



Craigie High School

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Dear Parent/Carer

March 2021 Update

Plans for return to school after Easter (based on what we know so far)

All pupils are due to return to school on Monday 19th April. The school day will revert back to normal ie we will start at 8.45 and finish at 3.40 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 2.50 on Thursdays and Fridays. It would appear that there will be no requirement for physical distancing between pupils but that they will require to wear masks as they do presently. Arrangements will be as normal for interval and lunchtime. Parents/Carers are asked to ensure there are sufficient funds on the pupils NEC card to allow them to purchase lunch and also to make sure any Free School Meals requests are up to date. Pupils will be expected to attend in normal school uniform.

If there is any update during the Easter Holidays that changes the arrangements outlined in this letter, we will make sure that information is shared via Teams, text messages, social media and the school website.

Dates to share with you

For senior pupils there will be no study leave as there has been in the past and pupils will be expected to attend all of their classes every day right through until the change of timetable which for this year will be on 7th June. This means that S6 will officially leave school on Friday 4th June unless they are required to come into school to complete any assessments required.

I can confirm that we have planned In-service days when pupils will not be expected to attend school and these are Thursday 6th May, Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd June.

Holidays are confirmed as Monday 3rd May and Monday 31st May.

Transition Days for our Primary 7 pupils will be Thursday 17th and Friday 18th June. Further information regarding the arrangements for these days will come out separately.

The summer term ends on Friday 25th June at midday.

Plans for Senior Phase assessments

This will be an exceptionally important time for young people in the senior phase. Departments are making arrangements to collect as much evidence as possible whilst at the same time not burdening young people with over assessment. The process of gathering evidence for National Qualifications is needed to support the Alternative Certification Model which is how grades will be awarded this year. We have produced a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) leaflet about the assessment arrangements and the alternative model which has been texted out to parents today and also sent via Twitter. A copy has also been put onto the school website.

There is also a leaflet issued by SQA for pupils and parents and this is also on the school website but can also be accessed directly through the SQA website and has been shared extensively by the SQA on social media.

Virtual Information Event for Parents/Carers of Senior Phase Pupils

We know that there will still be a lot of parents/carers with questions regarding the new model for this session and to support this we will be providing 2 virtual meetings (a link will be sent out the first week back after the Easter Holidays). During this meeting the SQA Co-Ordinators of the school and myself will talk through a short presentation and then answer any questions you may have. It would be very helpful if you can submit your questions in advance by emailing them to the school office (craigiehighschool@dundeeschools.scot) as we can try to build as many answers into the presentation as we can as well as identifying key themes we want to make sure we cover. The 2 events will be cover the same material so parents/carers only need to attend one.

The dates for these are confirmed as **Tuesday 20th April 6pm – 7pm** and **Friday 23rd April 11 am - midday**.

Easter School Arrangements

We are operating an Easter school for Senior pupils studying qualifications at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Information has already been shared with parents about this and is also on the school website. Not all Departments are offering this option and pupils have been informed as to which subjects are running and on which days. I strongly recommend that as many pupils attend as they can to take the opportunity to work in small groups with a Teacher. All current Covid-19 restrictions will remain in place i.e. face masks, social distancing and sanitisation of hands and desks.

Please make your son/daughter aware that access can only be made via Strip of Craigie and the front door. We have maintenance works taking place at the rear of the school up to Arbroath Road so no access will be permitted.

Parents will also be sent a groupcall text message confirming if your son/daughter has signed up to any of these sessions.

If your son/daughter is currently taking part in the Lateral Flow Device Testing, they should continue to do this whilst attending Easter School.

Lateral Flow Testing/Asymptomatic Testing

All pupils (both seniors and BGE) are now eligible to take part in the Asymptomatic Testing Programme for Covid-19. Parents/Carers were sent a letter detailing information regarding Lateral Flow Testing which you should discuss with your son/daughter prior to consenting or not. If you wish to take part, you (not the pupil) must pick up a testing pack from Craigie reception on Thursday 15th April and start the process. It must be a parent/guardian who picks up the kit and signs a consent form, pupils will not be given kits without signed parental consent.

Testing should commence from the day the kit is picked up and continue on a weekly basis on Mondays and Thursdays until further notice. You are not required to test throughout the Easter holidays, but this decision is left up to the individual. Testing must commence again from Monday 19th April. If you require further test kits, the school will be open on Thursday 15th April during the Easter holidays and every Monday and Thursday during term time. Results should be logged using the information below.

The tests supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on conducting self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which will be provided with the test kit. There is a useful video showing participants how to administer the test here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>.

Once the test has been conducted individuals must log the test result – whether positive, negative or void – online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the school.

Mrs Walker Retirement

On a final note, I need to let you know that we will not have Mrs Walker, Depute Head Teacher and House Head for Lomond House, with us at Craigie High School after the Easter holidays. Mrs Walker has decided to take early retirement with her final day being Thursday 1st April. Mrs Walker has been with us at Craigie for 26 years and has been an integral part of our development and successes over this time. She will be missed by all members of the school community. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours and hope that she will pop in from time to time to keep in touch.

Have a fantastic Easter holiday and I look forward to seeing all of our pupils back safe and well on Monday 19th April.

Yours sincerely

Andrena Waghorn
Head Teacher

Respect ▪ Equality ▪ Responsibility ▪ Determination ▪ Honesty