

Dear Form V,

Firstly, let me welcome you all to the new academic session. There's no doubt that since we were last in school there have been some significant changes to how we live and go about our daily lives and returning to school will, in many ways, echo that. Secondly, to those of you who have been concerned about SQA results, we hope that the Deputy First Minister's address to the Scottish Parliament this week has allayed many of your worries. If you still have concerns about any aspect of your results, please make contact with Ms Mason, Mason-VI@dollaracademy.org.uk.

Pre-session Timetabling

You should only come into school for pre-session timetabling if you need advice and help should you be considering changing a subject. You should contact Miss Langley if you intend to come into school for pre-session timetabling, Langley-E@dollaracademy.org.uk

Returning to School – Thursday 20 August onwards

Mr Burbury contacted parents recently with details of how we will be returning to school, starting the school day and going about our school business from day to day. From the outset it must be stressed that we do not wish to return only to have the school closed and a return to online learning, our preference is for the school to remain open so your cooperation and compliance with how we will be working in school is essential. Please do not regard the following as guidelines around which you should be looking to avoid complying with; there is little appetite for anyone taking unnecessary risks so please do as you are being asked to do.

Returning to school means we want everyone to be safe. This means we want you to act responsibly. Good hygiene habits are important. This means

- **frequent washing/sanitising of hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving a school building, before/after eating and after using the toilet.**
- **avoid touching your face including mouth, eyes and nose.**
- **using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze.**

I have attached details how the school day will start and of the structure of the school day (it has changed from last session). Breaktimes and lunchtimes are staggered; it's important to note that **Form V must remain on the campus at break and lunch – you are not allowed to go down town.**

What to bring

In addition to your usual books, stationery, etc. we ask that all pupils bring with them a PPE kit (face mask, hand sanitiser, alcohol wipes and disposable gloves - masks should not contain any logos or slogans.), a packet of tissues is also a good idea. Also a reminder to bring your wrist band – if you have lost it, please contact the school office asap to arrange for a replacement to be issued to you.

Arriving in school

You are asked to arrive at school between 8:30 and 8:40am. You must go through one of the tents to get your temperature checked when you come into school – these are located on both sides of the west approach adjacent to the war memorial. Only once you have been temperature checked and given the all clear should you then make your way to your Form Class.

Physical Distancing

The scientific advice is that physical distancing between young people in secondary schools is not required to ensure a safe return to schools. However, in the Senior school, we will be doing everything we can to encourage physical distancing while making sure everyone can come back to school full time. For example, staggered break times and one-way systems will be introduced, and you may be asked to be kept in specific class or year group 'bubbles'. Teachers will be recommended to maintain a 2m distance from pupils and if this is not possible, we have guidelines in place for this.

School Uniform and bags

School uniform should be worn. Blazers, initially, will be optional. You should wear your PE/Sports kit throughout the day on days when you have PE/Sport. In addition, pupils will be required to keep their bags with them throughout the day.

Lunches

A packed lunch is the easiest option for lunch. If you do not bring a packed lunch, the dining hall will offer a reduced menu, with three hot meal choices available inside the dining hall and three cold choices available for collection from a marquee. You **will not be able to go down-town at break-time or lunchtime for food**, in order to avoid large gatherings in and around local shops. However, we are working with local providers to enable them to sell and distribute popular lunch-time items on the school site.

Co-curricular clubs

We aim to get our co-curricular programme up and running as soon as it is safe to do so. Some of our activities will be able to begin straight away, whilst others are more problematic. Further details about the co-curricular offering will follow in due course.

Assemblies

There will be no assemblies for the foreseeable future.

New Pupils

We are pleased to welcome over 20 new pupils into our year group. Some have arrived early in order to go through quarantine. Our new pupils have come from a wide range of nationalities to learn at Dollar – we encourage established pupils to be buddies for new pupils to help them get around – especially now there are one way systems in place. Your Form Tutors will speak to you about this.

Form Classes


The only change to Form Classes is that 4MG will now become 5SS – Dr Scheuerl will be the 5SS Form Tutor. Form Class rooms remain as they were last year. There are new pupils in every Form Class.

Pupils not returning to Dollar

If you intend to leave Dollar and not return, you must let us know straight away. Your parents should contact either myself or the rector, rector@dollaracademy.org.uk

I hope you are able to enjoy the last few days of your summer break and I look forward to seeing you all safe and well and back at school next week.

With best wishes



Neil Blezard
Head of Form V