

1. When will S1 receive their Young Scot cards?

A link was sent by the school office. Thank you to parents who have been supportive in following this up.

2. Will there be any other clubs, which are not sport clubs? For example Art, Science, Robotics or other?

Sports Clubs were advertised by Active Schools last week as you can see from our website. Other clubs will gradually be introduced. So far Basketball and Gaming for Good (Heart of Midlothian Innovation Centre) have been added with more to follow.

3. Is there going to be a Waterpolo club?

Yes. One of our parents organises this and we await information regarding a start date.

4. Is there going to be Music tuition in string instruments and when?

Yes. The staff have been collating interest and previous experience information to put together the Instrumental Music staff timetable. This will include string instruments and will be fully in place by the end of this week.

5. Are there any competitions in which S1 can take part – Art, Computing, Maths or other?

We love competitions at Tynecastle and regularly win. Your child may be offered the opportunity to enter as part of the curriculum or as a Home Study option. If anybody knows of a competition that they are keen for students to enter then please send it in.

6. Are there any trips planned for the S1?

We are very hopeful that the S1 JASS Cycle which is so popular with students will go ahead later this term. As we return to a more normal situation, we hope that other day trips will also become possible as part of the curriculum.

7. Are you improving ventilation/air filtration as part of the coronavirus measures?

This work was carried out last session. The enhanced ventilation includes open windows in classrooms so please ensure that your child has a suitable jumper or coat when the weather becomes cooler. Mobile CO2 monitors are also available for the small number of areas where a monitor is not already in place.

8. When will homework be assigned and how much will they be expected to do each day?

Teachers have been providing Home Study opportunities for their classes. To see what the expectations are for each subject please go to our school website. The S1 Course Information booklet is on the main page on the right-hand side.

9. Where can we find information on interest groups/clubs?

This information is shared with students through Key Adult and Tutor Time. We then share updates on Twitter and our website.

10. My child is struggling with French. Can the school offer any additional assistance?

Please ask your child to speak to their class teacher in the first instance who can provide additional support. Homework Club will run later this session and this is another opportunity to access support. Our Pupil Support and Support for Learning Leader are always available should a barrier to learning be identified.

11. Where can we get a flu vaccination form?

These were handed out by Tutors in Key Adult time. If your child does not yet have one, ask them to speak to their Key Adult in the morning.

12. When will they be allowed out of the school for lunch and what are the boundaries if any?

Last year we kept S1 in the school grounds for the whole session because of the concerns around Coronavirus and the mitigations in place. We normally keep S1 in the school grounds until October and let them go to the shops after the October break. Students are not allowed to go further than Ardmillan Terrace or the bridge at the bottom of Robertson Avenue. This year we will continue to monitor the situation and let you know whether S1 will be allowed out nearer to the time.

13. Can you please advise on the school policy on mobile phones? Are students allowed to use their phones during lessons or encouraged to look for information on their phones?

Students should have their phones in bags or pockets and on silent when in class. If a phone interrupts a lesson the teacher will ask for the phone and it will be returned at the end of the day. Teachers may ask students to use their phones for research or as a calculator. However, please note that all S1 will be provided with an iPad before the end of the session and this will remove the need for the use of a phone.

14. Is there any contingency planning in the event of a lockdown given that the rates are going up?

We are extremely hopeful that the Scottish Government will not ask us to undertake another Lockdown. However, if this did happen, then the school is in a very good place regarding devices for S3-6 and Digital Learning. Please also note that S1 and S2 will have their own device before the end of the year.

15. Can you advise what a close contact is classed as for a pupil now?

For the most up to date information please always see NHS Inform here: [NHS Inform](#)