

Harlaw Academy

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Head Teacher:
Mr R McLaren

Dear Parent/Carer

Headteacher Update - 24 June 2020

Yesterday, John Swinney, the Depute First Minister (DFM), made a statement in Parliament which detailed the ambition of The Scottish Government for all children and young people to return to school full-time in August 2020 (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/re-opening-schools/>). The DFM stressed that it is an aim which the Government is now working towards but it “remains conditional and dependent upon ongoing scientific and health advice.”

As you know, we have been working on a school recovery plan which details arrangements made for ‘blended learning’, this plan will now act as our Contingency Plan.

The Plan details all of the arrangements made to ensure physical distancing and how children will access in-school learning if we are asked to deliver education in this way in August. We now know this contingency plan will now only be enacted if the scientific and health advice states that it is unsafe for young people and staff to return to school full-time.

The Scottish Government has now established a sub-group of the COVID19 Advisory Group to focus exclusively on education and children’s issues. The purpose of this group is to provide advice which will support schools to return on a full-time basis in August. The DFM stated “I would expect that various conditions would need to be in place”. Given that we await further guidance; we cannot issue our school recovery plan at present. We will need to check this against the updated guidance.

I appreciate that there is much to digest both within this letter but more so within the Scottish Government document linked above. Undoubtedly you will have further questions about the specifics of how Harlaw Academy will resume in August and I would wish to offer my assurance that I will provide you with further information as soon as I am in a position to do so.

Yours sincerely

Mr R McLaren
Headteacher