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Hello,

**Below is a summary of the advice issued to schools in association with the partial re-opening of schools for some S4-6 pupils. Please note that if you/your child are in S1-3 or do not take any of the subjects listed below, then there is no change to the current approach to learning and teaching at this time.**

Firstly, all pupils invited back in for specific activities should be aware that as an additional protective measure, 2 metre distancing should be put in place at the current time for secondary-aged pupils in addition to continuing to be in place for staff in secondary schools. We need to replicate the expectations of society at this time with full adherence to 2 metre social distancing at all times, face coverings worn in classrooms and communal areas (eating will be limited to the social area which has been reconfigured or weather permitting in the school grounds) and regular use of hand-washing and hand-hygiene facilities. This is not a return to school and certainly not a return to the expectations of August. The fact that pupils will be in one classroom for all 7 Blocks will minimise interaction and where possible we will stagger use of social areas and allocate specific toilets to subject bubbles.

In line with the strengthened advice on 2 metre physical distancing in secondary schools, it will also be necessary to ensure 2 metre distancing on school transport for secondary schools. Bus companies will be working out the logistics of this and I will share it with you as soon as it is ready.

Education Scotland have provided schools with technical guidance for providing senior phase practical work in-school. The main points are as follows.

- Schools should set a clear purpose for learners coming into school and careful planning must take place to make the most effective use of any in-school time.
- **The rationale we have been asked to work to is** that we only invite pupils in to support learning and teaching in subjects where there are the **highest levels** of practical work that require in-school facilities and **cannot** be undertaken remotely;

Below is a list of subjects who having reviewed the Guidance wish their S4-6 learners to attend school. Individual class teachers will put details in their Google Classroom of which days you/your child are being invited in and what specific activities will be undertaken.

<i>Administration (H)</i>	<i>Construction</i>	<i>Furniture Making</i>	Practical Electronics
<i>Art and Design</i>	<i>Design and Manufacture</i>	<i>Graphic Communication</i>	Practical Woodwork
<i>Bakery</i>	<i>Drama</i>	<i>Music</i>	

The national guidance issued to schools states that if those young people who attend school go offsite for lunch, they should follow the rules in place for wider society, for example wearing a face covering when entering a shop and hand hygiene processes when returning to school premises. I include this information to acknowledge that I cannot compel students to stay on the school grounds, **but I am strongly requesting**

**that you do so.** There is no need to risk transmission and interaction with our community- you will only be allowed to exit in twos and inevitably there will be a queue at shops. Our catering service are offering a specialist service with simple and enjoyable food being available for those who want it and space will be available for those eating packed lunches.

I have also been noted that the Scottish Government's Advisory Sub-group specifically considered whether advice on face coverings should be strengthened in order to require medical grade face masks to be worn in secondary schools. However, the clinical view was that such a requirement was not commensurate with the risk in school settings, and that cloth face coverings, when combined with the other, more important, mitigations of physical distancing and hand hygiene, were considered appropriate in schools. This is in line with the current World Health Organisation (WHO) checklist to support schools re-opening which suggests that medical masks are only required under certain conditions (e.g. for immunocompromised children or those with other diseases, in consultation with the child's medical provider). Thanks to the generosity of the Parent Council we still have significant numbers of cloth masks available for pupils if required.

**On the issue of the regular testing of staff and pupils who are attending school, which is due to start imminently, I can advise you that**

- We have taken delivery of a significant number of testing kits and will be making these twice-weekly at-home testing (using lateral flow devices) kits available to all staff working in school in any capacity and all pupils attending school at the earliest opportunity- on a voluntary basis.
- I need to re-iterate that participation in this programme is voluntary and nobody can be required to undergo testing without consent or excluded from school or work if they do not wish to test. I can however, strongly encourage you to participate as too many of us have had the experience of having to self-isolate for an extended period that this early warning system should significantly reduce that risk and thereby contribute to the wellbeing of their school communities.
- Please note that this is only for pupils asked to come into school- if learners are learning from home, and not attending school, they should not participate. This is because the goal of the programme is to minimise the risks of COVID-19 in the school environment.

If you are willing to support this safety measure, the process is as follows:

1. Once you have been invited to attend school for a day via a subject Classroom, please access your PSE Classroom where you will find a presentation about the testing process and a consent form.
2. Please look through the presentation and then complete or get your parents to complete the Consent form, depending on your age. Once you have done so select [File](#), [Email](#), [Email this file](#) and send it to [culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk](mailto:culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk) with your name and register class in the email title please.
3. If at all possible, please also indicate which day you will be able to come in and pick up the kit so that you can complete your first test prior to returning to school.
4. If you have any technical problem with accessing the form a paper copy can be collected from the school when you come in to collect your kit BUT please note if you are under 16 your parent/guardian will need to sign the Consent Form.

Best wishes,



J Vance