



Your Ref:
Our Ref: ES/SP
Contact: Eleanor Sheppard
Location: Marischal College

Dear Parents and Carers of secondary pupils,

It has been wonderful to welcome all young people back into school buildings again over this last week or so. Staff consistently comment on how well young people are complying with the COVID-19 control measures in place and we are grateful for your on-going support in this area.

As a result of high levels of compliance, we have had very few instances of COVID-19 in schools to date this term. This offers us all some reassurance in terms of maintaining educational provision and certification for senior phase pupils. Please be assured however, that alternative arrangements will be put in place if young people are required to undertake a period of self-isolation over the term. You'll appreciate that it is quite hard to describe alternative arrangements in generic terms, but schools are fully committed to ensuring that young people are not compromised in any way.

The service has been formalising our arrangements for the Alternative Certification Model over the last few months. Updated guidance is still being received regularly from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and we continue to amend proposed arrangements to take account of updated advice. I know that all schools have been working hard to ensure that parents and carers and young people are aware of arrangements and have pleasure in enclosing a link to a generic leaflet <https://bit.ly/32H2OZu> which applies to all schools across the city. Although there requires to be some variation due to the different courses available in each city secondary school, the fundamental arrangements are aligned. The leaflet will continue to be updated as new information is received so I would suggest that you regularly refer to the link rather than rely on a paper copy which may have been superseded.

All Local Authorities were invited to apply for 2 additional in-service days to enable staff to deliver the Alternative Certification Model. 28th May and 4th June have been identified as suitable dates for city secondary schools and all secondary schools will be closed to pupils on both of these days. This is to enable staff to carry out extensive moderation activities to ensure our procedures are robust and in line with the quality assurance processes outlined in the Parent/Carer Guidance to the Alternative Certification Model. Primary schools will open as planned.

Your child's school will continue to keep you update on arrangements and I would urge you to raise any concerns or questions with schools at the earliest opportunity so that we can offer some assistance.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Sheppard
Chief Education Officer