

05 March 2021

Dear Parents and Pupils

You will be aware from recent Ministerial announcements that Year 12, 13 and 14 will return to face-to-face teaching from **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**. To support the safe return of these important year groups and to alleviate concerns regarding health related and academic issues, I want to provide you with guidance on how the school will manage the restart process.

However, I firstly want to commend our young people and parents for the huge level of support and commitment to learning which has been made throughout his lockdown. Almost every pupil in Years 12 – 14 has demonstrated high levels of independence, a strong work ethic and have made steady progress in their subject areas. The skills learnt during this difficult phase, I believe, will be improtant as they move forward to independent study at university or in the next level of their learning journey.

### **Health and Well-being**

Given the centrality of pupil and staff welfare, and keeping in line with guidance from SAGE, all schools are required to ensure stringent measures are adhered to to mitigate against to spread of Covid – 19. Therefore, the prevailing public health and scientific advice is as the follows :

#### **Face:**

- **Face coverings must** be worn at all times in **all** indoor areas, including during class/study period and whilst queuing in the canteen area.
- Face coverings **must** be worn at all times on public transport. *\*Face coverings should be logo free.*

#### **Hands:**

- **Hand-washing and Hand stantising:** On entry to school, all pupils will be required to wash their hands. Years 12, 13 and 14 pupils will continue to use the entrance / exit point at the Assembly Hall.
- Pupils are encouraged to wash their hands, or use the hand stantising stations, as often as possible throughout the school day.

#### **Space:**

- As much as is practically possible, pupils should adhere to **social - distancing**.

#### **Covid – 19 Symptoms\*:**

Pupils should not attend school if they have any symptoms of Covid–19

- (i) A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- (ii) A new, continous cough.
- (iii) A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

*\* Most people with Covid – 19 have at least one of these symptoms. The public health advice has not changed and you must inform the school if you or a member of your family has tested positive with Covid -19 and self – isolate, following all advice from P.H.A.*

### **Academic Planning**

All examinations in Summer 2021 have been cancelled and all schools across Northern Ireland will assign pupils Centre Determined Grades (CDG's). These grades will take into account the guidance provided by CEA and other examination boards and will be determined using an **evidence – based approach** model which will reflect the standard at which the pupil is performing in the qualification entred. It is therefore essential that the parents and pupils are aware of the following approach taken by the school:

## **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021: Preparation for Return to school: Remote Learning**

Pupils must re-double their efforts to ensure that all work posted on Google classroom is completed to the best possible standard. Pupils are advised to scroll through all their Google classrooms to check that all work is complete. This will enable teachers to start at the same teaching point for all pupils on Monday 22 March 2021.

## **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Restart and Recovery**

Periods 1 and 2 on Monday 22 March will be specifically designated pastoral support time to allow pupils time to re-adjust and reconnect with their class and peers. This session will also focus on the programme of teaching and specific guidance on evidence that will inform Centre Determined Grades. Its aim is to refocus, reassure and guide pupils back to face-to-face learning.

## **Teaching and Learning Phases: Years 12, 13 and 14**

### **Phase (i)**

- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021** (8 days )(inclusive) This phase will focus on recovery learning and intensive teaching. Full attendance is required for all pupils.

### **Phase (ii)**

- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021– Mid/Late May.** This phase will be used for Teaching and Learning in addition to evidence gathering for C.D.G. This may mean that pupils will engage in class tests, controlled assessment / coursework and other assessment activities. Pupils will be informed of the days ,times and dates for assessments.

### **Phase (iii)**

- **Late/Mid May 2021** (but no later than 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021)
- Some pupils may be asked to remain in school to complete coursework or other assessment materials.

## **End of Academic Year: Year 12 and Year 14**

Pupils will be given a specific end of Year date only when the school is satisfied that all evidence to determine Centre Assessed Grades is completed. This date may differ for different groups of pupils and will be determined by course completion and evidence.

## **Year 13**

There will be no 'study leave' for Year 13 pupils and teaching and learning will continue until the latter weeks in June 2021.

## **Other important dates for reference:**

- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021: “Catch – Up Day 2”** There will be no new work posted on this day. All Year 12 – 14 pupils are to use this day to ensure all work is complete.
- **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021: St Patrick’s Day – Public Holiday – school closed.**
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Sunday 11 April 2021 – Easter Holidays – school closed.**
- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Term 3 begins.**

I am very aware this is a lot of information, however, I do think it is important that you and your child can be assured that the staff and I will make every effort to ensure as smooth a transition back to face-to-face teaching as is possible.

I very much look forward to seeing everyone in school on Monday 22 March.

Yours Sincerely

B A Heron  
Principal  
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