



IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY

Ambition • Respect • Responsibility

Head Teacher: Mrs. L. Sloan
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LS/CPW

16 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are well and continuing to manage as best you can during these challenging times.

Following on from the First Minister's statement in Parliament this afternoon, I wish to share the following information:

S1 – S3

All S1-S3 pupils will continue with remote learning at home for the time being. Plans for the next phase of the return to in-school learning will be announced by the Scottish Government in the weeks ahead.

S4-S6

The majority of S4-S6 pupils will continue with remote learning at home. In addition, for small groups at a time, access to the school building has been arranged from **Monday 22nd February 21** – this is to allow the completion of **essential** practical work as part of National Qualifications. The sessions will, in the main, run from 9.30am – 12.30pm, with the exception of Practical Cookery classes, they will run from 10am – 2pm. Pupils who require to be in the building will be issued with a bespoke timetable over the next couple of days – a two week timetable will also be posted on our school website. It is important to reinforce that the Scottish Government have capped attendance at a maximum of 8% of the school roll on any one day. In addition, 2 metre social distancing guidelines will be applied and face coverings must be worn at all times.

Lateral Flow Testing

Covid 19 Lateral Flow Testing will be available for pupils in **S4 – S6**. This will **only** be for pupils who are due to be in the school building. This week, you will receive a letter with further details as well as a privacy booklet and consent form. The testing is **not mandatory**, however, we would encourage pupils to participate. Should your Son/Daughter agree to take part, you should complete the consent form and email or return to school. After this, your child can collect testing kits from the school office for use prior to attending school. At this time, they will also be issued with clear guidance on how to perform the test and upload the results to the government website.



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Senior Phase Tracking

In light of the current situation this has been delayed until further notice. We will keep you posted.

Options 2021/2022

Thanks to parents/carers who joined us for our 'Virtual Options Information' sessions. The S2 into S3 and S3 into S4 individual option interviews are now underway - please contact the school office to make an appointment if you have not already done so.

Digital & Inclusion

It is our understanding that **all** pupils now have a device to support remote learning. A great deal of effort has gone into sourcing said devices and thus we would like to thank Liz Sullivan (Community Worker – Irvine Locality) and indeed members of the local community who have donated devices for our young people. If your situation has changed and your son/daughter now requires a device, please get in touch.

Remote Learning Engagement

We are very pleased with the number of young people who are engaging fully with the extensive remote learning package on offer. We have been following up with those pupils who are struggling to engage. S4 Mentors will be in touch with identified S4 pupils over the coming days.

HT Excellence Awards

I was inundated with nominations for HT Excellence Awards in January – well done to all members of our school community who have been recognised as going above and beyond and indeed showing real commitment to our school values.

Pupil Survey

Many thanks to the pupils who have taken the time to complete the remote learning survey. Please encourage your son/daughter to complete the survey if they have not already done so. The high level messages so far are as follows:

- Pupils rate their remote learning experience 3.24/5.
- 98% have been offered the opportunity of a live meet/lesson.
- 85% of pupils have attended a live meet/lesson.
- 50% of pupils think that the volume of work issued is just right.
- 48% of the pupils think that the volume of work issued is too much.



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- 2% of pupils do not think that they have had enough work.
- 100% of pupils who responded have had feedback on work submitted.
- Pupils rate their overall wellbeing as 3.42/5.
- 83% of pupils feel well supported.
- 84% of pupils stated that they would value dedicated wellbeing time during the school day.

Over the next few days, I will continue to dig deeper into some of the comments and we will indeed follow up on aspects of our provision requiring further improvement.

Live Lesson Schedule

Our live lesson schedule has been updated today and has now been split up into year groups – a copy can be found on our Twitter page and on our school website – all live lessons/Google Meets are also posted in subject specific Google Classrooms.

Catch Up Timetable

Pupils will be issued with a catch up schedule this week – this will allow those who are struggling to keep up with an opportunity to get back on track – we have taken this decision on the back of significant pupil feedback. Those who do not require catch-up time will be provided with extension tasks via Google Classrooms.

Emergency Childcare Hubs

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that our Hub is for **emergency** provision only. If your situation has changed and your son/daughter no longer requires a place, please let us know ASAP.

Resources

As previously communicated, if your son/daughter requires any pens/pencils/jotters etc. then you should contact the school office. We have ample supplies that we are happy to give out for free.

Staffing

Good Luck to our Area Inclusion Worker, Hollie Johnstone who has now started her maternity leave – she has been replaced by Dionne Gordon, who was our Nurture Classroom Assistant.



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Last week we appointed a temporary Teacher of Technical, Shannon Davies – she will start with us in due course.

Our three new Classroom Assistants have now started: Scott Finnigan, Laura O'Neill and Joanna Slade. In addition, our own New MCR Pathways Co-ordinator, Lisa Campbell also joined us last week.

Wellbeing Wednesday

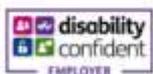
As of last week, we are asking that **all** members of our school community shut down their devices from 1.30pm – 3.00pm on a Wednesday afternoon. During this time, we are encouraging everyone to do something that serves to support positive health and wellbeing. Pupils should check their PSHE Google Classrooms for further information and ideas.

Once again, thanks for all your support and positive feedback – it is greatly appreciated.

Stay Safe!

Linzie Sloan

Linzie Sloan
Head Teacher



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- Irvine Royal Academy Believes in Better -