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Dear Parents/Carers

Return to School for Senior Phase (Practical Subjects) and Continued Remote Learning

On Friday evening (12.2.21) the Covid Emergency Response Guidance (CERG) for Senior Phase pupils returning to schools was published:

[Prioritising the return of senior phase learners: Technical guidance for providing senior phase practical work in-school \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

Following the First Minister's announcement in Parliament on 2.2.21, over the past 2 weeks, the Senior Leadership Team and Principal Teachers have been working to anticipate this guidance and therefore, we look forward to welcoming our S4-S6 pupils back from Monday 22.2.21, as the First Minister confirmed on Tuesday 16.2.21.

As per the guidance, senior pupils will return in small groups (5-8% of the whole school roll) to participate in on-site teaching and learning for practical subjects which have assessable SQA elements. For Ellon Academy, the subjects with practical elements to be delivered in school in Learning Bubbles are:

S4/5 Admin
S4/5/6 Drama

S4 Woodwork
S4 Hospitality

S4 Metalwork

Here is the Practical Subjects timetable for return:

Monday 22.2.21 - S4 Woodwork; S6 AH Drama; N3/4 Admin; N5 Admin

Tuesday 23.2.21 - NPA Drama; Higher Admin

Wednesday 24.2.21 - S4 Metalwork; S5/6 Woodwork; S4 (Col F) Hospitality (Miss Coughlan and Miss Hepburn class (double period on a Wed)

Thursday 25.2.21 - S4 (Col E) Hospitality (Miss Hepburn's class, double on a Fri)

Friday 26.2.21 - S4 (Col D) Hospitality (Miss Coughlan's class, double period on a Mon)

Monday 1.3.21 - S4 Woodwork; S4 Nat 5 Drama; Nat 3/4 Admin; Nat 5 Admin

Tuesday 2.3.21 - Higher Drama; Higher Admin

Wednesday 3.3.21 - S4 Metalwork; S5/6 Woodwork; S4 (Col F) Hospitality (Miss Coughlan and Miss Hepburn class (double period on a Wed)

Thursday 4.3.21 - S4 (Col E) Hospitality (Miss Hepburn's class, double period on a Fri)

Friday 5.3.21 - S4 Col D Hospitality (Miss C class, double on a Mon)

Parents/Carers of pupils expected in school for practical subjects will also be sent this information via Groupcall email to alert them to the days/times for their children.

We strongly encourage that your young person attends the essential practical sessions for SQA course purposes and because pupils will be in school for a full day, additional provision will be made for them to access bubble areas for minimal study/remote learning if practical work for the day is done.

Usual registration procedures will stand, and Parents/Carers will receive an absence alert if a young person does not arrive at school when expected.

Transport

The Aberdeenshire Transport Unit has been informed if your son/daughter will be attending school and on which days, so pupils will be picked up and dropped off at the usual times before and after school. Currently, we have no information regarding social distancing on school transport at this time.

Remote learning (Senior Phase/Broad General)

Now that the First Minister has announced that senior pupils will return to school for practical work, we have had to review and increase the staffing of our in-house provision for Keyworker/Vulnerable Children. This means that teachers are now part of a rota to supervise these groups in school, whilst continuing to deliver online remote learning. Furthermore, the teachers of some practical subjects will be in school from Monday 22nd February, delivering in-school live lessons. This now looks like a 4-week phased return, so remote learning from home will continue via Google Classroom and will be signposted on the weekly Learning Schedule for all pupils.

However, face to face Senior Phase practical delivery is our priority during this time, so for Broad General (S1/2/3) pupils, staff will continue to post work, but any marking and feedback will be significantly reduced for those staff who are in school supervising the Hub and/or delivering in-school teaching. Teachers will post on each of their Google classrooms that they are delivering face to face lessons/supervising in the Hub that day and will not be able to provide feedback or complete marking for any work submitted remotely. Similarly, in school teaching will replace remote learning for some senior phase practical subjects.

Arriving and Leaving School Entry and Exit Doors/Sanitising Stations

New Arrangements for Vulnerable/Keyworker Hub Pupils:

- Hub pupils to enter and exit **Start and End** of day through **Main Reception**
- Hub pupils to use **Games Hall** for Registration, Break time and Lunch time
- S1/2 pupils – Room **S28**
- S3 pupils - Room **S32**
- Senior pupils - **Library**
- Toilets opposite Humanities to be used
- Break Time 10:15- 10:30
- Lunch Time 12:15-1:15

Arrangements for Senior Pupils accessing Practical Subjects:

- Woodwork and Metalwork Pupils – use the main pupil doors
- Admin Pupils – use the main reception doors
- Drama and Hospitality Pupils – use the main reception doors

Catering

- The usual catering facilities will be available for pupils in school:
 - Breakfast club, break and lunch

Pupils will be directed to a social zone at break and lunchtimes and must stay within this zone. Pupils who choose to go off-site for lunch will be expected to follow the rules in place for wider society.

Risk Assessment

- Entry/Exit (as above)
- Face Coverings - We continue to be in Level 4, so all pupils and staff must wear face coverings at all times
- Social Distancing – 2 metre social distancing will apply in classes and at social times
- Toilets – Pupils will be able to access the toilets closest to their learning bubbles
- Social seating – all social times seating will be 2 metres apart, so we do not expect pupils to move seating around
- Cleaning – Cleaning staff will continue to provide additional cleaning during the school day

School Uniform

- There is no requirement for school uniform at this time

Pupil Conduct

- Pupils who disrupt the learning provision in school, or who do not comply with risk assessment mitigations, can expect discussions with Parents/Carers regarding their continued access to on-site learning

Keyworker/Vulnerable Children

- Keyworker/Vulnerable children will continue to access school to access remote learning and will be supervised by a rota of subject faculty teaching staff.

I will ensure that we will continue to up-date Parents/Carers regarding the future phasing back of pupils and we hope that this will be as soon as possible.

Please contact your child's Principal Teacher of Guidance if you have any queries.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Buchan
Rector