

People Directorate

Kyle Academy

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Our Ref:

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Dear Parent/Carer

Arrangements for Starting School in August

Following weeks of planning, we are now able to provide details on how we plan to reopen the school in August. As you can imagine, this has been a very complex exercise. Every school is different, from the space available and the layout of the building to the number of teachers and pupils. For this reason, schools will all have different models. We have tried very hard to maximise the time young people can spend in school. Pupils will attend half-day learning sessions almost every day. This will provide structure to their week, promote positive and healthy routines to keep them safe, and ensure they make good progress in their learning. Our proposal has been approved by both the Parent Council and the local authority.

We will have a staged approach to returning to school as follows.

Stage 1: Induction Days – 11 August to 14 August 2020

Each year group will be brought into school on a different day to go through the new protocols and fire evacuation procedures. It is really important for the health and safety of the whole school community that everyone understands the social distancing rules and the new health and hygiene measures that will be in place. It will also be an opportunity for us to welcome our pupils back, issue timetables and answer any questions they may have. **S1's induction day will be Wednesday 12 August.**

Stage 2: Moving from Home Learning to Blended Learning – 17 August to 11 September 2020

The first four weeks will focus on establishing routines and making sure all our young people get back into learning. This will include catching up or consolidating learning they have done at home so that they have a strong foundation to move on from.

Stage 3: Scaling up – 14 September 2020 onwards

We are hopeful that by this time we will be able to scale up the amount of time pupils are in school. Obviously, this is dependent on guidance from the Scottish Government.

Our Blended Learning Model

- Our model is based on a blended learning approach which combines at-home and online learning with face-to-face in-school learning.
- We will operate a timetable of four morning and four afternoon sessions over Monday to Thursday. Pupils attend either a morning or afternoon session which will last 2.5 hours.
- Timings for each session will be 9.00 am to 11.30 am and 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm. This will allow time for cleaning between sessions.

- Pupils will attend only one subject for each learning session, remaining in the same room with the same teacher and the same group of pupils for the duration. They will take their break in the classroom.
- Each morning session will be repeated in the afternoon for the other half of the year group.
- Two-week rotations will be in operation. This will allow pupils to access each subject over the course of the fortnight.
- Pupils will not be in school at lunchtime (although packed lunches will be provided for those who receive free school meals).
- Friday will be a flexible day for small tutorial groups; catch up sessions; and additional face-to-face learning in the Senior Phase. It will also ensure teachers have time to prepare high quality home learning content, deliver online tutorials/check-ins and provide feedback digitally.
- Learning groups will be limited to small groups of about 12 pupils. In a few subjects, learning hubs will operate where bigger groups will be taken in larger spaces or outdoor areas, for example, PE, English and Maths.
- We have tried to ensure siblings in S1 to S3 have been allocated the same timeslot for their learning sessions. Timetabling S4 to S6 is more complex and some subjects only have one session a day. Although we have been able to coordinate siblings across S4 to S6, if they have brothers and sisters in S1 to S3, they may not have the same timeslot.

Arrangements for S1

- Pupils in S1 have been sorted into groups or 'Bubbles'.
- The Bubbles were made up by splitting register classes into groups of 10. There are 13 in total.
- Bubbles 1 to 7 will attend in the morning.
- Bubbles 8 to 13 will attend in the afternoon.
- Pupils will stay with the same small group of pupils, in the same room for the duration of the learning session.
- They will focus on a different curriculum area each day.

S1 Pattern of Attendance			
Wk1		Wk2	
Monday	English	Monday	Technologies
Tuesday	Social Subjects	Tuesday	Science
Wednesday	PSE		
Thursday	HWB	Thursday	Maths

The curriculum will be streamlined to support young people to manage home learning tasks. They will get the opportunity to study almost all subjects in rotation.

- Social Subjects rotation - History, Geography, Modern Studies
- Technical rotation - Computing, Business Studies, Design and Technology, Home Economics
- Health and Wellbeing rotation - Art, Music, French

The induction day for S1 will be on **Wednesday 12 August 2020**. Pupils will attend either in the morning or afternoon to meet staff, S6 Captains and hear about what to expect in the weeks to come.

You have already been notified about which group your child is in. Significant work has gone into the planning and we will be unable to make changes to a child's group or attendance pattern. I understand how challenging it will be and the adjustments you will have to make for work, childcare and getting young people to school. I would like to thank you in advance for your support in helping us to make this

model work. **Please remember that this is a temporary measure and we hope to be able to scale up our provision as soon as possible.**

Welcome

I am so sorry that your child's first experience of Kyle will be such a different and challenging one. We are very much looking forward to them joining our school community and will do our very best to make them feel at home from the induction day onwards. For the first few weeks, they will interact mainly with the small group they are in and not socialise at interval or be in school at lunchtime. As soon as we are able to make the groups bigger, we will. We also hope that it won't be long before we can have our usual welcome events like the Buddy Breakfast and the Clubs Fair. There will still be lots to look forward to and plenty of time to enjoy life at Kyle!

Have a look at the welcome videos on the website if you have not already seen them. Have a lovely summer and take care everyone.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Byrne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mary Byrne
Head Teacher