

St Benedict's High School

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Renfrewshire
Council

Children's Services

Dear Parents / Carers

UPDATE NO. 9

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government recently confirmed Renfrewshire has move into Tier 4 level from 6pm on Friday 20th November.

This brings with it some extra protection measures for schools as detailed below :

Shielding children and young people

As part of level 4 protective measures, it is recommended that any pupil on the "shielding list" should not attend school without a risk assessment, informed by the clinical team caring for them.

Pupils who are shielding will learn remotely at home and our staff will be there to support them. The Chief Medical Officer will also write to everyone in this shielding category with further advice.

If your child is in the shielding category, please get in touch with your child's Year head (**Mrs Dewar S1 & S4, Miss McFadden S2 & S5, Dr Phelps S3 & S6**) so we can support you and provide details of the arrangements for the next few weeks.

If you are unsure if your child is in the shielding category, please speak to your medical consultant or GP for advice.

Physical education (PE)

The enhanced protective measures also mean some changes relating to physical education and sporting activity.

We will continue to teach PE; however, this will now only take place outdoors. We will consider the activities best suited to the weather conditions.

In the case of extremely bad weather, schools may decide to provide an alternative activity instead.

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn

Extra-curricular activities/supported study

Our after school extra-curricular programme will be paused. However, please note this does **not include our supported study programme**. An update on classes available will be issued this week.

A reminder a programme of online classes for our senior pupils is also available through

<http://www.e-sgoil.com/studysupport2020/>

I would strongly encourage senior pupils to engage at this stage.

SQA Update

John Swinney recently announced a number of measures for the awarding of National Courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher in 2020-21. Departments are currently engaging with the guidance issued.

A summary of key points :

- National 5 level - there will be no external assessment of National 5 courses this year – either by an exam or by coursework. Internal assessments and teacher judgement will be used to provide grading.
- Higher and Advanced Higher – there will be externally assessed exams, including the completion of coursework where appropriate.

To help our young people to prepare for these, there will be two key assessment points before the final graded assessment in April/May (subject to SQA confirmation).

Assessment block	National 5	Higher /Advanced Higher
January	18-29th	11-22nd
March	Dates to be confirmed following updates from SQA	Dates to be confirmed following updates from SQA
April/May		

These assessments will :

- Test pupils' understanding of the work they have covered to-date.
- Give information on the grade they are currently working at.
- Provide feedback on how to improve.

We will give you regular updates on your child's progress via tracking and full reports.

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn

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>

For updates please follow our twitter account @stbenedictsren and website
www.oraetlabora.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support.



Alan Taylor

Head Teacher