



Perth Academy return to school in August FAQs for Parents

This information is subject to change, confirmation of arrangements will be given by the school following the Deputy First Minister's update on 30 July.

COVID-19 related questions

What distancing measures will be in place for pupils returning in August?

The Deputy First Minister expressed the hope that, should the scientific advice allow, pupils will be able to return in August without a need for distancing. We await updated guidance from the Scottish Government and will put appropriate measures in place accordingly, if required.

What health and safety processes will be put into place from August?

We want everyone to remain safe and well. Although there may be no distancing regulations in place between pupils there will be a need for additional safety measures. All staff and young people will be briefed on required protocols when they return to school. This will include controlled entry/exit, regular handwashing, what to do if symptoms develop, reasonable behaviour in the current circumstances, pupil/teacher workstation and equipment/resource cleansing protocols and a new one-way system.

Will pupils and or staff be asked to wear face coverings/masks?

We await updated guidance from the Scottish Government and will advise accordingly if this is required.

Will pupils be required to provide their own hand gel?

No, this will be provided by the school.

Will staff be routinely tested on return to school?

There are currently no plans to carry out routine testing of teachers. Schools will follow Scottish Government guidance. The latest national advice can be found [here](#)

What is being done to support pupils who are anxious about returning to school after such a long period away?

There will be a short programme called 'Reconnect' which all pupils will undertake as part of their welcome back and phased return to school. If your child has faced particular or significant challenges during lockdown and school are not already aware, please do get in touch so we can try to provide help and support.

Practical questions

Will parents receive an update during the summer should further information be forthcoming or if the situation should change?

Yes, it is planned to communicate a further update for parents on 4 August.

Should my child wear full school uniform?

In a change to previous communications and in response to parental requests, **Normal school uniform will be expected.** Blazers should not be worn until further notice, in recognition that these could not be washed daily and may require dry-cleaning.

Transport

It is currently assumed that if there are no restrictions on distancing for learners in August, there will be no restrictions/amendments on existing school transport arrangements. We have no further information at this time to share on school transport and hope to provide an update in August. Please find a link below to the PKC advice on school transport and key contacts in the Council https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/22894/Travelling-to-School-Information-Booklet/pdf/Travelling_to_School_2019.pdf?m=637013992721570000

When will pupils receive their timetables?

These will be posted out in the usual way at the beginning of August along with the annual data information and various relevant forms.

When will pupils choose electives?

This will happen during the first full week (beginning 17 August) and they will commence week beginning 24 August.

What about after school/ lunchtime clubs and extra-curricular activities?

For some activities/clubs due to guidance issued by national bodies (such as Duke of Edinburgh and specific sports) these may not run in their usual way although some aspects may be possible. Individual staff who lead these activities will advise and communicate with pupils about this.

Learning Questions

How will pupils catch up on the work/progress they have 'missed out on'?

Due to a huge variety of circumstances at home for our learners and staff we will all arrive 'back in school' with vastly different experiences of learning during lockdown. The big message here for everyone in our learning community is to please take some time over the summer to take a breather, to recover and do not worry. We will work together to assess the starting point for all and support each other to get to where we need to be.

Will class work continue to be posted on Microsoft Teams?

The way in which teachers use Teams varies depended on the learning model. We are fortunate that we now have three possible models of learning at our disposal and can adapt to the circumstances as required:

1. Online (pupils and staff working remotely from home)
2. Blended (some time working at home, some time in school)
3. School-based learning, 'the norm' (with some online work as homework and revision)

In model 3, we previously used 'Show My Homework' to issue and return homework. We will no longer be using 'Show My Homework' but will in future use the assignments tab in Teams for this purpose. Teachers may also continue to use Teams as a workflow tool for classwork in addition to homework.

It should be noted that the use of Teams will be very different in model 3 to how it has been used in model 1 during lockdown. All classwork and activities covered in the class will not be routinely posted in the Teams. Learning activities in model 3 are likely to be active, for example, practical learning tasks and group discussion. Parents/carers should be aware of this.

On return to school-based learning we will evaluate our use of Teams and endeavour to develop a consistent approach to the use of Teams across the school over the course of the coming year.

I liked that I could log into Show My Homework and see what work had been issued, I now can't see this in Teams, what will be done about this?

We understand this is the drawback in using Teams however there is a facility within Teams and GLOW that can give parental access. We will be requesting of PKC and GLOW that the development of this be prioritised. In the meantime, we encourage you to look over your child's shoulder at their work on Teams and share in their learning that way. Parents are gently reminded that GLOW is for pupils and staff only at present. Any queries? please contact perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk

If a pupil needs to self-isolate due to Test and Protect measures or shielding will they be able to keep up with class work via Teams?

If your child is to be absent from school for these reasons but is not unwell themselves, please inform your child's Guidance Teacher. The school will provide suitable work for them. This may be through Teams but may not be the same work as the class are doing in school due to the differing nature of learning tasks in different models as described above.

Is there anything we as parents should be buying/providing such as non-uniform clothes, study books, IT equipment?

No, the situation is uncertain, we would not advise making any additional purchases above the usual pre for a new year at school. The uniform policy will revert to full uniform, white shirt, school tie, plain black jumper, black shoes, no leggings, no denim as soon as is possible so please bear that in mind when purchasing new items for the year ahead.

How do I get in touch with teachers if I have a question?

Teachers will now be on leave until 10 August. During the two INSET days they will be preparing for pupils' return. With the digital developments and during lockdown, some teachers have been receiving emails directly from parents. Whilst they may have replied (and Principal Teachers may on occasion contact parents directly via email) it is not our usual policy. If you need to get in touch, please email perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk and you will be directed to the correct person.

When will 1:1 instrumental music lessons recommence?

These will begin again during week beginning 24 August. IMS staff will be undertaking training in online learning and teaching during the first 2 weeks of term to ensure they can deliver appropriately should the situation change.

Senior Phase FAQs

My child studies one or more courses at Perth College as part of their school timetable for next session will this go ahead as planned?

All college courses are due to commence during week beginning 24 August. For week beginning 17 August only pupils who have college courses on their timetable can be at home during those times but must sign in or out at the office. Any change to this will be communicated in our update to parents on 4 August.

My child is studying a subject at another school as part of the Perth City Campus, will these classes go ahead?

Perth City Campus classes will be online only for term 1. Pupils involved should have been given access to the correct Team or Google classroom for the subject, any concerns or queries please contact perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk. Opportunities for live interaction with Campus teachers during term 1 is being explored, further information will be shared in due course.

I am worried my child has already missed time on SQA coursework, do you have enough staff to cover should there be increased staff absence due to COVID-19, shielding or test & protect?

While there is possibly some uncertainty ahead, we have additional supply staffing in place and will try our best, as we usually do, to provide cover should absences occur. In the case of SQA subject delivery, should extraordinary absences occur, we will work together with other schools and PKC to try to provide subject specific support if required.

If you have further questions email us at perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk . We will try to incorporate the answers to any questions that arise as part of our next communication on 4th August.