as their timetable dictates.

Harris Hub arrangements

As we welcome young people back into our building the Harris Hub will continue to operate as normal during this period of a phased return to school.

Young People who have been allocated a space within the Harris Hub will continue to follow their remote learning timetable with the exception of times when their own classes are in attendance in school. At these times, your young person will join their classmates.

The numbers of young people currently accessing a space in the Harris hub remains high and as more staff return to the school building to deliver face-to-face learning this will have an impact on how we structure and support our Hub provision.

To help rationalise the numbers, we will continue to contact families who are currently accessing the Hub on a weekly basis, requesting more details as to when and why the place is required.

Places in the Harris Hub should only be requested if you are a keyworker and have exhausted all other childcare options, you (and your partner) are keyworkers and are not working from home. Young people should only attend the Harris Hub on days that you are (both) working.

Asymptomatic Testing (S4 – S6 young people)

It is not too late for any of our S4 – S6 young people to participate in Lateral Flow Testing. A copy of a letter that has been issued to all families of Senior Phase pupils can be found by clicking on the following link <http://harrisacademy.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk/aysmptomatic-testing-letter-updated-version.pdf>

Young people who would like to join the programme can do so by going to the main office at the end of their timetabled time in school.

My colleagues and I look forward to welcoming our young people into our Perth Road home from next week, albeit on a restricted basis. It is most certainly a step in the right direction on our road towards a full return.

With best wishes to you and your loved ones,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Millar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barry Millar
Head Teacher