

Parent Update

19 February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Phased Return of Senior Phase Students

I issued some information yesterday on the first part of the phased return of senior students. Following the updated guidance from Education Scotland and Scottish Government this week, this first part focuses very much on completing the learning and teaching aspects of practical work. We will be monitoring the progress of this very carefully and, as with everything else at the moment, make appropriate changes as required and keep students and parents/carers informed of these.

All staff and senior students who are currently working in the school building now have the opportunity to take part in COVID-19 testing using Lateral Flow Devices. These kits are used at home and we began issuing them this week following letters and consent forms being issued to staff and the parents/carers of S4-6 students. My thanks go to everyone who has volunteered to take part in this. Additional copies of consent forms are available from the school office should anyone have difficulty printing them off at home.

Reports & Parents' Evenings

We held our third virtual parents' evening last night and again this went ahead without too many IT glitches. Overall these do appear to have been successful and we certainly saw one major advantage last week when the event was able to go ahead as planned despite the heavy snow, which under normal circumstances would likely have led to significant disruption. As I indicated a few weeks ago, we will gather some feedback on the events from staff and parents/carers and I would appreciate if you could spare a few minutes to complete the short survey on this when it is issued next week.

S3 reports will be issued to parents/carers next week via email.

S2 Careers Week

S2 careers week will be taking place next week, albeit in a different fashion to normal. Students have been provided with videos from guest speakers on their team page to access over the week and my thanks go to the many business partners we have at Deans who were able to give their time to us for this. The talks should give students some insight into how the skills they are developing in various subjects are relevant to careers as well as potential career choices and the routes that can be taken into them.

Course Choice

Skills Development Scotland are delivering a live webinar for parents/carers on Thursday 25 February aimed at helping parents to assist their children in making course choices. Although our deadline for course choice forms to be submitted is today, the event may still be of interest. This virtual event, which is from 6.30pm until 7.15pm, will also have a question and answer session. To take part please register [here](#).

Higher Education WL Pathway Planning Event

This West Lothian event is aimed at any S3-6 students interested in a university pathway and will take place on Wednesday 24th February from 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm. Edinburgh, Stirling and Napier Universities will all speak at the event and can be accessed via the Webex link below:

<https://bit.ly/3dlopNX>

I hope that you and your families remain safe and well.

Pauline Allison
Head Teacher

Reminder of Covid 19 Protocols

As you are aware, with the return of our pupils and staff to school, we have put procedures in to place that support all members of the school community if anyone displays symptoms of Covid 19.

A reminder that the symptoms are:

- High temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste

If a pupil displays symptoms, we will contact you to collect your child (please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details). **Pupils over the age of 16 may return home themselves.** The pupil should, if possible, wear a face covering en route and avoid public transport.

You will be asked to follow Test and Protect and we will provide you with a copy of the Test and Protect Leaflet and Step by Step Guide when your child is collected.

Information on the groups of children within the school, **and on school transport**, and the adults that each group of children come in to contact with will be collected. This is to fulfil legal responsibilities for public health and will allow Test and Protect to contact appropriate people in the event of a positive test result.

If anyone within your household tests positive for Covid 19, please do not send your child to school. Report their absence and the reason for this by calling PSA in the morning.