

Dear Parent/Carer,

Phased Return to School

I am writing to you with details of our phased return to school plans. From Monday 15th March, we are delighted to be able to welcome young people back to school for face to face learning on a part-time basis and look forward to 19th April when it is expected that all students will return to school full time.

The Government guidance on moving to stage 2 of the phased return states the following:

“Senior phase learners who are taking national qualifications, must have priority for face to face learning and teaching in school to help ensure they achieve the qualifications they deserve. In particular, learning and teaching of critical practical work in relation to qualifications in 2021 must continue. Notwithstanding this, we expect that all young people in secondary schools will receive some in-school education each week from 15 March wherever possible. Schools and local authorities will decide how to provide this based on local circumstances and needs. This will allow pupils to engage with their teachers and start seeing friends again. At this time, this is as important for wellbeing as well as for learning.”

Our rationale for the blended learning model outlined in the attached guide is to ensure all learners in S1-S3 are provided with an opportunity to experience some in-school learning, while at the same time providing increased opportunities for S4-S6 students undertaking National Qualifications (NQs). We value all our young people at Marr College and I hope you understand the need for us to prioritise senior students at this time.

Scottish Government have also advised that **all S1-S6 students and all staff in school** should **observe strict 2m distancing** and **wear face masks at all times when indoors**. As a result of the need for distancing in school, we are limited to 50% of the school roll attending per day.

Phased Return Model

Over the two and a half weeks (14 school days) from 15th March until 1st April the following arrangements will be in place:

- S1-S3 will be split into three groups and each group will attend for a total of 4 days as shown below
- S4-S6 will be split into two groups and will attend for a total of 6 days as shown below
- Additional time will be provided for S4-S6 targeted support and the completion of essential practical activities on Friday 19th and 26th March
- When students attend they will follow their normal school timetable, with slight changes to break/lunch times
- Transport will be provided at the usual times for those who require it with 1m distancing and face masks required on the school bus
- Full details of the school day structure can be found in the attached 'Return to School Guide'

Classes are split to help ensure even allocation of numbers across each day, across classes and also to help maintain a maximum capacity of 40% on school transport. Unfortunately, we are not able to change these groups.

	Group A	BGE Group B	BGE Group C
S1-S3	Monday 15 th March Thursday 18 th March Wednesday 24 th March Tuesday 30 th March	Tuesday 16 th March Monday 22 nd March Thursday 25 th March Wednesday 31 st March	Wednesday 17 th March Tuesday 23 rd March Monday 29 th March Thursday 1 st April
S4-S6	Group A	Group B	Friday 19 th March Friday 26 th March
	All day Monday and Thursday	All day Tuesday and Wednesday	Additional S4-S6 targeted support and essential practical activities

Arrangements for S4-S6 Targeted Support

This model enables additional flexibility for some senior students to attend out with their designated days for example those in small practical classes, Advanced Highers or for additional targeted support. Young people identified will be invited in for these sessions. In these instances, young people would attend for short sessions or for an allocated period and may need to find alternative transport, if required.

On Friday 19th and Friday 26th March, we will continue to provide additional time for essential practical activities and targeted supports. Again, we will be in touch to invite particular groups and individuals on these days.

Remote Learning

Remote learning will require to be amended as staff will be teaching face-to-face in school. Work will continue to be set for students to complete at home when they are not attending school in person. Teams will continue to be used to set remote learning activities.

Summary of Additional Covid mitigations for all students and staff

In order to safely return to in-school learning during the phased return, it will be necessary for students to adhere to the following arrangements:

- 2m distancing in place at all times when indoors between all pupils and staff
- All staff and S1-S6 students to wear face masks indoors, including during class time (unless previously exempt)
- Teaching will take place in smaller groups with 2m distancing in place
- Windows and doors will require to be open to ensure effective ventilation
- Staggered start, interval, lunch and end times
- Students to continue to report to House entrances and sanitise hands on entering the building
- Reduced movement in school and during class time
- Students will continue to be outside for break and lunch, with lunch eaten outdoors
- Lunch pre-orders will be available with various 'grab and go' options (no hot main meals)
- Students should remain in the school grounds at all times during break and lunch
- Students should attend in full uniform. S1-S3 students attending PE on their day in school may attend in clothes suitable for PE as there will be no access to changing rooms. There will be no core PE for S4 and S5
- Students should only attend on their allocated days and will not be allowed to enter the school at times other than those identified, unless invited in for additional targeted support

These are essential requirements to students continued safe attendance in school during this remote learning period.

We will be in touch again on Thursday of this week to confirm which group your child has been assigned and the days they will attend school. Throughout this period, we will continue to accommodate students attending the hub.

COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme

You will be aware that a programme of Covid-19 asymptomatic testing has been introduced for senior phase pupils. After the Easter break this programme will be extended to all pupils from S1-S6. Further information and consent forms will be issued to those pupils who require them prior to the end of term.

As we move closer towards the planned return of full-time learning in school, it will be important for everyone in our school community to follow the guidance we have put in place to ensure our safety. I would ask that you and your child read through the attached Return to School Guide and please impress upon them the importance of following these guidelines.

Yours faithfully



George Docherty
Head Teacher