

Harlaw Academy

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Head Teacher:
Mr R McLaren

Dear Parent/Carer

Headteacher Update 30 June 2020

On 23 June, 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. 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.” This means that there are several possible scenarios for our return in August. Eleanor Sheppard (Chief Education Officer) has written to parents explaining the three possible plans for re-opening in August depending on the situation regarding COVID 19 at that time and I attach a copy of this letter for your attention.

Harlaw Academy is planning to re-open on a full-time basis in August 2020. However, we have also created a Contingency Plan (Copy attached) which will be implemented if the conditions for a full re-opening of the school have not been met. By the week beginning 3 August, the Scottish Government will have informed schools if the conditions for full re-opening have been met and I will write to you again in early August to confirm which of the scenarios is to be implemented for our return.

Should we return full time, we plan to operate the following programme of induction during the first week of the new term. All year groups will experience an induction session in the first week of term. During these sessions, pupils will be briefed on health and safety guidelines and behaviour expectations. Each pupil will receive a copy of their timetable.

Day	Year Group	Time
Monday, 10 August	In-service for Staff	Full day
Tuesday, 11 August	Staff Planning and Preparation S4 - S6 re-coursing by appointment	Full day
Wednesday, 12 August	S1 Induction S2 Induction	0900 - 1130 1230 - 1500
Thursday, 13 August	S3 Induction S4 Induction	0900 - 1130 1230 - 1500
Friday, 14 August	S5 Induction S6 Induction	0900 - 1130 1230 - 1500

Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear school uniform as follows - white shirt/polo shirt, black trousers/skirt, black jumper, black shoes. **Pupils should not wear a tie or blazer until further notice.**

Arrangement for PE clothing will be finalised and communicated in early August.



Update on school excursions

As I advised in my last update, Aberdeen City Council holds an off-site visits insurance policy which should cover any losses relating to school travel. We have begun the claim process and are working hard to recoup finances on your behalf. It is anticipated that the insurance process and payments may take some time but as soon as we are in possession of these funds we will ensure the monies are returned to you without delay.

Free School Meal assistance

As the lockdown continues in its current form, many parents are finding themselves in very different financial circumstances for a variety of reasons. Harlaw Academy may be able to help. If your financial circumstances have changed, you may be eligible for Free School Meals. If you are in this position, please contact our school email address and a member of our team will be happy to make contact and discuss.

School Leavers

I would wish to offer my thanks on behalf of the pupil support team. Guidance teachers have been working hard to collate information on school leaver destinations and where required, offer support to pupils who have confirmed they are leaving Harlaw Academy this summer, but who do not have a confirmed positive destination in place. This work will continue over the summer as our colleagues in Skills Development Scotland (SDS) become involved.

Staffing changes

Staffing - arrivals and departures

I am delighted to advise you that we will be welcoming four newly qualified teachers to Harlaw Academy in August. Miss MacLaine, Mr Ridley, Miss Wright and Mr Watt will be joining our Technologies, Science, Social Subjects and English curricular areas respectively. We will also be joined by Mr Grant in PE.

Sadly, we also have a number of staff leaving us. From Support for Learning, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Philsooph and Mrs McCulloch along with Ms Lawrance from English are all retiring. Miss Fraser, Miss Main, Miss McLeod and Mrs Stewart have successfully completed their probation year with us and now move to a fresh challenge with our best wishes. Ms Tosh and Mrs McHattie from our school office have both secured promotions within the council, but sadly, with other schools. Please can I take this opportunity to pass on our gratitude and best wishes on behalf of the whole school community.

Year Team staffing

The “Year Team” is the phrase given to our collection of staff who work within all aspects of pupil support. This includes myself as Headteacher, the Depute Head Teachers, our Principal Teachers of Guidance and our Principal Teacher of Support for Learning. Following my appointment, one of my biggest priorities has been to work with the Year Team to review our working practices and structure. From August, I have put in place plans to increase our capacity in this team and following discussion in school, wish to confirm the following arrangements for Guidance teacher and Year head allocation

Year Group	Guidance Teacher	Yearhead
S1	Mrs Kermath	Mrs Rennie
S2	Mr Price-Davies	
S3	TBC	Mr Blance
S4	Mrs Alexander	Miss Douglas
S5	Ms Freeland	Ms McLellan
S6	Mrs Strudwick	

Finally, I appreciate that there is much to digest both within this letter but more so within attachments mentioned above. Undoubtedly, you will have further questions about the specifics of how Harlaw Academy will resume in August. Many of these questions have been submitted via our Parent Council. We are currently producing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) which I plan to publish this week.

I would like to assure you that I will confirm our finalised school opening plan in early August as the national position becomes more clear.

Yours sincerely



Mr R McLaren
Headteacher