

Renfrew High School

Haining Road, Renfrew PA4 0AN

Tel: 0300 300 1414

Email: renfrewhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.renfrewhigh.renfrewshire.sch.uk>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/renfrew_high

Head Teacher: Mr Billy Burke BSc MSc

My Ref: BB/FD Your Ref:

Date: 6 August 2020

Contact



**Renfrewshire
Council**

**Children's Services
Director: Steven Quinn**

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well, having managed to make the most of the summer holiday in some way.

Following the announcement by the First Minister on 30 July and the letter to you from the Director of Children's Services in Renfrewshire, I can now confirm arrangements for the full-time reopening of the school with staff returning on Monday 10 August and pupils from Wednesday 12 August.

I am glad that significant progress has been made in suppressing COVID-19 to the extent that our pupils can once again benefit from full-time learning in school. The virus remains a health risk, however, so this will not be a full return to 'normal' pre-lockdown. There are a number of steps we will need to take to work together to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all young people and adults in our school.

Health and Safety

Our number one priority needs to be, and will be, health and safety. All young people and adults must fully comply with the measures in place at all times. All pupils will be fully briefed in health and safety arrangements on their first day back at school, and reminded regularly thereafter.

Pupil Health	If a pupil has underlying health issues it is the responsibility of parents to obtain relevant medical advice as to whether they can attend school or not. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school. Anyone who develops symptoms during the school day will be sent home immediately.
Washing Hands	Pupils are required to sanitise their hands on entry to the building at the start of the school day and after lunch. Sanitiser is provided but pupils can choose to bring their own if they wish. Pupils should wash their hands before eating and regularly throughout the day.



Recognition of Commitment

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Cleaning	Enhanced cleaning staff will be on site during the school day. Pupils will be asked to wipe down any surfaces they use in classrooms and materials will be provided. Pupils should avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily.
Physical Distancing	Pupils are not required to distance from each other in classrooms but must keep a 2m distance from adults. Older pupils (S5/6) will be encouraged to keep some distance from each other wherever possible.
Face Coverings	Face coverings are not mandatory in school, however, coverings are an additional mitigation to the virus and pupils may wish to choose to wear one.
Minimising Contact	Where possible within the limitations of the full-time timetable changes of class groupings and moving around the building will be minimised. Pupils should try to keep apart from pupils in other classes and year groups at break and lunch times.
Movement Around the Building	Although kept to a minimum, pupils will need to move around the building at times and should follow the directions of school staff.
Break and Lunch	All pupils must remain on the school campus at break time. Pupils will be encouraged to be outside in the fresh air wherever possible and should avoid congregating in large groups inside the building. Use of the canteen will be limited and pupils are encouraged to bring water, snacks and lunch with them. Free school meals will continue to be provided. Initially only cold food will be available from the canteen at lunch time.
Uniform and PE Kit	Full-time return to school means that full uniform should be worn as normal and PE kit should be brought in on days required. Changing facilities will be provided. PE will take place outdoors wherever possible. Pupils should wear appropriate outdoor jackets.

First Day Arrangements

Pupils should attend in year groups on a phased basis from the following dates / times:

S6	8.50am	Wednesday 12 August
S1	9.30am	Wednesday 12 August
S5	8.50am	Thursday 13 August
S4	9.30am	Thursday 13 August
S3	8.50am	Friday 14 August
S2	9.30am	Friday 14 August



Note that this means that when pupils start, they then continue to attend full-time from that point. From Monday 17 August all attend as per normal school hours.

For S1 Only

Older pupil guides will help new S1 pupils find their way when moving between classes. As indicated above pupils are encouraged to be outside at break and lunch. We normally keep S1 on-site for the first few weeks of high school, however in these circumstances we are aware pupils may wish to have lunch at home.

For S5/6 Only

Each year following the SQA results there is the opportunity for pupils to discuss any potential changes to their courses. Our aim is always to support pupils to follow the path they want and encourage them to study their strongest, most relevant subjects. Staff will discuss this with pupils when they return. Where appeals can be made for the recent results we will work with pupils, parents and their teachers to do so over the first few weeks of the return to school. Please also note the information from me on our website here.

Parental Contact

We have been asked to limit any unnecessary adult visits to the school, so if you need to speak with us please call first. If we do need to arrange a meeting, we may consider the use of digital technology or if visiting the school COVID-19 measures will be in place.

Further Information

As we settle back over the coming days and weeks, I will contact you again with details on some of the other aspects of 'normal' school life, such as clubs, trips, events and parents' meetings. Some of these things will be different this year, however I and my staff will do all we can to provide as rich a learning experience possible for our young people.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please get in touch with us at the school.

Wellbeing of All

I firmly believe our many successes as a school stem from a consistent focus on the wellbeing of our people and the positive relationships we nurture. Now more than ever this will continue to be the case. COVID-19 changed life for all of us, and many have suffered and struggled during recent months. By living out our values of care, fairness, respect and trust we will all look out for each other and ensure we can safely and quickly get back to doing what we do best – learning, achieving and working together.

Best wishes



Billy Burke
Head Teacher



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