



**RESPECT
INTEGRITY
COMPASSION**

Lornshill Academy

Tullibody Road

Alloa

Clackmannanshire

FK10 2ES

Tel: 01259 452333

Head Teacher: Tom Black

Web: lornshillacademy.org.uk

Email: lornshill@edu.clacks.gov.uk

Twitter: @lornshill

June 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As we approach the end of what can only be described as a truly unique school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and pupils for your contribution to school life this session. Your continued support has been genuinely appreciated by staff amidst very difficult circumstances. Our seniors required real resilience following the considerable disappointment of not being able to see SQA courses, that they worked so hard on, through to their natural conclusion.

In the midst of all this, the positivity we have received from across the school community has been essential to fostering the shared values that fuel our commitment to achieving the best outcomes for all of our young people, especially in these very challenging times.

From a personal perspective, I am incredibly proud of the many examples from our community that ensured that some of our families most in need have received personalised support. I can genuinely say that it is a pleasure to serve as Head Teacher in this community. I look forward to welcoming pupils physically back to school in the coming year and supporting them to realise their full potential.

There are still a number of details to be confirmed before we resume in August and once these are clear they will be communicated to parents and carers before the start of the new term.

Health and Safety Protocols

In order to minimise risk at this challenging time we have introduced a series of protocols that aim to adhere to any social distancing and hygiene practices in order to create an environment that significantly reduces risk of COVID-19 transmission. This has been informed by government health guidelines and consequent established Clackmannanshire Council protocols. To maximise safety and minimise risk, we have introduced the following measures (all of which will be exemplified for our young people on their return in August):

- A one-way system to minimise pupil contact during any transition points;
- Revised risk-assessment of practical activities (e.g. PE activities, socially distanced changing facilities, arrangements in labs and workshops etc.);
- Class and school hygiene protocols that promote hand washing, use of hand sanitisers, and anti-bacterial wipes to ensure work areas and resources are cleaned following pupil use;
- Pupils, as fully as possible, bringing their own core equipment;
- Revised lunch and break arrangements;
- Full council and public health protocols will be in place should any pupil or member of staff present with symptoms;

- Parental support in instilling these habits at home and encouraging that uniform and relevant kit are cleaned in line with government public health advice, as fully as possible.
- Chewing gum will also be completely prohibited in school.

Lornshill Academy pupils are excellent in their commitment to our values and in the positive relationships they establish to create a warm, safe and supportive school community. During this time of increased risk, any pupil who deliberately fails to fully comply with the above protocols, that are designed for everyone's safety, will be subject to a swift escalation of disciplinary procedures and direct parental contact.

School Transport

Clackmannanshire Council will communicate transport provision arrangements with families over summer that confirm specific instructions. This will be for all pupils that receive statutory school transport provision. We advise that pupils who regularly utilise public transport are mindful of social distancing requirements and restrictions with capacity/service that may apply in the new session.

Beginning and End of School Day

For the health and safety of all staff and pupils we respectfully ask that all parents/carers use the school drop off points and DO NOT drive into the carpark to drop off children. In normal times this presents a serious risk to our young people and we are required to provide staff with a safe environment (including distancing) in attending their place of work.

We would ask that, as fully as possible, parents should ensure pupils arrive at the school drop off point to allow time for pupils to filter into school.

As fully as possible, we would encourage pupils to avoid public transport where healthy alternatives that are safe (e.g. walk/cycle) are available and to ensure that they maintain safe social distancing from peers on their way to and from school.

All of this will be discussed with pupils and exemplified as part of our induction arrangements for them the first time they attend post-summer and we will have staff on-hand throughout the first weeks to direct and support as we establish this as regular practice.

Break and Lunch Arrangements

We will communicate fuller arrangements regarding break and lunchtime for pupils when we return in August. It is important to note, however, that we strongly recommend that pupils do not leave the school grounds to access local establishments for lunch. We strongly recommend pupils bringing a snack for break time and a packed lunch during this initial period.

Lockers

Locker use will be fully re-instated when we are confident it is safe to do so. Pupils who have existing lockers and need to get certain materials from them will be given the opportunity to do so when they return.

Uniform

I would also like to remind parents of how appreciative we are of your role in upholding uniform expectations. High standards of uniform are essential to maintaining a visible projection of our values as a community, equity, and a very positive impression of our pupils to the wider community beyond school.

Uniform can be ordered online at: <https://scotcrestschoools.co.uk/Find-Your-School/Clackmannanshire/Lornshill-academy>

I stressed in my recent communications through the HT Update, however, we are fully aware of the potential pressure on families just now regarding financial constraints and possible challenges in the supply chain for items such as blazers. We absolutely understand if there is a compromise with blazers as we start back in August and, if any parent has any financial concerns regarding uniform, please do not hesitate to contact your child's House Head to discretely and confidentially discuss any support we can offer.

Our uniform policy is as below:

- All black footwear
- Black trousers/skirt
- White shirt
- School tie
- Plain black jumper/cardigan (optional)
- Blazer
- **Polo shirts should only be worn for PE**

Key Dates

Our school year finishes at 12.40 on Thursday 25th June 2020 and our pupils resume at 08.55 on Wednesday 12th August 2020. Our pupils will receive full clarity on any revised arrangements and working practices to support learning when they return in August.

For Lornshill Academy, return dates will be staggered as follows:

Monday 10th August: **Staff Inset Day**

Tuesday 11th August: **Staff In-Set Day**

Wednesday 12th August: **S1 Induction Day / S5/6 Re-Coursing where appropriate.**

Thursday 13th August: **S1, 2 and 3 (BGE)**

Friday 14th August: **S1 - 6**

The first week will be used to complete a full staff and pupil induction having been away from school for such a sustained period of time. Over the course of this week we will detail any changes to protocols and procedures, for example, our new one-way system. This staggered approach will ensure all year groups are given sufficient time and space as we begin our recovery phase.

Contingency Arrangement

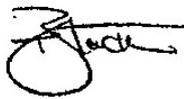
Due to the recent changing contexts for schools we are not in a position to share fully our priorities and school calendar for next session. This will be communicated early in the new session (*please be aware that this session will now include a 2 week October break due to the early start of the session – Mon 12th to Fri 23rd*). Our planning for a part time model of education with a varying degree of pupil attendance is fully complete. Should Government advice change over the summer we have detailed contingency plans which can be put in place. We would of course contact you of any change.

Clackmannashire Council webiste, Learning and Childcare section, will continue to be updated with any new information that becomes available over the summer.

I apologise for the sheer volume of information communicated above. Please be assured that we will support all pupils and ensure that they understand any new protocols and core arrangements when we return. Unfortunately, as I know you appreciate, this is entirely out of our hands in the current context.

Thanks, once again, for all your support with the above. I know that our entire staff team are looking forward to seeing our young people once again in August following the summer break. I am sure we will all be especially looking forward to getting back to school and working together to maximise achievement in session 2020/21.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Black', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Black
Head Teacher