

Letter to Holy Cross Parents/Carer from Mr J Reilly – 17th June 2020

Dear parent/carers,

I hope my latest message find you, your family, friends and loved ones safe and well.

In my message on Monday 8th June, I said I was optimistic of presenting you with detailed information for the return of young people to Holy Cross High School on **Wednesday 12th August** in the near future.

On Tuesday 16th June, our Executive Director of Education Resources, Mr Tony McDaid, wrote to parents/carers providing information on a number of key issues which apply to all schools across South Lanarkshire.

The information in the attachment provides all of the details parents/carers and young people require regarding our plans to return to Holy Cross High School on **Wednesday 12th August**.

Returning to Holy Cross High School in August – The Timetable Model

- Due to the circumstances in which we find ourselves, there is a 2m social distancing protocol which is in operation.
- As such the number of young people we can have in classrooms has been reduced:
 - Subjects such as Maths, English, Geography, History, Modern Studies, French, Spanish, RE, PE and PSE can take up to 14 young people (usually 30 young people can be accommodated in these classrooms)
 - Practical subjects such as Science, Art and Design, Technical, Home Economics, Music, Drama, Computing Science and Business Education can take up to 10 young people (usually 20 can be accommodated in these classrooms)
- As a consequence of this, the school can only have 50% of the total school roll in the building on any day.
- We have therefore, divided the school roll into two cohorts of approximately 50%
- Each cohort will attend school on different days
- **Cohort 1: S1, S5, S6 will attend school Monday and Tuesday of every week**
- **Cohort 2: S2, S3, S4 will attend school Thursday and Friday of every week**
- **Please note each cohort will be in school every alternate Wednesday (see timetable below)**
- Therefore, each year group will receive 5 days of in school teaching every 2 weeks
- **For the purposes of our new timetable, week beginning Monday 10th August, will be week 1.**

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	IN SCHOOL LEARNING	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
week 1	Week Beginning 10th Aug			S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4
week 2	Week Beginning 17th Aug	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4	S2/3/4
week 1	Week Beginning 24th Aug	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4
week 2	Week beginning 31st Aug	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4	S2/3/4
week 1	Week beginning 7th Sep	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4
week 2	Week beginning 14th Sep	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4	S2/3/4
week 1	Week beginning 21st Sep	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4
week 2	Week beginning 28st Sep	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4	S2/3/4
week 1	Week beginning 5th Oct	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S1/5/6	S2/3/4	S2/3/4

Each year group is therefore guaranteed to receive two days of in school face to face teaching each week, and every other week, will receive three days when they attend on the Wednesday.

First Day Arrangements

Will be issued to all young people week beginning Monday 3rd August.

Individual Pupil Timetables

Will be issued to all young people on their first day of return to Holy Cross High School

Week Beginning Monday 10th August 2020

- **On Wednesday 12th August**
The young people in S1, S5 and S6 attend Holy Cross High School
The young people in S2, S3 and S4 will take part in online learning at home
- **On Thursday 13th and Friday 14th August**
The young people in S2, S3 and S4 attend Holy Cross High School
The young people in S1, S5 and S6 will take part in online learning at home

Timing of the School Day – Period Timings

- The school day will begin each day at 845am and the school day will end at 310pm each day
- There will be no 6 or 7 period days

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- Each day there will be 3 teaching blocks, designed to maximise pupil/teacher contact and to minimise pupil movement around the school building.
- The times of the teaching blocks are as follows
 - Block 1 : 845am – 1035am
 - Interval : 1035am – 1050am
 - Block 2 : 1050am – 1240pm
 - Lunch : 1240pm – 110pm
 - Block 3 : 110pm – 310pm

Returning to Holy Cross High School

- The staff will be delighted to see our young people and welcome them back to Holy Cross High School from Wednesday 12th August. We have all missed them.
- Returning to school for our young people after such a long period of time will not be easy. As such, the health and well-being of all young people is a key priority and all of the support mechanisms which we offer at Holy Cross High School are already taking place and underway.
- The physical layout of the building is similar but there are notable differences to accommodate social distancing. Classrooms are set up to take 14 young people, practical rooms to take 10.
- Other large areas in the school; the two PE gyms, the double English and Maths rooms and part of the Street Area are being set up to take 28 young people.
- The corridors have also been altered to create two distinct walkways in each using hazard tape. Young people will walk in single file, respecting social distancing protocols to and from classes.
- Many new signs have been put up throughout the school reminding young people and staff of their responsibilities regarding personal hygiene during this pandemic.
- Hand sanitisers have been installed in every classroom. Young people will hand sanitise prior to taking their seat in class. This will be done each time a young person enters a classroom.

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What to Bring

- Young people should bring a school bag to school to carry their belongings such as:-
 - Pens, pencils, rulers, calculators, phones
 - Packed lunch (in a disposable bag)
 - Water bottle (in a disposable bottle)

Please note: None of these items may be shared or loaned to another pupil

- Young people will be issued with jotters from each subject
- Course work will be completed through a combination of work in jotters and on line
- Lockers will not be available to store any items

What to Wear

- All young people attending Holy Cross High School will be expected to wear their full school uniform
- The uniform provides our young people with a sense of belonging and pride. At this particular time it re-establishes a return to the norm for our young people, which is absolutely crucial
- On the days when our young people have PE on their new timetables, they may attend school wearing their school PE kit. Because of the coronavirus situation, social distancing protocols reduce movement and reduce capacity of the building, using the PE changing rooms is not possible.

Lunchtime Arrangements

- Lunchtime takes place each day from 1240pm-110pm
- Because of the coronavirus situation, lunchtime will operate on a much different model to what our young people have been used to in the past.
- May I ask parents/carers for their support in encouraging their children to respect the new lunchtime rules and procedures.
- **No young person has permission to leave the school grounds at lunchtime**
- **As such, all young people will now have two options at lunchtime**
 - **bring a packed lunch or**
 - **place their lunch order at the canteen**

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- Further information regarding pre ordering lunches via a new app will be issued week beginning Monday 3rd August.
- Please note the canteen will now operate a cashless system using parent pay. Once again further details will be issued week beginning Monday 3rd August.
- For lunch young people may use the extensive yard space, the Street Area – but may not under any circumstances leave the school grounds at lunchtime
- If there is inclement weather, alternate arrangements will be made
- May I ask parents/carers to encourage their child(ren) to dispose of their lunch bags responsibly. This is particularly important in the situation in which we find ourselves.

Learning At Home

- A new model of education referred to a ‘blended learning’ will be deployed, where young people learn through a combination of in school face to face learning and at home on line learning
- We will be issuing young people, parents/carers with a booklet explaining how blended learning will operate in Holy Cross High School
- On the days when young people are not in Holy Cross High School they will be learning at home :-
 - working on course work directed by their class teacher as a follow up to face to face teaching;
 - completing on line learning tasks directed by their class teacher
 - completing regular homework tasks as directed by their class teacher
 - working independently on revision/study tasks

Travelling To and From Holy Cross High School

Contract Buses

- Parents/carers were asked to complete a transport survey by Sunday 14th June for South Lanarkshire Council. The responses are currently being analysed.
- This work, by South Lanarkshire Council, to ensure as many pupils as possible, entitled to transport, can get to school will continue over the summer.
- Where new transport applications have been granted, for example for our new S1 pupils, a letter will be issued by Education HQ to advise parents/carers of this by the end of June.
- This letter will also be issued to parents/carers whose children are already entitled to transport
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- This letter will explain to parents/carers that as a result of COVID-19 South Lanarkshire Council are not in a position to offer clarity in terms of transport to school and what it may look like in practice; given that buses are operating at around 20% capacity
- South Lanarkshire Council will continue to work with transport providers throughout the summer to establish a revised level of capacity as far as is possible and within agreed safety protocols.
- Education HQ will make contact with parents/carers in early August to confirm the position
- On behalf of South Lanarkshire Council, may I ask parents/carers to be patient in what is a very challenging time for everyone.

Parents bringing children to school by car

- **We are anticipating a significant increase in the number of parents/carers making their own arrangements – in the short term – to bring their child(ren) to school by car**
- **This may lead to severe congestion in and around the school. Therefore we ask parents/carers to consider the following**
 - **The turning circle in Holy Cross High School is designed for the use of contract buses only.**
 - **It is not a drop off point and should not be considered as such.**
- **Parents/carers, therefore, are strongly advised to drop their children off at a suitable and safe location close to the school (a so-called “park and stride” point) which allows children to walk the remaining short journey to school.**
- **We are aware that many parents/carers already do this, which avoids additional congestion in and around the school and New Park Street, in particular.**
- **Similarly, at the end of the school day, parents/carers should not arrange to collect their children from inside the school grounds**

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PLEASE NOTE

I am sure all of our parents/carers and young people will appreciate the situation in which we find ourselves with the Coronavirus pandemic, is an ever changing one.

As such, the information which you have just read through may be subject to change. At the time of writing, - Thursday 18th June 2020 – the information is up to date and accurate.

However, there are seven weeks from now until the beginning of the new school year in August and we must be flexible and adaptable to any change(s) to the current situation, which may affect our arrangements.

Needless to say, we will keep parents/carers and young people fully informed should our plans and procedures require to be updated. Once again thank you for your support and cooperation.

AND FINALLY...

On behalf of all the staff in Holy Cross High School, may I thank all of our parents/carers and young people for their support, encouragement and cooperation since we entered these unprecedented times on Friday 20th March. It has not been an easy 13 weeks for any of us. However, we can hope and pray that the situation begins to show signs of recovery, then the Scottish Government may ease some of the lockdown conditions, which would be welcomed by all of us.

Throughout this time, as a staff, we have missed the daily contact with all the young people and are looking forward to their return from the 12th of August.

For our young people whose SQA Examinations were cancelled this year, we share your disappointment and your hope for a deserved set of excellent results in August.

For our new S1. We hope you enjoyed your Virtual Induction Week and all of the staff in Holy Cross High School are looking forward to welcoming you officially on Wednesday 12th August.

To all of our young people, parents/carers have a lovely summer break and we look forward to continue to work with you all in school year 2020/21.

Best wishes,

John Reilly (Head Teacher)

On behalf of all the staff of Holy Cross High School.

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