

St Benedict's High School

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Head Teacher: Alan Taylor



Renfrewshire
Council

Children's Services

Dear Parent / Carer

You will be aware of yesterday's announcement by the First Minister of a phased reopening of schools, from Monday 22nd February, for senior phase pupils who require to be in school to complete practical elements of SQA courses.

The following provides a detailed overview of our key arrangements introduced as a result of this decision.

Return to school

In line with government guidelines, a maximum of 8% of the school roll will be allowed to attend at any given time. This is in addition to our key workers/vulnerable groups of pupils currently attending day to day.

We have created a bespoke timetable to accommodate this. A copy is available on the school the website. Classes will be scheduled across both morning and afternoon sessions. Each session will last for 2 hours 30 mins.

Sessions have, as much as possible, been scheduled to broadly match with our normal school timetable. This is in order to minimise the disruption to other subjects. Please note pupils will not be required to attend both sessions in a day.

Your child will be emailed directly, by their year head, with details of their allocated slots for the week ahead including clear instructions relating to this attendance. This may change from week to week and is also based on teacher requests.

We will also contact you by text to confirm your child's required attendance across the week. A reminder text will be issued the day before your child is required to attend.

Transport

Please note that normal school transport arrangements will be in place at the start/end of the school day. Outwith these times, pupils will need to make their own transport arrangements. I understand this is not ideal, but I would ask for your support in this area. If this is an issue, please contact the school office.

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Lunchtime Arrangements

Only pupils attending the HUB will be permitted to stay in the school building.

Uniform

When in attendance, all pupils are expected to wear full school uniform. This will also include pupils attending the HUB.

Testing

As you will be aware, linked to this return, the first minister has announced the roll out of asymptomatic testing for staff and senior phase pupils. This is being put in place as part of the package of COVID-19 risk reduction mitigations in schools.

I have already communicated with all pupils and parents directly involved.

Details of this communication and programme details are available on the school website.

Please note any S1-S3 pupils attending the HUB are not required to take part in this COVID testing programme.

Although the programme of testing is voluntary (and confidential), I would strongly urge you to engage your child in this process. This will provide further protection to members of our school community.

A reminder of key arrangements

- Testing kits should be collected from the school office before the end of the week at the allocated times. On entering the building, please ensure you maintain a 2m distance from others at all times and wear a face covering.
- Please note, pupils over the age of 16 years can sign their own consent form, those under 16 years will require a parental signature.
- Paper copies of the consent form will also be made available at the school office if required and can be filled in on collection. Please bring your own pen for this purpose.

COVID safety mitigations

The following COVID safety arrangements will be implemented during this phased return. These include

- Maintaining a 2m distance to all staff and pupils at all times, including in the classroom and when on transport.

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- The wearing of face coverings when in the school building, in classrooms and on school transport.
- Sanitising on entry/exit to the main building and classrooms.
- Wiping down work surfaces at the start and end of lessons.
- Reporting ill-health to a member of staff immediately.

Finally, thank you for your understanding and continued support at this time. As always, I am available to discuss any issues you may have.

Alan Taylor
Head Teacher

