



Faculty of Technologies – Return to Practical Information for Parents and Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

The Faculty of Technologies is keen to reintroduce practical activities in our workshop classrooms. This will be undertaken in a gradual manner to ensure our risk mitigation measures are being appropriately applied with each year group.

Practical activities have been temporarily on hold to allow learners to adapt to the wide range of new procedures and changes in our school as part of our COVID-19 response. As of Monday 21 September, we will begin our phased return to practical activities beginning with the Design and Manufacture Senior Phase classes. Our planned return for each year group is as follows:

Senior Phase (Higher, National 5)	Practical activities to support the development of skills required for SQA certificated courses starting with National 5 and then a gradual reintroduction for the Higher courses over the next month.
S2 Broad General Education	Practical work will be gradually reintroduced after the October holidays at appropriate points in the planned learning.
S1 and S3 Broad General Education	S1 and S3 practical work will be gradually phased in between October and December at appropriate points in the planned learning.

Our approach to the reintroduction of practical work is closely following the advice given by the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (S.S.E.R.C.) in their publication “**Guidance for school Science & Technology coming out of lockdown**”.

As well as the normal risk assessments for being in the workshop, we have also undertaken a risk mitigation assessment to put in place measures that ensure we are reducing any possibility of transferring Covid-19 during practical activities.

Our approach to such activities will have to change to ensure learners can maintain physical distancing, to reduce the use of shared equipment, and to ensure that appropriate hygiene measures are put in place. Teachers will instruct learners of these additional measures before practical work is undertaken.

At the moment these additional measures will mean that we are not able to offer a full range of practical activities to our learners.

Should you wish to discuss any of the information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr Ian Vosse
Faculty Head of Technologies