

Email from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Monday, 21st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As promised, I wanted to update you after the CLT meeting today with details of how things will function from Wednesday 6th January until Friday 15th January. Our plans are based on the statement from the First Minister issued on Saturday 19th December and the explanation after today's briefing. If anything else changes I will of course update you but there is no indication of substantive differences emerging.

It is important to note that this is not the 'lockdown' which we saw in March but a return to tier four with adjustments made as to how schools will operate. The key change is that in line with government guidance, **all pupils will now return virtually on Monday 11th January and teachers in both Junior and Senior School will be delivering lessons online from that date. This is a change to the published start of term date.**

All teaching and term time staff will return on Wednesday 6th January. Our **manual and year round staff return on Tuesday 5th January.** This is unchanged from what was planned. **Effectively we are a school functioning normally but pupils are learning remotely.** The school buildings will not be open to pupils until Monday 18th January with the exception of provision for key worker children. You will be able to contact us normally through reception from 8am-4pm every day from Wednesday 6th January.

Children of key workers provision

From 6th-8th January

Holiday club style provision will be available from 8am-5pm where both parents are category 1 key workers. This will take place in the Aftercare facility.

From 11th-15th January

Supervised engagement with online learning will be available from 8am-5pm where both parents are category 1 key workers. This will take place in the Atrium and linked rooms in the Junior School

Parents are asked to contact Karen Brown *not later than 23rd December* to confirm if they need this provision and to indicate for which dates (KBrown@staloyisius.org)

The key worker provision will be overseen by classroom assistants, aftercare staff and other support staff from Junior School. This service will not involve the teaching staff who will be fully utilised in on line learning.

From 11th January KG-S3

We will operate a normal timetable in the Senior School with 8.55am registration, and then lessons of 50 minutes each (9.15-10.05, 10.10-11.00, 11.20-12.10, 12.15-1.05, 1.50-2.40 and 2.45-3.35).

In the Junior School we will return to the normal timetable

All pupils (KG-S3) will be registered, either by form teachers or their classroom teacher and absences followed up in the usual way by Pastoral Secretaries and through Year Heads and the pastoral teams

The details of remote learning have already been shared in summary but you will be updated on this after 6th January

Prelim Diet

I am very aware that this might cause the greatest anxiety for those in years preparing for certification. I can confirm that the Prelims will now commence on Monday 18th January and

follow the same timetable which has already been issued. We have detailed contingency plans should return be delayed past 18th January.

We are also aware that delaying the diet will impact on the assessment calendar post prelims. Again we will review this once we are certain of the date of return for the diet. We are very clear about what is required from the SQA and we will do everything possible to ensure there is no disadvantage as the result of the latest national changes.

In the week beginning 11th January, S4-S6 pupils will have one online revision session provided per group in every subject. This will be voluntary as far as attendance goes and there will not be online registration for S4-S6 as pupils in these years are on 'study leave'. Staff will be available to answer questions and to mark submissions from Wednesday 6th January for pupils in S4-S6. Please be aware when contacting staff members that they will of course be teaching other year groups on line and therefore balancing these demands.

I hope this is both reassuring and helpful. If there are significant changes I will be in touch, but I hope to only issue updates after 4th January and specifics as to online learning will be provided on 6th January when we return. I hope that we can all enjoy a rest and a break with some chance to switch off.

Kindest regards, thoughts and prayers,

Matthew Bartlett

Head Master



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GREAT THINGS HAPPEN IN THE GREEN BLAZER