

**Education Resources  
Executive Director Tony McDaid  
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Strathaven Academy**

**Our ref:** KB/CD  
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Dear Parent/Carer

As Strathaven Academy prepares for a new model of learning from Wednesday, 12 August, I want to start by thanking you and all our young people for managing to continue education in some way at home, away from friends and teachers. We recognise the significant challenges brought by lockdown and the difficulties this has posed for families. We would like to thank all parents/carers for everything they have done to support and encourage learning throughout this period.

We are currently preparing for the reopening of our school and are undertaking a huge amount of work to support continuity of learning for all young people. We fully recognise that returning to school will be an anxious time for a number of young people and parents/carers. It is important to state from the outset that we will prioritise pupils' physical and mental wellbeing to support them back into learning. In August our schools, classrooms and ways of learning will be different and young people will need support to adapt. At present, we are working on the introduction of measures such as physical distancing, handwashing and many other areas of health and safety.

### **The School Day from August**

Our Local Authority has asked us to work with our local area schools to come up with a model for young people to return safely to the classroom. To ensure compliance with government guidance, use of classroom space and ways of reducing movement between classrooms have been risk assessed and adapted. These constraints mean new timetable designs have been developed in order to deliver face-to-face teaching for young people. In working out an agreed locality model, it allows for consistency across our local communities. Our local area, East Kilbride & Strathaven, consists of these secondary schools:

- Strathaven Academy
- Calderglen High School
- Duncanrig Secondary
- St Andrew's & St Bride's High School

I am writing to outline the proposed plan for a blended approach across our locality, which is as follows:

- All young people will be in school every day, this will be split into a morning or afternoon session:
  - Group 1: S1-6 (50%) morning sessions 9:00am -11:30am
  - Group 2: S1-6 (50%) afternoon sessions 12:30pm - 3:00pm
- Students will be given a two-week timetable, which will facilitate the direct teaching of all their subject areas
- Young people will have 10 blocks of 2 ½ hours face-to-face teaching a fortnight
- Teachers will set the work for the other half of the day to allow blended learning to continue at home
- We will endeavour to allocate siblings to the same group

**S1/2**

Across the two-week period all S1 and S2 pupils will experience 10 morning or 10 afternoon sessions of 2 ½ hours which will facilitate 20 teaching blocks of 1 ¼ hours. This will allow us to deliver every subject and curricular area. Pupils will remain in the same 'home' classroom, with teachers moving to them, thus reducing the need for pupil movement.

An example of a S1/S2 timetable is given below:

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Morning (9:00 – 11:30)</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00)</b>	
	<b>9:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>10:15 – 11:30</b>		<b>12:30 – 1:45</b>	<b>1:45 – 3:00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	English	PE		Home Learning	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mod Languages	Social Subjects			
<b>Wednesday</b>	Maths	Music			
<b>Thursday</b>	Art	Business			
<b>Friday</b>	Science	PSE			

<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Morning (9:00 – 11:30)</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00)</b>	
	<b>9:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>10:15 – 11:30</b>		<b>12:30 – 1:45</b>	<b>1:45 – 3:00</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Art	Computing		Home Learning	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Social Subjects	PE			
<b>Wednesday</b>	English	Music			
<b>Thursday</b>	Maths	Business			
<b>Friday</b>	Mod Languages	Science			

**S3**

S3 pupils will receive 10 morning or 10 afternoon sessions of 2 ½ hours face-to-face teaching over the two-week period. However, in order to maximise depth of learning in preparation for SQA certification, pupils will focus on one subject only per day when in school. This will allow the delivery of all 8 of their chosen subject areas, with an additional block of Maths as well as one block of PSE/PE.

An example of an S3 timetable is given below:

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Morning (9:00 – 11:30)</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00)</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	Home Learning		Modern Studies	
<b>Tuesday</b>		Art		
<b>Wednesday</b>		Maths		
<b>Thursday</b>		History		
<b>Friday</b>		PSE	PE	

<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Morning (9:00 – 11:30)</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00)</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	Home Learning		Spanish	
<b>Tuesday</b>		Maths		
<b>Wednesday</b>		Computing		
<b>Thursday</b>		English		
<b>Friday</b>		Chemistry		

**S4**

S4 pupils will receive 10 morning or 10 afternoon sessions of 2 ½ hours face-to-face teaching over the two-week period. To maximise depth of learning in preparation for SQA certification, pupils will focus on one subject only per day when in school. This will allow the delivery of all 7 of their chosen subject areas, with an additional block of Maths, an additional block of English as well as one block of PSE/PE. We await further information on the arrangements for the GradU8 programme.

An example of an S4 timetable is given below:

Week 1	Morning (9:00 – 11:30)	Lunch	Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00)
Monday	Maths		Home Learning
Tuesday	Health & Food Tech		
Wednesday	Art		
Thursday	History		
Friday	PE                  PSE		

Week 2	Morning (9:00 – 11:30)	Lunch	Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00)
Monday	English		Home Learning
Tuesday	Administration & IT		
Wednesday	Biology		
Thursday	English		
Friday	Maths		

**S5/6**

S5/6 students will receive 10 morning or 10 afternoon sessions of 2 ½ hours face-to-face teaching over the two-week period. This will allow all S5 students to experience a block of each of their 5 chosen subjects **each week**. S6 students will have a block of each of their 3/4 chosen subjects **each week** and will only attend on the days they have a timetabled class. There will be no PSE/PE, however Guidance staff will be on hand to support all students eg. UCAS and College applications. We await further information on the arrangements for the GradU8 and Foundation Apprenticeship programmes.

An example of an S5/6 timetable is given below:

Week 1	Morning (9:00 – 11:30)	Lunch	Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00)
Monday	Music		Home Learning
Tuesday	Chemistry		
Wednesday	French		
Thursday	Maths		
Friday	English		

Week 2	Morning (9:00 – 11:30)	Lunch	Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00)
Monday	Maths		Home Learning
Tuesday	English		
Wednesday	Music		
Thursday	Chemistry		
Friday	French		

As you can see from each of these timetables, there are no planned intervals with all students remaining in the same room in any one learning block. Once pupils have finished their face-to-face lessons in the morning they will go home, allowing the second group of pupils to attend in the afternoon.

We will send a text message to parents/carers on **Monday, 22 June** to provide information on which group (morning or afternoon) your child has been allocated. New S1 pupils will be provided with this information during their transition visit next week. Unfortunately we will not be able to accept requests for changes of groups due to various restrictions, such as the column structure, class sizes and transport issues. Siblings should be placed in the same group. All pupils will receive an individualised copy of their timetable in due course.

### **Health and Safety**

In partnership with South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) a risk assessment for Strathaven Academy has been completed which sits alongside the corporate risk assessment that covers all secondary schools. To help prepare your child for returning in August please note some of the following key points:

- Classes will be reduced in size in compliance with the Scottish Government guidelines
- A revised 'Movement around the school' policy will be implemented
- An increased number of entrances and exits will be used to help minimise the number of pupils in any one area
- Hand sanitiser and wipes will be available at every entrance/exit and in all classrooms
- Pupils will be asked to wipe down their workstation and equipment at the start and end of each lesson
- Enhanced cleaning will take place throughout the school day
- Arrangements will be in place to ensure cleaning between the morning and afternoons sessions
- Every pupil should come prepared to learn, bringing their own pencil/pen/rubber/ruler/calculator etc. This will ensure equipment is not shared.

### **Travelling to school**

We encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school and bikes can be secured on the bike racks outside the main entrance. If pupils are travelling by car, we would ask that parents/carers do not access Bowling Green Road but use one of our designated 'Park and Stride' sites. Further information on the location of these will be made available before the start of the new term.

### **Transport**

Transport for young people who entitled to a school contract bus will be organised centrally over the summer. Contact will be made early August to confirm transport arrangements. It is anticipated that those requiring transport to Strathaven Academy will be spread across the morning and afternoon sessions. Pupils will be dropped off/collected at the start/end of their allocated time.

For any new S1 pupils living two miles or more from the school, parents/carers will need to apply to SLC using the online application form. This can be found using the following link:

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary\\_school\\_information/545/school\\_transport](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/545/school_transport)

or by calling the school transport helpline on 0303 123 1023.

Where new transport applications have been granted, e.g. S1, a letter will be issued by HQ to advise of this by the end of June. Those who have existing transport provision do not need to reapply.

We will be working with transport providers to establish a revised level of capacity as far as is possible within agreed safety protocols over the summer, and contact will be made by HQ in early August to confirm the position. Enquiries about specific arrangements should not be made directly with the school, SPT or HQ during July.

### **Break/Lunch**

There will be a natural break within each of the 2 ½ hour blocks and young people are encouraged to bring a bottle of water and a snack if they wish. There will be no access to water coolers in the school.

All young people will have the opportunity to access school lunches. Pupils will be able to order lunches through the pre-order service. Two lunch sittings will be organised, one for pupils attending school in the morning and the other for pupils attending in the afternoon.

### **Uniform**

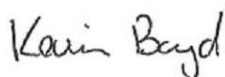
School uniform is a key part of our school identity and supports our positive ethos. We are keen to maintain our high standards of dress and there will be a continued expectation that all young people attend school wearing full uniform. The exception to this will be the days when young people attend PE. On these days young people should attend in their Strathaven Academy PE kit as no changing facilities will be available. School uniform is available through our supplier Baru (<http://www.kitmykid.co.uk/>).

We know you will understand that these plans are contingent on scientific and medical advice that it is safe to proceed and public health measures being in place. We are still working out many of the details – such as transport, first day arrangements, practical subjects etc. We will update you through our normal communication channels (School Website, School App and Twitter).

However, please note that our planned arrangements may be subject to change in accordance with new guidance from the Scottish Government and local authority over the summer break.

We look forward to welcoming our young people back into the school building in August to continue their learning journey.

Yours sincerely



KEVIN BOYD  
Head Teacher

