

Content	Category	Answers
Will S1 be using microsoft Teams for home learning and will there be help to get them set up?	Blended	Teams will be used and support will be provided to get them set up and as required after this.
Will there be support for parents who are not confident with home learning?	Blended	We are keen to assist parents in this area. It would be helpful if parents could contact us and share some initial thoughts on what specific areas and format for such support.
Any plans to change school name? Thanks	BLM	We have a staff Equalities Team and an equally strong pupil voice. The history of James Gillespie's is the topic of conversation within both groups and work will continue in to next session. Whether this leads to renaming the school or simply educating ourselves and others around the facts of JG is yet to be seen.
Given the current issues with race, what measure will be put in place to tackle racial tensions and inequalities.	BLM	The school follows council guidelines and, given current heightened tensions around race issues, we will strengthen our focus on further developing our approaches across the school. We have an Equalities group and a Rights' Respecting Schools group with pupil involvement in the latter. Both groups lead in to the school's ongoing plans for improvement.
How will you group the Gaelic medium pupils?	Classes	They will be grouped in such a way as to maximise opportunity to develop their Gaelic and in relation to whatever social distancing guidelines apply at the time.
Are teachers required to wear masks?	COVID	At present there is no requirement to wear masks for teachers but we will continue to follow guidance on this. If a teacher's role requires less than the 2m distancing then the advice may change.
At this stage how many pupils are you envisaging will be in a classroom at a time, with 2m social distancing?	COVID	This depends on the size of the rooms. They are all being assessed individually to maximise their capacity following the current guidelines.
can the children wear masks?	COVID	If a child wishes to wear a mask then they can. They should be made aware of how to use these safely and effectively though to prevent them becoming an additional hazard.

Can you confirm how the planning for the logistics of reopening will be informed by the learning from other areas across Scotland as well as possibly schools in England who are going through the same challenges?	COVID	Learning from the experiences from other schools and reflecting on our own will definitely help to influence our plan for reopening and the path we will follow.
Can you please cover how your current plans for re-opening will respond to John Swinney's comments this morning in an interview with BBC Radio Scotland and reported in the TES, that Edinburgh Council's Plans are not coming 'anywhere near close' to the 50% school attendance that he stated was the government desire on reopening. Thanks.	COVID	JGHS is under the jurisdiction of the City of Edinburgh Council so it is the Council that decides on how we operate. We anticipate that rapidly changing circumstances will lead to further changes to our operating arrangements over the summer. We will do our best to keep parents and pupils informed at the earliest opportunity.
Can you use the campus daragh and also church halls for teaching similar to out of school clubs do? Thanks.	COVID	The Darroch campus is under construction and so not available. The Council is investigating the use of other buildings. There is a lot to consider with safety, cleaning, travel and so we will communicate any information with you all as it comes in.
Do we have to wear masks?	COVID	We will follow the latest (evolving) guidance to ensure the health and safety for everyone is a priority. At present where the 2m distancing is adhered to a mask is not required.
How do you think will be organised the blended learning? Will we have a kind of bubble groups like will be done in the Primary School? Thanks	COVID	After recent announcements we may not need to adopt this approach. If we do come August, we will share details before our pupils return to school.
How is going to work with the social distancing in class? How many pupils will be per class?	COVID	Pupil numbers will be influenced by the size of the accommodation they will be taught in to ensure physical distancing guidelines are adhered to.

How will social distancing work in the corridors?	COVID	After recent announcements we may not need to adopt this approach. If we do come August, we will share details before our pupils return to school.
If space is so short and the gaelic medium pupils will be taught separately anyway, couldn't the plan to create a separate gaelic medium high school in Edinburgh be brought forward, to give more space in the already overcrowded school?	COVID	Gaelic pupils will continue to be taught within JGHS until August 2024 at the earliest. The current C19 pandemic has also impacted on the building trade so it is unlikely that plans to refurbish Darroch or build a new Gaelic School will be brought forward from August 2021 and August 2024 respectively.
if we feel they should wear a mask i dont want my child to be told not to wear a mask. can you re assure that should we choose to wear one in class we wil not be penalised	COVID	No child in class will be penalised for choosing to wear a mask but safe mask use will be shared.
It would be useful to know the plans for reopening in August. If you don't cover in this session can you point to where these are and when will we know.	COVID	We will email all parents with plans as they continue to evolve.
Our kids would prefer to attend school with their friends rather than be allocated the same days to attend as their siblings at high school and primary school. Is this being considered?	COVID	There is no plan at present to coordonate days of attenfance across PS anmd HS. This added level of detail may be considered at a later stage.
We'd prefer our secondary aged son to go to school when his little brother isn't at primary school - it'd help so much with our home schooling not trying to do the two at once!	COVID	There is no plan at present to coordonate days of attenfance across PS anmd HS. This added level of detail may be considered at a later stage.

<p>What effort have you made to connect with voluntary sector youth work and leisure and parks departments around using alternative spaces to provide structured learning and activity for children? I ask because many organisations are stunned they have not been asked to contribute to an effort to educate and care for our children who are feeling totally let down by the adult world.</p>	<p>COVID</p>	<p>Any adults who work with our pupils would have to undergo various checks such as PVGs (which take time to process) and we must be aware of the risk assessments to any buildings being used and the cleaning and safety protocols within each. We must also take care with confidential pupil information. We look forward to forming more partnerships as some of these obstacles can be overcome.</p>
<p>What if the 2-metre distancing rule is relaxed- will you get more children into the school?</p>	<p>COVID</p>	<p>Yes. Ideally, we would like to return to zero social distancing at the earliest and safe opportunity.</p>
<p>what support is available for children with ASN when schools implement blended learning. Not all children are open to learning with support from their parents.</p>	<p>COVID</p>	<p>Additional support for ASN pupils and others identified as in need will be available and vary to suit the needs of the individual student.</p>
<p>When will it be confirmed how many days per week they will attend school in person so we can plan work commitments around that?</p>	<p>COVID</p>	<p>The Darroch campus is under construction and so not available. The Council is investigating the use of other buildings. There is a lot to consider with safety, cleaning, travel and so we will communicate any information with you all as it comes in.</p>
<p>Why is the school not offering 50% school time like most other councils and as advised by the Scottish Govt ?</p>	<p>COVID</p>	<p>The school is following City Of Edinburgh Council guidelines.</p>

Will any thought be given to when a pupil has a sibling at a different school (re days of attendance). If not this could be a childcare and work nightmare for families. Will there be flexibility to shift days at school so that they are aligned for families in this situation?	COVID	There is no plan at present to coordinate days of attendance across PS and HS. This added level of detail may be considered at a later stage.
Will pupils need to wear face masks?	COVID	Currently, there is no requirement for pupils or staff to wear masks. This may change but, in the interim, those who wish to wear masks may do so.
Will the entire school go in on the same day?	COVID	Not until we are able to accommodate this whilst adhering to the physical distancing requirements.
Will the high school co-ordinate with primary schools to ensure siblings are in school on the same days?	COVID	There is no plan at present to coordinate days of attendance across PS and HS. This added level of detail may be considered at a later stage.
Will there be additional buildings given the huge numbers in the school and the need to distance.	COVID	Currently there are no plans to use additional buildings. This may evolve over time.
Will there be live remote teaching on the days the children are not at school?	COVID	
Will you have a one way system	COVID	Yes, for all the areas in which this is possible and the safety of our staff and pupils would be improved by it.
Wouldn't there be more chances for virus transmission if you move students around than if you only move teachers, when possible?	COVID	We will consider doing this where the pros outweigh the cons.
Can bilingual kids get support for their languages.	Curriculum	Yes- details to follow in due course.
Can the S1s learn Spanish?	Curriculum	Parents who have a query re the languages their child is following are requested to contact Mr Irvine, Faculty Leader for Modern Languages.

Will there be auditions for music tuition?	Curriculum	
Do you anticipate being able to offer many of the extra-curricular activities in the first term at school?	Extra-Curricular	Under current social distancing rules it is difficult to foresee how any of our clubs could operate for any more than just a handful of pupils. This will be kept under review.
How will clubs work if pupils only in once a week?	Extra-Curricular	Under current social distancing rules it is difficult to foresee how any of our clubs could operate for any more than just a handful of pupils. This will be kept under review.
When we go back to school with blended learning will we still be able to do clubs like badminton?	Extra-Curricular	Under current social distancing rules it is difficult to foresee how any of our clubs could operate for any more than just a handful of pupils. This will be kept under review.
Do we have to book for lockers?	Logistics	Information on this will be shared with students after the summer. Lockers will not be reintroduced until safe to do so to reduce movement around the school.
do we have to bring money for the lunch	Logistics	There is a cashless system via parentpay where lunches can be prebooked in advance which removes the need for handling cash.
How are the lunches going to work with social distancing?	Logistics	Packed lunches from home or pre-booked packed lunches from the canteen will be the most likely answer for this at present but we will update you with any changes.
how do you get a locker?	Logistics	Info to follow after the return to school in August. Lockers will not be available from the start of term to reduce movement around the campus.
Is there a dress code?	Logistics	Please see information on our school website for the full dress code.
The children will not have their young Scott cards so how do they pay for lunch?	Logistics	There is a cashless system via parentpay where lunches can be prebooked in advance which removes the need for handling cash.
What's the rules regarding mobile phone use?	Logistics	Pupils may use mobile phones responsibly across the campus. In classrooms pupils may only use mobile devices when permitted by the class teacher. Pupils may not take pictures, video or audio recording of any pupil or staff without permission being granted and their intended purpose being known and agreed.

Will lockers still be available?	Logistics	Please see previous response.
will pupils be allowed out of school in s1	Logistics	No - all S1 pupils stay on campus.
Are all primary schools where pupils are coming from being asked for advice on friendship groups?	Peer Groups	All 6 cluster will have been involved in this. Schools from further afield are unlikely to have been consulted with.
Is there someone you can go to if you're feeling down/sad/mad or upset?	Pupil Support	Yes - any adult in the school can be approached for help. Older pupils whom you know can also be approached for support and guidance.
Great to see such innovative use of Live Broadcast in Teams by JGHS!	Statement	Thank you!
Our son loved the Gillespies' games today! Thanks for setting it up	Statement	Thank you!
Parents with jobs need more notice than 10-14 days if the school plans need to change.	Statement	We understand that and will endeavour to get information to parents as quickly as we can.
Thanks for organising tonight, it's really good to have a live session and to see faces.	Statement	Thank you!
To take the pressure off those with questions, who are watching the LIKES and thinking their question will not be answered tonight, can the school please commit to answering EVERY question asked in a follow up email? This is good practice re positive engagement and means that no-one will be ignored just because they didn't get lots of thumbs up. All voices matter.	Statement	We will do our best

Well done all of you, you are stars. Hope you manage to cope with all the aggressive questions...	Statement	We recognise that parents and pupils will be anxious and uncertain about what lies in store. We are too. We will continue to do our best to remain calm and answer queries that arise as calmly and informatively as we can. The responses we give will be accurate at the time of responding but are likely to quickly reach their 'sell by' date in a shorter time than normal.
Wow, what a logistical nightmare! Thanks to you all for the hard work you're doing to deal with all this and do the best for the children. It is much appreciated.	Statement	
You covered all our questions , thank you.:) Thank you so much for arranging this session and putting such appalauadable efforts..a wee Q : nice hair do all..) which saloon you went to :)?? our S1 2 be kid would be definitely 2 haircuts behind..	Statement	As we have to remain neutral on such matters we are reluctant to advise on matters of a commercial nature. Suffice to say we are aware that there are many excellent hairdressing facilities that will be eager to attract your business as soon as it is safe to do so. We do nevertheless thank you for your kind words. Considerable effort went into preparing the aesthetics for almost all of our presenters.
Can we ask for school days to be changed to align with primary siblings school days. how are single working parents supposed to deal with two children homeschooling	Timetable	We have considered this but with so many familes and up to 30 primary schools involved we (feasibly) coulod not take this on at this stage.
do they meet every morning with the same teacher before their lessons?	Timetable	Not necessarily - it will depend on the timetable we have inplace in August.
Do you know if pupils will attend full days or half days?	Timetable	The current expectation from the Edinburgh Council is that pupils will attend for full days only.
How will we be informed of my child's class for the August start?	Timetable	

If Gaelic medium pupils are kept apart is there a risk in creating segregation and unnecessary tensions? What opportunity will Gaelic medium pupils have to mix with mainstream pupils?	Timetable	Plans around this are in progress and will evolve as our circumstances continue to change.
No mention of the Gaelic group in terms of classing. What is the situation for them?	Timetable	We will aim to ensure that Gaelic pupils will be timetabled in Gaelic classes.
What time will school finish on Fridays?	Timetable	The current plan for all City of Edinburgh Schools is that pupils do not attend school on Fridays. Provision for key workers' children will be made on Fridays.
will all S1 be in at the same time so we can make new friends and keep our old ones	Timetable	We are working through this.
Will all S1 go to school on the same days ? What other years will be with them ?	Timetable	We will confirm as soon as we have a settled position in terms of Guidance from our Government
Will children move through the classrooms or will be the teachers to move?	Timetable	It will be a combination of both.
Are pupils streamed into different classes?	Transition	No - all classes are mixed ability.
Are siblings put into the same house?	Transition	We aim to do this
Are the transition booklets available online	Transition	
Do we have a S6 to help us on our first day	Transition	That is our aim

Given the children won't have had the same transition experience as they would have done normally, will there be opportunities to do this in August instead?	Transition	August will be about getting pupils settled back into school routines and acclimatised to HS as soon as possible whilst recognising that having missed the traditional 3 day visit in June, this may take longer this year.
How many children from their primary school are they likely to be put into a class with?	Transition	It depends on the primary school they are from from. We draw from up to 30 primary schools so there is great variety across class groupings.
I was not informed there was the possibility to make a list of 5 friends to go together to the HS. Is it still possible to make one?	Transition	
Is it stressful to move around the high school in between different classes	Transition	It can be but we aim to reduce this stress by having clear guidelines and putting additional support in place for pupils who are particularly anxious
Is there an online homework system to help parents keep up to date?	Transition	We were in the final stages of developing an online system called 'Show my Homework' when we were closed from 23 March. We will return to this when we can.
There is a combined class grouping for English and Maths. What if you are brilliant at one but not at the other, will you have the opportunity to excel / develop?	Transition	Yes
What are you meant to do if you aren't friends with people you were friends with when you made the list?	Transition	Pupils in this situation are encouraged to be open to making new friends and to reconcile old friendships. Throughout the teenage years it is quite normal and commonplace for friendships to change. If you are feeling particularly anxious about this then please speak to one of the S6 befrienders, your key adult or your Pupil Support Leader.
What year will we do new languages other than French and Spanish?	Transition	S3. Pupils can choose from French, Spanish, German, Gaelic, Mandarin and (Hopefully) BSL
When are we getting our time tables	Transition	August

When do we find out our house	Transition	August. It has taken longer to gather the relevant information due to the current situation. There are also other aspects still to consider which may lead to further change. Pupils will find out on their return to High School and we would ask parents for their support in minimising any anxieties.
when will the children be told who are in their classes?	Transition	August. It has taken longer to gather the relevant information due to the current situation. There are also other aspects still to consider which may lead to further change. Pupils will find out on their return to High School and we would ask parents for their support in minimising any anxieties.
When will the pupils find out what community they are in?	Transition	August. It has taken longer to gather the relevant information due to the current situation. There are also other aspects still to consider which may lead to further change. Pupils will find out on their return to High School and we would ask parents for their support in minimising any anxieties.
when will we know who the children will be in class with? (Unverified)	Transition	August. It has taken longer to gather the relevant information due to the current situation. There are also other aspects still to consider which may lead to further change. Pupils will find out on their return to High School and we would ask parents for their support in minimising any anxieties.
why are we not going to find out our classes until august? (and time tables) thank you.	Transition	Timetables and classes will be shared on the first day back in August.
Why is it not possible for incoming S1s to come to the school and be shown around in a socially distant manner?	Transition	We would love to have you all in but, current guidelines ask us to ensure that 2m social distancing is applied and only where attendance is essential should pupils or staff be in a school building.
why not have the schools ask the children themselves who their friends are? they know best. there is a history of splitting friends up when teachers have made the decisions.	Transition	We do ask Feeder Primaries which children work best together and this informs our planning.

Will all S1 pupils definitely be in the same house as their older sibling/s at the school?	Transition	We will aim to do this.
Will children be able to keep on instruments from primary?	Transition	We will aim to do that.
Will S1 pupils have at least one (or more?) friends from their primary school (from their chosen list of 5) in their 'community class'...and other classes too?	Transition	We will aim to do that.
will S1 still get S6 mentors showing them around the school?	Transition	yes
Will we have to bring anything specific on the first day ?	Transition	Please bring a fully packed pencil case, a bottle for drinking water (no fizzy drinks). Pupils may wish to bring their own hand sanitiser with them to avoid having to queue.
how are key adults decided?	Welfare	Almost all staff are involved as key adults. We try and keep Key Adults with the same class group for consistency and relationship building.