

**Head Teacher Update**

**Week ending 26th March 2021**

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have now successfully completed week two of the ‘part time timetable’. To give you a flavour of what this looks like in schools, pupils come in via their house doors and are greeted by their house team and classroom assistants (CAs). Posters are on the walls at each door reminding pupils what classroom they go to. Pupils are hand-sanitised, given face masks if they need them and offered a bottle of water and a cereal bar. Pupils then follow the one-way system to their classroom and sit distanced from each other and the teacher.

Our CA team then go around with their trolley each period collecting registers (as the pupils are split into various rooms so we can’t just rely on our computerised Seemis system), collecting seating plans just in case we have a positive test, collecting any forms from the pupils, then handing out home test kits and snacks from the trolley.

Suffice to say, it’s like a military operation! The pupils, the teachers and the support staff team have all risen to the occasion and the past two weeks have been very calm and orderly in school. I’m so proud of how our school community takes these things in its stride.

We have 4 more school days to go before the Easter break, and our hope is ALL the young people will be coming back on 19th April. This is what we are planning towards. However, we realise this is dependent on Scottish Government guidance around the return of pupils to school. I am under the impression the final decision will be made by government around the 6th of April. We will, of course, keep you up to date.

Here is the news for the week of 22-26th March 2021:

**Communications / updates this week**

This week Mrs Cole has written to parents of S4-6 with information about SQA and our assessment approach once we come back from the Easter holidays. Pupils were issued this letter on Friday 26th and it was also put on the school website.

Week beginning 29th March your child will also be given a letter about forthcoming holiday dates. I have drawn up a letter for parents to confirm that the Scottish government has approved two additional in-service days in the summer term for all high schools to support SQA work. In Renfrewshire, these days will be taken on 1st and 7th June, and this is in addition to the final remaining in-service which was moved to the 6th of May to coincide with the election. On the letter I also take the opportunity to list all the remaining holiday dates, for your information.

**Easter School and booster classes**

Mrs Cole has put together a programme of Easter school activity for the second week of the Easter holidays. Pupils have had this sent to them electronically and very much encouraged to sign up via a MS form. I would ask that parents of S4-6 speak to their children about Easter school and ask them what classes they have signed up for! This is going to be an invaluable support to ensure pupils get the best possible grades.

Related to this, Mrs Cole is currently finishing off the booster class schedule for seniors for after Easter. This will be with pupils soon, however we wanted to highlight the importance of Easter school with them first.

Finally, I’d like to thank all the staff that have volunteered to deliver these sessions, either during their holiday or out with the school day (evenings and weekends). So much of what we do in school relies on the goodwill of staff and I am very grateful to them for how they go above and beyond for our young people.

**Return to school (part time) for S1-6: Week three schedule**

There is a mix of mornings and afternoons for seniors on week three:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEK THREE** **S4-6 timetable** | **9-11.30am** **(periods 1 – 3 of your normal school timetable)** | **1-3.30pm** **(periods 4 - 6 of your normal school timetable)** |
| Monday 29 March | Mull and Skye |  |
| Tuesday 30 | Arran and Iona | Mull and Skye |
| Wednesday 31 |  | Arran and Iona |
| Thursday 1 April | Arran and Iona | Mull and Skye |

Still no change for S1-3:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S1-3 timetable**  | **9-11.30am**  | **1-3.30pm**  |
| Monday 15 March, 22 and 29 |  | All S1 and S2  |
| Tuesday 16 March, 23 and 30 | All S3 |  |
| Wednesday 17 March, 24 and 31 | All S1 and S2 |  |
| Thursday 18 March, 25 and 1 April |  | All S3 |

Until the end of this term (last day is Thursday 1st April), staff are still uploading tasks and activities onto MS teams / Satchel One for pupils. These are tasks that they can get on with independently during the times they are at home.

Many departments are also placing SQA revision materials on MS teams for seniors for over Easter. In any year, seniors would be encouraged to have a robust revision plan in place over the Easter break and in this one regard, 2021 is no different.

Again, parents please discuss this with your child.

**Options 2021/22**

S2/3 options have been ongoing this week (seniors will take place after Easter).

Aa a reminder for parents, all the information you need can be found at the link below:

<https://bit.ly/2P9eQr4>

**Parental Workshops**

Our programme of parental workshops was completed on Thursday evening. Thanks to all the staff who delivered these, and to parents/carers and pupils who took part.

**Keeping in touch**

Please remember that we are here to help.

PT Pastoral (see above) will be your first point of contact; however, the office staff will always endeavor to get you through to the most appropriate person:

0300 300 1331. There is also the school enquiries email:

johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

With best wishes to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher