



**Education Resources**  
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**  
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**Lesmahagow High School**



**If calling ask for:** Barbara Lee  
**Phone:** 01555 896010  
**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Phased return of pupils to school from 15<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

Over the past three weeks, small groups of Senior Phase students have returned to school to complete essential practical work for National, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications. Attendance has been excellent and the students have fully complied with the mitigations in place to keep everyone safe. We would like to thank all of our students who have worked in school and at home during the current lockdown for all their hard work. Thank you also to all parents and carers for supporting our pupils with their learning throughout this period.

From 15<sup>th</sup> March until 1<sup>st</sup> April, as recently announced by the Scottish Government, we will move to a blended learning approach, with students completing some of their time in school and some of their time learning remotely. It is the Scottish Government's expectation that all secondary school pupils will be back in school on a full-time basis after the Easter holidays.

We will carefully consider the adaptations we need to make to maintain 2m distancing in classrooms during this phase of the return and to balance what we offer in terms of remote learning for our pupils. This includes:

- *making best use of the building and the space for pupils to ensure they adhere to the requirement for 2m physical distancing when inside the school building. (1m distancing on school transport);*
- *establishing routines for the safe entry and exit to the school building;*
- *minimising, wherever possible, the general flow of pupils around the school throughout the day; and*
- *following SG guidance of expectations relating to pupils wearing face coverings.*

Please note that as teachers will now have an in-school teaching commitment, remote learning will necessarily have less direct interaction and more recorded or self-directed activities during this period.

Pupils will be invited back into school on prearranged days to engage in specific learning.

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### Senior phase pupils (S4-S6)

As advised by the Scottish Government, senior phase learning will be prioritised during this 3-week transition period. Senior Phase students will be divided into two groups, Group 1 and Group 2 and will be in school for seven days across the three weeks to allow them to continue their learning for SQA courses. We aim to ensure that our pupils have secure foundations and course coverage prior to undertaking formal assessment, which will take place in the later stages of the 2020/21 academic session.

#### **Senior Phase Timetable for in school learning**

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Group 1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Group 2	Group 2	Group 1	Group 1	Group 1
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Group 1	Group 1	Group 2	Group 2	School Holiday

### Broad General Education pupils (S1-S3)

Pupils will be divided into three groups: Groups A, B and C and will be in school for one day each week.

#### **S1-S3 Timetable for in school learning**

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Group A	Group B	Group C
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Group C	Group A	Group B
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Group B	Group C	Group A

Text messages will be sent to confirm the group number/letter of all pupils over the next few days.

### Timetable and Uniform Information

All students will continue to follow their 'winter timetable' throughout this time both for in school and remote learning. Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March is an 'odd' week timetable; week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> March is an 'even' week timetable; and week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> March is an 'odd' week timetable.

All students should wear uniform when in school if possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the measures in place to maintain the safety of our pupils and staff.

### Health and Safety

The school already has in place robust infection control measures such as enhanced cleaning regimes, access to hand sanitisers on entry and exit and within classrooms, the appropriate use of face coverings, 2m distancing between staff, and between staff and pupils where possible. In addition, as part of the phased return to school, all pupils in secondary school buildings will be expected to adhere to strict 2m physical distancing.

We would like to remind pupils and parents of the need to follow all the relevant guidance and would also request that parents avoid contact with other parents and young people at the school gates, on the way to school and after school to reduce the risk of community transmission of the virus.

Pupils will be reminded about compliance with the existing safety procedures in place including the wearing of face coverings during classes, in busy communal areas within school and when visiting shops out with school grounds.

Our updated Risk Assessments and Safe System of Work documents are displayed on the School website at: [Parents | Lesmahagow High School](#)

## Lunch time Arrangements

The school canteen will be open for breakfast, interval and lunch. Students should endeavour to pre-order their meals using the Fusion App. Interval and lunch-times for S1-S3 and S4-S6 pupils will be staggered to reduce the total number of students in social areas at one time.

We would encourage pupils to remain in school at lunchtimes to limit the potential for contacts in the wider community. Those who choose to go offsite must follow the rules in place for wider society, for example wearing a face covering when entering a shop. On return to school, pupils must adhere strictly to hand hygiene and infection control measures.

Any pupils eligible for means tested free school meals will continue to receive payment.

Scottish Government guidance outlines that schools should encourage learning and social activity outdoors, where appropriate. Our young people will be asked to spend time outdoors during the school day, especially during breaks and lunchtimes. Pupils are asked to ensure they wear suitably warm and waterproof clothing to school. If you need assistance with this, please contact Mrs. Gemma Smith, Principal Teacher of Equity and Inclusion.

## Transport

From 15 March 2021 physical distancing of 1m applies on secondary school transport. This will significantly reduce the capacity of vehicles. Please also remember face coverings are required for all pupils on designated school transport.

## Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing

Our staff are currently taking part, along with pupils in S4-S6, in lateral testing. This involves taking a twice weekly at-home test through a lateral flow device (LFD). This helps to identify asymptomatic individuals at the earliest opportunity and to enhance the confidence of staff, pupils and families. Tests should be completed on Sundays and Wednesdays and results uploaded to the NHS website.

We encourage all staff and senior pupils to opt-in to the lateral testing programme although we do recognise this is voluntary. To take part, a consent form must be completed. A video link on lateral testing is available for you to view:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7IwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

To find out more and to receive a lateral testing kit or consent form, please contact the school.

The Scottish Government have agreed this week that S1-3 pupils should now be included in the at-home asymptomatic testing offer after the Easter break. An update regarding this will be provided before the Easter holidays.

## Childcare Hub Provision

Our Hub arrangements will continue over the three-week period for key worker and vulnerable children. Students should, however, join with their timetabled groups on days when they are scheduled to be in school. At all other times, this group will be kept separate from the larger group attending for face-to-face learning.

We look forward to welcoming back our pupils on a phased basis and your support and co-operation in helping us to work together to do this in a safe way is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara Lee  
Acting Head Teacher