

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



Our Ref:

Date: 09/03/21

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware that schools will be moving to Phase 2 of the return to in-school learning from 15 March.

The Government guidance states the following:

“Senior phase learners who are taking national qualifications, must have priority for face to face learning and teaching in school to help ensure they achieve the qualifications they deserve. In particular, learning and teaching of critical practical work in relation to qualifications in 2021 must continue. Notwithstanding this, we expect that all young people in secondary schools will receive some in-school education each week from 15 March wherever possible. Schools and local authorities will decide how to provide this based on local circumstances and needs. This will allow pupils to engage with their teachers and start seeing friends again. At this time, this is as important for wellbeing as well as for learning.”

In line with this guidance, we will be implementing the following plan from 15 March:

All pupils

- The normal timetable will be in operation. However, due to the need for social distancing, not all pupils will be present at the same time in the school. There are different arrangements for S4-S6 and for S1-S3 – see below.
- Classrooms will be rearranged to ensure 2m social distancing can be implemented.
- Transport will be provided at the usual times to those pupils who are entitled to it. 1m social distancing will be required on the school bus.
- In line with new guidance, unless exemptions apply, all pupils must wear masks at all times.
- Windows and doors will require to be open to ensure effective ventilation.
- Hand sanitiser will need to be used on entering and exiting the school and the classroom.
- The one-way system will be in operation.
- Staggered interval and lunches will be in operation (S2/4 early and S1/3/5/6 late).
- Pupils will be required to maintain 2m social distance during interval, lunchtime and when moving around the building.
- Pupils attending the hub will continue to be accommodated.
- Remote learning provision will require to be amended due to the increase in face-to-face teaching.
- In the interests of safety and security, pupils should attend in full uniform.
- Pupils should only attend on the days identified below. Pupils will not be allowed to enter the school at times other than those identified.

Senior Phase Pupils (S4-S6) phased return to school

Senior Phase will be split into 2 cohorts. Cohort 1 will include all pupils with a surname starting A-L and Cohort 2 will include all pupils with a surname starting M-Z.

Pupils will attend for part of each week based on the cohort they are allocated. See the table below.

	A-L	M-Z
Week beginning 15 th March	Mon, Wed, Fri	Tue, Thu
Week beginning 22 nd March	Tue, Thu	Mon, Wed, Fri
Week beginning 29 th March	Mon, Wed	Tue, Thu

This means all Senior Phase pupils will attend for a total of 7 days between 15th March and the Easter Holiday. All pupils will follow their normal timetable. Remote learning in Senior Phase will be in the form of homework, revision and extension tasks set by the class teacher when the pupil is in the building.

Broad General Education (S1-S3) phased return to school

Pupils in S1-S3 will be split into 4 cohorts and each cohort will attend one day a week. This will mean that all S1-S3 pupils will attend for a total of 3 days between 15 March and the Easter Holiday. Groups will be based on PSE classes. Pupils will attend on the same day each week. Parents will be contacted by text by the end of the school day on Wednesday 10 March to confirm which day their child will attend.

All members of staff are looking forward to welcoming our young people back on this phased basis. While it is essential that we return to face-to-face learning and teaching as soon as possible, we will also be prioritising the wellbeing of our young people. The opportunity to return to some form of in-school routine and structure has been long awaited and this is an important step on the journey to a full return.

COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme for school/ELC staff and pupils

You will be aware that a programme of Covid-19 asymptomatic testing has been introduced for senior phase pupils. After the Easter break this programme will be extended to all pupils from S1-S6. Consent forms will be issued to those pupils who require them prior to the end of term. Further information relating to the asymptomatic testing programme can be read in the document entitled "February Phased Return and Testing Letter" – which can be found in the Documents section of the school website.

The move to Phase 2 of the return to in-school learning is one that I am sure we all welcome. The social distancing restrictions mean that we cannot have all pupils return at the same time but we have attempted to address this to the best of our ability to ensure that all young people have at least some in-school education each week. It is essential that all members of the school community follow the guidance to ensure we can progress from this phase to a full return after the Easter break. I would ask that you impress upon your child the importance of following all the guidelines to ensure we can move to a full return as quickly and as safely as possible.

Yours faithfully,

S Colligan

Head Teacher