



All Saints RC Secondary School

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Head Teacher
Mr Brian McDermott

Thursday, 23rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope my letter finds you and yours well. We have enjoyed a very positive start to session 2021-2022 and our young people have been a real credit. We are delighted in particular with how quickly our new S1 have settled into life in All Saints'. They have made a marvellous start.

I am writing just to update on a couple of things as we reach the long weekend.

We finish today for the September weekend, with school starting again on Tuesday of next week, **Tuesday, 28th September**.

As you will also know, **Friday, 8th October** is an in-service day for staff and so pupils stop for the October mid-term holiday at the end of the school day on **Thursday, 7th October**, returning **Monday, 18th October**.

Covid-19

You will have noted in the Scottish press that the Scottish Government have advised that all existing 'in-school' mitigations should remain in place until 'at least the October week'. I will update you further as soon as I am able to.

As such, we will continue with our mitigations, as follows:

- A revised and updated **Risk Assessment** remains in place
- Regular **hand washing/use of hand sanitiser** will continue throughout each day.
- **Desks and work spaces will continue to be cleaned** after every lesson and 'touch point' cleaning will continue throughout the school day too.

- **Seating plans** will remain in place for every classroom across the school.
- All young people must wear a **face covering** (unless medically exempt) at all times in our school building other than when sitting eating at interval/lunch.
- Young people will be encouraged to undertake **twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests** and record their results. Test kits are available in school via Year Heads.
- **At least 1m social distancing** will be employed between all adults and young people and between all adults and other adults.
- As before, where possible social distancing will be in place between young people.
- We will maintain our **staggered start** to the school day:
- We will maintain our **'split' intervals and lunch-times**.

Where a young person is absent from school with a positive diagnosis for Covid-19, I would ask that you alert the school as early as you possible can. This allows us to liaise with Public Health, as appropriate, and also to ensure that we can arrange for learning resources to be shared via Microsoft Teams groups for young people who are absent, assuming they feel well enough to continue to engage in their learning.

Can I thank you for your continued support of all the mitigations in place in our school; nobody particularly enjoys these extra dimensions to the school day but the young people have been very positive and understanding around all the additional asks. Thank you for playing your part.

SQA

It remains our expectation that there will be a normal exam diet from April-June 2022. As such, we are preparing our senior phase young people with this expectation in mind. This will mean that our prelim examinations – normally December – will go ahead as planned a further prelim diet will happen *within* departments in February/March. We will communicate supported study and study leave arrangements in due course. We will of course continue to monitor and communicate the SQA situation in line with updated advice as it comes.

Uniform

I have been delighted with the attitude from our young people to the re-emphasised focus on perfect school uniform in our school. It has been wonderful to see such tremendous improvements in such a short space of time. Almost all pupils are now wearing full uniform, including their blazers in and around our school, and almost all pupils are wearing all black shoes/trainers.

Thank you again to all parents/carers for your support here – it really makes a huge difference to the atmosphere and culture of our school and makes for a much more equitable environment.

Where issues arise – and they do – please just write a brief note and ask that your child gives this to their Pupil Support Teacher first thing in the morning.

Maths Week Scotland / Skills of the Month / OneNote

Next week is Maths Week Scotland, so look out for our young people being involved in all kinds of Maths/Numeracy based activities throughout the week; I'd encourage you to get involved with some of the activities and tasks as the week goes along – you do not need to be a Mathematician (I'm not!) to participate.

Our focused *Developing the Young Workforce* skills of the month across the curriculum are Numeracy and Literacy – young people have had an explicit focus on where they are developing these skills across the curriculum and will be discussing this through their PSHE classes in the coming weeks.

Additionally, our *digital learning* focus this month has been on supporting young people (and staff) with the use of OneNote via their iPads. This opens up a huge amount of opportunities around digital learning. Please ask your child to show you some of what they have been learning. If you're unsure at all, please just get in touch – we have a team of staff who can offer support if required.

As always, should you wish to speak to anyone about your child's learning or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to get in touch with their Pupil Support Teacher, their Head of Year or directly with myself. We are always happy to help.

I wish all of you and your families a lovely September weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

Brian McDermott
Head Teacher
All Saints' RC Secondary