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Plan and rationale for partial return to school for all pupils from 15th March

On Tuesday 2nd March our First Minister announced that all secondary pupils will return on a part time basis from next Monday (15th March) until the first day of the Easter holidays- Friday 2nd April. It was noted that this return to school is important for learners' health and wellbeing as well as for learning. Thankfully each school has been trusted to come up with their own model based on their detailed local knowledge of their learners, their choices within courses, accommodation availability and school transport. Each of these has impacted on our final design. Also, each school has their own calculations to make about how many learners can be accommodated within the school at one time in keeping with 2m physical distancing which remains a requirement up to Easter at least. For us, these two considerations were very influential in our final design:

- 2 metre distancing means that we can only have 25% of our pupils in on one day because 2 metre social distancing means we can accommodate between 6 and 10 pupils per room maximum.
- The fact that so many pupils travel on bus meant we decided to invite pupils in for full days. We also thought this might be easiest for families to work around.

Beyond that we looked at the contradiction between the message that "*where possible, ensure all learners in secondary schools receive some in-school education each week*" and the advice that "*Prioritise the subject areas and cohorts of learners where there is greatest need as identified by the school*"

For the last three weeks face-to-face learning has been available for pupils in S4-6 who study subjects which cannot be completed remotely due to specialist equipment or software only being available in school- for example Electronics, Music, Construction or Art and Design. We had devised a 6-week programme for these pupils which started on 22nd February until last week's announcement which means this cannot be continued since we will have other year groups in using the classrooms. We have not forgotten the need to prioritise these pupils and indeed have put them above all other pupils in the third week as explained below.

Arrangements for all pupils for Week Beginning 15th and 22nd March

1. Pupils have all been placed in one of four groups to allow us to invite 25% to attend each day. Pupils in S1-6 should access their PSE Google Classroom to see which group they are in and therefore which day they are due to be in school for the next two weeks. It will be the same day each week and the first week (Monday 15th) is Week A on our 2-week timetable model.
2. Pupils will follow their timetable for the day of their visit and will attend classes with a small number of classmates.

3. Pupils must respect the need to maintain two metre social distancing in the corridors and social areas, follow the one-way system at all times, and make use of hand-soap and hand sanitiser when possible.
4. All pupils (S1-6) are expected to wear a mask or other type of face covering at all times in the building- including in class- unless they have a medical exemption.
5. 1m distancing must be maintained on school transport and masks worn at all times.
6. Break and lunchtimes will retain the staggered end that we used between August and December. The first bell that sounds at the end of break and lunch is a sign that S1-3 pupils should make their way to class and only when a second bell sounds should S4-6 pupils move to class.
7. On Friday of each of these weeks we are only inviting in the S4-6 pupils with practical activities. Pupils with multiple practical subjects are free to choose which activity they most need to work on- class teachers have asked that you confirm this asap.

Arrangements for Week Beginning 29th March

1. Only S5/6 pupils studying practical activities should attend school for this the final 4 days of term. The reason that we are prioritising them is because while by the end of this week S4 pupils will have had two weeks of in-school development, S5/6 pupils will only have had one week. Details of which day to attend will be posted in Google Classrooms week beginning 22nd March. Due to the need for space to carry out these activities in a socially distanced way, we will not be able to have any other classes in school and so all other pupils will have four days of remote learning to end the term.

Arrangements for Pupils Attending the Hub/Key Workers' children

1. Pupils already attending our Hub should also check which day they are due in class and on those days should follow their timetable.
2. On other days they should continue to attend school and although the Hub will have to move location within the school to allow our Modern Language Teachers back into their rooms, the Hub will continue. Details of rooming for this will be confirmed by the end of this week.

Arrangements for S4-6 pupils willing to participate in the Lateral Flow COVID 19 mass testing programme

1. This week I have taken delivery of a top-up of our supplies of these tests and will be making these twice-weekly at-home testing kits available to all staff working in school in any capacity and all S4-6 pupils attending school.
2. 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.
3. Pupils who are under 16 need to get their parent/carer to sign the consent form and those who are 16 can sign a form themselves. Once it is signed and returned the kits can be issued and taken home to be used.
4. Forms are available in the PSE classroom or by emailing culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk and pupils can come to collect them before their first day back. If doing so you are asked to come alone (or with a Parent/Guardian) and not to come at break or lunchtime.

Arrangements for Pupils on days when they are not in school

1. Pupils will need to register in the same way that they are at the minute.
2. Activities will be posted online for pupils to work on remotely- probably on a weekly basis. There is one major difference, however, in that since teachers will be focused on the pupils in class with them they will not be able to provide live engagement to those pupils working from home. Please gather up your questions and on whichever day you are in school you will have plenty of time to speak to your teacher because of how small all the class sizes will be.

Arrangements for after Easter

1. Whilst this has not been confirmed yet and will not be confirmed until the first week of the Easter holidays, the aspiration of the Scottish Government is that all pupils should attend class fulltime from Easter.

I appreciate that this is a lot of change for what is only a 14-day period and that the rhythm we had found with remote learning will be undermined by this. However, with the concern about health and wellbeing and also for pupils anxious about returning to school after such a long period of isolation, this allows us a gentle phased approach before the planned full return after Easter.

I hope that this makes our process and the rationale behind it clear. If you have any questions please forward them to culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk and we will respond as quickly as possible and will share a Frequently Asked Questions update on Friday.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance