

Email from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Thursday, 25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been delighted to welcome our youngest pupils back to school this week. Needless to say they (and their parents!) are very excited by the return to school and St Aloysius' is once again starting to feel like a school again with the sound of pupils enjoying their learning and their play. Our S4-S6 are working hard on their remote prelims and we are seeing exceptional engagement by our oldest pupils with this important assessment phase. They should be reassured that this is giving us the start of robust and reliable evidence for determining grades.

On Tuesday the First Minister gave further indication of more pupils returning to school. She said that she hoped that P4-P7 would be able to return from Monday 15th March and also that the government would be 'getting more senior phase secondary pupils back in the classroom for at least part of their learning'. Clearly this is indicative phrasing and will need clarification over the next couple of weeks. Whilst the meaning is clear about P4-P7 and we will be looking forward to their return from 15th March, there are a number of interpretations of what this date will mean for S4-S6. We are of course planning a variety of scenarios to ensure that we maximise opportunities for all our learners. The First Minister also shared that if this proceeds well that a minimum of 3 weeks after that date (i.e. not sooner than 5th April) it was her expectation that any final phase of school return would take place.

However, please note that 5th April is in fact Easter Monday and sits at the start of our Easter Holiday, which begins on Thursday 1st April at 12 noon with return on Monday 19th April. This is in line with all other Glasgow state and independent schools. Therefore, the actual return date for pupils will be (subject to national confirmation) Monday 19th April. We are currently reviewing the whole shape of term 3 thereafter to ensure maximum teaching time for all learners and time for in school assessments for S4-S6. This is far from simple given the lack of detail from either the government or SQA. I am sure that you will share our hope that if restrictions are lifted on 5th April that families will be able to have some enjoyment of 'normality' as well before school term begins. I will aim to update you as soon as possible once the detail is known.

In addition, later today we will be sending out an online parental questionnaire on learning and teaching during this second lockdown. I would appreciate you taking time to complete and return as this will allow us to improve and adjust further our offering to all our pupils.

Finally, can I just remind everyone that Friday 5th March is the Feast of St John Ogilvie and therefore the College 'closes' at 12noon. There will be no online provision after that time and all Early Years pupils should be picked up by 11.50am. Mrs Brown will send out exact timings for each year group.

Once again, let's celebrate that at last our young people are beginning to return to the College and pray for the continued retreat of the virus.

As always, my thanks for your continued support and engagement

Kindest regards

Matthew Bartlett

Head Master



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