



*'Educating the whole person, in a spirit of enquiry, to  
judge wisely, act fairly and live well.'*

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Head Teacher: Grant Abbot

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you are well, and I want to sincerely thank you for your support with the ongoing remote learning from home and your positive messages of support.

A West Lothian Groupcall message was sent to all parents and carers this afternoon giving you an update on the Scottish Government decision that a limited number of children and young people will return to the classroom from Monday 22 February. This WL message can be viewed here: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/back-to-school>

As such, from Monday 22nd February 2021 we will be welcoming a maximum of 5-8% of Senior Phase pupils daily into our school. This limited return of some Senior Phase learners is for the purpose of completing the learning and teaching of critical practical work in relation to qualifications in 2021 that can only be carried out in school. This includes access to specialist software and facilities/equipment which young people do not have access to at home.

We have been advised by the Scottish Government what these subjects are, and are currently confirming how we will organise this daily arrangement.

We will send out more detailed information to the parents/carers of the initial groups of pupils who are going to be invited into the school building, in line with Scottish Government guidance by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Senior Phase pupils in school will be able to access the 'School Asymptomatic Testing Programme.' Details about this, including consent forms, can be viewed on the school website at:

<http://www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk/article/68393/COVID-19-asymptomatic-testing-programme-for-identified-senior-phase-pupils>

This limited return to school arrangement will be continually reviewed but does mean that all young people in S1 –S3 and for most within the Senior Phase, learning will continue to take place remotely.

We really hope to welcome more pupils back as soon as we can safely do so.

Best wishes

Grant Abbot

Head Teacher

