



Coleraine Grammar School

In Scientia Opportunitas

Headmaster - D.R.J. Carruthers - B.Sc., Ph.D., P.G.C.E., P.Q.H.(N.I)

29 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Education Restart Programme Reopening of Coleraine Grammar School August/September 2020

We have been looking forward to the reopening of school in August/September for some weeks, and I am now writing to give you as much information as I can about the reopening of Coleraine Grammar School in August 2020.

On 19th June 2020 the Department of Education published guidance for the reopening of schools and the provision of 'blended learning' (see point 7 below), and our plans are based on the content of the current guidance - <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-re-opening-school-guidance-new-school-day>

It is important to remember however, that this government guidance may change during the next seven weeks, given the ever-changing situation with Covid-19.

Our first priority is a safe environment for pupils and staff, so that we can provide pastoral support for pupils and ensure that learning returns to as close to normal as possible. To this end we have developed Educational Restart Plans under the following headings: -

1. **Safety in School**

Ensuring a safe environment for everyone in school, including compliance with all government requirements such as social distancing and sanitising.

2. **Pastoral Support**

Meeting the existing and emerging pastoral needs of pupils in the blended learning environment when pupils are at home for periods of time.

3. **Learning and Teaching**

Ensuring effective learning and teaching in the blended learning environment, with pupils working at home some of the time.

4. **Special Educational Needs**

The learning support staff have developed strategies to support pupils with additional needs during closure, and this will continue during blended learning.

5. **Curriculum, Assessment and Exams 2021**

All schools are waiting for further government information about GCSE, AS and A2 exams in 2021. Subject content may be adjusted, exams may be altered; we don't yet know, but we will be ready to implement government decisions when they are taken.

We will make our own decisions about curriculum content and assessment for Years 8, 9 and 10, ensuring that pupils' progress is fully supported.

6. **Communication**

This is very important, especially because government guidance on schools reopening may change during the next seven weeks.

GCSE, AS and A2 Results

Results will be issued in school as follows: -

AS and A2	Thursday 13 th August 2020
GCSE	Thursday 20 th August 2020

Pupils and parents should come to the Humphrys Hall on the Castlerock Road campus.

School Reports

The pupils who are currently leaving Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 received reports in the first term of this school year and subsequently as follows -

- Years 8, 9 and 11 received a data report in March on their progress just before school closure.
- Year 10 received a report in late February following their school examinations.

Given the nature of school closure, and the problematic nature of on-line assessment, we feel that it is not meaningful to try to update these reports. If you have particular concerns we can address these in August when realistic assessment can take place.

Thank You

On your behalf, I would like to thank the teaching staff of our school who have provided consistently good learning opportunities for our pupils in difficult circumstances since 23rd March. I have personally received a lot of feedback from parents complimenting the learning and support that our staff have put in place.

Thank you to those parent-carers and pupils who completed our respective online surveys. Your feedback has been invaluable in helping us to know the things that are important to pupils, the key issues you have been facing during lockdown and what our shared priorities should be in helping pupils settle back into school life at the end of the summer.

I would also like to thank our parents and carers for your support of our pupils' learning and for keeping pupils engaged – I'm sure it was not easy at times. Your continued support will be vital when we enter the blended learning environment in August.

Communication

As I said at the beginning, government guidance may change before school reopens, so please monitor texts, the school website, our school Facebook page and your emails from early August onwards.

The Castlerock Road school office will be open between 9.30am and 4.30pm every day except between 13 and 17 July.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important letter, and best wishes to all of you for the summer.

Yours sincerely

D.R.J. Carruthers

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Headmaster