



**Science Faculty – Return to Practical  
Information for Parents and Carers**

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the return to practical activities within the Science Faculty. Practical activities have been temporarily on hold to allow pupils to adapt to the wide range of new procedures and changes in our school as part of our COVID response procedures.

As of Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September there will be a phased return to a limited number of practical activities taking place in Science classes. The Science faculty recognises the value added to learners who undertake practical activities such as experimental work and the deeper learning these activities allow, but will apply a measured approach to ensure these activities are introduced in way that means they are safe to carry out for everyone involved.

Each Department within the faculty has identified the following priorities

<b>Senior Phase</b> (Higher, National 4/5)	Practical activities to support the development of skills required for SQA assessment starting with Higher classes and a gradual reintroduction for National courses over the next month.
<b>S1 BGE</b>	Limited practical at the end of the Living things unit within the next two weeks.
<b>S2-S3 BGE</b>	The S2 courses are based around practical work so reintroduction of experimental work is a priority, however this will still have to be limited to key activities that deepen the learning taking place. S3 practical work will gradually be phased in over the next month
<b>Practical Electronics</b>	All pupils will have their own set of equipment to support their work in prototyping for the next 4 – 6 weeks and then moving on to soldering tasks when this is possible

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 that are carried out for each activity, extra risk assessments have been prepared to reduce the risk of transferring Covid-19 during practical activities.

Our approach to such activities will have to change to ensure pupils can maintain physical distancing (where possible), to reduce the use of shared equipment, and to ensure that appropriate hygiene measures are put in place. Pupils will be instructed in these additional measures before any practical work takes place.

At the moment these additional measures will mean that we are not able to offer a full range of practical activities to our pupils. This will be reviewed on a regular basis, as and when the advice from S.S.E.R.C. changes.

Hopefully, this gives you an overview of the return to practical activities within the Science Faculty. 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: [john.mclean@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:john.mclean@falkirk.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully

John McLean  
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