

CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Principal:

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Education Authority - North-Eastern Region

3 July 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I trust that you are well. I wish to outline some further information for you as the school year comes to a close.

Return to School

Carrickfergus Grammar School is currently pursuing proposals which will see a full-time return to school for all students in September. Should these proposals come to fruition, it will mean no 'blended learning' at this school involving part-time learning in school and part-time learning at home. All our students will be returning to the school classroom full-time - each day and every day. These proposals are at a reasonably advanced stage. Unless advised otherwise, parents should now prepare for the likely eventuality that students will be back in school permanently in September.

I believe this solution to be in the very best interests of the students we serve, and the most effective means of meeting their educational needs, interests and aspirations during this challenging time. School remains very firmly focused on meeting the needs and interests of our students as we plan.

However, planning for September must also prioritise the health and wellbeing of both our staff and students, and I wish to reassure parents that this is a top priority. In that regard, a return to school in September will bring with it some 'new realities' and new routines due to COVID-19. These will include new hygiene routines and social distancing measures, amongst other things. In due course, and as soon as possible early in July, we will hopefully be in a position to divulge further information on these matters. We wish to reassure people as much as possible moving forward.

I look forward to welcoming our students back to school. They have been missed desperately in recent months.

I will be continuing to communicate with parents throughout July as details are finalised.

FURTHER EXCELLENCE from PRESENT STRENGTHS
www.carrickfergusgrammar.com
info@carrickfergusgrammar.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk

Week beginning 24th August 2020

As I indicated in my letter last week, some year groups will be required to attend school in the week beginning Monday 24th August 2020. I am now in a position to give further information about this, and would be grateful if these dates could be noted provisionally.

- Monday 24th August:** All students going into Year 12 to attend between 9am and 12:30pm.
- Tuesday 25th August:** All students going into Year 11 to attend at 9am. 11P and 11Q will then be in school all day until 3:30pm. 11R and 11S may leave at 11:15am.
- Wednesday 26th August:** New students in 8P and 8Q to attend until noon (details on Year 8 classes will be sent out in due course).
Students in 11R and 11S to attend between 12:30pm and 3:30pm.
- Thursday 27th August:** New students in 8R and 8S to attend until noon.
Students going into Year 14 to attend between 9am and 10:30am.
Students going into Year 13 to attend between 11 am and 12 noon.
Students in 13P to remain in school until 2pm.
- Friday 28th August 2020:** Students going into Year 9 to attend between 9am and 11am.
Students going into Year 10 to attend between 10:30am and 12:30pm.
Students in 13Q to attend between 9am and 10:30am.
Students in 13R to attend between 11am and 12:30pm.
Students in 13S to attend between 1:15pm and 2:45pm.
- Monday 31st August 2020:** Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 1st September 2020:** All students in school

GCSE and A Level Results Days

CCEA's online results service means that students can access their AS and A Level results electronically on Thursday 13 August 2020 using their personal PIN codes.

The school's UCAS Team will be available on Results Day to offer advice and guidance. Year 14 students are kindly reminded to click on the link below to answer a few questions so that we can gather information electronically. Students will need their UCAS details to hand.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ihX0MPzrFfdiijzzDUUefiKAoVJNeVPs5ppv48NI/edit?usp=sharing>

Plans are also at an advanced stage for the arrangements regarding the distribution of GCSE results on Thursday 20th August 2020. On this day, students will also begin the process of finalising AS subject choices. Again, further information will be provided nearer the time.

Year 13 – UCAS

Current Year 13 students are reminded of the information on UCAS sent out by Mr Martin. Year 13 students must make a start on UCAS applications over the summer, and the e-mail contained links to a number of narrated Powerpoints and other materials to assist our students with that process. This information has now also been sent via ParentMail.

Years 8-11 Reports

Reports will be sent out next week.

School Survey

We would like to thank all parents and students who completed the online surveys. The results and feedback will help us to shape the school's strategic development in upcoming years. Thank you.

Textbooks

Thank you to the many hundreds of families who have returned textbooks. The return timeframe will now be extended until next Wednesday, 8th July 2020. School will be open Monday 6th July – Wednesday 8th July between 9am and 3:30pm.

Paris Trip

School will be writing tomorrow to the families of all children who were due to go on the Paris trip this year with information about refunds.

New Year 8 Parents

This letter has also been sent to our new Year 8 parents. We are really looking forward to meeting all our new Year 8 students in August, and rest assured of our commitment to doing our absolute best by your child, academically and pastorally.

Thank You

At the end of the school year, I wish once again to thank parents for your tremendous support, and particularly in recent months as we have faced new and unique challenges. Carrickfergus Grammar School has been overwhelmed by the solidarity and goodwill expressed. Thank you. It is a pleasure and a privilege to serve such an outstanding school community.

May I wish everyone involved in the school community, not least our wonderful students who have worked so hard this year, a very relaxing and well-deserved summer break.

I look forward to communicating further in due course.

Stay safe and take care
With every best wish

J. A. Maxwell
Principal

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