

St Benedict's High School

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Head Teacher: Alan Taylor



Dear Parent/Carer

We understand the past few months have been challenging for all. Our thanks go to you and your children for your patience and understanding. We are very much looking forward to welcoming pupils back to St Benedict's High School.

We appreciate that you will be keen to know what your child's new timetable will look like when pupils start to return to school from Wednesday 12 August.

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

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 know this is not ideal but we are sure you will appreciate the situation is unprecedented.

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

Your child will be in **Group A** and will attend for the full day on Wednesday 12th August and thereafter on every alternate day. See below for initial dates.

Wed 12th, Fri 14th, Tue 18th, Thu 20th, Mon 24th, Wed 26th, Fri 28th, Tue 1st ...

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

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.

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>

Uniform continues to be extremely important to us in St Benedict's High and we thank you for your continued support to ensure that our young people look their best.

The wearing of school uniform :

- Is invaluable in conveying a sense of community, wellbeing and purpose.
- Indicates a sense of pride in the school and helps pupils to form positive attitudes to the school and their school work.
- Protects children from the harmful effects of social distinction and competitive dressing.
- Promotes the school's identity in their community, with our immediate neighbours, local business and industry.
- Assists staff in the task of supervising pupils and keeping unwelcome visitors out of the school.

A reminder of our school uniform requirements:

- A white school shirt/blouse, and school tie which is visible at all times. S4, S5 and S6 will wear the senior tie.
- Tailored black trousers or black skirt - leggings, jeans, denim and tracksuits, are not acceptable under any circumstances.
- A school blazer with badge.
- Plain black v-neck jumper or cardigan (unbranded).
- Comfortable footwear (black in colour).

Footwear should be **black** with **no coloured/white markings** e.g. they should not be "converse style" trainers.

These are not part of our uniform policy and therefore will not be accepted.

It is in this area I require the support of you as a parent/carer to ensure our uniform standards are at a level that will promote the school's standing within the community.

Details of our suppliers can be found on our website www.oraetlabora.co.uk



Once again, we thank you for your understanding at this difficult time. My staff and I look forward to welcoming the young people of St Benedict's in August and we will be doing everything we can to make sure this return to school is as smooth as possible.

Finally, I will be in further contact over the summer holiday to provide individual information including your child's timetable, details of lunch arrangements and health and safety information.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us directly at stbenedictshighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

I hope you and your family have a great summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Alan Taylor
Head Teacher