



## DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dunbar Grammar is a caring community where you can RISE to be your best  
RESPECT                      INCLUSION                      SUPPORT                      EFFORT



### Dunbar Grammar Phased Return Newsletter Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021



Dear DGS Community,

It has been another busy week in school and we have really appreciated being able to see all students. We reviewed our arrangements for S1 and S2 this week and included some outdoor physical activity as part of their programme. Students spoke very positively about this and we will do the same again next week (weather permitting).

Today was the last day in school for S3 before the Easter break, although they will still have online learning next week. I met with them all in an online assembly this morning to wish them a happy and healthy break.

The staff have been busy putting together the assessment calendar for our senior students and more information about this can be found later in the newsletter.

As always if there is anything we can do to better support your young person, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing [admin@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk)

Take care, look after yourselves and each other

Claire Slowther  
Head teacher

## What is in the newsletter this week?

- Returning to school after Easter
- SQA Information for Senior Students
- Confirmation of S6 leavers date
- Lateral Flow Testing Updates
- S1 Parents and Carers Consultation Event
- S3 students update
- S2 into S3 Curriculum Choices
- HPV Vaccination Letters
- Uniform after Easter

## Returning to School after Easter

On Wednesday, the Scottish Government released Guidance for Schools about returning to school after the Easter break. The guidance advised that **all students** will return to school on a **full time basis**. Students will follow their usual timetable and attend all classes.

This means that the requirement for students to maintain 2m distancing from each other will be removed, but all other mitigations will remain in place. All students and staff will be required to wear face coverings at all time (unless exempt).

We are delighted that we will be able to fully return to school on this basis. It is important to point out that the national plans are conditional on the final check point on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. This will be confirmed by the First Minister.

## SQA Information for Senior Students

Today, Mr McBride shared detailed information about the assessment calendar with senior students and their parents and carers. A copy of this letter and assessment schedule can be found [here](#). Mr McBride will lead a special assembly on Monday which will take students through the approach to assessment and answer any questions. Students will also be able to fill in a personalised timetable next week with details of their own assessments.

The Easter break will be an ideal opportunity for senior students to engage in consolidation and revision. Teachers will be able to share recommended resources which will be useful for self-directed learning over the break. Our assessment window does not begin until Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April, meaning that our teachers will also be available to help and support students with any questions arising from revision when we return to school. We are urging all students to make sure they have access to all resources they will need before we finish up next week.

E-Sgoil will be running an [Easter Study programme](#). This may be something for our students to consider. Students can sign up for this by logging into [Glow](#) and accessing the sign up. If any student needs a reminder of their log in details they should email [admin@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk)

## **Confirmation of S6 leavers date**

Although the date for the change of timetable has still yet to be agreed, it was decided that, for those students leaving school this session, their official last day of school will be Friday 4th June 2021.

Mrs Offer has met with our Head Boy and Girl to discuss potential ways of the school community being able to say farewell to our leavers. These are understandably, dependant on restrictions which will be in place at that time, so we will share plans as they emerge in line with national guidance.

## **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing for all students**

Test kits have been issued to all students in S1/2/3 who have completed the online consent form. A letter with all information about the testing programme can be found [here](#). Any student who still wishes to sign up for this can do so by completing the e-consent form found [here](#).

S1-3 students should begin testing towards the end of the Easter holidays, before our return to school. Senior students who are already testing can decide if they wish to continue testing over the Easter break, or resume just before they come back.

## **S1 Parents and Carers Consultation Event**

There will be a parents and carers consultation evening for **S1** on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March**. A letter with full details on how to book appointments was sent out this week.

Please accept our apologies for the technical error which occurred on Tuesday evening which meant that some teacher appointments were not accessible. This was resolved on Wednesday morning and all parents and carers were emailed to advise them that the issue had been resolved.

## **Update for S3 Students**

I explained to all S3 students in assembly this morning, that when they return to school in April, they will be completing their S3 courses and will move into S4 when the whole timetable changes (date tbc).

We have explored trying to move S3 into S4 during the month of May, but as we have a combined senior phase, and with S4/5 students involved in assessments, this was not practically possible. Lessons will allow students to complete BGE courses in each subject area, and with a focus on transferrable skills which will help students prepare for the senior phase.

## **S2 into S3 Curriculum Choices**

A booklet has been sent to all parents and carers of S2 students about the process of making finalised S3 curriculum choices. A copy of the booklet can be found [here](#).

Students have been emailed a form which they should complete to submit their choices.

## **HPV Vaccination Letters**

Letters were sent home with all students in S1 and S2 and some students in S3. It is important that these are returned to school next week. Students in S1 and S2 should bring these completed forms in next Thursday. Students in S3 can either post them back to school or come into school between 1pm and 3pm on Thursday afternoon to hand them to Mrs Gillespie.

## **Uniform after Easter**

For the phased return, we made the decision to allow students to attend school in casual dress as we were mindful of putting additional pressure on them or their families during the return to school. We were also aware that many students may have outgrown uniform and accessing new uniform at short notice may have been challenging.

When we return to school after Easter, the expectation is that all students wear school uniform. A copy of the uniform policy can be found [here](#). If you require any financial assistance around uniform please email [dgspupilsupport@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:dgspupilsupport@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk)