

## A Community Learning Together



Dear Parent/Carer,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our young people back to Whitburn Academy full-time after the Easter break. I know the past few months have not been easy, and our thanks go to you and your young people for your resilience, understanding and support.

Of course, whilst we are very much looking forward to restoring some normality, Covid is still very much a part of our lives and, as such, we will still be required to adhere to Scottish Government Guidelines on our return.

Currently the Scottish Government plans are that all secondary pupils will return to full-time schooling on **Monday 19 April**.

A number of changes will be made to the measures in place for the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, as follows:

- Pupils must continue to respect 2m distancing from staff and other adults in the school. The 2m rule between pupils in classrooms and other indoor spaces no longer applies.
- Continued emphasis will be placed on ventilation, by keeping windows and doors open as much as possible.
- Opportunities for outdoor learning will be used where appropriate.
- The twice-weekly at-home lateral flow tests will be offered to pupils in all year groups. Parents of pupils in S1 to S3 must provide consent however, pupils S4 to S6 can complete their own consent form if they have not already done so. The consent form will be available to complete digitally via an O365 Form. Once complete pupils should collect test kits from the school office. Each kit has three tests and two kits will be issued at a time meaning that pupils should only need to replenish their stock every three weeks. We will send a Groupcall with a link to complete the consent form.
- Some pupils studying at college will be able to return and those affected will receive further information.
- Young people on the shielding list should not attend school. However, parents can consult with their child's clinical team who may advise that an individual risk assessment could be undertaken and arrangements put in place which may allow your child to attend. The school will require clinical confirmation to undertake the necessary risk assessment.

All pupils, parents and carers can help ensure the safety and wellbeing of the school community by continuing to comply with the following measures:

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- Wear face coverings in classrooms, when moving around the school and on school and public transport;
- Continue to follow guidance on hygiene and hand washing;
- Maintain distance and avoiding gathering in groups during the school day and before and after school.

All young people and families can help by following the Public Health guidance on self-isolation if identified as a close contact, getting a test when advised or if symptoms develop.

I know that we desperately want to return to some kind of normality after Easter however, in order to keep us all safe, and in school enjoying much needed face-to-face learning and teaching, it is really important that we all play our part by sticking to the guidelines. They remain in place for very good reason.

All that remains now is for me to wish you all a Happy Easter. I hope you have a relaxing and restful break.

Take care.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

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