

St Benedict's High School

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Renfrewshire
Council

Children's Services

Dear Parents / Carers

UPDATE NO. 18

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware of last week's announcement by the First Minister of plans to begin the next phase of reopening of schools. This is welcome news as we look forward to bringing back all pupils in a phased return from week beginning 15th March.

From this date, pupils will engage in a blended model of remote and in-school learning. This will be in place until the start of the Easter break 1st April.

Priority for in-school, face to face teaching will be given to senior phase pupils (S4-S6) who are taking National Qualifications.

Our S1-S3 pupils will also have the opportunity for face-to-face lessons. However, this will be limited given the priority to our senior pupils and physical distancing.

To ensure the health and safety of all staff and pupils, all previously introduced safety arrangements will be reinstated. I must emphasise that if your child or any family member has symptoms / tests positive for COVID, the school must be informed immediately and self- isolation must begin.

In addition, the following mitigations have been introduced

- Pupils are expected to maintain 2m physical distancing at all times.

This impacts the numbers of pupils that we can bring into the building as classrooms cannot accommodate the typical class size of 30 pupils because of the 2m distancing.

- Pupils are expected to wear a face covering when in the building, including classrooms and communal areas. As per government guidance, face masks should be at least two, and preferably three layers.

This is a change as previously only S4-6 pupils were required to wear face coverings in class. Individual exemptions due to health issues still apply.

After the Easter holiday break, all pupils are expected to return full time.

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn

As with previous announcements this is subject to continued reductions in virus levels in the community.

Arrangements 15th March – 1st April

During the initial period, pupils will follow their normal timetable. In order to comply with the 2m physical distancing, as highlighted earlier, adjustments to the number of pupils attending have had to be made.

Each year group (S4-S6) will be split into two sections with pupils attending school every alternate day over the three week period.

Each year group S1-S3 will be split into three sections and will attend every third day over the three week period.

Full details of days your child is to attend will be issued shortly. A follow up text will also be sent out, as a reminder, the day before your child is to attend.

When pupils are not in school, they are expected to follow their timetable and engage with online work set.

Key Worker / Vulnerable learners HUB

Provision for key worker families and vulnerable learners will continue for eligible pupils.

Testing programme

Our current testing programme will continue for staff and senior pupils. Arrangements are in place and the school office will contact you with collection details this week.

Transport

Normal transport arrangements are in place. Pupils are expected to wear face masks and physically distance to 1m (subject to Scottish Government confirmation).

Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform on return. As classroom windows will be open to ensure ventilation, I would recommend that pupils wear a jumper. Please can I ask that this is black in colour as per uniform policy. No hoodies please.

Lunchtime – Canteen

There will be a grab and go service available however, I would encourage pupils to bring a packed lunch.

Please note there will be no access to water fountains, pupils must therefore bring a full bottle of water each day.

Update on the return of S4-6 for practical activities

I am delighted to report another positive return to school last week. Again, across the week the majority of classes had 100% attendance with pupils responding well to our safety arrangements. As a result of the FM announcement, this will be the last week of this arrangement.

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

Alan Taylor
Head Teacher

