



An t-Eilean Sgitheanach

www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk

17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL  
Viewfield Road  
PORTREE  
Isle of Skye

IV51 9ET

Phone/Fon - 01478 614810  
Fax/Facs – 01478 614839

E-mail: portree.high@highland.gov.uk

## Dear Parents and Carers

On 2 February, an announcement was made in the Scottish Parliament by the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, about remote learning and [the future return to face-to-face learning in schools](#). Nicky Grant, our Executive Chief Officer Education and Learning, has issued a letter to all parents and, in my letter below, I wish to provide further details of what this means for our Senior Phase students at Portree High School:

<http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk/Return%20to%20School%20Parent%20Information%20HIGHLAND%20COUNCIL%2017th%20Feb%202021.pdf>

Whilst remote learning remains the main delivery model in use for the majority of our students, from the week beginning 22 February, there will be a partial return for young people in the Senior Phase who need to attend in order to complete practical work that is **necessary** for the completion of national qualification courses. It is intended that there will be no more than around 5-8% of a secondary school roll physically present at any one time for these purposes.

This limited return of learners is for the purpose of completing the learning and teaching of critical practical work in relation to qualifications in 2021, and I propose that students who are enrolled in the following subjects should attend school for the following days to focus on their practical activity:

Subject	Week beginning 22nd Feb	Week beginning 1st March	Week beginning 8th March
Art & Design H/AH	Wednesday	-	Wednesday
Art & Design NAT5	Tuesday	Tuesday	-
Drama AH	-	Wednesday	Wednesday
Drama NAT5	Thursday	-	Thursday
Drama H	Monday	Monday	-
Engineering N5	Friday	Friday	-
Graphic Communication H	-	Thursday	Thursday
Graphic Communication NAT5	Monday	-	Monday
Practical Cookery NAT4	Friday (gp a)	Friday (gp b)	Tuesday (gp a) Thursday (gp b)
Practical Cookery NAT5	Tuesday	Tuesday	Friday
Practical Woodworking NAT5	Tuesday (gp a)	Tuesday (gp a)	Tuesday (gp a)
Practical Woodworking NAT5	Wednesday (gp b)	Wednesday (gp b)	Wednesday (gp b)

\*MUSIC- arrangements will be made for individual students who do not have access to instruments at home  
\*\*PE- due to the regulations with indoor activities/outdoor contact sports, we are unable to support the return to practical activities in school at this time.

**Miss C A MacDonald**

Head Teacher/Ceannard

Senior students should **only** attend the school building for the practical class that they are enrolled in, and will be in school for the full day (or until 1:15pm on Friday). For the majority of classes, remote learning will continue from home. As we are looking to ensure 2m social distancing in the classrooms and around the canteen area, some practical classes have been split in two groupings, and students should check their Google Classroom to see which day/week they should attend. The canteen will be open for break (10:45am) and lunch (12:50pm), so students should bring money to put on their canteen card, or put money on in advance. With regards to transport, all buses will be running as per normal, with 2m social distancing applying on school buses. If your child normally gets a feeder bus/taxi, can I please ask you to contact me as soon as possible to confirm that arrangements have been put in place for the days your child will be in school.

I would also like to point out that as a number of our practical staff will be involved in classroom face to face teaching, they will not be available to support the remote learning for those working from home, so students working from home will not have virtual meetings from teachers of the practical subject on corresponding days.

### **SQA Alternative Certification Model**

Yesterday, the SQA published further guidelines with regards to the timeline for N4, N5, H and AH courses. It has proposed a 5-stage model, where assessments would primarily be completed in April/May. Further details can be found at <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96760.html>

We continue to support our students at this critical time in their learning and, with that in mind, S4-S6 students will receive a report from each of their subjects during the week of 8<sup>th</sup> March, which will focus on engagement with learning, attendance at Meets, progress with tasks/ submission of work and next steps in their learning.

### **COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme**

From next week, all staff and Senior Phase students who are attending the school premises will be able to take part in the Asymptomatic testing programme. Please refer to the further details in the letter, privacy notice and the fact sheet. Whilst this is not mandatory, we would encourage staff and senior students to take part, and the attached consent form must be completed and handed into/emailed to School reception. Once this has been received, staff and students will receive a set of home testing kits, which should be used twice a week. All kits are secured in school, and will be issued by Shona Campbell from the reception, together with a user guide.

HC LETTER: <http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk/COVID%20Asymptomatic%20testing%20Programme%2017-02-21.pdf>

FACT SHEET:  
<http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk/Fact%20Sheet%20for%20Schools%20and%20ELC%20At%20Home%20Testing%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

CONSENT FORM:  
<http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk/COVID%20Testing%20consent%20form%20PUPILS.pdf>

PRIVACY NOTICE: <http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk/Privacy%20notice%2017.2.21.pdf>

---

**Miss C A MacDonald**

Head Teacher/Ceannard

A question and answer session for parents has been organised for Thursday 18 February, from 7-8:30pm. Officers will be present to support and mitigate parental queries and concerns.

Join with Google Meet using the link [meet.google.com/jnn-ofve-krq](https://meet.google.com/jnn-ofve-krq)

Join by phone (GB) +44 20 3956 8657 (PIN: 836420914)

We are waiting further guidance about the possibility of face to face learning from the 15<sup>th</sup> March, and I will contact you again when there are any further announcements. Thank you for your patience and support. As ever, the wellbeing of both our staff and students is a priority at this time, so if you have any questions or concerns then please get in touch.

Yours faithfully



**Mr A Breen**

Depute Head Teacher/ SQA Co-ordinator

Contacts:

Mr Breen [tony.breen@highland.gov.uk](mailto:tony.breen@highland.gov.uk)

Miss Scott-Moncrieff [jo.moncrieff@highland.gov.uk](mailto:jo.moncrieff@highland.gov.uk)

**G House** Miss MacNab: [fiona.macnab@highland.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.macnab@highland.gov.uk)

**M House** Mr Burrows: [neil.burrows@highland.gov.uk](mailto:neil.burrows@highland.gov.uk)

**T House** Mrs MacLeod: [dawn.macleod@highland.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.macleod@highland.gov.uk)



---

**Miss C A MacDonald**

Head Teacher/Ceannard