



Breadalbane Academy

Phased Return to School, March 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

1 Why can't we go into town at lunchtime?

With the government guidance still being to stay at home except for essential purposes, we feel that to keep the community safe, we should avoid having groups of young people gathering within the local community. This is to protect the community, some of whom may fall into vulnerable groups.

2 What's the situation with uniform?

The relaxation of the rules on uniform will continue until the summer holidays. With the windows needing to be open for ventilation, the classrooms will be cool, so we would suggest that you dress warmly.

3 Which entrance should I use?

Farragon and Lawers pupils should enter via the side door of the assembly hall.

Schiehallion and Mhor pupils should enter by the Alma Avenue doors.

4 What happens if I am due to come into school but don't have a timetabled class?

There will be some S6 pupils who do not have a class timetabled for part of a day they are due to be in. They should still attend school and will either spend time focussing on independent work in a department area or work from the library.

5 Can we use the flexible areas or the S6 common room area?

Flexible areas within secondary may need to be used by teachers to spread pupils out when working in departments. This will be under the direct supervision of teaching staff.

The S6 area will not be available for use. Where you have a study column, you will work in the library or be directed to a department area where you will have independent work to focus on. You would also be able to access remote learning at these times (if live lessons and drop-ins are still running).

6 What's the situation with moving between classes?

We've reduced the number of times you will need to move between classes to minimise the infection risk. In corridors and on stairwells, you should keep to the left and observe 2m physical distancing at all times.

7 Are the arrangements for lunch the same as normal?

There are some differences with 2 sittings for secondary. This information is contained in the letter that has been sent out to parents. Pre-ordering is required for both morning interval and lunch.

You must keep 2m away from others in the dining centre – the tables will be marked to indicate where you can sit.

You should ensure that you have money on your card to reduce the amount of cash being handled.

8 Can I sit beside my friends at lunchtime?

If your friend is in the same year and house as you, then yes, you can sit with them. If they are in a different house or year group, unfortunately, this will not be possible.

9 What about morning interval?

For morning interval the arrangements will be the same as they were previously – everyone should be outside unless buying food. This will require queuing from the amphitheatre area, all with 2m physical distancing.

10 Will Food to Go be open?

No, not at the moment. All food will be served in the main dining centre area. This will be reviewed for after the Easter holidays.

11 What if the weather is bad – do we have to stay outside?

We have plans in place for inclement weather which will include using the assembly hall for indoor break and lunchtimes.

12 Will I be following the normal timetable?

No, specific arrangements are in place for the days you are in school and changes to remote learning arrangements will be communicated by your teacher.

13 What are the rules for face coverings?

All secondary pupils should wear face coverings in school unless you're eating in the dining centre. You also need to wear them on school transport.

14 What about physical distancing?

The rules for this are 2m physical distancing must be observed at all times in school. This includes in corridors, on stairs and in all communal areas.

This is reduced to 1m on school transport.

15 Is school transport running as normal

Yes, with one or two minor changes for pupils who have taxis that take them to their main bus, transport will be as normal. Families that are affected by these changes have been advised.

16 Can I use my locker?

Yes, if you have a locker you can use it. You should sanitise your hands before and after accessing it to minimise the risk of transmission from frequently touched surfaces.

17. Why are we only getting one core day in school per week

Due to requirements for physical distancing, classes will need to be much smaller, which means we can have fewer pupils in each day. We have also been instructed by the Government to prioritise S4-6 pupils, so we will continue to run our existing programme of SQA practical full-day session, as well as providing an additional full day for S4 pupils to work on English and Maths. The school needs to also to maintain a five day a week hub provision and Intensive Support Provision for identified pupils. Very importantly, we are also keen to maintain a strong remote learning offer to support pupils on the majority of days when they are not in school.

All of these requirements place a very significant pressure on staffing which is why it has not been possible to offer all pupils a core provision beyond one day per week.