



Wallace High School
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To All Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wish to begin by thanking families for all your support during what has been a long period of remote learning and, more recently, blended learning. We are well aware that working from home requires significant compromises for families. We hope members of our wider community enjoying a well-earned break from screens over the Easter holidays and a return to full in-school provision from **Monday 19th April** (to be formally confirmed on Tuesday 6th April by Scottish Government). We are very much looking forward to welcoming *all* pupils and staff back in order to populate our school once again with the life, energy and vitality that is the essence of our community.

The information that follows should help to clarify **arrangements for return** and **key updated measures (noted in red)** that will be in place from the 19th. We will, of course, continue to adapt and improve any arrangements based on pupil, parent/carer and staff feedback when we begin to implement our new approaches for the final term in order to create a productive, welcoming, happy and safe learning environment for our young people.

A full summary of **key SQA and assessment information** has been published separately for our Senior pupils and parents/carers.

Health and Safety Protocols (Reminder of Existing Measures)

In order to continue to **minimise risk** at this time we will retain a series of protocols that aim to **maximise social distancing and hygiene practices** in order to create an environment that **significantly reduces** risk of COVID-19 transmission. This has been informed by government health guidelines and consequent established Stirling Council protocols. To maximise safety and minimise risk, we will continue to implement the following measures (all of which young people will be familiar with by this point):

- Two-metre static social distancing between staff and pupils, with appropriate PPE in use when closer contact support is required (please note: in line with Scottish Government guidance, there is no requirement for pupil-to-pupil distancing). **Pupil-to-pupil 2m indoor distancing will not be mandatory but we will encourage general distancing as much as possible;**

- Removal of periods bells between classes in order to reduce the volume of pupils in corridors at any given point;
- Revised risk-assessment of practical activities (e.g. PE activities, arrangements in labs and workshops etc.);
- Class and school hygiene protocols that promote hand washing, use of hand sanitisers (installed on walls outside learning spaces) and wipes to ensure work areas and resources are cleaned following pupil use;
- Reduction in large gatherings, where possible, (no full year group assemblies in the Theatre etc.) and limiting of adult and partner access to the school building;
- Pupils, as fully as possible, bringing their own core equipment;
- Minimised pupil movement due to timetable blocking;
- Revised lunch and break arrangements to *reduce* crowding/large gathering in the Atrium – adjustments to school meal service protocols; seniors with different break time in the morning and two lunch slots in order to reduce crowding in the Atrium and help with queuing in the local community at shops and food outlets;
- Full council and public health protocols are in place should any pupil or member of staff present with symptoms;
- Parental support in instilling these habits at home and encouraging, in times between in-school contact days, that clothes and relevant kit are cleaned in line with government public health advice, as fully as possible.

Health and Safety Protocols (NEW UPDATED Measures from April 19th)

- **Face coverings** should now be worn in the school building **at all times** (except when eating or drinking) for pupils from S1-6 and staff (*with the exception of those who have been declared exempt*). Pupils should come to school with a face covering.
- **Lateral Flow Tests** are now available for all pupils and staff. The government is strongly encouraging uptake of these, although this remains *voluntary*. Staff and S4-6 pupils have had access to these and so should simply request new test kits as required in the usual fashion. For any **S1-3 pupils** who wish to take lateral flow tests, we will issue these initially during week 1 of the holidays and then on return to school on an ongoing basis from our school office. **Please note that on first issue of a test for pupils under 16, a parent must be present to collect in order to sign the required consent form.** Initial issue dates/times are noted below. These should be collected from the main School Office as follows:
 - **S1:** Tuesday 6th April –10.00-14.30
 - **S2:** Wednesday 7th April –10.00-14.30
 - **S3:** Thursday 8th April –10.00-14.30
 - **S4-6 (those who require replacement kits):** Friday 9th April –10.00-14.30
- **One Way System** – to further promote distancing and mitigate any crowding at transition points, we are implementing a one-way system for pupils in each wing of the building for the final term. This will be fully explained to pupils on return, but a summary is provided below:

- **PE corridor** – existing one-way system already in place.
 - **Airthrey** – one way on ground floor entry from Atrium, with far staircase being ‘up only’ and near staircase ‘down only’.
 - **Logie** – one way on ground floor entry from Atrium, with far staircases at Music and Art being ‘up only’ and main central staircase into Atrium now functioning as ‘down only’ staircase from Maths and Business/ICT rooms.
 - **Powis** – one way on ground floor entry from Atrium, with far staircase being ‘up only’ and near staircase ‘down only’.
 - **Atrium ground floor** remains two-way for central transition between wings.
- **Beginning of Day** – we have slightly updated arrangements for beginning and end of day. We are encouraging pupils to remain outside as fully as possible. To encourage spacing as much as we can, we are suggesting the following arrangements on arrival to school:
 - **S1/2** – On arrival, go to playground area at rear of school - basketball court/astroturf/grass pitches. On wet days. S1 will be able to access the Games Hall and S2 the Dance Studio.
 - **S3/4** – On arrival, use the playground area outside at the front of the school. On wet days, S4 access the Theatre and S3 the main Atrium area.
 - **S5/6** – HWB time remains suspended on Monday and Tuesday, so pupils simply go to class on arrival at 10am. Wednesday–Friday, Seniors are permitted to go to wing areas/classrooms for their first class on arrival.
- **End of Day** – Pupils should exit as follows via wing exits:
 - **Airthrey:** Via the side doors off the Atrium opposite Ochil House.
 - **Logie:** Via the main pupil door at the centre of the Atrium.
 - **Powis:** Via the side door at the end of the PE corridor next to the grass pitches.
 - We will also encourage ‘**soft dismissal**’ during the last 10 minutes of the day for S1-3 pupils as tasks etc. are completed in class, with S4-6 dismissed by the end of day bell.
- **Break and Lunch** – We will be encouraging pupils to access outside spaces *as fully as possible* at break and lunchtime. We will Tannoy reminders about any alternative arrangements on days with inclement weather, but this will generally involve S4-6 being able to access classroom spaces and S1-3 utilising the Atrium and Theatre areas. It is important to note that any pupils who access community outlets during lunchtime must co-operate fully with community distancing requirements and wear a face covering in shops.
- Pupils should come to school in **full school uniform** but, in order to make full use of facilities and minimise the requirement for changing (now that we are out of the inclement winter months), we will allow pupils to come to school in suitable PE kit (no football colours/t-shirts with inappropriate slogans etc.) on days when they have PE. Arrangements for this are outlined in the note from the PE team below:

Physical Education and School of Sport

The PE Department are looking forward to the restart of activities after the Easter Break. There are still some restrictions on what can be offered and facilities we are permitted to use. Below are some points to help prepare for 'getting back to PE':

- On the days where a pupil has PE or SoS on their timetable, they are requested to **come to school in their PE Kit and they will remain in their PE Kit for the rest of the day.**
- Changing Rooms will be used as Bag Drop areas.
- Pupils who are not changed for PE will still be required to still take part in the lesson in some form.
- **Swimming will not take place in the Summer Term** (School of Swimming will continue to be land-based sessions only).
- All School of Basketball year groups will return to 3 sessions a week from the previous 2.
- On days when pupils do not have PE or SoS on their timetable they are **expected to be in full School Uniform.**
- Restrictions may change during the term and we may be able to offer more activities. We will update accordingly.
- Bring a smile and enjoy yourself!

A couple of other measures that are important to note are that **pupils will only have access to shared water coolers that are used to refill a personal bottle (there will be no access to water fountains that pupils would drink directly from).** Where possible, pupils should bring water with them. **Chewing gum is also *completely prohibited* in school.**

Wallace High pupils are excellent in their commitment to our values and in the positive relationships they establish to create a warm, safe and supportive school community. During this time of increased risk, any pupil who *deliberately fails to fully comply* with the above protocols, that are designed for *everyone's* safety, will be subject to a swift escalation of disciplinary procedures and direct parental contact.

Any parents who wish to further discuss specific arrangements or concerns for their child (e.g. regarding underlying health concerns etc.) should contact their child's Pupil Support Leader.

School Transport

Stirling Council transport provision will function as normal for all learners. Pupils should be mindful of following all required protocols as indicated by transport operators.

I apologise again for the sheer volume of information communicated above. Please be assured that we will support *all pupils* and ensure that they understand new protocols and core arrangements when we return on April 19th. Young people have displayed a great capacity for

resilience this session and I am sure we will quickly adapt to our new protocols for the summer term.

Thanks, once again, for all your support with the above. I know that our entire staff team is looking forward to seeing young people once again after Easter. It has been great to welcome them back for our recent phased period. I hope you all enjoy a restful, safe and happy holiday and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to a vibrant school community for the summer term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Pennock', written in a cursive style.

Scott Pennock
Head Teacher