

St Benedict's High School

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Head Teacher: Alan Taylor



Renfrewshire
Council

Children's Services

Dear Parents / Carers

UPDATE NO. 10

As we move towards the end of our first full term of session 2020-21, I am pleased to report another settled week with no reported COVID cases.

Our rigorous safety routines, which have proved to be extremely helpful, are now fully embedded into our day to day practices and continue to be monitored closely to ensure the safety of all members of our school community. All pupils have been exemplary in following these procedures.

Throughout the session pupils have continued to experience a high quality of educational experiences within our supportive community ethos.

I would like to extend thanks to all of the teaching staff for their dedication and commitment to providing the best possible education for our young people.

I would also like to thank you again for your ongoing support.

Tier 3 Announcement

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government recently confirmed Renfrewshire has moved back into Tier 3 level from 6pm on Friday 11th December.

A summary of Tier 3 school arrangements.

Face Coverings

Pupils should wear their face covering when:

- On school transport.
- Entering the building in the morning.
- In corridors when moving around the school.
- At interval and lunchtime when in designated indoor areas (after eating).
- When leaving the school building at the end of the day.
- S4-6 pupils are required to wear a face covering in class. This also applies to teaching staff.
- Parents or visitors entering school premises (building or playground), including drop-off or pick-up, are required to wear a face covering.

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn

Exceptions apply to any pupils (and staff/parents/visitors) who cannot wear face coverings due to breathing difficulties, certain disabilities, or complex additional support needs. Pupils will be reminded there will be exemptions and all children should be treated equally and with respect.

Physical Education

Staff now have the option to conduct pupil lessons within the school building. Specific guidance has been issued regarding the types of activities allowed.

SQA Update

National 5

SQA has recently published **National 5** guidance for pupils and parents. Please click on the links below.

[SQA National 5 Message for Pupils](#)

[SQA National 5 Message for Parents](#)

Higher & Advanced Higher

John Swinney recently announced changes to the awarding of National Courses at **Higher and Advanced Higher** in 2020-21. In summary, there will be no external assessment of Higher/Ad Higher courses this year. We await further guidance from SQA.

Uniform Standards

Given the need to have windows and doors open at times during the day to ensure an appropriate air flow across the school, pupils have permission to keep their jackets/jumpers on in class if they so wish to. Jumpers should be black in colour with no logos as per our school uniform policy. I would ask for your support in this matter. In addition, pupils are asked to wear black comfortable footwear. This does not include "converse style" trainers. In this area, I am delighted to report that from a recent check 94% of pupils were in line with this request.

Parents' Portal

I would ask that you sign up to our new parents' portal where you will be able to access your child's school details, timetable, attendance records, letters and school reports. You'll also be able to report absences and sign permission slips

<http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/schools/parentsportal>

Christmas Newsletter

Our Christmas edition will be issued this week. You will enjoy reading this and I am extremely proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by pupils and staff. Look out for the link which will be sent by email/text. It will also be made available on the school website www.oraetlabora.co.uk

Happy reading!!!

Happy Christmas and New Year 2021

Finally, on behalf of the staff of St Benedict's I wish you and your family a very Merry and Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you (in person!!!) in 2021.



Alan Taylor

Head Teacher