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Friday 7th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all well and keeping safe and have been able to enjoy the summer weather.

**Return to School, August 2020**

We very much look forward to welcoming all pupils back to the school building next week.

# On Thursday 30th July the Scottish Government confirmed that all schools would return week beginning Monday 10th August and issued *Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on preparing for the start of the new school term in August 2020,* which can be accessed using this link.

# <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020/>

We do not expect the return to school in August to be a return to normality. This is an ever-changing situation as events in Aberdeen City have shown over the past few days, and we will endeavour to keep you informed as best we can. At any time we may be asked to revert back to our digital way of working from home but sincerely hope that we do not have to put that in place.

**The schedule for week beginning Monday 10th August is as follows**

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| Mon 10th August | Staff Inset day | Pupils should not attend |
| Tue 11th August | Staff Inset day | Pupils should not attend |
| Wed 12th August | **S1 pupils only** | Induction day  |
| Thur 13th August | **S1, S4-6 pupils only** | New timetable for all S1, S4, 5 & 6 pupils.S5 & 6 pupils will have the opportunity on this day to make changes to course choice if necessary |
| Fri 14th August | **All S1-S6 pupils** | New timetable to be followed |

Pupil timetables have been emailed to pupil GLOW email addresses. Please remind your son or daughter to check their GLOW email inbox. Please note that S1 pupils will not be able to access their GLOW until after they are fully enrolled with us on Wednesday 12th August. All S1 pupils will receive a paper copy of their timetable on Wednesday.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we welcome **S1 pupils only** on Wednesday 12th August to allow them to take part in a day of induction activities to allow them to meet key staff, be taken around the school, find out how to purchase food at the canteen and be introduced to other processes new to them. A number of Senior Buddies from S5 and S6 will be allocated to groups of S1 pupils and will remain with them for the rest of the week to ensure they find their classes and to provide general support.

On arrival at school on Wednesday all S1 pupils will be met with their Senior Buddies, Senior Leadership Team and Principal Teachers of Guidance at the pupil doors.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING KEY INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO COVID-19**

We will encourage and support all children, young people, staff and any others for whom it is necessary to enter the school estate to maintain COVID-secure personal hygiene throughout the day.

**Firstly, please do not send young people to school if they or any person in your household has the following symptoms**

* new continuous cough
* fever/high temperature
* loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

It is essential that anyone who is symptomatic does not attend school but instead self-isolates (along with their household) and follow guidance on NHS Inform and from Test and Protect.

All pupils must inform a member of staff or responsible person if they feel unwell with symptoms of COVID-19. We have a process in place to support an affected individual where required. If the affected person has symptoms, and is over the age of 16, they will be sent home as soon as possible and told to follow the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection including testing and self-isolation. If the individual affected is below the age of 16, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to make arrangements to pick the child or young person from school (preferably this should be another adult member of their household and not a grandparent) and follow the national guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection including testing and self-isolation.

The school will comply with all Test and Protect procedures as an important means of preventing any spread of the virus. Our local Health Protection Team (HPT) will be contacted should any pupil or member of staff have a positive test for the COVID-19 virus.

The trajectory of the virus has been such that shielding will be paused from 1 August. We expect that children, young people and staff who are shielding will be able to return to school in August, unless given advice from a GP or healthcare provider not to, and can follow the same guidance as the rest of Scotland.

If your son or daughter has an underlying health condition you may wish to have a discussion with their healthcare team if they are unsure or have queries about returning to school because of their health condition. Over the period of lockdown pupils used either Google Classroom or Teams to access their learning. These platforms will remain available should any young person be unable to attend school if unwell or has to self-isolate.

The past few months have been a time of considerable change and there will undoubtedly be moments of anxiety for some pupils and their families. We understand this and aks that you contact your son or daughter’s guidance teacher should this be the case.

The key COVID-secure personal hygiene measures that all children, young people and staff should follow in school are:

* frequent washing/sanitising of hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving the building, before/after eating and after using the toilet;
* avoid touching their faces including mouth, eyes and nose; and
* using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze, and use bins that are emptied regularly for tissue waste.

The following health and safety precautions will be in place in Fraserburgh Academy.

**All young people must**

* Sanitise their hands before entering and leaving the school building. Hand sanitising stations will be situated at pupil entrances. Pupils may use their own sanitiser if they prefer.
* Sanitise their hands before entering and leaving each classroom.
* Clean their desk/workstation before leaving a classroom. Spray and paper wipes will be provided for this.
* Carry their own equipment for their personal use.
* Pen
* Pencil
* Eraser
* Ruler
* Hand Sanitiser
* Tissues

Individual packs will be available for pupils who are not able to bring these to school. Pupils should ask their Guidance Teacher who will be able to help

**Following Scottish Government guidance the scientific advice is that physical distancing between young people in secondary schools is not required to ensure a safe return to schools**. However, it is in everyone’s interests that the school takes every opportunity to put in measures to minimise risk. As a precautionary approach we will encourage distancing where possible between young people.

 **To help facilitate this the following will apply in school**

* Two metre physical distancing between adults, and between adults and young people who are not from the same household should be maintained.
* All young people should try to maintain distance with each other, where possible, particularly indoors
* All young people should not crowd together
* Social physical contact (hand to hand greeting/hugs) is discouraged
* The registration period is temporarily suspended to minimise movement. All pupils should go to their period 1 class first thing where the register will be taken.
* Year or house group assemblies are suspended until further notice. Assemblies will take place virtually daily during period 1 .
* If young people go offsite for lunch, they should follow the rules in place for wider society, for example wearing a face covering when entering a shop. They will be expected to sanitise their hands before re-entering the school building.
* To facilitate distancing the following procedures should be followed in the morning.
* **Pupils who travel to school on school transport** should enter the building on arrival and should go straight to their period 1 class when the first bell rings at 8.35 am. They should be in their period 1 class by the time the second bell rings at 8.40 am.
* We ask that **all other pupils** arrive in school between 8.40 am and 8.45 am and go straight to their P1 class before the second bell rings at 8.50 am. This action will minimise the number of pupils entering the main pupil door at the same time.
* At the end of the school day all pupils who do not use school transport will be released at 3.20 pm. Pupils who travel to school on school transport will be released at 3.25 pm. Again, this is facilitate distancing.

**Other points to note**

* There is no requirement for school uniforms to be changed every day. School uniforms should be washed/cleaned as normal.
* Young people may take books and other resources home, although unnecessary resource sharing including textbooks should be avoided.
* Anyone (whether young person or adult) wishing to wear a face covering in school will be enabled to do so. Cloth face coverings should be washed regularly and in accordance with current advice.
* Parents should not enter school campus unless required, or by prior arrangement. Please phone or email the school instead using the contact details at the top of this letter.
* Our cleaning team will ensure that an enhanced environmental cleaning regime is in place during and after every school day.

**I ask that you discuss the above important information with your son/daughter prior to their return to school. We will go over all these points during assemblies in the first few weeks.**

**Art & Drama**

Our new Art and Drama facilities are nearing completion and we hope to move to the new departments within the main school building during the next few weeks. When circumstances allow, we would like to invite parents, carers and the wider community into school to see these new facilities, but I know you will understand this is not possible at the moment.

**Safe travel to school**

All school transport will be operating as usual. You will have received this week information about school transport.

[COVID19 - PARENTAL GUIDANCE ON SCHOOL TRANSPORT - Aug 2020](https://aberdeenshire-my.sharepoint.com/personal/irene_sharp_aberdeenshire_gov_uk/Documents/Fraserburgh%20Academy/COVID-19/COVID19%20-%20PARENTAL%20GUIDANCE%20ON%20SCHOOL%20TRANSPORT%20%20-%20Aug%202020.docx?web=1)

This information is also available on our website.

If you drive your son or daughter to school pleasedrop off pupils on Dennyduff Road and Alexandra Terrace only. All pupils will be encouraged to use the marked crossings and the designated footpath within the school grounds. Pupils with mobility issues may be dropped off at the school door. A number of near collisions were witnessed last year caused by vehicles picking up and dropping off pupils on the school drive, so we ask that this is not used by parents.

**School Uniform**

I include this information as a reminder to all parents/carers.

From August,  **all pupils S1-S6** will be required to wear school uniform

* black or white school shirt and tie,
* black or red cardigan or pullover, no logo of any type
* black trousers or skirt.
* All S5-S6 pupils are to wear a blazer as part of their uniform.
* Blazers are optional for S1-4 pupils.

**Please note that P7 pupils will be issued with a school tie on their first day.**

**Orders for blazers can be placed with  Designs On You, 46 Mid Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9EP – tel 07814 580692.**

A few parents have asked if the cardigan or pullover should have a school logo. Having the school logo on these items of clothing has never been part of our plan, a plain red or black cardigan or pullover with no logo of any type is what is required.

**School meals provision for return of pupils to classes**

School Catering Services look forward to welcoming all pupils back and have been working hard behind the scenes to offer an innovative way to provide school lunches.

It is their intention to have in place by the start of the new term a new ordering App. This App will enable pupils to pre-order their lunch and collect it from designated collection points within the school. This will allow for the controlled flow of pupils and therefore helping to alleviate queues. More information regarding the App will be sent to parents soon.

The school canteen will provide their normal service, and meals and snacks will be available for purchase in the school canteen and social area as usual. Due to current COVID-19 guidelines we require your support to restrict the handling of cash in schools to reduce the transmission of COVID –19. Please can we ask that all parents register prior to the start of term to make online payments. To register or make payment please follow this link - <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/online-payments/>

Free school meals will continue to be supplied as normal.

**Useful Information**

Here are some links to information and support you may find useful at this time.

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus>Parent Club’s dedicated COVID-19 web pages

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/> National Parent Forum website

<https://education.gov.scot/media/uwpaaegt/parentcarers_issue_10.pdf> - Education Scotland’s “Scotland Learns”

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> Parentzone Scotland website

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact the school by phone or email should you have any queries. Our contact details are at the top of this letter.

Kind regards



Irene Sharp

Rector