

Dear Form VI,

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 Mrs Mason, Assistant Rector, by telephoning the school.

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. There is little appetite for anyone taking unnecessary risks so please do as you are being asked to do. We will be looking to the Form VI pupils, as the new Prefects, to set a good example for the younger pupils.

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.**

The structure of the school day has changed since last session, including breaktimes and lunchtimes being staggered to avoid large groups; it is important to note that **Form VI must remain on the campus at break and lunch – you are not allowed to go down town.** As the session progresses you will receive more information on the process of going down town in small groups during study periods.

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 **wristband** – if you have lost it, please contact the school office asap to arrange for a replacement to be issued to you. We would ask you to have all your own items of stationery for each of your subjects as sharing of equipment is discouraged. For those of you that bring your own laptop or tablet we are encouraging you to continue to do this as use of IT equipment may also be limited for hygiene reasons.

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 directly to your Form Class.

The location of each Form class is as follows:

6DC Mr Campbell	D11
6SC Mr Cochrane	T2
6SR Ms Sánchez-Román	W8
6NG Mr Gallagher	P22
6AR Mrs Robinson	W2
6LM Mrs McMartin	Y12
6CW Mrs Wei	W6

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, this includes after school co-curricular sporting activities as there will be no changing facilities in school for the foreseeable future. Further guidelines on what Sports kit is acceptable was sent to parents last week. This includes information that shorts are not to be worn around the school all day. In addition, pupils will be required to keep their bags with them throughout the day and not leave them around the campus when in lessons or during break and lunch.

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 a few new pupils into our year group. I am sure you will all be very welcoming to our new pupils and I will be asking some of you to 'buddy' with the new pupils as they get used to the Dollar campus.

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 at rector@dollaracademy.org.uk

I hope you are able to enjoy the last few days of your summer break and we are very much looking forward to seeing you all safe and well and back at school for pre-session timetabling on Monday.

With best wishes



Mrs Webster
Head of Form VI



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