

Email from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Wednesday, 3rd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware, the First Minister updated the Scottish Parliament yesterday (2nd March) about the next stage in reopening schools. Please be aware that no further guidance was offered or produced for reopening protocols although we are assured that it is on its way. She confirmed that from Monday 15th March (unless there was new evidence or new circumstances):

JUNIOR SCHOOL

All children in P4 to P7 will return to school on a full-time basis.

Therefore, remote learning for the Junior School and Key worker provision will cease with effect from the end of the day on Friday 12th March and all pupils in the Junior School will return to studying from Hill Street on Monday 15th March. We will again be running the timetable that was in place from August 2020-December 2020 and we will also once more have three classes in P6 (Mrs Forbes has agreed once again to take P6T with Mrs Frisina and we welcome her back). We will remind everyone of the logistics of the school day by letter next week. All precautions remain in place including year group bubbles and arrangements for separate spaces at break and for a staggered pick up. It is our intention at present that P7 will remain based in the Sports Building.

After school provision and breakfast clubs (both of which are paid services) will resume and should be booked in the normal way in advance. Therefore, provision will be available for those who need it from 7.45am-6.00pm. Homework club provision will be offered, but we ask everyone to consider safety and whether an earlier pick up would be preferable for your child. Easter Holiday Club will be running as usual in due course and again is subject to demand with limited places and pre booking essential.

No catering will be available in either Junior or Senior schools before Easter as we focus on returning pupils to school safely. We aim to recommence the 'grab and go' service and the app ordering post-Easter.

SENIOR SCHOOL

The First Minister also announced that 'We will also take the next steps in a phased return to secondary school from 15 March - with a clear expectation that all secondary school pupils will be back in school on a full time basis following the Easter holidays'. Therefore, we will need to work out as a College how phased/blended learning will be delivered in the two and a half weeks before Easter break.

The Government has stated that all secondary school pupils should return to spend some time in school from 15th March until the Easter break. Students in the senior phase of secondary school (S4-6) who are taking national qualifications, should have priority for face to face lessons in school according to the announcement so that they can have their hard work fairly recognised with qualifications under the Alternative Certification Model.

The FM announced that although years 4 to 6 may have priority, it is expected that all children in secondary school will receive some in-school education each week up to the Easter break and then returning to full time following that. The rationale for this is well considered: to allow

pupils to get used to being back in school and allow them to start seeing friends again. This is clearly to focus on wellbeing.

Therefore, like all schools, St Aloysius' Senior School will have to run a blended learning model, and we will also need to continue to ensure that remote learning is of the highest standard possible. We are told that Education Scotland will publish guidance on the phased return over the next few days. However, **CLT meets tomorrow to plan how blended learning will work in practice for St Aloysius' College. This is likely to be an intricate process and I would be aiming to update parents, pupils and staff by the end of this week.** The lack of guidance does not make this simple. However, we are able to exhume detailed plans from last year which were not needed: although there will be some differences.

All our safe practices continue to be in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of all of our community. I will be writing next week with details of the lateral flow testing which is on offer and with details of how pupils in S4-6 can participate in this key strand of keeping everyone safe.

Please note that the First Minister also outlined that:

- At least until Easter there will be the requirement for 2m physical distancing in secondary schools. This reduces capacity even in a school that is as generously housed as St Aloysius' College. It is this safety requirement that impacts most upon our capacity to house all our senior school pupils at any one time
- Face coverings will need to be worn at all times by everyone (i.e. all pupils and staff, including in lessons). To keep everyone safe, this will be pupils from S1-S6 inclusive
- There will be twice weekly lateral flow testing available for all teaching staff and pupils in S4-6

I would hope to update everyone as soon as possible and hopefully not later than the end of the week. In addition to this at the start of next week, we will be updating parents and carers on dates and timings for term 3 to clarify a number of questions which have been raised. Information from Government has been somewhat fragmentary and so rest assured that if at any point you feel that you haven't got the fullest details it is because they have not been shared with us either!

I look forward to updating you further on Friday

Kindest regards

Matthew Bartlett

Head Master



Matthew D. Bartlett HEAD MASTER

T: 0141 332 3190 | E: MDBartlett@staloyisius.org | W: www.staloyisius.org

45 Hill Street, Glasgow, G3 6RJ

