

Capacity Update 2021-22

Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 12 May 2021

Accommodation - Summary of Current Situation

1. The additional accommodation at Darroch is on track for its new completion date of Spring 2022.
2. We are currently planning for use of the ground floor of the Children 1st building from August 2021 to provide the additional capacity required for next year.
3. In addition, it is hoped that part of the Community Benefit money from the refurbishment of Darroch could be used to improve some of the outdoor spaces at JGHS.

Planning and Preparation

1. Our staff, parent/carer and S5 student working groups have been contributing to the planning and preparation for managing our capacity pressures next year. All challenges raised have been addressed and many resources provided to support us.
2. Once the 2021-22 timetable draft is complete, we will analyse this to ensure all spaces are utilised to best suit the needs of all our students.
 1. Making use of classrooms which are not timetabled.
 2. Deciding upon the potential uses of non-classroom spaces on site for study times as well as breaks and lunches.
 3. How best to use the additional accommodation for S6 students.

Contingency Plan Recap

Advanced Higher (AH) Planning 2021-22

- ▶ As previously shared, one of the ways we will be managing capacity at JGHS next session will be by introducing FDL (Flexible Directed Learning) to our AH courses. AH will still be taught over 5 periods with a minimum of 3 periods timetabled into classrooms and a maximum of 2 periods timetabled as FDL.
- ▶ FDL will involve teachers setting **specific tasks** for students and will be timetabled into additional hub accommodation or classrooms on the main campus (where available) as suits the needs of different subjects at specific times of the year. Some students may choose to work from home during FDL time if this suits the tasks set and their personal circumstances. The FDL time may also involve teachers meeting with students for targeted support. It is important to note that all 5 periods will be protected on the student and teacher timetables regardless of accommodation arrangements.

Additional Accommodation

1. The additional accommodation provides a variety of spaces of different sizes. These could be used for some of the following during Flexible Directed Learning (FDL) time:
 1. Teacher led targeted support session.
 2. Teacher led tutorial work.
 3. Additional classroom space.
 4. Teacher directed study.
2. There will also be capacity for S6 additional study periods to be timetabled in as well as FDL time.

Digital Update

1. Staff devices have all been distributed and some staff training has taken place already.
2. S4-5 devices are currently being processed by the centre and Student Device Agreements have shared.
3. Distribution of devices for S4-5 students will begin at the start of June during Phase 1.
4. Devices for all the other year groups will be after the summer during Phase 2.
5. There will be training for students provided by both the school and Council.
6. There is a system update in around Sept for Phase 1 devices.
7. If you would be interested in participating in a **small short-life working group** centred on parent partnership with this initiative, please contact Jeff Warden by Monday 31st May at Jeff.Warden@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk

Staff Leading Teams

1. Mr Alexander is reviewing our tracking and monitoring of senior school student engagement. This will support all students rather than just those who are involved in AH courses with periods of FDL. Input from working groups has indicated the following as key points so far:
 - ▶ Early identification and intervention
 - ▶ Barriers addressed
 - ▶ Students encouraged back on track with targeted support
 - ▶ Parental involvement
2. Miss McLennan is currently collating information on how FDL time may be used by staff delivering AH courses. This ensures all resources will be in place to support courses. She is developing procedures for quality assurance at key points throughout the year. Feedback from working groups is built in here too.

- ▶ Mr Alexander and Miss McLennan are looking forward to sharing their progress with all parents and seeking feedback.
- ▶ We will continue to keep you informed as things further develop.
- ▶ This presentation will be uploaded to the school website alongside previous information.