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Head Teacher Mr Brian McDermott

Friday, 30th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope my letter finds you and yours well.

We have reached the end of the first two weeks of this key term for our young people and the first period of 'full-time' schooling since December. As always, our young people have adapted brilliantly to the mitigations in place to keep everyone as safe as possible and they have very quickly got back into the routine of school life. They've been an absolute credit.

Thank you as always for everything you have done to support and encourage this.

I am writing to remind you that next week there are only three school days for pupils due to the long weekend and the in-service day which corresponds with the Scottish Election.

As such, Monday, 3rd May and Thursday, 6th May are holidays for pupils.

You will be aware from communication during the Easter holiday that for the first couple of weeks back, as part of our controlled phased return to school full-time, we have not permitted young people to congregate in the school building at intervals/lunchtimes. This has been to offset the risk of huge numbers of people gathering indoors, without social-distancing and most often without their masks (it is impossible to eat and wear a mask at the same time, and young people need a break).

Having managed this two-week period and carefully phased the return of 900 people back into our building each day, we intend now to gradually allow young people the opportunity to congregate at lunches. Our morning and interval routines will remain the same for now and our split lunches will also remain – again, to reduce the numbers in any one place at any one time.

It is still important to carefully manage the number of people in our common spaces at any one time, especially when sitting for a length of time and without the aforementioned masks. As such, while **we will continue to encourage all young people to remain outside as much as possible** and we will continue to provide seating outside, we will now be facilitating some zoned seating each lunch-time, across two sittings, to allow a seat to those who wish to take one. Both sittings will be managed by year heads and will be offered equitably. This will be with effect from next **Tuesday**, 4th May.

It is our intention to operate this stage of the phased return for the three days of next week and then the following week. We will review regularly and will adapt further in line with the Scottish Government's timelines. It is hoped that Scotland will move to level 2 on the 17th May.

Like all mitigations, this places additional asks on our young people and none are straight-forward or perfect. However, our priority remains on ensuring that we do all we can to ensure our school is as safe as possible in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to ensure that our young people are able to continue to attend school every day for the reminder of the school session.

Thank you as always for your support and please don't hesitate to get in touch should you need anything.

Take care for now.

Yours Sincerely,

Brian McDermott Head Teacher