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8 March 2021

Dear parent/carer

This is for parents/carers of mainstream pupils.

I wrote to you on 4th March in response to the First Minister's statement on the phased return to school from 15th March. This letter is giving more details about what that phased return will look like for the pupils here at Bucksburn Academy.

Rationale

This plan is to support all young people with a full return to the school on April 12th (subject to confirmation by the Scottish Government). At Bucksburn Academy we will maximise the number of young people receiving in-school learning whilst maintaining the high-quality remote learning we are able to offer. Engagement has been very high in remote learning and we wish to maintain this offer.

To support the Alternative Certification Model for SQA qualifications we will prioritise senior phase learners, building on Phase 1 of the return to school where pupils requiring practical activity in school have been invited in. We will increase the number of pupils invited in where we can do so within the restrictions.

All young people will have the opportunity to attend school each week from the 15th March. These sessions will focus on wellbeing and outdoor learning package that will help pupils to continue to connect with others, 'reconnect' with the school and staff, support their readiness to return to in-school learning, and provides experiences to support learning and wellbeing.

Whilst increasing the number of young people accessing in-school provision, we will maintain our provision for key worker and vulnerable children currently available.

To ensure that the return is as safe as possible we will continue with the mitigations within our risk assessment. This will include separate entrances for year groups, hand washing/sanitising on entry and exit from the building/classrooms, cleaning of work areas and wearing of face coverings. These mitigations will be enhanced with 2m distancing at all times inside the school building and face coverings will be required for all pupils and staff at all times in the building, including in classrooms (unless exempt).

School Plans

Senior Phase pupils preparing for National Qualifications

Building on the Phase 1 return from 22nd February we will continue with pupils attending for practical activities in school and will invite more young people into school to receive further support to help them achieve their National Qualifications. If your child is to be invited in we will contact you individually.

Where pupils have been invited in to complete SQA work on the day of their Wellbeing Session they should attend the practical sessions.

All pupils – Wellbeing Sessions – ‘Reconnect’

We have planned Wellbeing sessions for all young people over the two-week period. These will begin at 8.30am and will end at 11am. Transport will be available for all pupils that require it.

Week 1		Week 2	
Date	Group in school	Date	Group in school
Mon 15 th	S1	Mon 22 nd	S5/6
Tue 16 th	S2	Tue 23 rd	S3
Wed 17 th	S3	Wed 24 th	S2
Thu 18 th	S4	Thu 25 th	S1
Fri 19 th	S5/6	Fri 26 th	S4

You will see that the groups come on different days. This is because we will be asking pupils to take their ‘Wellbeing Day’ on the day they come into school and we did not want the classes on that day being affected both weeks.

When they are in school, pupils will have some time in a classroom (socially distanced) and period of time outside for outdoor learning– the focus of the sessions will be mental health and wellbeing.

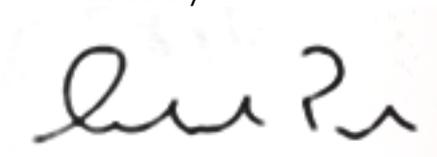
When pupils come to the school for these sessions they are expected to:

- Arrive on time (8.30am) and gather at their fire muster station – staff will be available outside to direct them.
- Pupils do not need to wear uniform but should dress appropriately for the weather as time will be spent outside.
- Maintain social distancing (2m) at all times when in school, including corridors and classrooms.
- Where a face covering (unless exempt) at all times (including in classrooms) in the building.
- Sanitise hands on entry and exit from classrooms and the building.
- Clean the area they have been working at.
- Bring a water bottle and a snack.

As more staff will be in school we will have to make a small reduction in online provision. Core RME, core Drama and IDL/Wider Achievement will not continue for the final 2 weeks of the term.

We will hold a parent information evening on Thursday 11th March at 6pm to go over these details and to address any questions. Please look out for details of how to join this meeting on the School App. I look forward to speaking with you then.

Yours sincerely



Mike Paul
HT, Bucksburn Academy