**Linwood High School**

Stirling Drive

Linwood

PA3 3NB

Tel: 0300 300 1333

Children’s Services

Head Teacher: Gillian Macartney

Date: 22 June 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Transitioning to Secondary School is such an important time and we are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Linwood High School.

We appreciate you will be keen to know what the new timetable will look like when pupils start to return to school from Wednesday 12 August, and we can now share that with you.

We understand the past few months hasn’t been an easy time and our thanks go to you and your children for your patience and understanding.

This August will look different from any other year in that schools will return to a model of blended learning – with pupils learning in school on some days and from home on others.

We know this is not ideal but are sure you will appreciate the situation is unprecedented. We have worked hard to develop a model which delivers the best possible learning experience while taking every precaution to ensure the safety of pupils and staff, in line with government advice.

We will ensure physical distancing is maintained as much as possible and will do this through reduced class sizes and using all available space – however this obviously means not all pupils can be in school at the same time.

**Your child’s days in school**

All year groups will be split into 2 groups – Group A and Group B, allowing for pupils to attend school for 5 full days during a 2-week period.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Week beg |  | In school |
| Week 1 | 17 August 2020 | Group A | Monday/Wednesday/Friday |
| Group B | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Week 2 | 24 August 2020 | Group A | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Group B | Monday/Wednesday/Friday |
| Week 3 | 31 August 2020 | Group A | Monday/Wednesday/Friday |
| Group B | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Week 4 | 7 September 2020 | Group A | Tuesday & Thursday |
| Group B | Monday/Wednesday/Friday |

Your child will be in **Group B** and will follow the pattern of attendance as noted above **from week beginning Monday 17th August.**

School days will run from approximately 9am to 3pm but to ensure we maintain physical distancing at the start and end of the day, we will stagger start and finish times as far as possible for different groups.

We have tried to ensure all siblings attend on the same day wherever we can, however this has not always been possible. We realise we may not have been able to satisfy every family’s particular circumstances, and for this we both apologise and thank you for your understanding and continued support.

How long these arrangements continue depends entirely on advice and guidance from the Scottish Government. We will keep you updated on what that means for you and your family as and when that advice changes.

**First week back**

The first week back will look different because schools open to pupils on Wednesday 12 August so this is a shorter school week.

We want to ensure that everyone gets back to school at some point during that week so arrangements for those three days will be different.

In that first week, your child will attend for an induction block. Exact timings will be advised nearer the time, however each year group will attend as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Wednesday 12 August** | **Thursday 13 August** | **Friday 14 August** |
| Morning induction | S1  | S3 | S2 |
| Afternoon induction | S5/6 | S4 |  |

**Other information**

Blended learning is about providing a balance between in-school fully teacher supported learning and at-home partially teacher supported learning. When pupils are in school, receiving their face to face teaching, they will also be provided with work to do on their days at home, to complete for the next time they are in school. Teachers will be able to provide some support when pupils are at home but this will be less than the current at-home learning support because teachers will now also be in school teaching. We are confident that we will provide the right balance of blended learning to ensure your child continues to make good progress across their subjects

Childcare will be available for the children of key workers on the days they are not in school. You can find out more information on the council’s website. We know the new model has implications for school transport and these are still being worked on.

The council’s website has a detailed Q&A full of information for parents and carers – so please see http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools

If you have any questions which aren’t answered in the Q&A please don’t hesitate to contact us directly at linwoodhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

**School Uniform**

We also know many parents have questions over uniform. We are very proud of Linwood High School and our uniform as we believe it promotes a sense of equity and belonging to the school community. Noted below is a reminder of what we expect our pupils to wear. We will provide additional information on the wearing of PE kit in the near future.

Black Blazer (not essential)

Tie – light blue junior tie

Tie – dark blue senior tie (S4 – S6)

Blouse/Shirt – white

Skirt/Trousers – black

Jumper/sweatshirt – black with or without crest

Shoes – dark/black

PE T-shirt (school logo)

Please note that denim jeans are not part of the school uniform and we do ask that pupils remove coats, scarves and hooded tops in class, as they again are not part of the uniform.

School ties are available from the school office priced £6 and school blazers are available direct from Schoolwear Made Easy website www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com

Once again, we thank you for your understanding at this difficult time. I will be in contact again during the summer holidays with further detailed information. We look forward to seeing you all in August and we will be doing everything we can to make sure the return to school is as smooth as possible.

Gillian Macartney

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Head Teacher