## **PENICUIK HIGH SCHOOL C:\Users\biddicc1\Desktop\PROFORMA\Vectorised School Sign.JPG**

## **RECONNECT- BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAMMME**

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**Commencing Monday 15 March 2021**

**Introduction**

It is now nearly a year since the initial lockdown took place in 2020 and it is doubtful that at that early stage we could envisage the amount of disruption and pain the Covid 19 pandemic would cause for so many families, across so many aspects of their lives. In particular the two periods of lockdown and the move to remote learning has caused significant disruption to learning across all sectors and this disruption has predictably affected students in a variety of ways including a serious loss of in school learning time with face-to face teaching.

On Tuesday 2 March the First Minister outlined the next phase in return to *in-school learning* for students. This included a phased and partial return of all secondary students to in-school learning for at least part of a week up until the end of term on 4 April 2021. It is expected that a full time return for all Penicuik High School students will occur from Tuesday 20 April 2021.

This phase is about re-connecting – with our friends, our teachers, our building, our values and our education.

**What we Value**

At Penicuik High School we are continuing to focus on our PRIDE values as underpinning what we do as a staff as well as how we want our students to respond to the challenges of disrupted learning across the past year. Participation will be crucial as will determination and an expectation that they can as student achieve excellence in what they attempt. Inclusion is also at the heart of our current work and throughout this re-connect phase we will be running a Support for Learning Hub and outreach as well as catering for other vulnerabilities through our Hub programme that has been in place since lockdown began in January 2021.

**Reconnect**

At Penicuik High School we have a unique context and we have spent some time looking at the technical possibilities of a temporary blended learning programme in line with our senior phase structure, the resources taken to run two hubs and support remote learning when students are at home as well as take cognisance of Scottish Government guidance. As this is about re-connection and only partial return we have tried to balance the need to prioritise a stressed senior phase with spending some quality time with students in the broad general phase from S1-3.

***The rationale for this Re-connect programme is based on:***

● The need to maintain all health and safety rules in school and keep all staff and young people safe. Although the transmission levels have fallen across Scotland there is still a risk as we re-start schools and the best way to mitigate that is by ensuring students in school follow all the current public health measures. The most significant of these is et 2m social distance rule as that is the key element in safely accommodating over 300 senior phase students with staffing levels being the limiting factor.

● Prioritising the senior phase as students at S4-6 are now at a crucial stage in terms of completion of the assessments required in their SQA Certificated courses and in line with the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) put in place by SQA.

● Providing an opportunity for young people in the broad general phase (S1-3) to re- connect with each other, staff, aspects of their own learning and be reminded of the health and safety constraints in the building and that will actually be tighter under the current public health restrictions in Scotland.

● Start to focus on aspects of health and well-being and good mental health – themes that will be returned to in April

● Use our tracking and monitoring and pupil support contact team intelligence to target individuals who have lacked engagement and motivation across the period of remote learning. We have also collated information about risk of failure in certificated courses for all courses from national 3-5 and Higher / Advanced Higher and this information will inform further work in school until the end of May.

● We will continue to support leaners at home through our high quality Remote Learning offer but it is inevitable that the staffing resource required to run in-school provision including the hubs will affect some activities normally offered in Google classrooms.

**The Blended Learning programme**

Our in school provision is based on a senior phase programme that runs across Monday to Thursday and a stand-alone BGE programme that will run across Friday morning. There will also be fitness sessions run by PE for S1-3 twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons that students can sign up for. These arrangements allow us to comply with 2m distancing requirements with the senior phase split into two cohorts A and B from S4-6.

**Timings are as follows:**

● Monday – Thursday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm each day – Breaks times will be 11:00- 11:15am and 12:30 – 1:00 pm.

*(N.B. S4 students will attend school 8:30am – 2:15pm, S5/6 students will attend 8:30am – 3:30pm)*

● Friday – 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

***NOTE:*** *Uniform will not be required until return after Easter. Students must bring Lunch/ snacks and water with them to school.*

The senior phase sessions are based on our timetable column structure with the cohorts for each year level split evenly to control how many young people are attending at any one time. The day is split into 5 periods and run for an hour and 15 minutes. All SCQF course levels 3-7 will be covered. S5/6 student will be in their subjects twice a week across the four days and at S4 they will be in each subject once a week. Additionally S4 will have a period with their Guidance teacher.

The senior phase lessons will be focussed on re-connecting, reviewing progress and looking at what is required to successfully complete the course assessments. Teaching and learning will be about ensuring progress in certificated courses. There may be some limited assessments relating to the SQA alternative certification model but these will be kept to a minimum and be restricted to practical or performance elements of courses. The SA coordinator will oversee this aspect of in school provision and students will get reasonable notice and any normal support under alternative arrangements.

The remote learning offer for Senior Phase will switch to be more about self-directed work and reviewing content and will mostly be posted on a weekly basis. Staff will discuss this with students in school as the work on-line will relate to work in class.

Our BGE S1-3 programme will be based around a thematic project and cover areas of literacy, numeracy and health and well-being. The S1 will be in school Friday 19 March with half the S3 cohort. On Friday 26 March the S2 cohort will attend alongside the other half of the S3 group.

During the 14 day period prior to Easter we will also offer health and fitness sessions outdoors for S1-3. These will run on each Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm and students will be asked to attend in appropriate clothing and return home to change afterwards as we have no changing rooms we are able to offer under the 2 m rule. We can take up to 36 students for each session and students will be asked to sign up. Joining instruction will come out with other programme information.

The BGE offer is much lower than the Senior phase and this is primarily due to staffing under the 2 metre rule, class capacities of 10-12 students and the prioritisation of senior phase but we will use the in school time to look further at students who need support through SfL and our behaviour support base. In addition, in some cases we will offer hub time if we feel it is essential to the wellbeing of a young person.

The remote learning offer will continue to be their main source of learning prior to full return and we will continue to offer subject specific work though the impact of staffing face-to-face teaching will most likely see a drop off in live learning provisions. Information on remote learning will be updated as we enter the re-connect programme next week.

Work for all students who are at home doing remote learning will continue to be posted for individual subjects on Google classrooms. Any student who does not have access to a suitable electronic device, data or who is sharing a device with other family members should contact us urgently to make a referral via email to [penicuikhs\_@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:penicuikhs_@midlothian.gov.uk)

Where any technical support is required – please also email in the first instance so one of our support team can be in contact to solve the issue.

**Programme Outline from 15 March 2021**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
| **Key worker/ Vulnerable Hub - all week** | | | | |
| **Support for Learning Hub – all week** | | | | |
| **The Learning Centre – all week** | | | | |
| Period 1 S4/5/6 Cohort A - subjects | Period 1 S4/5/6 Cohort A - subjects | Period 1 S4/5/6 Cohort B - subjects | Period 1 S4/5/6 Cohort B - subjects | **S1/ 3 cohort**  **S2/3 cohort**  In for morning  8:30 am- 1200 pm |
| Period 2 S4/5/6 Cohort A - subjects | Period 2 S4/5/6 Cohort A - subjects | Period 2 S4/5/6 Cohort B - subjects | Period 2 S4/5/6 Cohort B - subjects |
| Period 3 S4/5/6 Cohort A - subjects | Period 3 S4/5/6 Cohort A - subjects | Period 3 S4/5/6 Cohort B - subjects | Period 3 S4/5/6 Cohort B - subjects |  |
| Period 4 S4/5/6 Cohort A - subjects | Period 4 S4/5/6 Cohort A - subjects | Period 4 S4/5/6 Cohort B - subjects | Period 4 S4/5/6 Cohort B - subjects |
| Period 5 S5/6 only Cohort A - subjects | Period 5 S5/6 only Cohort A - subjects | Period 5 S5/6 only Cohort B - subjects | Period 5 S5/6 only Cohort B - subjects |
|  | S1-3 HWB  FITNESS SESSION  1:30 – 2:30 PM  Outdoors |  | S1-3 HWB  FITNESS SESSION  1:30 – 2:30 PM  Outdoors |

The S3 cohort will be split half with the S1 on Friday 19 March and half with S2 on Friday 26 March. The third Friday 5 April is not available due to Good Friday/ Easter break

BGE student will be picked up in week 3 through Hub and Support for Learning hub as required.

**Sample Student letter S4/5/6 – sent in post from Tuesday 9 March 2021**

[School Letterhead]

Student Name: «FirstName» «LastName» («Reg») ADD IN COHORT

**Blended learning – Return to School for S5&6 Students**

We are delighted to be welcoming back all students on a blended learning timetable. To ensure we meet the 2m distancing requirements, we have split all S5 and S6 students into Cohort A or Cohort B. S5 and S6 students in Cohort A will attend school on Mondays and Tuesday 8:30am- 3:30pm. S5 and S6 students in Cohort B will attend school on Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:30am-3:30pm. Students will not be able to gain access to the school building until 8:30am.

Please see the sheet overleaf outlining the timetable for students to follow.

The list below indicates what subject you have taken in each column – you will need to use this information alongside the timetable overleaf.

Col A -

Col B -

Col C -

Col D –

Col E –

Please check when you have each subject. When you have a subject you should make your way to the department; teachers will meet you in the department to direct you to the correct classroom.

If you have a study period you should go to the Assembly Hall.

There will be no registration, please make your way directly to your first department when you arrive.

We must maintain high levels of safety when you return to school therefore students must only enter/exit the building via the correct year group door (these will be clearly labelled), wear a mask at all times, maintain a distance of 2m from all staff and students and ensure regular hand-washing.

Students need to bring their own lunch (there will not be the option to leave the premises) and do not need to wear school uniform. Students should also bring their Chromebook, if they have one.

College Courses/Foundation Apprenticeships – unfortunately we have been unable to allocate your college/FA time (Col C) on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. We have contacted the colleges to make them aware of this. You will still have periods in school when you will be able to complete your college work but it will not be on a Tuesday/Thursday afternoon. We appreciate that this is an inconvenience therefore we are giving college/FA students the option to sign-out of school on a Tuesday/Thursday afternoon when they have college/FA online courses to attend. Students should go to the office to sign-out. Students will miss other subjects but can use the allocated periods in school for college/FA (Col C) to catch up on classwork missed.

When you have college/FA on your timetable (Col C) you should go to the following classrooms:

• Cohort A – Monday period 4 room 38/Tuesday period 1 room 32

• Cohort B - Wednesday period 4 room 38/Thursday period 1 room 32

H.Lyon

Depute Head Teacher (Acting)

9 March 2021

**Key Worker and Vulnerable Hub/ Support for Learning Hub/ Learning Centre**

The Hub has been running efficiently since January, at the start of last lockdown and is catering for the children of Category 1 and 2 support workers and any Council staff who request a place to assist with childcare and are not able to make other arrangements as well as vulnerable young people. This facility will remain up until Easter.

The identification of vulnerable young people remains a dynamic process and up to the date of the publication of this document we are catering for 50 students across the week, mainly in the vulnerable category. There is some flexibility to offer more but in addition to the KW/Vulnerable hub we have also set up a SfL Hub that is focusing on support of 70 identified young people with additional support needs. We will work to meet their needs through one-to-one work either remotely or face-to-face and outreach through subject area support. If you have any concerns about your child and any need that arises from an additional learning need please contact your child’s Guidance teacher through the school email address or by phone.

At the same time as we are operating the hubs, staff are working within the Learning Centre (TLC) our behaviour support base to support the induction and re-connection of a number of students who are vulnerable and require support emotionally.

Venues for some hub group bubbles may need to move to accommodate classes e.g. computing rooms. Children in any of our hub provisions may also attend any blended learning events and Mrs Burgess will coordinate all aspects of the integrated Pupil Support work mentioned above.

**Health and Safety**

A current and rigorous Risk Assessment (RA) is in place and we are well practiced as a school in promoting and supervising health and safety guidelines. Our Risk assessment will be further checked and updated from the 15 March return but you are asked to note the following in particular:

● We need to remain vigilant about any symptoms of Covid – e.g. high temperature, loss of taste or small, new continuous cough or even flu like symptoms with a sudden onset.

● All staff and students will have the opportunity to take part in our home testing Covid 19 Asymptomatic testing programme using the LFD kits. This has been well utilised by students who have been coming into school over recent weeks but it is not mandatory for any group.

● Students will enter through the specific doors at the front of the school used under the previous full time staggered timetable. Doors will be marked with the year level. ALL students at any level MUST separate 2m on entry, in corridors and in classrooms.

● All students and staff must wear masks in the school building including classrooms – unless medically exempt.

● Student must sanitise their hands for 20 seconds on entry and exit of the school building and when they enter any room within school.

● All personal spaces work spaces used in school should be sprayed with the provided cleaner and dried for the next user. Staff will supervise the safety of this operation.

● Classrooms will be fully ventilated – student may wear jackets in normal classroom settings where it is deemed safe – BUT not in some practical classes e.g. woodwork. The teacher will direct students as to the appropriate wearing of additional clothing such as jackets.

● Students will not be allowed to wander at break times or congregate outside of rooms. All breaks will be taken in the classroom being used prior to the break and students **MUST bring lunch/snacks to eat and drinks to school. Some bottled water will be available outside of this personal provision. Alternative arrangements will be made for students who are in laboratory spaces where they are not able to eat.**

**●** The one way system remains in place.

Staff will strictly enforce these health and safety measures and if any student persistently and deliberately flouts these rules, they will be referred to senior staff and parent/ carers will be contacted.

**What Should Students Bring to School?**

We are looking forward to welcoming students back into school next week. Students should note the following

As stated previously students do not need to wear school uniform but will need warm clothing due to the need for ventilation. Clothing MUST be appropriate and decent – as per normal non-uniform days.

Students will need to bring lunch/ snack and water. Some bottle water will also be available. BACS payments for student in receipt of free school meals will continue until at least Easter.

Students MUST bring in chromebooks where they have one.

Bags are allowed – students should if possible bring a pencil case or similar with adequate writing equipment/ additional stationary could also be useful. No student will be left without learning resources in school.

**Contacting Us**

Information about the Senior Phase re-connect programme and individual student information is being mailed out from Tuesday 9 March by second class post. If you have not heard from the school by Friday 12 March please urgently contact the school office 01968 674165.

General student queries should be made via our email address [penicuik\_hs@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:penicuik_hs@midlothian.gov.uk)

From Monday 15 March our pupil Support contact team will be scaled down and Guidance staff will concentrate on high risk / vulnerable student contact.

All communication will continue to be via Group call emails and the same information will be posted on our website- please use the blue Covid button on the home page to go straight to the Covid related news such as information on et re-connect programme

Thank you for your continuing support of the school and we will update information over coming weeks.

Craig Biddick

Head Teacher

March 2021