



DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dunbar Grammar is a caring community where you can RISE to be your best

RESPECT

INCLUSION

SUPPORT

EFFORT



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26th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re-opening and Re-connecting at Dunbar Grammar School

It has been 15 weeks since our school doors have been fully open to staff and students. I have been impressed by the commitment and care of our whole school community over this time. Our staff have worked tirelessly to adapt to a very new way of working and our students have responded well to the challenges of working from home. However, we are all very much looking forward to re-opening our school doors and re-connecting as a community in August.

I am writing to confirm the arrangements for our return to school after the summer holidays. Following the Depute First Minister's announcement on Tuesday, the Scottish Government has now asked us to prepare for all students returning full-time to school from 12 August 2020, assuming it is safe to do so. At the time of writing we are waiting for further detailed guidance to be provided to all Local Authorities – including on issues such as physical distancing and transportation. Relevant information will be shared with you over the summer holidays so that you have full details on our plans for the start of the new school session. This summer communication will include details of our plan to ensure all students and staff return to school safely in August and we will include a full transition experience for our new S1 cohort.

We have also been asked by Scottish Government to ensure that we have contingency plans in place in case the virus rates increase again in the coming months, and full-time schooling is not possible. For this reason I am writing to share with you what 'blended learning' means for Dunbar Grammar. **Please note that, following the Scottish Government's announcement, this is our 'plan B' and we now expect our children to return full-time from 12 August.** The purpose of sharing it here is so that you will know, and can plan, what the impacts will be for your household if health and government advice changes over the summer holidays and we are asked to move to a blended learning model.

When will students come to school if we move to our Plan B (Contingency Plan)?

In common with other East Lothian schools, Fridays would be used flexibly to provide staff time to support blended learning, and to plan for new ways of working. Schools may also choose to support small groups of students on a Friday for a specific purpose.

With 2 (or 1) metre physical distancing in place we cannot accommodate all students in the building at the same time, so we would use a 'blended learning' approach. This would be quite different from the online learning currently taking place, because most students would experience some learning face-to-face in school, which would be 'blended' with online learning at home.

The school day would begin at 8.30am and finish at 3.25pm. Students will be asked to arrive from 8.20am.

The school day has been designed to reduced movement in corridors and maximise learning opportunities. Students in S1/2/3 would have 90 minute lessons. Students in S4/5/6 would have 2 hour lessons.

We have created a 4 stage contingency plan which is summarised in the table below

Stage	Dates	Number of year groups attending on any given day	How many days will students attend school for?	Description
1	12th August - 21st August This is based on 2m physical distancing.	One (except S5/6 who will attend together)	One induction day per year group. S1 would attend for two days	Re-opening and Re-connecting (Student in groups of 10 or fewer) This is an induction stage where all students would be given an update on health and safety, tours of the school to explain the one way system and reconnect with teachers and their peers.
2	This would be in place after Stage1 and for as long as national guidance dictates 2m physical distancing.	Two	Students would attend for 4 days over 3 weeks	Stage2 - Re-connecting (Student in groups of 10 or fewer) Careful increase in number of students attending school. Students would follow an adapted timetable
3	This would be in place after Stage1 and will be initiated when national guidance moves to 1m physical distancing.	Three	Students would attend school every second week (One week will S4/5/6 attend and S1/2/3 will attend for the next week)	Stage3 - Increasing contact (Student in groups of 15 or fewer) Careful increase in number of students attending school. Students would follow an adapted timetable
4	When confirmed by the Scottish Government – no physical distancing in place	Six	Students will attend full time	School fully open to all students

Stage1

In this stage we would reconnect with one year group each day, focusing on wellbeing and next steps in learning. Each day would be a year group induction day, allowing us to engage with students again and explain new systems and processes. Areas covered will include hand-washing, physical distancing, one-way systems, breaks and lunches, arrival and departure and fire drills.

Home learning would continue on days when students are not in school. From 13 August to 20 August a different group of S6 students each day will support the induction of other year groups.

Students will attend as detailed in the table below.

Date	Day	Year groups	Details
Week 1			
10 August	Monday	<i>In-service</i>	
11 August	Tuesday	<i>In-service</i>	
12 August	Wednesday	S5/6	Induction
13 August	Thursday	S1 and 20 S6 students	Induction, with S6 supporting changeovers and breaks
14 August	Friday	Flexible	
Week 2			
17 August	Monday	S1 and 20 S6 students	Follow timetable, with S6 supporting changeovers and breaks
18 August	Tuesday	S4 and 20 S6 students	Induction, with S6 supporting changeovers and breaks
19 August	Wednesday	S3 and 20 S6 students	Induction, with S6 supporting changeovers and breaks
20 August	Thursday	S2 and 20 S6 students	Induction, with S6 supporting changeovers and breaks
21 August	Friday	Flexible	

Stage2

If we moved to Stage2 more students would be in school each day, allowing each year group four days in school over three weeks. This is designed around 2m physical distancing and class sizes of 10 or fewer.

Please note that in our contingency plan, if physical distancing guidance moved to 1m, we would proceed from stage 1 to stage 3, omitting this phase.

Day	Year groups attending
Week 1	
Monday	S1 and S2
Tuesday	S1 and S2
Wednesday	S5 and S6
Thursday	S5 and S6
Friday	Flexible
Week 2	
Monday	S3 and S4
Tuesday	S3 and S4
Wednesday	S1 and S2
Thursday	S1 and S2
Friday	Flexible
Week 3	
Monday	S5 and S6
Tuesday	S5 and S6
Wednesday	S3 and S4
Thursday	S3 and S4
Friday	Flexible

Stage3

In this stage of our contingency plan, all students would attend school every second week. Home-learning would still complement in-school learning.

This is based on 1m physical distancing and students would be in classes of 15 or fewer.

Day	Year groups attending
Week A	
Monday	Senior Phase– S4/5/6
Tuesday	Senior Phase – S4/5/6
Wednesday	Senior Phase – S4/5/6
Thursday	Senior Phase – S4/5/6
Friday	Flexible
Week B	
Monday	BGE – S1/2/3
Tuesday	BGE – S1/2/3
Wednesday	BGE – S1/2/3
Thursday	BGE – S1/2/3
Friday	Flexible

We have also produced a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions document to accompany our contingency plan. This is available on our school website if you would like an insight into the practical details of this plan:

<https://www.edubuzz.org/dunbargrammar/wp-content/blogs.dir/1325/files/2020/06/Contingency-DGS-Re-opening-and-Re-connecting-FAQ.pdf>

Again, I emphasise that the reason for sharing these contingency plans with you now is so that you know what the impacts would be only if the Scottish Government decides that full-time schooling will not be possible in August. We all hope that this will not be the case as we are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to school full-time after the summer.

I would like to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of our students, families and our staff is of paramount importance to us. We will be undertaking careful planning over the summer to ensure that we can support all of our students as they readjust to our buildings and the changes that may have been made. Our school had already completed all the necessary work to restructure classrooms, introduce hand sanitising protocols, put in place arrangements to manage lunch and break-times and, of course, instigate cleaning regimes that would ensure high levels of hygiene. School meals will be in the form of packed lunches for the first few weeks. All of our preparatory work, and the views you shared with us during the parental survey, will still be very useful for a safe return to school.

We appreciate that some families will have health conditions and situations that will mean a return to school, in any form, would not be safe. Again, we await further clarification from the Scottish Government on how this should be addressed. This will form part of our future communications to you.

This term has presented our school communities and families with a number of challenges and we are very grateful for your support, resilience and the patience you have shown. We are committed to keeping in touch with you over the summer and communicating all relevant information when we can.

I would like to wish your family a safe and peaceful summer holiday and hope that we all return to a more positive health environment in August.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Slowther". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Claire Slowther,
Head Teacher