

Email from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Tuesday, 2nd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to be writing with positive news following the First Minister's announcement this afternoon.

She announced that schools will start to return on phased, gradual basis from Monday 22nd February. This will be reviewed and confirmed by the First Minister on Tuesday 16th February.

This means that on 22nd February:

- All pupils in **Kindergarten** will return on a full time basis
- There will be a full time return for all pupils in **P1-P3**

Mrs Brown will write to all parents/carers of pupils in early years during the week beginning 15th February to confirm arrangements we have in place to ensure that everyone is kept safe

In addition the First Minister announced that there can be

- Part-time return for senior students with focus on practical work required for qualifications but that there can be no more than 5-8% of secondary pupils in our buildings at any one time. Mr Cluckie is working with our Heads of Department to consider what this would look like, but it is likely to see time being reinstated for Art and Drama and possibly other subjects where there is a practical component.

S4-S6 Prelims

Given that there is still no return date to school for pupils in S4-S6, **I can confirm that we will be going ahead with our plans for remote prelims** as outlined last week. Mr Cluckie will be in contact with all pupils about the arrangements for this and appropriate practice on how the system will work. This will ensure we keep on track for gathering appropriate and robust evidence to support the estimating of grades for pupils in these year groups.

The First Minister also explained that there will be an expansion of testing in schools: staff and secondary pupils will be offered at-home testing twice a week. She did not give any details of what this might mean. She also announced that further possible dates will be announced at the next review on 16th February.

Key worker provision

This will continue for existing users of the service who have not returned to face to face learning **after** 22nd February and will continue to be located in the Sports Building.

Remote Learning

Our remote provision will continue without interruption for all year groups until such time as each group is allowed to return to face to face learning

We would of course have loved all our young people to have been able to return to Hill Street, but at last we have a sign of hope and we continue to pray for further signs of hope as we move forward.

Kindest regards

Matthew Bartlett

Head Master



Matthew D. Bartlett HEAD MASTER

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