Johnstone High School 

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8th October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, thank you for your support during these difficult times. I am very proud of how well our pupils handled the return to school and then how they coped with the challenges we have faced over the past few weeks. My sincere thanks to everyone in the school community for how we responded and dealt with the test and protect measures that were put in place to keep us all safe.

I told parents in my first letter of the school term that we would keep our new procedures under review, inevitably adapting them as the session moved on. This was borne out with the introduction of face coverings at the start of September. We are now planning on another change to our procedures in order to keep our pupils healthy and safe. As you will be aware, we have been asking pupils to go outside at breaks and lunchtime unless the weather is particularly inclement. This was to try to limit large indoor gatherings. As much as the weather has been dry and mild recently, we all realise this is likely to change as we move further into Autumn and Winter. I am keen to have the pupils safely indoors at breaks and lunchtimes to give them a supervised, warm and dry area to eat.

To accommodate bringing pupils indoors at breaks and lunchtimes, we are making changes to the school day which will affect all pupils in terms of what time they have their morning break and lunch. This will allow us to keep the younger and older pupils separate whilst ensuring that our seniors who are travelling to college or other schools for courses are not disadvantaged by changes to their school day. From Tuesday 20th October all pupils will use either the canteen or assembly hall for interval and lunch. The school canteen will also be increasing their menu offer to pupils and a hot meal will also feature each day.

I am very aware that this will be a bit confusing at first and we will have to introduce some extra bells for morning interval, but our pupils have always shown how resilient and adaptable they are and I am sure that after a few days they will get into the swing of it. Hopefully as time goes on, we will be able to relax more of our safety measures but at this time I feel that this is the safest option for our young people.

I have included in this letter the school day timings for your information and we will go through these with pupils on the first day back after the October break. We have also ordered cards with the timings printed and these will be issued to pupils to help them organise their day.

Finally, please note that start and finish times remain 8.50am and either 3.40pm (long days) or 2.50pm (short days).

With best wishes to you and your family for a relaxing October break,

Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher



