



An t-Eilean

PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL
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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now nearing the end of what has become an extraordinary session. Earlier this week I issued a letter from Nicky Grant Head of Education. In it she gave an update on progress with plans for reopening schools in August.

I now wish to share Portree High School's draft proposals which we have been preparing over the last few weeks. Can I please emphasise to you that they are still very much draft proposals and that there are ongoing discussions around transport. I wish to share them with you so that you are as fully informed as possible prior to our return in August. Our approach has been to make a plan which best suits our local needs.

The story so far

Risk assessments are currently being finalised for a safe return to school. This includes bus, taxi and ferry travel.

Staff will return on the 11th of August for an in-service day with pupils returning from the 12th. Blended learning - where pupils spend some time in school and some time at home participating in online learning using their chrome books - will be the approach used.

The first week will be a re-introduction and reorientation week. Each year group will have an opportunity to reconnect with staff and to meet up with Pupil Support staff. Mental Health and Well-being will be the key focus this week.

S1 and S6 Wednesday 12th August:
S2 and S3 Thursday 13th August:
S4 and S5 Friday 14th August:

The following week will see the beginning of the new timetable which will continue until the October break.

The school population has been divided along House groups:

Mondays: All of G House
Tuesdays: All of M House
Thursdays: All of T House

Wednesday will be the West Highland and Sabhal Mor Ostaig College day. It will also be an education recovery day when specific pupils will be offered support as and when required. We want to ensure that each child has the same opportunity to succeed through their blend of in-school and in-home learning, with the ability to prioritise different learners at key points and with specific needs.

Wednesday will also be the day for formal SQA assessments. There has been much in the media about SQA exams next session. At the moment this is mostly speculation. We do

however wish to ensure that all evidence is sufficiently robust to be used for submission to SQA should the need arise.

Initially only S4 pupils will be attending school on Fridays. This is in order to allow them to catch up with any work missed as they prepare for 7 National Courses.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
G House	M House	West Highland College Sabhal Mor Ostaig SQA assessments Curriculum recovery	T House	All S4 (Numeracy, Literacy and Wellbeing)

S1/2	week 1		week 2	
	GP A	GP B	GP A	GP B
	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
	English	English	English	English
	PE	TECH/HEC	TECH/HEC	PE
	FRENCH	HWB(Gaidhlig)	HWB (Gaidhlig)	FRENCH
	SCI	SOCIAL	SOCIAL	SCI
	GAELIC	CREATIVE	CREATIVE	GAELIC

S3	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
	MATHS	MATHS
ENGLISH	ENGLISH	
COL C	COL G	
COL D	COL H	
COL E	COL I	
COL F	PSE/HWB	

S4	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	FRIDAY
	COL A	COL D	MATHS *
COL B	COL E	PE/HWB/RME	
COL C	ENGLISH*		

S5-6	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
	COL A	COL D
COL B	COL E	
COL C	PE/HWB	

- To be rotated term wise if necessary with English

The blended learning approach means that for most of the time pupils will remain at home and receive help and support through google hangouts and through work being posted online. Pupil Support and Senior leadership staff will however be available every day for consultation, help and advice.

In school

- Pupils will be reminded about social distancing of two metres and the importance of hand washing.
- There will be a clearly marked one-way system and pupils will be asked to “keep to the left” at all times.
- Each classroom has been laid out with a set number of tables and chairs. Hand sanitiser and disinfectant is available in each classroom. When pupils leave a room the tables and chairs will be wiped down with disinfectant spray.
- S1 and S2 will have home rooms allocated to them to minimize movement throughout the day. Other year groups will move between classes.
- Intervals and lunchtimes will be staggered to restrict social contact between year groups.

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4/lunch A	Period 5/lunch B	Period 6	Period 7
S1-3	8:50-9:50	9:50-11:00	11:00-12:00	12:00-12:40 (lunch)	12:40-13:40	13:40-14:40	14:40-15:40
S4-6	8:50- 10:50		10:50-13:00		13:00-13:40 (lunch)	13:40- 15:40	

- Morning breaks for S1-3 will be staggered during period 2. Teachers will be given a relief teacher to supervise if teacher is teaching both period 2 & 3.

- Morning breaks for S4-6 will be during Period 3. If a teacher is teaching a junior class period 2 then a senior class period 3-4, then their break will be at 10:50. Senior pupils will get a break at the start of Period 3.
- Bus travel must also take account of official distancing. Bus capacity has currently been set between 10-15% of the normal capacity. Pupils from the furthest distances must fill up the buses from the back. When alighting pupils nearest the front of the bus should leave first. Seat belts must be worn.
- Pupils must bring their own equipment – e.g. fully charged chrome books, pens and pencils.
- No lockers will be available so pupils should ensure that they keep their bags with them at all times. S1 and S2 may leave their bags in their home rooms.
- Pupils will not be allowed to leave the school premises during the school day. This applies to all year groups including S6.

I would be grateful if you could complete a survey on the online learning and support that your child has received this term, and your thoughts on next term's blended model of delivery:

<https://forms.gle/ieAdSNGWm8yRcdM3A>

I appreciate that this is very different to a normal school experience and hope that, by working together we can all make this work. As always if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

More information will be coming to you very soon.

Yours faithfully

Catherine A. MacDonald

Catherine A MacDonald
Head Teacher