

Category	Content	Response
Assessments	Can we please be advised as soon as possible on how the S5s will be assessed in the coming months. Will they be tested or will it be via assignments?	We will share this information with all at the earliest opportunity.
Assessments	Surely the SQA will not expect this year's S4 to sit exams for their Highers in 2022 without ever having sat an exam, also applies to those going into S6 as well. Or being the SQA I suspect they won't have thought about it and/or will ignore what's best for the students?	We await details for 2022 with interest. We anticipate that, in the absence of further restrictions, we will return to exams in 2022.
Assessments	Can JGHS confirm that the National 5 SQA assessments will all be after Easter so at least the pupils have two weeks off to revise, with no remaining classes or course content teaching and assignments coming in the way?	We will endeavour to do that but with guidelines from the SQA continuing to evolve we are never confident about planning too far ahead. We recognise the need to give pupils' time off to prepare for assessments.
Assessments	Where pupils have not managed to cover topics prior to assessments, it would be useful for parents to know which parts of the curriculum will and will not be tested.	We will share what we know as soon as we can. The more detailed information is more likely to go directly to pupils from their teachers.
Assessments	Are SQA National 5 assessments to be done in normal class time once the S4s return to school and across different days? If so, how are you going to ensure that the sharing of exam questions or conferring will not happen between different classes, if one subject class (e.g. National 5 biology) has their assessment on a Monday, yet another class has the same assessment to be taken on a different day ie. Tuesday? Otherwise, this is obviously not going to be very fair for anyone.	These are questions we are considering at present but in an ever changing situation it is difficult to be too prescriptive or definite at this stage.
Assessments	We have found through talking to other parents that teachers are not consistent in what they are asking students to do (quantity of assignments, if work to be submitted etc) across classes for the same subject at the same level...how they school can confidently grade all students equally I'm not fully convinced	Gaining consistency of approach across all staff is a challenge. In-school moderation, allied with City Wide and national moderation of standards will go some way to ensure consistency of the application of standards.
Assessments	Will evidence collected before Christmas still be used as part of the assessment process?	Yes. The balance will likely vary across different subjects.
Assessments	At the last SQA update it was mentioned that rightly, more weighting will be given to assessments later in the year, compared to assessments done in the first few months of the academic year. With the extended lockdown period, is this still the plan?	Yes. The later and fuller the assessments the more weight they can have in adjudging overall grades.
Assessments	Given the short space of time "learner evidence" will be collected over will SQA students be given a timetable for the proposed evidence gathering - so that parents can support revision?	Yes - we will aim to do this.
Assessments	On the info for assessment for N5, I presume all the previous text/assessment in school do count for SQA grading. So there will be school test/assessment before June?	Yes - there will be a range of assessments though May and early June.
Assessments	Some schools are running prelims at this time- is there a plan to do this at JGHS and when?	We will decide in the next couple of weeks.
Assessments	How are S3 getting assessed? Will they be purely assessed on their work in their (next) S4 year?	We haven't considered this in too much detail at this stage but will be in the coming weeks.
Assessments	Normally S4 - S6 go off on study leave and then are not taught again for most of the summer term. Will they be taught and assessed right up to the end of term this year with no study leave?	We will consider how best to do this in the coming days and let everyone know asap.
Assessments	Is there a backup plan should the SQA decide no in class/school assessments to be done? Does the school have enough evidences for students if this happened? Wouldn't surprise me if they changed the goalposts yet again	Any back up plan would have to be as advised by SQA so that there is consistency across the country. Current thinking is that all pupils will return after Easter.
Assessments	What will be the balance of assessments completed in classroom v work done pre-Christmas and during current lockdown?	This is evolving in line with SQA guidelines.
Assessments	Sitting exams is a life skill that our current S4 and S5 have not had any experience of. Could we not have some form of prelims (like other schools)?	This is possible and is under active consideration.
Assessments	How can class based assessments be fair unless the whole year group sits them at the same time?	A big question and one that merits some more discussion. In a scenario where whole year group assessments are neither feasible nor practicable, class assessments have a place to provide some evidence of attainment. It's fair to say that no assessment system is ever perfect but that some are better than others.
Assessments	Usually the new school year starts in the last month of the previous year. As assessments will be ongoing until the end of June, how will this time be made up to cover the full course work?	This discussion is ongoing.
Assessments	Will senior pupils get an idea of their working grade - prelims helped give that sense of how a pupil was doing and then a chance to improve that grade. Will assessments after Easter all count or will there be some baseline assessment before the 'assessments that count'? Thanks	Yes - teachers will have this information and are able to keep pupils up to date on their working levels.
Catchment	Talking of catchment pupils. I am aware that the gaelic medium are considered to be in catchment. How many of the 324 intake fall into this category? Are the numbers of catchment children from this route increasing?	There are 58 GME pupils coming next year in S1. The number fluctuates up and down but overall the trend is that this has increased over the years hence the Council's plans for a new GME High School from 2025
Catch-up	how are these pupils who are feeling so overwhelmed possibly going to catch up with learning?	All pupils will need to be reassured that time will be available to catch up.
Catch-up	How are the children who are not engaging with online learning at all going to cope when back at school? Will all of the material covered during the lockdown be covered again so they can all catch up??	This will not be straightforward and will take considerable planning by teachers to meet the needs of all.
Consolidation week	Given all the learning lost over the last 11 months, can you please confirm that there will be no "consolidation weeks" in the nearer future? Given the current situation, there should be no room for the traditional winding down before holidays, and slow, consolidation-style re-start after. Thanks	The pace of learning and content to be covered will be decided at Faculty level and thereafter implemented by teachers. There is a balance to be struck by going 'full stream' ahead and allowing those most adversely affected by lockdown time to catch up, consolidate etc.
Consolidation week	The consolidation week was not just for some but for all youngsters indiscriminately, with no new work set.	Teachers were asked to still set tasks for pupils who had caught up with all work, but with no deadline attached for completion of this to remove pressure. However, we note the concerns that this was not consistently applied.
Consolidation week	It was not business as normal for any of my children. There was no new work set. How can the school keep across this better?	Noted - we continue to learn from experience and will adapt as best we can towards best meeting the educational needs of all.
Course choices	With regards to S6 course choices why has there been no opportunity for parents to speak to teachers before the choice sheet deadline as parents evening is 3 weeks later. The interim individual school report issued in December did not have enough guidance to assist in this very important decision.	This has been covered in an email to parents from Mr Warden
Course choices	Can S5 pupils really select AH subjects for next year, given that they have neither sat Nat5 exams nor Higher exams.	Yes. AH courses offer progression from Higher and provide an excellent transition experience for their next stage.
Course choices	Can S4 students really be expected to select highers without any marks or parent consultation having taken place?	Yes. Pupils should access the information provided to make as informed a choice as possible.
Course choices	Course choices S4 going onto S5: It is a help that there are now scheduled faculty-led Q&A sessions for Senior pupils/teachers tomorrow (Weds 24 Feb) and Thursday 25th Feb, 4-5.30pm - thanks for this. Can these be recorded please for pupils to watch afterwards? As parents are not involved, this is causing stress to my son that there are no formal S4 parent/pupil/teacher consultations before the course choice deadline, as it's far easier to discuss abilities/subjects then (more awkward for teenagers to do this 1:1 with their teachers). Please can you delay the S4 course choice deadline date accordingly (choosing Highers for S5) until after the S4 parent consultations (on 8th March) - as Mr MacDonald promised this in the Parent Council meeting back in Nov 2020. We appreciate Mr Warden wants to start scheduling for next year asap from 1st March, but the current S4s haven't had any parent consultations since S3 due to the pandemic & choosing Highers is so important.	We recognise that current arrangements are far from ideal for pupils to be making course choices for next year. Despite the obvious challenges around this we still need pupils to make choices so that we can plan for next session. We anticipate that some pupils may wish to make changes to their choices after they have submitted their form and this is fine.
Covid testing	How will lateral flow (LFD) tests be administered for teachers and senior pupils?	These tests will be managed by the school in line with NHS and Government Guidelines.
Current learning	Can the school management team please liaise with ALL teachers and ensure no last meetings are scheduled in. on the day or at the time of the actual class!!!! Surely all meetings should be scheduled in at least before the end of the previous school day?	We have shared this with all staff and asked that any meetings are scheduled in advance, and set to 'repeat' in the Teams calendar if appropriate.
Current learning	Could you explain why teachers are not following their regular timetable to have live lessons and support students with their learning, pleas	They ought to be so this was followed up very quickly.

Current learning	Who are live classes not scheduled for the time of the actual class on the timetable? My daughter has had live classes which clash. Given that the live classes are very limited we do not want classes to be missed because they are double booked.	I agree. This has been followed up so that a pupil's actual timetable is adhered to in order to avoid clashes. It appears that there were some 'clashes' due to the Wednesday timings of periods being different to other days. Teachers have been reminded of these timings.
Current learning	Please can curriculum content be put on Teams for parents to access to support learning, particularly S1 and S2	Some departments already do this and the aim will be to add as much detail as possible in the coming weeks. Please note that a list of all resources and textbooks can be accessed on the school website to support learning at home.
Current learning	If senior pupils are back into school from 15 March, as per announcement today, is it likely to be blended learning? My son hopes not!	It will be blended learning - not ideal but we are where we are. We hope that all pupils will be back with no social distancing from 21 April.
Current learning	You have the unenviable challenge of managing pupils who are bored and understretched and those who are feeling overwhelmed, too busy or simply unable to engage. Could you provide additional tasks / assessments to keep the former busy and free up time to focus on the latter?	This happens quite naturally in a classroom setting. We started doing this a few weeks ago for pupils in S1/2 and look forward to evaluating its impact and effectiveness.
Current learning	In preparation for return to school... We were told on my daughter's report that she is on her phone too much in class. She is not blameless but I find it very worrying that she is allowed her phone in class.	As a school we seek to promote responsible use of IT in classrooms and across the school.
Devices	What impact has the offer of iPads for all in Edinburgh schools had on the wifi and own devices trial/plan that was under way pre-pandemic? Is it still the intention for the school to spend money on other things than a fleet of school iPads that will need to be maintained and replaced after only a few years.	The funding for the iPads is not coming from our school budget. Future maintenance will. The maintenance costs are an investment we are prepared for. Bringing your own device made it possible for us to move forward digitally when the additional funding was not available to us.
Exam leave	Will there be exam leave before assessments?	We will decide this when we have a bit more information from the SQA and CEC.
FDL / accommodation	Why are we referring to the Flexible Digital learning as "contingency plan"? Surely they are the default plans, not "contingency"? If the council provides no alternative additional accommodation FDL will happen	Yes, FDL will be required if additional accommodation is not possible. We are planning to ensure we are prepared for whatever resources we are able to draw from.
FDL / accommodation	Will the flexible digital learning continue for Advanced Highers once Darroch is ready? It sounds like widening of digital learning fits the council's vision of education in the future, in which case wider consultation with S1-S4 parents is needed. If the plan is for FDL not to continue, this implies FDL is an inferior model of learning	As we do every year, we will analyse the data and seek feedback from students/staff etc to ensure any future plans are in the best interests of all our school community.
FDL / accommodation	Has the school or Edinburgh City Council actually looked at alternative accommodation for 55 children to be together 2021/22? (Such as the Gillies Centre- which is opening an educational campus and post grad establishment in Sept 21 for stmarys.ac.uk - on Strathern Road). Is this even on the table for further exploration now or is digital blended learning a done deal?	Accommodation options are still being investigated and their suitability assessed for use for study areas, support group work, tutorials etc.
FDL / accommodation	How much of local developer contributions for new housing has been earmarked to expand capacity at JGHS?	Unknown - requires Council to answer this
FDL / accommodation	On FDL: What consideration has been made for students with certain support needs, such as dyslexia or ADHD, when planning for advanced higher learning specifically under the FDL system?	Where SFL support is in place for a student then it will be continued for all 5 periods of their AH courses (in class and outwith) in the same way as it is allocated at present
FDL / accommodation	Why was the forecasting of the school role so poor 324 actual for Aug 2021 (200 forecast). These were pupils in P2 when the new school was built and are all in catchment, where have the extra pupils come from and why have no plans been put in place to deal with the increased no of classrooms. How do we ensure that this shortage of classrooms doesn't become a recurring theme?	Darroch was being redeveloped to meet this increase. Future planning for any capacity issues in following years is already taking place within the Council
FDL / accommodation	Q about developer contributions is to do with financial contributions (which they are expected to make as part of gaining planning approval). Is JGHS getting any of these financial contributions? For staff and accommodation?	The contributions for the project will all be going to benefit the community with a specific focus on JGHS. There are a number of options to be discussed and agreed upon. There is a strong argument for any options which help alleviate our capacity pressures
Feedback	Re: Engagement. Is it possible for (parents) to get regular year specific updates from the year heads too, as well as HT's Friday's email to the whole school? Year specific input and feedback from the survey results would be great if possible. Are the focus groups done for each year group?	Year Heads are in contact with many of their pupils on a regular basis, and work closely with PSLs. Any updates and year specific information is posted on the Year Group announcements page. The focus group included pupils from all year groups, and feedback from this will be shared with parents shortly.
Mental health	Have you done anything to monitor the mental health of students to ensure that serious harm is not occurring to some?	SMHFA staff with self-referral form on each Year Group Team for lunchtime support, PSL contact, key adult regular check-ins, teacher referrals if any concerns and identifying and supporting any pupils struggling through the engagement procedure.
Parents' evenings	About parents evenings. Unfortunately I did not get to speak to all teachers I wanted to partly due to IT issues, but also I feel a contributing factor is that I work until 6pm most weekdays (not at home). I notice that the latest appointment for parent teacher consultations seemed to be 7.30pm, and if I remember rightly this was the case when the consultations were in person. When at primary school the consultations went on until 9pm. There are more subjects & teachers at secondary school. Why do the parents evenings finish so early? The demographics of JGHS would suggest many parents work.	There are pros and cons to having such parents' meetings either early or late. This may be something that we return for future planning.
PC	Can PC please continue online as well as possibly in person. For many of us this is a much easier way to participate.	The Parent Council is delighted that holding the meetings online has allowed significantly larger numbers of parents to participate and recognises that, for many, it is not possible to attend meetings in the evening in the school on a regular basis. It seems likely the online meetings will continue until summer 2021. We are still considering plans for 2021/22 - which will obviously depend on whether there are any Covid restrictions still in place - but hope to keep online meetings as part of our programme. We still see the value of in-person meetings for some meetings/events, however, so probably a mixed approach is most likely.
PC	Will the Parent Council meetings continue to be broadcast online in the same manner once Covid restrictions are lifted? I am a single mum and I don't like to leave my child alone if I can avoid this. This is the first time I have regularly been able to attend PC meetings as they have been online?	Please see the answer to question 51. We are glad to hear that the new arrangements have helped you participate in Parent Council meetings - it is really important to us that as many people can be involved as possible.
Practical subjects	Boroughmuir has senior pupils attending school this week for practical subjects - why is JGHS not starting this until next week?	Each school is tasked with making arrangements that suit its context. Inevitably, therefore, practices will vary across Scotland's 380 High Schools.
Practical subjects	For S4 (5&6) pupils returning for practical subjects next week (22 Feb) onwards - can JGHS ensure their class times for these are at the same times in their usually weekly timetable, so they can then return home for other subject 'live' lessons, in order not to miss out on anything at this crucial time.	We cannot guarantee this as some subjects need longer than one scheduled period to complete essential work. However, teachers have been requested to record live lessons so these can be accessed by senior pupils at another time.
Practical subjects	Which subjects have 'essential practical activities' which will require pupils to come into school to complete?	Computing, Sciences, Engineering, Design, Music, Drama etc are all included.
Practical subjects	What are the practical subjects for S4 & S5?	Practical classes are those in which the following subjects are taught: Administration and IT, Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Design and Manufacture, Engineering Science, Environmental Science, Graphic Communication, Health and Food Technology, Hospitality: Practical Cookery, Hospitality: Practical Cake Craft, Land and Environment, Physics, Practical Craft Skills, Practical Electronics, Practical Metalworking, Practical Woodworking, Science.
Revision	Should the S4s currently be revising their entire Nat 5 course content (doing past papers, BBC bitesize, Scholar etc) or just focusing on completing assignments set by teachers? SQA assessments are surely looming soon... A clear message from the school leadership team directly to the S4 pupils asap would be really helpful (as there are mixed messages coming from some teachers & this is unclear to my child). Thanks.	We will issue guidelines on this in the next two weeks.

Rotational timetable	Can you review the rotational timetable for S1 and S2 as children have far too much free time and half an education. This system is NOT working	The rota was agreed after extensive feedback from pupils and staff sharing that covering 16 subject tasks per week was too overwhelming. CEC advice states that pupils cannot follow their full timetable remotely as this will affect their wellbeing, and advise that a max of 3-4 hours per day is spent on tasks. The rota of subjects ensures that pupils do not spend more than this per day. Our most recent data from pupils state that only 9% of pupils feel that they do not have enough tasks. We have therefore set up a Team for these pupils to access additional resources for learning across a variety of subjects, so are meeting the needs of this cohort whilst supporting the majority of pupils who feel they have enough work per week.
Rotational timetable	Sorry, you mentioned the "clear rationale" for the rotation of subjects in S1/S2. Can you please explain what that is? I can't understand why the pupils are not receiving a full time-table when other local high schools are managing to provide this. Thank you	As above. The rationale is based on parent, staff and parental feedback from last lockdown, the most recent surveys and focus groups, and from local guidance. Schools all have varying contexts and needs.
Rotational timetable	My S1 son says his teachers seem to have lost track of which rotational timetable they're all on, as it all seems to have become muddled, so that he can't work it out either now - please could this be clarified and rebooted? Many thanks.	The rotational timetable is shared with all staff every Monday as a reminder, and also added to the S1 and S2 Year Group Teams.
S1	Could you share the results by year group? Please could you indicate what further efforts will help S1 pupils engage and enjoy 'school' more? A failed transition from P7 and this dramatically different approach to learning from primary schools is wearing thin (especially if they are not returning to April 19th). They feel like a marginalised year group. Appreciate exam aged children are a priority right now but there has been little feedback or marking of S1 work and so motivation to complete tasks is fading...	Yes, survey results will be shared by year group as the graph shows responses from each year. Information regarding giving feedback has been shared with all staff to ensure a consistent approach - we are working hard on ensuring more consistency with this.
S1	My son in S1 is bored senseless as he has no school work to do. It's easy to say that the children should follow their original timetable but why can't teachers simply follow the timetable?	The rota was agreed after extensive feedback from pupils and staff sharing that covering 16 subject tasks per week was too overwhelming. CEC advice states that pupils cannot follow their full timetable remotely as this will affect their wellbeing, and advise that a max of 3-4 hours per day is spent on tasks. The rota of subjects ensures that pupils do not spend more than this per day. However, for pupils who would like additional work, we have set up a new Team where they can access additional tasks and embed learning.
S1	so the whole of S1 is now going at the pace of the slowest person? Surely that can't be right.	As above
S2	Last year S1 may have felt overwhelmed as there was no actual teaching in lockdown, just assignments. Now, the current S2 have a very reduced timetable. They are only getting 1 hour of teaching per month for some subjects. Other subjects are only every 3 weeks.	As above.
S4 / S5	Have you noticed more S4s and/or S5s staying on this year due to employment / apprenticeship opportunities being more limited? Or more leaving because of lack of face to face teaching?	We will have a clearer picture when pupils return in August 2021.
S5	Current S5s have been particularly hard hit though had 2 sets of exams cancelled. What measures will be put in place to support them in S6?	There are two new counsellors in the school. There are also mental health trained staff in place with a rota for additional support. PSLs will continue to support as they do currently. For any students with FDL time, there will also be continued monitoring and evaluation of this to ensure support is in place where needed
S5	Will S5 pupils get clear information about what work they should be doing over Easter? Normally this would be prime revision time - what will be expected this year?	Yes. More information will follow.
Survey	Why did you request parents to provide the name of the child when you requested feedback? By doing this parents may not feel they can be fully honest. Therefore, can you confirm that in the future you will not do this again?	This was requested so we could ask parents to form a focus group in order to discuss the survey results more fully.
Survey	Why did the online survey questionnaire not ask how well parents thought that online learning was serving the educational and social needs of our children?	These questions were asked in the pupil survey.
Text books	Regardless of Covid-19, can school please consider bringing back text books to be returned to school at the end of the academic year(s) so not for writing in but as a base and support. The printed handouts end up like a pile of rubbish in the bottom bags. As someone dyslexic I can also confirm that having a book would be a great support rather than relying on handouts and notes. Note taking for many dyslexic kids is a nightmare and books are a wonderful medium. Using books does not mean not using other mediums for teaching, but having a reference book for each subject would greatly help.	We are always looking to improve and develop our practices and I know that some subject areas are looking to purchase textbooks in the future, as part of the resources to be accessed. A list of the textbooks and other resources used by each subject can be found on the school website.
Thanks	I understand that many of us are feeling concerned about how things have been going over this year. However I would like it to be noted that my daughter has had a hugely improved experience during this lockdown as compared with the previous one. She has had regular online sessions, sufficient work and her teachers have been great at responding to her, and our queries. Many thanks to all the staff at the school for their hard work.	Thank you for that. We recognise that having an entirely online based 'school' experience is not ideal for a variety of reasons but, given current circumstances, it has presented us with a means of keeping some semblance of schooling going. Once we are out of lockdown, we will reflect on which, if any, aspects of online learning we can utilise to our advantage.
Thanks	Thanks for all your efforts to help our children, I appreciate this is really difficult for the teaching staff and I feel you are really trying your hardest in challenging circumstances	Thank you.
Timing of return / holidays	Is there any potential way for students to return to school by 5th April, instead of 20 April - i.e. by possibly moving the holiday?	No. Such decisions are made by Councils with as much notice given to families as possible.
Timing of return / holidays	This year an extra week has been added on to the summer holidays because pupils went back to school a week earlier last August. Given our children will have been off school for over 4 months, surely this extra week of holiday is no longer needed?	Pupils will not have been off school but home schooled and therefore it is unlikely that there will be a change to the official holidays. The week of holiday in August 2020 which was removed has been added to June 2021 and so the school days and holiday allocation has remained the same overall.
Timing of return / holidays	Shouldn't the Easter holiday be shortened to one week or less by the council in order to maximise learning time	The timing of school holidays is organised by each of Scotland's 32 councils.
Timing of return / holidays	In your response to the question about holidays being flexed to allow for more teaching time you said someone may wish to raise this with the council, will the school do this or are you able to allocate someone to do this?	Individual parents or the Parent Council can ask their local councillor(s) to raise this matter at council level. Parents, pupils and staff are occasionally surveyed on the distribution of holidays throughout the calendar year.
University applications	You mentioned Dentistry. Aren't (entry 2022) applications for this suspended because current students need to repeat a year?	Up to date advice on university applications can be accessed via specific university websites or by contacting the School's careers adviser.