



**Email from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

I want to start with a thank you. So much is taking place that it is difficult to keep pace at times. This week we have seen the launch of clinics for S2-S4. Parents have already contacted me with such positive comments. SQA estimates have all been sent off: huge thanks to all our staff who have worked so conscientiously on this. It has been an epic task. In the Junior School work is ever more innovative and inspiring. Your support as a parent body makes me very humble and proud to be a part of the community: it makes me want to find solutions to the current challenges.

Shortly you will receive parent surveys. There are surveys for Senior and Junior School separately and you may feel it appropriate to fill in more than one survey if the experience during lockdown has been different for children in different parts of the schools. Even if you are one of the 500 parents (and yes I am counting!) who has contacted me, I would still welcome feedback through this model which is shared in anonymised format with Governors and used to improve our service to you as our customers.

**Reopening:**

We all heard the update from the FM and two key substantial documents have now been received. Huge amounts of planning have already started. It is very important to say:

- Everything is predicated on the national picture in respect to the declining fatalities and admissions to critical care and the R rate continuing to diminish. Therefore our individual contributions in our own lives really matter
- The College will always put the health and safety of the pupils and its employees first: we will not make compromises
- Provided there are no negative changes conveyed by the government, the following will take place:

We are now considering how we **prepare the buildings and site for reopening**. This is a complicated and lengthy process and will involve many of our support staff. No teaching or admin staff will be returning until the recommissioning, risk assessment and preparations have been completed

**Teaching staff will continue to work on remote learning and clinics until the end of the current academic year (2019/20)**. We will 'close' for the summer break at midday on 18th June. There will be no remote learning provision during the summer period.

We will welcome for **transition our new S1 students** (from the Junior School and other feeder schools) to morning sessions on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th June. Invitations will be sent out to these events directly to pupils involved. The **P1 induction morning will take place on Tuesday 16th June** and likewise invitations will be sent out.

**No other year groups will be back in College before August.**

**Provision for key workers' children** will continue in the Junior School until the week beginning 15th June and thereafter holiday club will be provided for the same children at Millerston.



**Our Autumn Term 2020 will begin for pupils on Tuesday 11th August. There will be a phased return which means not everyone will be returning together on 11th August, some pupils will return on 12th August,** but the detail of what this looks like will follow once we have risk assessed all the factors. This is a change from the advertised date and fully in line with all state schools.

We are fully aware that the government has yet to make adjustments to transportation given reduced capacity and we expect this guidance to be some way off. We entirely understand that this is likely to give some challenges for parents and pupils.

The details of what this new 'normal' will look like are to be confirmed in terms of perhaps for instance staggered start and finished times, new room layouts, safety measures, cleaning regimes, different breaks and lunches but:

***To give you some sense of certainty in these uncertain times I can confirm the following unless the government were to direct otherwise:***

- There will be staggered start and finish times and different breaks for pupils but these have yet to be finalised
- The College buildings will open at 7am but close earlier at 6.30pm for all buildings other than the main building which will close at 7pm. This will allow us to work with our cleaning team to focus on cleaning throughout the day
- There will be no large scale gatherings initially and hence no assemblies in the first few weeks
- It is unlikely that we will be providing catering for the first few weeks given the variety of times for lunches and breaks and to ensure distance measures
- Pupils will bring a packed lunch, they will not be able to visit Sauchiehall Street etc. and they will eat in a variety of areas
- S6 will attend for lessons only and can go home if they have no lessons, likewise they can arrive in time for their first lesson of the day
- There will be a relaxed uniform code to ensure safety and hygiene is paramount. Put simply this will be that blazers and ties are optional. The rest of the uniform is entirely as usual. The wearing of face masks is not recommended unless special circumstances dictate and this would be made clear by me. The same dress code applies to staff: smart formal dress code but suits and ties are optional. Clearly PPE will be provided for staff in line with government guidelines where needed or for appropriate tasks. PPE is not suggested for staff teaching in normal class situations
- On PE days, pupils can attend in their tracksuit as changing will not be available on site
- We are working hard with professional bodies to look at the provision of safe sporting provision which is non-contact but keeps body and mind as healthy as possible

**The school will function as normally as possible from Tuesday 11th August**

The **Junior School** will be fully open all week from that date for all pupils, as will **Kindergarten**. The small class sizes, physical layout of the buildings and specific guidance for early years allow this to happen



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**Breakfast Club** and **After Care** will operate as normal from August 11th: wrap around care is therefore available as usual from 7.45am-6pm

We are currently calculating which classes and groups can be accommodated for **Senior School**. Our goal is to have every year group in school every day, the worst case scenario would be three days in school and two days remote learning for every child with the days varying according to year groups. We will rapidly adapt to emerging guidance and confirm how we will operate as soon as we are able but this could be decided as late as August given the nature of rapidly changing advice. There is a huge amount of planning to do on this in terms of distances and classroom sizes, but we have space and smaller groups.

I realise that whilst this is definitely good news you may have lots of questions! My aim as always is to keep you regularly updated but I don't get to control the government's timeframe on the release of guidance. Therefore I ask for your patience: if I haven't updated you on something it's because we won't know the answer yet. That said we work better together and I appreciate parents who have shared their experiences from their workplace settings with me to ensure we have the very best planning in place.

I thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers and at last we have light at the end of the tunnel and being back at 45 Hill Street seems more than just a pipe dream.

Kindest regards, thoughts and prayers as always,

**Matthew Bartlett**

**Head Master**



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**GREAT THINGS HAPPEN IN THE GREEN BLAZER**