

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope my email finds you all safe and well. The First Minister's announcement in Parliament today brought with it more positive news with regards to the reopening of schools.

Pleasingly, Prep 4, Prep 5, Junior 1 and Junior 2 should now all be able to make a full return to on-campus teaching from Monday 15 March.

From this date, it is also the intention that all senior school pupils will be able to spend at least some time on-campus prior to the Easter break. Senior staff at the Academy will now consider how best to maximise this opportunity, whilst respecting the various C-19 mitigation measures, including the need for 2m physical distancing.

We expect to be able to provide a further update on the phased return of senior pupils near the beginning of next week. In addition, we should be able to share more information about the provision of school buses after new national transport guidelines are released on Wednesday 10 March.

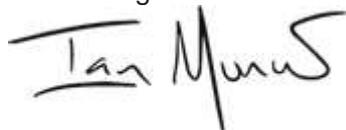
I am very pleased to report that the First Minister stated the "clear expectation" is that all senior school pupils will return to full-time on-campus education after the Easter holidays - we look forward to having the whole pupil body back on-campus at this point.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been very grateful for the respect that the school community has shown towards the various measures we have put in place to help suppress C-19. Clearly, as we begin to reopen the campus to more pupils and staff, the likes of good hand and respiratory hygiene, staggered drop offs, and physical distancing remain fundamental to our efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all in advance for your ongoing support in this area. Our work to mitigate against C-19 has recently been further strengthened by an asymptomatic testing programme for colleagues and pupils in FIV-FVI, and this will remain in the days ahead.

The Academy will continue to provide a remote offering for pupils not yet able to fully return to on-campus teaching because of restrictions, and our Hubs for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils will operate as they have done to date during these latter stages of reopening.

The Senior Staff Group and Governors will continue to review all matters relating to C-19 and the operation of the school closely, making informed decisions when relevant information becomes available.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the first name.