

**Letter from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Returning to St Aloysius': Junior and Senior Schools**

Thank you for your patience at this intensely busy time when we prepare for the return to College after the lockdown period. Our priorities have been to put health and safety first whilst trying to ensure a return to normality for as many pupils as is safely and sensibly possible. We recognise that solely having to depend on remote learning is far from ideal and the lack of face to face contact is not beneficial to the emotional and mental health of any of our stakeholders. However we are proud and very grateful of the tremendous work colleagues, pupils and indeed parents have put in to make remote learning as effective and successful as possible. Once again: thank you for all you have done and for your unwavering support of the College in these challenging times.

Many details of operating procedures continue to be reviewed and you should monitor emails throughout the summer as we expect to update you as required. The College is fully adhering to the guidelines issued by the Scottish government and therefore is subject to change if the guidance changes.

The College enjoys a large campus, has small class sizes and a supremely dedicated staff and as such we have been able to construct a programme which we know far exceeds the contact and provision that is possible in the state sector and indeed in many other independent schools. We want as many of our young people to be in school for as much time as safely possible engaging in face to face learning. We feel this programme delivers that aim.

***Dates***

***Please note that these are slightly different from those in my email of 21<sup>st</sup> May and reflects or exceeds the practice of all other schools in the area:***

**11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August:          Staff training days**

KG will have their induction on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Full details of this to be issued later.

S1 will have their induction morning on 12<sup>th</sup> August

**13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August:          Pupils return to College (details of staggered starts to follow)**

Details for 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August will follow later this week

***Who is returning?***

We have risk assessed all the campus and worked very hard to produce a revised timetable for August that assumes social distancing of 2m and puts in place all other safety measures.

**Junior School:**

**Kindergarten to P7 inclusive**

**Full time with ALL pupils in school all week**

To enable this, there is an additional temporary form in each of P5 and P6 until at least October Half Term. These new forms will have the support of very experienced colleagues well known to all of you. We will be advising parents of pupils in the new P5 and P6 of which class their child will be in later this week. There is no capacity to move pupils around as we



have to comply with social distancing and maximum numbers in these spaces. Other class teachers will be advised later this week.

A small number of rooms have needed to be swapped around for social distancing. Junior School MFL rooms are being used as form classes and subject specialists will move to classes. ICT/Art and Science rooms will be available in case of inclement weather at break time.

P7 forms will be based in the Sports Hall, with two classes in the Dance Studio and one in the Viewing Gallery and with use of the pound area and Renfrew Street terrace at breaks and socially distanced use of the Suburban Café. This is a superb facility and will be provided with the technical equipment and facilities needed to deliver lessons to the standard expected.

**Senior School:**

S1 Full time with **all pupils in school all week**

S2-S4 All pupils **in school for four days every week**

S5/6 All pupils **in school for three and a half days every week**

The week will look as follows:

	Millerston	Home	School	School	School	School
<b>Mon</b>	S3	S5/6	S1	S2	S4	
<b>Tue</b>	S2	S3	S1	S5/6	S4	
<b>Wed</b>	*S5/6	S4	S1	S2	S3	
<b>Thur</b>	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5/6	
<b>Fri</b>	S4		S1	S2	S5/6	S3

As you will see for one day a week, half the year group will be on Outdoor Activities at Millerston with the other half using the two large areas at Millerston for online learning and PSHE/time as a year group. The HoY and AHoY will be timetabled to be at Millerston for the half day when their year group are there.

The Outdoor Activities programme is being devised by Mr Bagshaw and Ms McGreghan to allow for vital exercise and time outdoors but maintain social distancing protocols. So you can expect running, athletics, walking, team building, mountain biking and other delights: many new to the College

There will be no core PE on site but supervised study skills instead

Pupils will need to be dropped and picked up at Millerston on their particular day as social distancing means we cannot run buses as usual. If social distancing rules are reduced enough then we can reinstate buses to Millerston.



### ***What does this mean for my child?***

- In the Senior School, your child will continue to be taught all subjects by specialists. The classes are likely to be smaller and split between two specialists and where this cannot happen, we will teach the usual group size in larger teaching spaces such as the hall. We are purchasing appropriate technology to allow teaching to continue in the usual manner.
- If your child is not in school then full work will be provided for that day via Schoology
- If social distancing reduces, we can revert to the planned timetable for 2020/21
- We now know that we can use the Sports Hall to bring a year group together (under the bubble principle) and this will allow us to rebuild our community of year groups
- There will be no catering facilities under this plan and therefore **everyone should bring a packed lunch**
- 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. We recognise for some that this is an important part of their identity and it is not being taken away. The rest of the uniform is entirely as usual. Mrs Erskine is writing to Senior School and Miss Sharp to Junior School to clarify matters this week
- The same dress code applies to staff: smart formal dress code but suits and ties are optional
- We want to encourage a paperless school to prevent any possible transmission of covid19. Please encourage your children to submit work electronically and use only their own books or materials. Sharing pens and materials should be avoided at all times
- Pupils should bring the minimum amount of materials needed for each day as there will not be access to locker areas where social distancing would not be possible
- We are working hard with professional bodies to ensure the provision of **safe sporting provision on Saturday** which is non-contact but keeps body and mind as healthy as possible. It is likely to be offered Junior and Senior School in alternate weeks. Further details will follow but independent schools are aiming to have some form of remote competition system set up.
- We are reviewing the safe provision of music lessons and again details will follow

### ***How will you be ensuring health and safety?***

- There will be sanitising stations at all main entrance points, sanitiser in each classroom, every colleague and pupil will be supplied with their own sanitiser
- Appropriate sanitising equipment and PPE has been ordered to be used according to the prevailing guidance
- There will be two fully qualified nurses on site (there is usually one). Nurses Denise and Joy will operate separate medical rooms, in the Junior School and in the Sports Hall until Christmas 2020. Details of the provision will follow



- There will be no visitors allowed into College and this included parents who will be asked to liaise by phone or email as opposed to face to face meetings. We know you will understand that we have no option in these difficult times
- Signs, markings, arrows and one ways systems will be in place
- All rooms will be configured to allow 2m social distancing
- Cleaning and janitorial staff are receiving further training on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June and will be working throughout during the day to ensure the highest standards are maintained
- The details of what this new 'normal' will look like are to be confirmed in terms of staggered start and finish times, different breaks and lunches.
- The College buildings will opening at the usual time but closing 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. Pupils (other than Breakfast Club or After School Care) will not be able to arrive early or stay after school until restrictions are reduced

#### ***What about After School Care and Clubs?***

After School Care will be housed in the JS building, with each stage staying in their own classes and being supervised. P4-7 will be offered homework club every night until 4.30pm instead of the usual clubs and parents will be required to sign up for this provision. After 4.30pm only key worker (category 1) children will be catered for in the Atrium by ASC staff. Breakfast club details will follow

#### ***What about returning after holidays?***

Please be aware of the current requirement of 14 days isolation upon return should you be going abroad in the holiday period and ensure that this does not impact on your ability to return for 12<sup>th</sup> August. Should anyone within your family show any signs of covid19, you can and should be tested and of course contact the Year Office/Junior School reception to advise and not return to the building until after the appropriate period if testing positive. We would of course engage NHS Test and Trace or if there has been any contact with school personnel or pupils.

#### ***What about travel to school?***

The government has yet to advise on travel to school and we will update on this as soon as we are clearer on provision.

I do hope that you are all keeping well and safe and I am sure that like me you will be invigorated by the thought of being able to return in August. I will be busy through the summer with the preparations for our return which are keeping me and my team fully focused.

Kindest regards and prayers,

**Matthew Bartlett, Head Master**