

St Matthew's Academy
Jacks Road
SALTCOATS
KA21 5NT
Head Teacher - Mr S Colligan
Tel: 01294 606680



Our Ref:

Date: 21/08/20

Dear Parent/Carer

Return to school update

I am writing to you with an update regarding the working of the school during this first full week since our return.

Pupils and staff are to be commended for the very positive way they have approached the changes to our daily routines. I have been very impressed with our young people's adherence to the rules regarding use of hand sanitiser and clean working surfaces. It is clear that our students are following the advice and instructions issued by class teachers. Our one way system is working fairly well. Given the layout of our school there is no way to avoid a degree of inconvenience related to the new system but, overall, pupils have co-operated with the requirements and this has reduced pinch points when moving between periods. I would ask that you continue to encourage your child to follow all the new expectations and requirements which have been introduced.

During break times, pupils have been encouraged to make use of the school playground. Due to the better weather this was generally successful but when the weather was inclement more pupils stayed inside the building. This is understandable given the limited covered areas we have outside but I feel that we must look at all alternatives to reduce numbers in the building at break time.

Therefore we will be making some changes to break times for the week ahead. We will introduce a staggered interval and lunch as explained below.

S2 & S4 Timetable

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday	Thursday/Friday
Period 1 08:50-09:40	Period 1 08:50-09:40
Period 2 09:40-10:30	Period 2 09:40-10:30
Interval 10:30-10:45	Interval 10:30-10:45
Period 3 10:45-11:35	Period 3 10:45-11:35
Period 4 11:35-12:25	Period 4 11:35-12:25
Lunch 12:25-13:05	Lunch 12:25-13:05
Period 5 13:05-13:55	Period 5 13:05-13:55
Period 6 13:55-14:45	Period 6 13:55-14:45
Period 7 14:45-15:35	

S1, S3 & S5/6 Timetable

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday	Thursday/Friday
Period 1 08:50-09:40	Period 1 08:50-09:40
Period 2 09:40-10:30	Period 2 09:40-10:30
Period 3 10:30-11:20	Period 3 10:30-11:20
Interval 11:20-11:35	Interval 11:20-11:35
Period 4 11:35-12:25	Period 4 11:35-12:25
Period 5 12:25-13:15	Period 5 12:25-13:15
Lunch 13:15-13:55	Lunch 13:15-13:55
Period 6 13:55-14:45	Period 6 13:55-14:45
Period 7 14:45-15:35	

This new schedule will help to reduce the numbers of pupils in the social areas during interval and lunch, particularly as the weather starts to turn and being outdoors becomes less of an option. All year groups have been allocated separate areas in the building to reduce contact. We will review the running of this new approach on a weekly basis. Please note there are no changes to the start or the end times of the school day.

I would remind all parents that should you or your child develop any Covid-19 related symptoms you should contact the NHS Test and Protect Team to arrange for a test to be undertaken. You can do this on-line at **NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect** or by calling **0800 028 2816**. The main symptoms are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

Thank you to those parents who have been proactive in their approach to testing. I am pleased to confirm that, at the time of writing, there have been no positive tests relating to staff or pupils in our school.

I know this continues to be an anxious time for parents and I would hope to reassure you that we are following all Government Guidelines to the best of our ability. We are constantly reviewing our procedures to ensure we are doing everything we can to keep pupils and staff safe and well.

I do not anticipate there will be a need for weekly updates but please be assured that should there be a requirement to contact parents regarding any matter this will happen as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

S Colligan
Head Teacher