

## NORTHFIELD ACADEMY

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Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday the First Minister delivered a statement in Parliament regarding Covid-19 and any changes to the current lockdown restrictions. In her statement, she outlined the potential for a very phased return of children and young people to face-to-face learning in school. Please find below the key points made and the steps we will be taking in response.

### Key Points

- The closure of Northfield Academy continues to be necessary in order to protect the population from the harm the virus presents.
- There is limited room for manoeuvre on the plan for getting children and young people back to school.
- A phased return to school is likely to begin from 22 February for Early Learning and Child Care - P1, P2 and P3. From that date, too, there will be a part-time return, on an extremely limited basis, for young people in the Senior Phase (S4/S5/S6). This part-time return will only be for the purpose of completing essential practical work, which cannot be completed remotely, to support SQA certification.
- The phased return to school plan is subject to continued progress against the virus and to final review.

### Initial Planning

I will communicate a more detailed plan regarding the very phased return to school of Senior Phase pupils, in advance of 22 February. However, I would like to reassure you that we have already planned for a number of scenarios, including the extension of remote learning for the majority of our young people. Currently, our pupils are engaging well with remote learning and we will continue to do our very best to support and encourage all our learners in the BGE (S1, S2, S3) and the Senior Phase (S4, S5, S6).

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*Aspire to be outstanding*

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## Senior Phase Pupils – In-school learning

There are a number of National Qualification courses, such as Design and Technology, Physical Education and Home Economics which require a high level of practical work and school-based resources. These courses would be challenging to complete from home. We will be issuing a plan detailing when young people who are completing such courses are required to come into the school building. The plan will also contain information on the strict Covid mitigations which will be in place in school, including the requirement for all Senior Phase pupils to maintain 2m physical distancing and wear masks at all times within the school building.

If your child is completing National Qualifications this session, you will be understandably concerned about the impact of a further extension to remote learning. Currently, teachers are working through course content, consolidating prior learning and checking understanding; so anything your child completes is helping the teacher to understand the grade at which your child is working. It is essential, therefore, that all pupils engage in online work, attend scheduled live meets and complete any assigned tasks; if your child chooses not to do so it becomes challenging for teaching staff to evidence a working grade. If you have any concerns about your child's progress please do not hesitate to contact the relevant PT Guidance.

As a staff, we are committed to all of the pupils in our care and we will continue to do our very best to support our school community during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Douglas Watt  
Head Teacher