



August 2021

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**Head Teacher: Neil Hendry B.Ed (Hons)**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are now fast approaching the end of the summer holidays with all pupils returning on Tuesday 17 August. I hope that you have all had the chance to relax and enjoy some of the lovely weather we have experienced. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new S1 and welcoming our S2-S6 back to Lochside.

In June we were informed that we would return in August under the same restrictions as we had in place at the end of term. The First Minister's statement on 3 August has confirmed this but it will be kept under continuous review. This means that we will continue to have separate entrances for pupils, face coverings inside the building (including classrooms and changing rooms), social distancing between staff and between staff and pupils, one-way corridors. I am delighted to tell you that we are able to use PE changing rooms once again from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. This will mean that all pupils should arrive in full school uniform, with separate PE kit which they will change into prior to taking part in PE. Pupils should not arrive in school wearing sports clothing.

I would remind all parents/carers that pupils who show any symptoms of Covid-19 should not come to school and should book a test through the [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot) website. The symptoms to look out for continue to be a high temperature, a new and persistent cough and any change to their sense of smell or taste. Please inform the school if they will be absent for this reason and remain off school until a negative result has been issued for the test. Young people are also asked to resume use of the lateral flow tests on Sunday 15 August and then continue to take these tests twice a week. This can offer reassurance to young people and families and we would encourage their use. Pupils can access more tests (from the Industrial space in the west wing during last half hour of lunch break) on their return. Information on vaccinations and the Scottish Government procedures for the new term and for the health and safety of your child will also be shared to you in our return.

To summarise:

- Pupils should continue to use the entry door designated for their year group. Pupils will be allowed into the school building at 8.35am pupils should go straight to their period one class, classes will start at 8.45am. New S1 will be met by staff and taken to their classes once they enter via the canteen doors.



- Pupils are required to wear face coverings **at all times** whilst in the school building unless they have a medical exemption. This includes whilst queuing in the canteen at break and lunchtime.
- Face coverings must be worn on all school and public transport to and from school.
- Pupils must sanitise hands on entering and exiting the school building and classrooms.
- Pupils must follow the clearly marked one way system to move around the school and use the designated stairs for going up and down floors.
- All pupils are required to leave the school building during morning and lunchtime break after they have purchased/consumed their food.
- There will be a staggered release of pupils at the end of the school day to avoid congestion in the corridors.
- S1 pupils will be released 10 minutes early at the end of the school day for the first week of term.
- Parents and Carers are not permitted into the staff car park, school grounds or school buildings without prior agreement. Please make alternative arrangement when dropping off and collecting young people from school.
- Over the last 18 months, COVID-19 mitigations to ensure public health and safety have brought challenges regarding the wearing of full school uniform. We would like to thank everybody who have continued to support the school by ensuring that their young people have attended school wearing the correct uniform.  
From the start of next session in August 2021, we will be expecting pupils to attend in full school uniform. Details regarding school uniform can be found at <https://lochside.aberdeen.sch.uk/school-uniform/>
- Since returning to school buildings full-time following second lockdown at the start of this term, the number of young people using mobile phones irresponsibly or inappropriately has been quite obvious. As was highlighted in our last Parent & Carer Update, mobile phones, when used responsibly, can enhance learning and teaching, communication and social experiences and can bring a sense of security to parents as their children enjoy more independent activities, such as walking to and from school unsupervised. Such devices can also be powerful tools when utilised by teachers to enhance learning and teaching. It is necessary, however, for us as a school to introduce a new policy relating to how mobile phones are used in school. From August 2021, pupils must not use a mobile phone in school corridors at any time. In effect, school corridors have now been designated as red areas (red areas = areas where mobile phone use is unacceptable). The only green area within school building that will exist from August 2021 will be the school dining area. Please do ensure that your child is aware of this policy change and that inappropriate use of mobile phones will be unacceptable and action taken as appropriate