



Milne's High School

Education, Communities & Organisational Development

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17 February 2021

Dear Parent

I hope all continues to be well for you and your family at this time.

You will no doubt be aware that the Scottish Government have announced a return to school for *“a very small cohort of senior phase (S4-6) learners on a limited basis to carry out practical tasks for the alternative certification model for national qualifications. No more than 5 – 8% of the secondary school roll should be in school at any time for this purpose, specifically to support learning in practical subjects that cannot be delivered remotely”*.

Based on current data, the advice from local and national government makes clear the requirement to limit and regulate staff and students accessing the building. Thank you to those parents who have contacted the school and to all parents and pupils who have shown patience as we waited for the local authority to endorse our return to school plan for senior phase.

Please note that our plan means we will have reached the caps for pupils in the building on any given day. We are still required to provide childcare for key workers as well as an offer to groups with additional support needs including those who qualify in the ‘vulnerable’ categories. Should childcare requests for the hub increase then to maintain maximum ratios, we will need to work on local and national government guidance on prioritisation of places and recognise that this may change on a weekly basis.

Please remember that the government guidance on children attending the childcare hub is *“Only key workers who are physically attending their workplace or who cannot fulfil their critical functions when they are working remotely from home while supporting their children’s remote learning may qualify for places”*.

This leaves a percentage of time and staffing to cover all pupils who have specific needs.

The advice we have been given is to separate pupils who are in school for childcare purposes, those who have additional support needs and senior phase students. Mrs Valentine will send a letter, attached to this email, and a video to follow, outlining arrangements for senior phase pupils who will be returning from Monday 22 February 2021.

For those pupils who will be attending school over the next few weeks:

- Pupils attending the childcare hub should continue to directly report to the hub, currently located in the library area and follow directions of staff
- Pupils attending the ASN department should continue as normal
- Pupils who attend as arranged by our Wellbeing team should continue to report to the school office and will be escorted to the Wellbeing corridor
- Pupils in the senior phase must report directly to the designated zone for that subject area on the timetable attached where they will spend their day
- To minimise infection spread, pupils cannot re-enter the building if they leave at all therefore pupils cannot go off site for lunch or any other purpose if they plan to return to school
- For security reasons, we ask that all pupils who attend school from Monday 22 February wear full school uniform

- Pupils will be asked to remain in their allocated zone for the school day and will have access to nearby toilets and an area to consume food/drink at breaks and lunchtimes
- Pupils must report directly to their allocated zone at all times where they must remain until dismissed by a member of staff
- All pupils must wear face coverings (unless exempt) in all communal areas and Senior Phase pupils must wear their face covering as directed by staff
- Pupils will be given a briefing by staff on the necessary hand sanitising arrangements and all senior phase pupils in school are required to maintain 2m distancing from other pupils and all staff
- Pupils can bring their own food and snacks; our canteen will offer a limited provision to all pupils, including those who are entitled to free school meals
- Arrangements will be made in the morning of each day for pupils
- All staff and pupils who attend school over the next two weeks will be offered testing kits and instructions by Mr Van-Hoof, our Business Support Officer
- All other students should continue to access remote learning

As always, please direct any queries to our school office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Stay safe and well and I will be in touch with any updates as the week progresses.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Cameron', written in a cursive style.

Mrs T Cameron
Head Teacher