

Category	Question	Response
Parent consultations	When are the 5th year parent consultations scheduled for? Presume before course choices have to be made, thanks. I mean 5th year into 6th year, thanks	16 March 2022. This is after the date by which course choices have to be made (21 February).
Parent consultations	I just wanted reassurance that when Covid allows parent teacher meetings will be in person again. I understand they have had to be online for now but they aren't really good enough like this.	We will run a survey of parents along with the Parent Council to find out about parents' preferences. In the end we may adopt a mixed approach. Staff would be happy with online or in-person events.
Parent consultations	I would prefer the option of doing parent consultations online as well as in person. For longer than 5 minutes though. The in person version can be very frantic and stressful for parents and teachers.	See previous response.
Parent consultations	Parents evening: I was unable to secure any slots to speak to a teacher for my S2 choosing subjects this year. All slots gone within 1 hour. This first come, first served approach does not support equality of access for families. The alternative being offered is a written dialogue coordinated through pupil support - not quite the two way dialogue I am seeking given I've concerns I'd like to discuss. I believe change is coming but in the meantime is the school considering any interim arrangements?	We share that concern, and agree that it is important that parents have the opportunity to speak with teachers. It is a long-standing issue and not a feature of online system; the same number of slots are made available as in-person. We have contacted other schools to see what they are doing.
Mobile phones	I understand that the children are allowed to use their mobiles in classes. I really don't think this is good idea. I hope this could be addressed.	Students are currently allowed to use their mobiles if it is allowed by the teacher. Mobiles can support learning but it is also acknowledged that they can be a distraction if used incorrectly.
Covid restrictions	Has there been an update from the Council about when school musical performances will be allowed to resume?	Musical performances are gradually being phased back into school.
Covid restrictions	Any chances when COVID restrictions are lifted for S1 parents to visit the school?	No change at present.
Lunch break	What measures can be take in place to ensure students are let out on time for lunch? There have been occasions when my child has missed lunch and enjoy the full break	The lunch break starts at 1 pm, but we normally let the S1s out at 12.50, although that may vary if doing cookery, science etc. If there is a recurring issue, please contact Donald Macdonald.
P7/S1 transition	How likely is it that P7 transition will take place in school (rather than online) this year? Thank you	It is highly likely that some transition will take place in-person and we are preparing on that basis. As Darroch will not be available, we may invite P7 pupils into the school in smaller groups for shorter duration, but we hope to invite all P7s in person. In addition, we will have the usual enhanced transition groups for 20-30 pupils who need additional transition visits.
Darroch refurbishment	Are there going to be contingency arrangements in case the Darroch refurbishment continues to be delayed?	The contingency arrangement would be to use the Children 1st building. We are working with Council Project team to ensure there is a clear, workable plan in place.
Classroom ventilation	In relation to the coldness of the classrooms, is it possible for pupils in such circs to put up their hoods - I have been informed that it's against the rules and not sure why. Many thanks.	If/when pupils are cold then it is permissible to wear headwear or to have hoods up.

Alternative timetable	It would be nice to have the alternative timetable at least for the S3s this year as they missed it in S1 and S2 and so this would be their last chance, and they also missed their S1 camp. Obviously understand that there are lots of challenges in putting together the programme though!	This will be taken back to the school's senior team to discuss. We would normally have started the planning process before Christmas and already booked venues by this point in the year, so it is not clear if it would be possible. It would have to encompass S1-3 for staffing reasons, so we could not put on an event for S3 only. The Council is currently not giving approval for most residential trips, which means there will not be an S1 residential this year.
Self-defence classes	I would like to see opportunity for children to have self-defence classes, especially for the girls.	We do have some classes through Active Schools, such as kick-boxing. We will feed this back to Elliot Ambrose, the Active Schools Co-ordinator, to see if there is an opportunity to make this an option in the future.
S6 leavers	Have we any news re dates for events for this year's S6 leavers?	We have enquired about dates with several venues, but nothing is confirmed yet. We intend to run an event, and include parents, then for pupils to have their own event. This has been the pattern in the past, pre-covid, and we hope we will be allowed to run something similar this year. Normally it would be in last fortnight of June.
S6 photos	Are the S6 photos ready for collection yet?	Yes - these can be collected from school staff. Details to follow.
Devices	On that, when are junior pupils to get their ipads?	This was planned for the end of August / beginning of September but has been delayed because of a world supply problem. Still hoping for this to be rolled out later this year.
Course choices	When do course choices have to be in for those going into S6?	21 February. See also response above.
Course choices	Is Dierdre O'Brien (or someone else?) the best person for my S5 to contact about the number of subjects she might wish to study in S6 – which will have a bearing on her future universities application? (She may need 3 advanced highers if wishing to study down south). My daughter's PSL is leaving shortly and she needs some advice on what can be fitted into the S6 schedule please and what is feasible for her please. She is unsure who to speak to once back in school after prelim leave,.	If there is any doubt, contact Donald Macdonald and he will point to the relevant person. For university choices, please contact the relevant Admissions Officer to get up to date information. In S6 pupils are encouraged to do a minimum of 3 AH courses.
Curriculum evenings and contact with teachers	My question is whether we can have regular curriculum evenings and parent consultations for all, and clear guidance on how we can contact teachers where their child has concerns. There have been several tests in S3 (N4 and N5) and the relevance of results isn't clear. I don't know how to support and discuss with my young person. I'd really appreciate more information on what's happening and why.	In general, there are unit tests throughout S3 and S4. Those grades could be used to inform final grade if exams are cancelled, but also to help inform next steps e.g. areas to improve on. If there any specific areas, please contact Donald Macdonald. There is also general information on the school website.

Classing arrangements Are s2 to be streamed for maths and english this term for nat 4/5?

We don't use streaming - this is an older system that existed in schools in the past. In S1 and S2 classes are mixed ability, we then identify around 10% who need additional support and they are put into smaller groups to provide additional support. However, the expectation is that around 90% are aiming for Nat 5 in Maths; this has increased from previous expectation of 60%. Similar with English - mixed ability but smaller groups where additional support is needed.