



Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you about the arrangements for returning pupils to school from Wednesday 12 August 2020. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to Johnstone High School and seeing them all again.

We understand the past few months hasn't been an easy time and our thanks go to you and your children for your patience and understanding.

This August will look different from any other year in that schools will return to a model of 'blended learning'. This means pupils will be learning in school on some days and learning at home on other days.

We know this is not ideal but are sure you will appreciate that the current situation is challenging and unprecedented. We have worked hard to develop a model which delivers the best possible learning experience while taking every precaution to ensure the safety of pupils and staff, in line with government advice.

We will ensure physical distancing is maintained as much as possible and will do this through reduced class sizes and using all available space within the school. However, this obviously means not all pupils can be in school at the same time.

### Your child's days in school

	House groups	Attendance pattern on week one	Attendance pattern on week two
<b>GROUP ONE</b>	<b>ARRAN AND IONA</b>	Monday Wednesday Friday	Tuesday Thursday
<b>GROUP TWO</b>	<b>MULL AND SKYE</b>	Tuesday Thursday	Monday Wednesday Friday

By utilising a house group approach, we have tried to ensure all siblings attend on the same day wherever we can. We realise we may not have been able to satisfy every family's particular circumstances, and for this we both apologise and thank you for your understanding and continued support.

<b>Week Beginning</b>	<b>GROUP ONE (ARRAN AND IONA) will attend on the following days</b>
<b>Monday 17 August: WEEK TWO</b>	Tuesday Thursday
<b>Monday 24 August: WEEK ONE</b>	Monday Wednesday Friday
<b>Monday 31st August: WEEK TWO</b>	Tuesday Thursday
<b>Monday 7 September: WEEK ONE</b>	Monday Wednesday Friday
<b>Monday 14 September: WEEK TWO</b>	Tuesday Thursday
<b>Monday 21 September: WEEK ONE</b>	Monday Wednesday (not Friday as it is September weekend)
<b>Monday 28 September: WEEK TWO</b>	Tuesday Thursday
<b>Monday 5 October: WEEK ONE</b>	Monday Wednesday Friday

<b>Week Beginning</b>	<b>GROUP TWO (MULL AND SKYE) will attend on the following days</b>
<b>Monday 17 August: WEEK TWO</b>	Monday Wednesday Friday
<b>Monday 24 August: WEEK ONE</b>	Tuesday Thursday
<b>Monday 31st August: WEEK TWO</b>	Monday Wednesday Friday
<b>Monday 7 September: WEEK ONE</b>	Tuesday Thursday
<b>Monday 14 September: WEEK TWO</b>	Monday Wednesday Friday
<b>Monday 21 September: WEEK ONE</b>	Tuesday Thursday
<b>Monday 28 September: WEEK TWO</b>	(not Monday as it is September weekend) Wednesday Friday
<b>Monday 5 October: WEEK ONE</b>	Tuesday Thursday

Parents of pupils in the new S2-S6 will receive a confirmation text message about which group their child is in. (Please note that the young people themselves will know which house group they belong to, and therefore whether they are in group one or two.)

Parent of pupils in P7 (our new S1) can contact their primary school to confirm their child's class/house group. The P7 pupils who have been engaging in our Microsoft team will also know their S1 class. Classes are named in line with their houses, as follows:

**1A1 or 2 = Arran**

**1M1 or 2 = Mull**

**1I1 or 2 = Iona**

**1S1 or 2 = Skye**

The school building will open for pupils at 8.45am and we expect our young people to come in at that point, hand sanitise and make their way to their classroom. Teaching will commence at 9am. The school day will be broken into two blocks as follows with lunchtime in the middle:

**BLOCK ONE 9am – 11.30am**

**BLOCK TWO 12.15pm – 2.45pm**

At the end of the day we will dismiss pupils on different floors via a series of staggered bells. These measures will ensure we maintain physical distancing at the start and end of the day.

How long these arrangements continue depends entirely on advice and guidance from the Scottish Government. We will keep you updated on what that means for you and your family as and when that advice changes.

### First week back

The first week back will look different because schools open to pupils on Wednesday 12 August so this is a shorter school week. In line with other Renfrewshire high schools, we are staggering the return of pupils. However, we want to ensure that everyone gets back to school at some point during that first week.

Here are the arrangements for the first week back and lists which groups should be attending and on which days:

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST	GROUP ONE S1 – Arran and Iona				GROUP ONE S5+6 Arran and Iona
THURSDAY 13 AUGUST	GROUP TWO S1 Mull and Skye	GROUP TWO S2 Mull and Skye	GROUP TWO S3 Mull and Skye	GROUP TWO S4 Mull and Skye	GROUP TWO S5+6 Mull and Skye
FRIDAY 14 AUGUST	GROUP ONE S1 Arran and Iona	GROUP ONE S2 Arran and Iona	GROUP ONE S3 Arran and Iona	GROUP ONE S4 Arran and Iona	GROUP ONE S5+6 Arran and Iona

**Please note that GROUP ONE S2, S3 and S4 SHOULD NOT attend on Wednesday 12 August.**

## Other information

We appreciate this new model of blended learning will result in many questions. When pupils are in school, receiving their face to face teaching, they will also be provided with work to complete at home for the next time they are in school. We will also continue to support home learning, with teachers able to provide some level of support on the days your child is learning from home. However, this will now be more limited as staff will now have their face-to-face teaching commitment to manage alongside their online learning. We are confident that we will provide the right balance of blended learning to ensure your child continues to make good progress across their subjects.

Childcare will be available for the children of key workers on the days they are not in school. You can find out more information on the council's website.

We know the new model has implications for school transport and these are still being worked on.

We also know many parents have questions over school uniform and PE kit. Pupil will be expected to come to school wearing their standard school uniform. On the days that pupils have PE, they will be expected to come to school wearing PE kit as we are not planning on having changing facilities available.

Standard school uniform	Standard PE kit
Black skirt / trousers White shirt School tie Black shoes Warm/waterproof jacket Blazers remain a popular option	Generic: Dark jogging bottoms / shorts Plain white t-shirt / polo shirt Appropriate supportive training shoes Or Blue branded JHS top and shorts

**There is no need for any parent to source branded uniform / kit.** High street / supermarket uniform is perfectly acceptable. Branded items can be found at Sportswear Made Easy.

The council's website has a detailed Q&A full of information for parents and carers: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools> If you have any questions which aren't answered in the Q&A please don't hesitate to contact us directly at: [johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

I will write to you again in August with more details around your child's return to school. This will include information such as arrangements for designated entrance doors for year groups, one-way system, lunchtime, equipment your child will require (e.g. pencil case) and our expectations around hand washing and social distancing.

Once again, we thank you for your patience and understanding at this difficult time. The staff and I look forward to welcoming our young people back to school in August and we will do everything we can to make sure your child's return to school is as smooth as possible.

From all of us at Johnstone High School, we hope you and your family have a healthy and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Hollywood  
Head Teacher