



Creative Arts Faculty – Practical Working
Update for Parents and Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, since our return to school in August, we have focused on written and theoretical aspects of learning in Art & Design, Drama, Music and Music Technology. This has allowed everyone to focus on restarting learning, classroom working and building relationships.

Following careful planning and consultation, we are now ready to begin a gradual reintroduction of practical aspects to our subjects, with a strong focus on safety and sustainability. From Tuesday the 8th of September we will be introducing, on a phased basis, aspects of practical working, some examples of which I have noted below.

All subjects have been working to a rigorous use of hand sanitiser, cleaning tables and chairs after every use, and this will now extend to any resources we start to introduce in class – for example rigorous cleaning of computers, objects and props (including safe handling and storage) and any shared instruments to ensure that safety for pupils and staff remains our highest priority.

<p>Art & Design</p>	<p>S1 – 3 pupils have been working almost entirely using their own sketchpads, dry materials and no sharing of materials, which will continue. We will gradually introduce some classroom materials and basic work involving paint (through purchasing additional resources to minimise sharing). S4-6 pupils each have an individual art & design pack which they have been using in lessons, alongside using some of their own resources from home. As we expand our use of objects and materials in class, these will be carefully cleaned and stored as appropriate.</p>
<p>Drama</p>	<p>All lessons have been largely theory based but as we gradually introduce practical working and expand our use of resources (some computer use for example) we will maintain the high level of safety we have implemented. This will involve social distancing or social bubbles when working together, limited use of any props, very restricted use of equipment such as sound or lighting, and changes to the type of work we do to ensure fewer pupils are working together. Use of face coverings will be encouraged during pupil interactions, on the guidance of their teacher.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>All lessons have been written or listening based, and have involved no instrument playing. We are now ready to introduce, in the first instance limited instrument use for senior pupils, and will follow this by introducing one instrument at a time for junior pupils.</p>

	<p>Any pupil who owns an appropriate instrument is strongly encouraged to bring this to school in a case, but any instruments or materials which are shared (keyboard, drumsticks and guitars for example) will be thoroughly cleaned after every use. There will be no use of wind, brass or voice instruments in school at present.</p>
<p>Music Technology</p>	<p>Most lessons have been theory based with pupils most recently restarting use of computers, where they are assigned to a specific machine each time they are in, and which is cleaned each time it is used.</p> <p>We will introduce basic equipment use over the coming weeks, for example use of a microphone to record sounds, cables, audio interfaces etc. We will not be recording anything using voices as a general principle.</p>
<p>Instrumental Music Lessons</p>	<p>Until now, all instrumental music lessons have involved no playing, other than occasional teacher demonstration.</p> <p>All lessons will now resume, almost all 1 to 1, for pupils learning an instrument (with the exception of woodwind, brass and voice lessons). Piping lessons will take place using new electronic chanters, which will be cleaned carefully after each use.</p> <p>Any pupil receiving an instrumental lesson must bring their own instrument with them on the day of their lesson, and will be responsible for cleaning and building this in the lesson.</p>

The gradual reintroduction of practical components to our skills-based subjects will be highly appreciated by our pupils and staff, and will enable us to begin to re-establishing the confidence and creativity so obvious in our young people, and allow everyone to begin to flourish and thrive both practically and in supporting wellbeing. Creative Arts subjects contribute so much to our community that we are delighted to be able to once more build them back into our daily work.

Although much will be different, and it will take some time for us to gather pace in practical working, we are very confident that we can proceed safely, positively and with purpose.

Should you wish to discuss any of the information outlined above in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on 01324 719551 or by email: brian.morris@falkirk.gov.uk .

Yours faithfully

Brian Morris
Faculty Head of Creative Arts