

# St Andrew's Academy

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**Date:** 05 August 2020

Dear Student and Parents/Carers,

We hope that you had as pleasant a summer holiday as was possible given the restrictions put upon us all.

You will be aware that the Government has made the decision that the conditions are right for schools to re-open for all students at the start of the session. Please be assured that the safety of our young people, their families and the staff of the school will always be the highest of our priorities.

We are happy that the school will re-open to our students from Wednesday 12 August and are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back. We know how challenging the last few months have been for our students and their families and we want our students to be back to school feeling safe, settled and secure. Over the course of this session we will place a particular focus on supporting the health and wellbeing of students and staff as we recover from the effect that this virus has had on our society.

We will be putting in place all necessary safeguards as per the guidance from the Scottish Government and Renfrewshire Council. The Senior Management and staff will be working on the implementation of this guidance between now and the start of the term. We will issue the arrangements that will be put in place to students and their families prior to the start of term. Students will have an induction session on their first day in school to help them to understand the arrangements.

## **New term return dates**

Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 of August will be in-service days for school staff. Students will return from Wednesday 12 August on a phased basis. This will support the transition and give everyone the opportunity to be welcomed back safely. All children and young people will be back by Friday 14 August and will be full-time from then on.

The arrangements for the first week are as follows:

- Wednesday 12 August - S1 and S6 return to school
- Thursday 13 August - S4 and S5 return to school (in addition to S1 and S6 above)
- Friday 14 August - S2 and S3 return to school, meaning all pupils are back

The times of the start and end of the day will be the usual ones.

School transport for the students eligible will run as normal. Parent guidance on procedures for travelling on this transport will be sent to parents / carers before the school term from Renfrewshire Council.

**Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn**

Head Teacher: Kevin Henry

*Barrhead Road, Paisley, PA2 7LG*



## New measures to support return

Robust hygiene and cleaning procedures have been introduced across all schools. This includes regular hand washing and cleaning surfaces and equipment throughout the day. The school will be cleaned at the end of the school day.

- On arrival into school, students will sanitise their hands
- We also ask that children and young people wash their hands before they leave home in the morning.
- As per Government guidance, children and young people do not have to physically distance while in school or on school transport. However, we will encourage physical distancing where possible to further minimise any risk. In addition, we will avoid bringing children and young people together in large groups such as school events or assemblies. Physical distancing will be in place between staff and between staff, children and young people where possible.
- Visitors coming into schools will also be restricted. We have a very large school roll and to try and keep everyone in our community safe we would ask that parents/carers do not come into the school building unless they have an appointment or it is an emergency. We very much value having close communications with our parents and would ask that you please phone or email the school if you wish to discuss anything with us. The contact details are on the school website.
- If arriving to school by car, please park as far away as possible from the building to avoid congestion. If you can, please consider walking or taking another form of active travel.
- Home to school transport provided by the council will continue as normal for eligible children and young people. They do not have to be distanced and will not need to wear face coverings. However, no food or drink should be consumed while on a school bus. For children and young people travelling on public transport, please follow Scottish Government guidance on face coverings and physical distancing.
- School uniform should be worn. Information on PE will be sent to parents prior to the pupil return.

## SQA Results and Change of Subjects for new S5/6 students.

We know that students may have enquiries about their results and possible changes of subjects for S5/6. We would ask that, given the current circumstances, students/parents **do not** come to the school to discuss these issues but telephone/email the school and we will arrange to call the students/parents and carers back to talk these issues over. The school office will make a note of any requests received over Tuesday and Wednesday and guidance staff/SMT will be in school on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of August to begin to call back. Given the size of our school, the staff may have a large volume of requests, but we will get back to you as soon as possible. We also have Monday and Tuesday the following week where we can call students and parents back before the students return to school.

Any SQA appeals need to be submitted before the 21<sup>st</sup> of August so there is time when the school returns to discuss any appeals to be made. For any students that need a priority appeal for a University place, these must be submitted by 14<sup>th</sup> of August and will be dealt with first.

Please see below for information from SQA regarding Results and Appeals.

Understanding your Certificate

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65952.html>

SQA Appeals Process

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/94420.html>

There will be a further update and guidance for students issued prior to the school returning. Students will receive their timetable, as per normal, on their first day in the school.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back to school but in the meantime, we hope that you all stay safe and well.

Kind regards,



**Kevin Henry**  
**Head Teacher**