

School transport

We have been assured, by Translink, that school services will be in operation from Monday 22 March, and that timetables will remain unchanged. Please be advised that it is now mandatory for all post primary pupils to wear a face covering when travelling on all forms of public and school transport.

School entrances

Pupils in Forms 5-U6th should enter the school through one of the three doors at the back of the building. We would ask that pupils use the sanitiser stations upon entry to the school and wash their hands regularly throughout the day.

Face coverings

It is now compulsory for pupils to wear face coverings, at all times, whilst inside the school building. Masks should be worn before entering the school building and only removed to eat, drink, sneeze etc. They should be worn correctly throughout the day and, if using reusable masks, should be washed on a daily basis. We understand that some pupils will be exempt from wearing a mask. If this is the case, they will be required to provide a letter outlining this exemption. This letter should be brought to the school nurse, who will issue an exemption pass. Pupils in receipt of an exemption pass will be required to carry this at all times and may be asked to produce this by any member of staff.

One-way system

The school has had a one-way system in place since the start of the academic year and this will continue to operate when pupils return on 22 March. Pupils and staff should adhere to this system.

Lunchtime facilities

Pupils will eat lunch in either the sixth form common room (Form 5) or Miskelly Deli (lower and upper sixth pupils). Measures are in place to ensure track and trace will be possible should we have a positive Covid-19 case in school. Pupils will be required to go outside at 1.20pm, with the exception of L6, who will be in canteen from 1.15-1.40pm and will have been outside at the beginning of lunch. Please note that Miskelly Deli will not be available during breaktime.

Lunch card

Pupils will only be able to pay for food in the canteen through a new lunch card. Form 5 pupils have already been issued with these. In a previous email from Mrs Flannigan (finance manager), L6 and U6 pupils were asked to come to reception to collect their individual card at the start of next week. There has been a slight change in this, and pupils should now receive their card from their form tutor on Monday morning. For pupils who are not in registration on Monday morning, these cards can be collected from Miss Stevenson (study supervisor) at a time that is convenient to them.

Uniform

We appreciate that pupils have been working from home for 11 weeks and that, during this time, will have grown accustomed to not wearing uniform. We would appreciate your support in preparing your daughter for her return to school on Monday and ask that pupils adhere to our uniform regulations. We would ask that pupils wear winter uniform next week and move

to summer uniform after Easter. We understand that, during the period of remote learning, pupils may have outgrown some pieces of uniform and we will work with you on this. Please get in contact should this be the case.

Assessments and wellbeing

As you will be aware, two assessment periods will take place in April and May. We appreciate that pupils may be feeling anxious about these. However, we would like to reassure you that we will do our utmost to support them as they navigate the coming weeks.

I have no doubt that any uncertainties surrounding the return to school will ease once the girls are back with us next week.

Asymptomatic testing

The Department of Education are encouraging pupils to conduct asymptomatic tests from next week. We are awaiting guidance on how this will look and will outline any procedures prior to their implementation.

Can I finish by saying that we are all looking forward to welcoming the girls back into school on Monday and want to thank them, and yourselves, for the support you have shown us during this period of remote learning. It has been an extremely challenging time for all and not one that we ever envisaged lasting so long. The maturity and resilience that has been shown is commendable and we are grateful for this.

With kind regards,

Nikki Sinnerton
Vice Principal (Pastoral)