



25 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher Update

We received confirmation this week of the anticipated changes to the National Guidance affecting some of our School COVID Mitigations. These affect the following areas of our work in school.

1. Form Time

In order to comply with the Guidance issued in response to the Omicron variant surge, we temporarily suspended the use of Form time for all S3-S6 pupils. Given the level of relaxation, we intend to reinstate Form for all pupils from Monday 28 February. This means that all pupils in S1-S6 should arrive from 0815 and line up at their designated door when the warning bell rings at 0825. Year groups will still be required to enter wearing face coverings and, as such, will continue to enter at the following locations

- S1 – Rear (S1) Playground via Technical department main door
- S2 – Main playground via the glass corridor door
- S3 – Main playground via the boiler house door
- S4 – ‘Grassy’ playground via the Social Subjects department door
- S5 – Front of school via the left-hand ramp next to the French department
- S6 – Front of school via the right-hand ramp next to the assembly hall.

Please could I ask for your support in ensuring your child arrives with a face covering.

2. Face Coverings

Pupils and staff in secondary schools are no longer required to wear face coverings in classrooms. However, any young person or staff member who wishes to still wear a face covering in the classroom should be fully supported in doing so.

They should continue to be worn by secondary school pupils and all adults in indoor communal areas. Face coverings should continue to be worn in classrooms by adults whenever they cannot keep physical distance with other adults and/or children and young people.

For us, this means that when pupils are moving about corridors, using canteen or toilet facilities or attending larger gatherings such as assemblies, they should wear a face covering.

3. Large gatherings including assemblies

The latest advice from Scottish Government states;

“The remaining restrictions on assemblies have been removed. While taking account of both the specific context of such spaces as well as the number of people gathering, schools should continue

to employ the relevant mitigations as outlined throughout this guidance such as physical distancing, ventilation, and the use of face coverings where appropriate.”

Consequently, it is our intention to use Year Group assemblies to re-establish some normality and consistency in many of our approaches.

4. School Visits

Guidance on school visits has been relaxed. In the latest advice, there is recognition of the importance of enabling visits for the purpose of supporting positive transition experiences for children and young people entering P1 or S1 or supporting curriculum delivery. In short, we have started to organise day excursions for groups of learners to support subject learning and, in addition, we are planning a series of transition visits for our new S1 pupils.

5. School Uniform

The guidance has completely removed the need for pupils to wear PE kit to school. This has been the case for some time. There continues to be an expectation that pupils who attend Harlaw Academy will adhere to our dress code.

Please can I take this opportunity again to remind you that our current dress code requires pupils to adhere to the following uniform standards:

S1-S3 Pupils

- Black tailored trousers or skirt
- Harlaw Academy polo shirt
- Harlaw Academy sweatshirt

S4-S6 Pupils

- Black tailored trousers or skirt
- Blue or white shirt with school tie
- Harlaw Academy Blazer

Our full uniform information can be viewed here; <https://harlawacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk/uniform/>

Whilst we appreciate that uniform can be expensive, I would like to remind you that the school is able to provide assistance with this. if you would like to discuss, please contact your child's Guidance teacher. In the coming weeks, members of the year team will be working with pupils and contacting home where a pupil does not meet this expectation.

Thank you again for your continued patience and support. As we move into a period of relative normality, it is important we remain aware of risk, but take advantage of opportunities to establish as much normality as we can. To that end, I will write to you over the coming weeks to advise of some exciting developments we are working on here in Harlaw Academy.

Yours sincerely



Mr R McLaren
Headteacher