

School closure/ Partial Return Information

Friday 19th February 2021

I hope you all managed to have a relaxing break and are now getting back into the way of things with on-line learning.

Government Update 16th Feb – partial return for senior phase pupils with essential practical work

As you are aware, as of Monday 22nd February all secondary schools will be starting a phased return for senior pupils **where there is an essential need for access to in-school practical work**.

All senior pupils have been contacted directly about how this will work. Click the link below for further details.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/S456-Phased-School-Opening-Practical-Subjects-18Feb2021.pdf>

Asymptomatic testing programme for school staff and senior phase pupils

As of Monday 22nd February, all staff and senior phase pupils who are **coming into school for practical lessons** are being encouraged by NHS Scotland to take part in home testing.

All staff and senior pupils are being contacted directly about this.

Please click on this link below to see further information about this programme.

[Asymptomatic testing programme for school staff and senior phase pupils | Boroughmuir High School](#)

HUB school- Rooms and School Meals

Free school meals for vulnerable and key worker pupils will stop as of the 22nd February.

Only pupils eligible for and registered for free school meals will be in receipt of free meals as of Monday 22nd Feb.

Because of the need for senior phase pupils to use the computing rooms which are currently in use by the HUB classes there are some room changes as shown below.

Room 207 (S1/2) now go to Room 101

Room 208 (S3) now go to Room 103.

Pupils will be able to access school laptops in these rooms.

David Dempster

Head Teacher

School closure Information

Friday 5th February 2021

February Half Term Holiday

School closes at 12.50 today and returns virtually at 8.32 on **Tuesday 16th February**. It's important that all our pupils and staff take a well-deserved and much needed break from on-line learning.

Have a great break!! 'See' you on **TUESDAY 16th Feb**

Boroughmuir Engages – Online

Here's the link to this week's Bumper edition of the Boroughmuir Engages Sway presentation.

A big thank you to Fraser Boyd, PE teacher, for putting this together.

<https://sway.office.com/z61ZwAQZoBdql8Ty?ref=Link>

Government Update – 2nd February

We are awaiting further advice on the part time return to school on 22nd Feb for senior phase pupils who require to do essential work in school for subjects that require some form of practical assessment. The City are pursuing further advice from the government which will assist all schools in meeting this requirement.

We are hoping that we will have clarity and clear information for pupils in this category by Friday 19th Feb.

We of course await further advice on pupils in S1-3 and senior pupils doing subjects that are not deemed practical.

SQA Assessments

Until definite return to school dates are given and SQA advice is issued, providing information on this area is difficult. I can provide no more than the broad information given below.

The latest information from the Government indicates that when pupils do return there will be a focus on learning and teaching including recovery work up until Easter. After Easter there will be some form of assessment in S4,5,6 subjects up until the start of June to gather assessment evidence. The form of these assessments is still unclear, but **it is unlikely there will be a diet of 'normal' prelims for S5/6.**

There will however be assessments, so pupils should continue to prepare on that basis.

We will hopefully get a clearer understanding of this from the next Government announcement on the 16th February. Once we have clearer guidance about what is and what isn't permissible, we will send out an assessment calendar for seniors outlining the length and type of assessment in each subject.

Supporting health and well-being: Well-being Day Friday 5th February

It's important that in this current climate we all take a break from our busy schedules to focus on our own physical and mental health and wellbeing.

This Friday **class work will be minimised**, so please take some time to let yourself relax, recharge, re-energise and do something different. It is essential that we all remember that what matters most are our families, friends, communities, health and environment.

20 Activity Choices

Please use some of the 20 ideas and activities for well-being given in the link below to take time out on Friday to do something playful, creative and fun to support Mental & Physical Health Awareness Week.

Take a break. Share a break. Enjoy!

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Wellbeing-day-Feb-5th-2021.pdf>

LIVE EVENT TODAY - Coach Collards Keep Fit Event – 11am

Who needs Joe Wicks when we have our very own Coach Collard ready to get everyone moving! Mr Collard will be running a LIVE fitness session on Friday 5th February at 11am. All pupils, staff and families are invited to take part in the biggest fitness session Boroughmuir has ever seen. The session will last 30-40mins and will be suitable for all ages and levels of fitness. A link to the session will be added to all year group TEAMS pages nearer the time. Let's end the term on a high by coming together as one big Boroughmuir Family! We can't wait to see you all there!

HERE'S THE LINK!!

<https://youtu.be/0HiL2i81X2c>

David Dempster
Head Teacher

Friday 29th January 2021

Boroughmuir Engages – Online

Last week more than 400 parents and carers viewed our first online edition of Boroughmuir Engages Online. Thank you for this support.

We are pleased to bring the second edition of "Boroughmuir Engages Online".

<https://sway.office.com/nANtJS2VtKnq5bs4?ref=Link>

This week we have focused on supporting learners at home. We are producing a "bumper" edition next week to celebrate our learning, resilience and creativity during lockdown.

Jotters and basic resources

If any pupils are in need of new jotters or any other basic resources, we can provide these. Please email the school office at the email address below with a note of what you require and we will do our best to have this for you. The office will arrange a time for you to collect it

admin@boroughmuir.edin.sch.uk

Parent support for navigating Teams

Teams is part of the Microsoft Office suite of tools to which all pupils have access. This includes PowerPoint, OneNote (personal 'jotter' for each subject), Forms (surveys and quizzes), OneDrive (cloud storage), Sway (alternative to PowerPoint), Word and Outlook email.

Teams works a bit like a closed Facebook group: the teacher sets up the group / class and can use channels and assignments to post work and respond to queries etc.

The following links can help you become more familiar with navigating your way around Teams:

[Students Guide to Microsoft Teams - YouTube](#)

https://www.youtube.com/miketholfsen?fbclid=IwAR2OyMu_r9ODvbtzX0osaqJJSg6On6RI-o6wVPk74syigepMq6OkbU069A0

And on our school website

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/safe-return-to-school/>

Expectations of Pupils with on-line Learning

We have Groupcalled to all parents a document outlining our expectations on pupils when they engage with on-line Learning.

Teachers will be sharing and discussing this with pupils in the coming days. It has also been placed on year group Teams. Here is a link to the document.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Pupil-expectation-for-online-learning-final.pdf>

Home Learning Survey Results

Over 250 parents and carers took our survey and the results were Groupcalled out earlier this week. Here is a link to the report

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/home-learning-survey-results/>

S2 into S3 Course Choice

Next week all S2 pupils will have live class contact with their guidance teacher during their PSE period. This will include information from Skills Development Scotland. Ms Presly will also be uploading the course choice booklet on the S2 Year Group Team on Monday. This will also be sent to all S2 parents with a timeline for the course choice process. Please encourage all S2 pupils to attend these sessions.

S5/6 Course choice

Information regarding course choice for S4 moving into S5 and S5 moving into S6 will be provided after the February break.

S5/6 Parents' Evenings

A letter regarding S5/6 parents' evenings will be issued next week with booking opening on Wednesday 3 February. Parents/carers have been allocated an evening according to their child's registration class.

HUB provision in February Break

HUBs will not be operating over the February break. A link to the letter from the City communicating this is appended below.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/HUB-Provision-February-Break-2021.pdf>

Parent Council - Engage: Save the Date!

The next Parent Council Engage event is coming up on Zoom. Please save the 2nd of March, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., to hear professionals talk about their choices and their careers. This time the line-up includes an air traffic controller, a casting director, and a financial advisor, among others. As always, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain information to facilitate your subject choice. More information will follow soon.

Half Term Friday 5th February - Fitness & Mental Health Activities

Next Friday we break for the February half term.

We are hoping to offer a range of optional activities to support pupils' and staffs' physical and mental wellbeing that staff and pupils can engage with on that morning.

We understand that some scheduled on-line learning activities may need to take priority but we hope that everyone will be able to take part in some form.

So please take some time this Friday, 5th February, to let yourself relax, recharge, re-energise and do something different. It is essential that we all remember, amongst the 'busyness' of our week, that what matters most are our families, friends, communities, our health and our environment. Take a break. Share a break. Enjoy!

There is a range of activities to choose from – craft and creativity, photography, art, reading, writing, nature, walks, music, escape rooms, virtual field trips, cooking and baking etc.

These will be shared on the website, app, and year group Teams pages.

Student Teachers

The national teacher training programme has been badly affected by the closure of schools. At Boroughmuir we are doing all we can to support this programme so as to ensure the next generation of teachers are well trained and available to fill potential teacher vacancies in our schools.

We are therefore accommodating 7 student teachers in the period between now and Easter across a range of subjects. They will of course work remotely under the supervision of our teacher mentors.

Staffing Update

Laura Kemp, teacher of music starts with us on Monday 1st Feb replacing Jane Webster

Louise Guerriot-Breteaux, school support assistant started with us on Monday 25th January - Charlotte Gray, teacher of Spanish and German goes on maternity leave from Tuesday 16th Feb.

David Dempster
Head Teacher

Friday 22nd January 2021

Extended school closure

The Scottish Government announced on Tuesday 19th Jan that schools would remain closed until at least the middle of February.

This will mean that on-line learning will continue up until the February half term break, Friday 5th February. By that point we should know if schools will remain closed beyond the Feb break or if they will be returning.

Our position around S5/6 prelims therefore remains unchanged. No decision on how and when they might be carried out or their complete cancellation can currently be taken. Our hope is that we can still have some sort of prelim or extended assessment diet that will provide pupils and teachers with a robust measure of attainment. If such a diet can be organised within the potential restrictions that may exist we will do it but be assured that good notice will be given to pupils. There will of course have to be other forms of assessment also to ensure all pupils have opportunities to demonstrate levels of attainment over time.

In the meantime, please do continue to engage with on-line learning as best you can and let us know if there is anything you need help with.

Boroughmuir Engages Online : Lockdown Edition 1

Thank you to all our pupils, staff and parents who have been enthusiastic, creative and tenacious to continue to learn at home. We know it has brought many challenges and also cause for celebration. Please enjoy this "Sway" presentation put together by Mr Collard. More of these to come.

<https://sway.office.com/7Exh8ejUI9rHYwc0?ref=Link>

Live Class Contact - On-line Learning

Both teachers and pupils are continuing to develop their skills in on-line learning strategies.

Live Class Contact (LCC) is an area that all teachers are addressing with classes. This live contact may take a number of forms such as 'check-ins', tutorials, Q&As or a live lesson, whatever is most appropriate for the learning and the class at that time. We do know that having Live Class Contact is vitally important in motivating and directing pupils, but it has to complement the independent and flexible study options that many of our pupils also enjoy and for practical reasons often find easier to access.

It has to be remembered that both pupils and teachers may have home circumstances that would not always allow them to engage in a live class contact session.

Pastoral Support for Pupils

Pupil support leaders/guidance teachers have contacted all pupils by email and through their year group Teams to say “hello” to them all and check in. The guidance staff have shared their email addresses with all pupils and have encouraged any pupils who are struggling to make contact with them.

Hannah Masterton, our pupil support officer, has been holding regular catch ups with young people who would normally access the “Hub” in school to check in with them and has established a Teams group for additional support. The pupil support team are supporting pupils in the hub school and making contact with identified young people.

Staff across the school are monitoring pupil engagement with work and will feedback any concerns to the guidance teachers who will then make contact with home as appropriate to try and plan a way forward.

The guidance staff shared advice on all year group Teams pages last week about keeping active and getting enough sleep and some hints and tips for anyone who might be feeling a bit down in the current situation. Please find links to these below:

Sleep tips for teenagers: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sleep-and-tiredness/sleep-tips-for-teenagers/>

Physical activity guidelines: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/physical-activity-guidelines-children-and-young-people/>

www.clearyourhead.scot

Parent contact with School

Can I remind parents that if they do have enquiries or questions for staff, they should go through their child’s guidance teacher. Please do not post questions on your child’s TEAMS account. A list of key contacts is on page 6 of this document

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/pupil-online-learning-info-updated.pdf>

SQA Information for Learners and Parents

The City have produced an information booklet for pupils and parent about SQA assessment. This has been Groupcalled to all S4/5/6 parents/ carers and also has been posted on S4/5/6 year group teams pages.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/A-Learner-Parent-Carer-Guide-to-SQA-Qualifications-2020-21-19-January-2021.docx>

S4 Parents’ Evening

The S4 parents evening is this Thursday 28th January. On-line bookings close this Sunday 24th January.

David C Dempster

Head Teacher.

Friday 15th January 2021

Back to School – Week 1 complete!

I hope you all enjoyed being back at school, albeit on-line.

A document highlighting expectations around on-line Learning has been sent out by Groupcall to all parents and has also been placed on our website at this link.

<http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/pupil-online-learning-info.pdf>

I hope you are feeling that you are making good progress with your studies as well as keeping a good balance of other activities away from computer screens.

HUB school provision

The HUB school for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils is operating daily within Boroughmuir. HUBs operate for the normal school day only. Lunch is provided free of charge for pupils in attendance.

HUBs are operating on a much reduced staffing model and spaces are only available as per government guidelines i.e where both parents are key workers and no childcare is available from the wider family or community links.

The exception to this is where the school has identified pupils as vulnerable in which case the child's guidance teacher will have made contact to offer a space.

We cannot accommodate pupils out with these criteria.

Pupil Absence from on-line Learning.

To comply with City and government requirements for recording school attendance, can parents/carers of any pupils who are Home Learning please contact the School to inform them that their child is unable to Home Learn on a particular day. Parents should inform schools on subsequent days if their child continues to be absent from home learning (until their child can resume home learning).

S4 Parents' Evening

The S4 parents evening is scheduled for Thursday 28th January.

Information about how to make bookings and engage in the on-line forum will be issued to S4 parents on Monday 18th January. The booking window opens at 6pm on Wednesday 20th January.

Parent Council Meeting – Monday 18th January – 6.30pm.

There is a parent Council meeting this coming Monday 18th January at 6.30pm.

The main agenda item is a City presentation on the school extension project.

Information and a link on how to join the meeting will be Groupcalled out to all parents.

Here is the link to join the Zoom meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96264216641?pwd=WE5sQUhFVHcvdENQSHBuakQ3cytFdz09>

Meeting ID: 962 6421 6641

Passcode: 434441

S2 Course Choice

Our S2 Assembly this week highlighted the importance of engaging in all subjects equally to support course choice decisions later this term. S2 pupils will be deciding which subjects they wish to take forward as National Qualifications for S3/4 and in early February we will issue all S2 pupils with a course choice booklet and guidance on how this process will work.

Last year we did the whole process digitally and online which offers us the flexibility of doing this remotely. We will also offer a “Virtual Marketplace” later in the term which will offer information from all faculties to bring to life the details in the booklet and give a richer insight into their subjects. Skills Development Scotland schedule one-to-one meetings with every S2 pupil. We are currently in planning discussions with them as to how we can all make this happen this year. Our Pupil Support Leaders will keep in touch with their S2 classes to support the course choice process and all materials will be uploaded to the S2 Year Group Team. Ms Presly will also keep S2 up to date via assemblies on the S2 Team.

Information for College Pupils

School College Partnership and Foundation Apprenticeship courses will continue to be delivered online until further notice. Any exams which were planned to take place on campus before Monday 15 February 2021 have been postponed and will be rearranged as soon as it is safe to do so. All Schools College Partnership and FA courses will resume online from Tuesday 12th (or Friday 15th if your course is normally on a Friday only) of January. You can access your course as normal via Microsoft Teams or your Moodle Account. Please ensure you are logged in and ready to start your class as 1.30pm. If you have any IT difficulties or problems accessing your course, please contact the Schools Team immediately by phoning the **SCP Helpline on 0131 297 8649** or e-mail schools@edinburghcollege.ac.uk.

Alternatively, you can find helpful videos and information guides by clicking here on the [SCP/FA Guide](#).

Yours sincerely

David C Dempster

Head Teacher.