



**ParentApp – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Good Morning Everyone**

## **1. A Level and GCSE Examinations Summer 2020**

Great news – the Education Minister has overturned the extra-ordinary approach to Examinations which his Department had previously asked the Examination Board to implement.

The A Level Grades, previously issued last week, and the GCSE Results, to be issued on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> are now based on Centre Assessed Grades.

Just to be clear these grades are allocated by each subject teacher based on the **evidence** of achievement of each pupil in respect of examination criteria. The grades were then moderated and discussed in each subject department, so that fairness was applied to all. Finally, the grades were submitted to the Principal who was responsible as Head of Centre for checking the administration of grades and forwarding to Examination Boards.

I congratulate all our achievers and indeed their teachers, on a job well done, in a very challenging year. I am very pleased that justice has at last been done. A Level Students may contact the School Office if they have not yet accessed the revised grades and GCSE students should attend school from 8.30am to collect their results. Please wait to be admitted to collect your envelope and make sure you arrange your appointment to discuss your A Level pathway before you leave.

## **2. Start Term Arrangements**

In keeping with guidance and our particular school context, we move through Staff Training between 12<sup>th</sup> August and 24<sup>th</sup> August, and Induction sessions in the period 25<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September, building attendance until we reach full time-table for all students by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. We believe the process of gradually assimilating pupils to the new way of working is vital, especially in the context of continuing fears on the spread of the virus.

Pupils will move on to main timetable on 7<sup>th</sup> September, because it is vital to move to normality as quickly as possible - but the Transition Timetables which we had planned originally are still in place so that we can step back on to them in the event of any crisis, where we might have to temporarily close a part of the school, or a number of groups.

## **3. Pupil Induction & Blended Learning Training**

The following table indicates the days and times students should attend according to Year group for initial induction and training on Blended Learning. Pupils will be introduced to the one-way system, the zoning that has been allocated for each year group, the arrangements for general subjects & practical subjects, use of toilet facilities, dining, transport, arrival and departure. We aim to make the whole school experience a happy and enabling one, even amidst the changes and all our staff and support staff are committed to this end.



<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	Year 14 Induction (9am-12noon) Year 13 Interviews as arranged
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	Year 12 Group 1 Induction (9am-12noon) 12CM, 12DF, 12 HH Year 12 Group 2 Induction (1pm-3.15pm) 12DB, 12ND 12JK, 12LS Year 13 Interviews as arranged
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	Year 8 Induction (Group 1 9am-12noon) Surnames A - D Year 8 Induction (Group 2 1.00pm-3.15pm) Surnames E - McA Staff Training on Blended Learning
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	Year 8 Induction (Group 3 (9am-12noon) Surnames McB - O Year 8 Induction (Group 4 (1.00pm-3.15pm) Surnames P - Z Staff Training on Blended Learning
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept</b>	Year 8 (testing/zoning/e-learning) Year 9 (Induction & Blended Learning) Year 14 (Main Timetable)
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept</b>	Year 10 (Induction & Blended Learning) Year 14 (Main Timetable)
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept</b>	Year 11 (Induction & Blended Learning) Year 14 (Main Timetable)
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Year 12 (Main Timetable Day 5) Year 13 (Induction & Blended Learning) Year 14 (Main Timetable)
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Whole School in attendance (Day 6)
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Whole School in attendance (Day 7)
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Whole School in attendance (Day 8) etc. etc.



There are minor changes from the original advice. Please note, Year 8 is now invited to come in to school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September so that we can complete their initial testing, ensure they understand their zones and arrangements and focus on training for Blended Learning. This gives them a second occasion to acclimatise before their full attendance from 7<sup>th</sup> September onwards. Year 13 is not commencing Induction until 3<sup>rd</sup> September so that there is time for a series of interviews from 21<sup>st</sup> August onwards, with all who are applying from our Year 12 and from other schools. This will enable prospective Year 13 pupils to confirm their best A Level pathway and choice of courses for future study.

Please be assured all schools are required to deliver the statutory teaching days – so schools who commence earlier usually reduce days at another time or set teacher training at other times. There is therefore no loss of teaching time for Dunclug College pupils with these arrangements.

#### 4. Entrances and Zones for Year Groups

**Details of the entrances and zones to be used by the various groups as they arrive are set out below:**

**Year 8 Ground Floor** – Arrival via main school entrance

**Year 9 Annexe** – Arrival via main Annexe Entrance

**Year 10 Mobiles 25, 25a, 26, 27, 27a & 29** – Arrival via Double Gates Entrance, moving straight to mobile.

**Year 11 1<sup>st</sup> Floor** – Arrival via Link Corridor School Entrance

**Year 12 The Belfort Suite** (i.e. the new mobile block) – Arrival via Double Gates School Entrance, moving straight to mobile.

**Year 13 Rooms 8, 9 & 39** – Arrival via Main School Entrance

**Year 14 Rooms 35, 36 & 38** – Arrival via Main School Entrance.

See attached Document with overview of Form rooms.

Further information will be covered during Induction.

#### 5. Transport

Translink Services commence, as always, on 1<sup>st</sup> September and I have met them in advance and agreed the arrangements we have made. Please note the following:

- Pupils are required to use dedicated School Bus Services to and from school, and **under no circumstances** to use the town service buses.
- Teachers will support the loading and unloading of pupils at Dunclug College, in a phased manner as always. Pupils on certain buses, e.g. Ballykeel, Wakehurst or Carniny, should bring the correct change if possible. Ideally these pupils should use an i-link card.
- Bus passes will be available within the next two weeks.
- Some buses will drop pupils off at the school gate in the morning, if possible, to avoid going to the station
- Students must behave sensibly when at the station and come up to school directly on the Link buses. On no account should any other pupil go to the station.
- The need for social distance for pupils on buses has been reduced but pupils must wear masks and will be encouraged to do so by teachers. (For a very limited time only, we will be able to provide masks for those who forget).



- Students must not attend the shop at the station or the shop at Dunclug. The usual free breakfast and hot and cold break and lunchtime arrangements means students should have everything they need. Anything additional required should be brought in a lunch box.
- Parents who drop pupils off are asked to drive up to the turning circle and collect pupils in the afternoon. Please remain in your car until your son/daughter comes out of school.
- Pupils are encouraged to walk or cycle to school if possible.

## 6. Belongings

All students are asked to have a mask in their bags. We suggest this is stored in a zipped bag to keep it as clean as possible. Those who travel on buses will always need one for travelling and all pupils should have a mask to hand for those occasions when social distancing may become difficult.

All pupils should bring a Schoolbag each day. They must bring and remove their belongings each day to allow deep cleaning to take place in each teaching area. A vaporiser will be used at the end of each day in practical areas such as Art, Music, Technology or Science, where there is frequent use of equipment.

Much marking will be done online or photographed from students' notebooks, but written work may be collected for direct marking from time to time. When written work requires to be marked there will be a 72-hour delay before it will be handled by staff and likewise it will rest in school before pupils can retrieve it.

**Pupils must bring the following in their schoolbags:** the relevant notebooks and/or textbooks for the timetable each day, black ink pens, pencils, rubber, sharpener, ruler, geometry set, calculator, a zipped bag containing a mask, a lunch box if required and/or a water bottle, a change of shoes for recreation. (Please note it will not be possible to borrow equipment). Advice will be given about when to wear or bring PE kit and what exactly to bring when full timetable commences.

Pupils in receipt of school meals will receive a disc on a keyring to display in the canteen.

Pupils who make purchases in the canteen will pay the cashier who will be wearing mask and gloves, and are asked to bring the correct change as far as possible.

School Fund should be sent in an envelope to be handed in at the Office where it will rest before being opened.

The Booklet which was issued at the end of term has been updated and placed on the Website.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

I look forward to the start of the year and a good year ahead. I thank you for your kind support in recent months.

Ruth Wilson