



All Saints RC Secondary School

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Head Teacher
Mr Brian McDermott

Thursday, 10th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope my letter finds you and your families well.

I am writing to remind everyone that school is closed to pupils next Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th February, returning as usual at 8:50am on Thursday, 17th February; and also, to update you on one or two things.

Covid-19 Mitigations

The most recent update from the Scottish Government, issued on the 1st February, has facilitated a reappraisal of our current split lunch/interval setup. Whilst there have been some advantages to this split setup, it was only ever put in place as a recommended interim Covid-19 mitigation, and following this update, we have taken the decision to change this back to normal with effect **from Thursday, 17th February**.

As such, **all pupils** will now have intervals from 11:20am – 11:35am and lunches from 1:15pm – 1:55pm as before.

This extends also to the removal of staggered starts to the school day – **all pupils** will now enter the school and **commence learning at 8:50am**.

At this time, pending further Scottish Government review, all other mitigations remain in place in schools.

SQA (Parents of S4, S5 and S6)

Exam Diet

You may have seen in the national and/or via our social media outlets, that the SQA have updated their position on the scheduled examination diet from April-June 2022.

It remains the expectation that all exams will go ahead as planned but the SQA have announced that this will take place under their 'Scenario 2' contingency.

This means that the SQA will publish further guidance – for example through 'Revision Guides' – in advance of the exam diet. This is scheduled to take place week beginning 7th March. Teachers do not have advanced access to this information but we will respond efficiently and appropriately as soon as we have the information, to enable us to ensure all young people are as fully supported as possible.

SQA Presentations

Following the prelim examinations, I met with all heads of department and year heads to discuss the progress of all of our Senior Phase learners and to plan for support and interventions for our young people.

In early March, in advance of the SQA deadline of the 31st March, we will meet again to finalise the presentation courses and levels for all young people. At this time, in the event that a change in level is being recommended, your child's head of year will contact you to inform you of this and offer an opportunity for discussion should you wish this.

In the vast majority of cases, young people's levels and courses do not change at all; if you have any concerns about your child's progress in their SQA courses (or across their S1-S3 learning as applicable), please don't hesitate to get in touch with their head of year or pupil support teacher.

Uniform

It remains the case in school during the winter period that where the partial opening of classroom windows as a Covid-19 mitigation causes the room temperature to drop, young people are permitted to wear their outside jackets over their school uniform during lessons if they require.

It is important that we get the balance right between ventilation in classes and young people's comfort; we will keep this under review but I anticipate this running for at least the rest of February.

Whilst we do have high expectations around uniform, and will continue to do so; freezing cold children won't learn effectively – common sense is key here.

Thank you for your continued support with this and all other aspects of our uniform in All Saints'.

Parents' Newsletter

Our February edition of the above can be accessed via this link:

<https://sway.office.com/ymNqbdi4L983CRSO?ref=Link&loc=play>

This publication, written and edited by our S6 News Team, will provide a flavour of some of the brilliant things going on in All Saints'. It will also be available via our website.

I would encourage all of you who utilise social media to follow the All Saints' Twitter feed [@allsaintsrcsec](#) and Instagram page [@allsaintsrc](#). We post on these multiple times daily with snippets of the great work being done across our school.

Reporting to Parents

As soon as we are able to have parents back in school for parents' evenings and/or information sessions, we will get these arranged. In the interim, we will continue to provide reports via telephone calls home from key staff using our 'request form' as before. This, whilst not ideal, has worked well as a stop-gap during Covid-19.

As always though, no parent needs to wait until a scheduled reporting period to get in touch about their child's learning – please email or call to speak to your child's year head or pupil support teacher. We are always happy to help.

Celebration Assemblies

Whilst we are still unable to hold full assemblies due to existing Covid-19 mitigations, over this week and next there will be multiple split assemblies across all year groups where we will focus on recognising the many successes of our young people across the school.

Look out for good news messages and success certificates – across all ages and stages! Our young people are terrific and they've managed so admirably to continue to learn and give their best in these challenging times; we are delighted to recognise some of their successes in this way.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or wellbeing. We are always happy to help.

Have a brilliant long weekend.

Regards,

Brian McDermott

Head Teacher
All Saints' RC Secondary

