



Newtownhamilton High School

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Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I have received further updated guidance from the Department of Education today which confirms the following:

Remote Learning

All mainstream education providers, including pre-school education settings, primary and post-primary schools are required to provide remote learning at home to their pupils rather than face-to-face teaching in school, until the half term break in the middle of February. Our aim is therefore to return to full face-to-face teaching on Monday 22nd February 2021.

Face Coverings in School

It is now compulsory for post-primary pupils to wear face coverings in school and at drop off/pick up areas unless an exemption applies (these exemptions must be discussed with myself).

Face Coverings on Home to School Transport

Since October, legislation has required all those of post-primary school age to wear a face covering on public transport and dedicated school transport, subject to exemptions. While not mandatory for all other pupils, it is strongly recommended that they wear one if they are able to do so. However, while it is believed there has been an increase in usage in recent months, there are pupils still choosing not to wear one.

GCSE Examinations

You will have heard from media reports today that all GCSE examinations have been cancelled for the remainder of this academic year. This news is extremely frustrating for our pupils, who have worked very hard over recent months preparing for the modules that were due to take place next week.

While this news is very disappointing for our Year 12 pupils and their teachers, it is important that pupils do not lose focus and that they continue to engage fully with their teachers during this period of Remote Learning. I anticipate that teachers will be required to submit Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) as an alternative assessment method and I know from last year that teacher evidence of pupil achievement was central to the awarding of final GCSE grades.

At present, the B.Tech CPLD exam at St. Paul's HS Bessbrook on Tuesday 12th January at 9.15am is proceeding.

Year 8-10 Vulnerable Pupils & Pupils of Key Workers

Parents/guardians who wish to avail of supervised learning should contact me via (nmegaw549@c2kni.net) before 12 noon on the day before the required date. This will allow me sufficient time to sort staffing arrangements.

Free School Meals

Provision in lieu of free school meals will be made to those children entitled to free school meals while normally in school.

Finally, our staff will be working remotely (as advised by the Department of Education) for the foreseeable future. I have therefore included a list of important email addresses below.

As always, please feel free to contact me via email if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw

Principal

Important Email Addresses

Mr Megaw	nmegaw549@c2kni.net
Mr Cousins	acousins005@c2kni.net
Mrs Alexander	calexander627@c2kni.net
Mr Black (ICT Support)	jblack833@c2kni.net
Miss Baird	mbaird546@c2kni.net
Mrs Ferris	jferris849@c2kni.net
Miss Frazer	jfrazer387@c2kni.net
Miss Johnston	kjohnston987@c2kni.net
Mrs Laverty	alaverty872@c2kni.net
Miss Muldrew	emuldrew324@c2kni.net
Mrs Qua	tqua317@c2kni.net
Mrs Reid	oreid359@c2kni.net
Mrs Robinson	krobinson301@c2kni.net
Mr Sloan	dsloan595@c2kni.net
Mrs Taylor	vtaylor306@c2kni.net
Mr Watson	cwatson974@c2kni.net
Mr Riddle (ICT Support)	driddle732@c2kni.net
School Info Account	info@nhs.newtownhamilton.ni.sch.uk