



Health and Well-Being 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 activity within the Home Economics department. Practical has temporarily been on hold for the first four weeks to allow pupils to adapt to the wide range of new procedures and changes in our school as part of our COVID response procedures. We have also been waiting for finalised guidelines for the subject. Practical will therefore start for elective and certificated classes from Wednesday the 14th and for remaining BGE class (S1 and S2) from Monday the 21st of September.

A common feature within the Home Economics department has always been health, safety and hygiene. As a result the pupils already follow a number of clear rules related to the handling of food/equipment, cleaning up and maintaining correct hygiene approaches throughout all lessons. To further support your child's return to practical in the current climate we have added a number of new procedures (overview below) to ensure the continued safety in our teaching areas but also to fully support the logistical changes of the whole school approach. Some classes may have slightly different approaches to learning due to the time in the week they attend the department. Pupils affected by this will be informed by their class teacher this week.

New safety procedures put in place
Extra aprons and equipment purchased to ensure each pupil has individual pieces of equipment and aprons. All aprons and equipment will be washed thoroughly before reuse.
Certain food prepared before by staff to limit movement in classroom and to prevent any incidents of cross contamination.
Cleaning/Health and safety is already an incredibly important part of this subject but further sanitizing stations, spacing measures and extra cleaning time has been introduced.
Food cooked must be taken away immediately at the end of the lesson in pupils own tub (see details on this below).
Recipes and course plans adapted to ensure appropriate recipes for the current circumstances.

Normally all pupils would pay for the ingredients required for cooking in HE upfront for the whole year. Due to the current circumstances we feel a more equitable approach would be to ask pupils to pay £1 per recipe they make. We will provide further detail to pupils about this the next time they are in class.

Whilst our approaches to certain activities and internal procedures will have to be different our expectations regarding your child's application and effort within the Faculty are still high and it is essential that students and parents value the importance of Home Economics. Our aim within the Health and Well-being Faculty is to ensure that your child reaches their full potential and feels supported throughout every level of the subject they undertake. We want our pupils to be secure in their knowledge and have an understanding of the skills required within the faculty so that they can achieve greater success and have the tools to remain healthy throughout the course of their lifetime.



Please also see the attached page which outlines a post COVID update our and Home Economics Equipment/tub Policy.

Hopefully that gives you an overview of the return to practical within HE, should you wish to discuss any of the information outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on 01324 719551 or by email: kevin.smith@falkirk.gov.uk .

Yours faithfully

Kevin Smith
Faculty Head of Health and Well-being

Health and Well-Being Faculty **Home Economics Equipment/tub Policy**

Aprons & Containers

Aprons will be supplied by the department and washed after every use.

Pupils are expected to bring appropriate containers to each practical lesson. The ideal minimum container size is 2L.

Failure to provide a container will result in your child being issued a disposable container, on the third occasion of not having a container a department detention will be issued. There is a limited amount of these containers available each week so it's incredibly important where possible pupils bring their own. As pupils have to take their food immediately after a lesson it is important the container has a good seal or clips and is potentially brought in a plastic bag that it can be placed in to prevent any spillages or leaks in their bag.

****please note if your child does not take their food by the end of the lesson or refuses to take it, It will have to be immediately disposed of. ****

Dress

Tracksuit trousers are banned in the Department due to the high flammability of the fabric. Pupils should avoid wearing tracksuit trousers on a day when practical / experimental work will be carried out. It is advised that no jewellery should be worn on practical days as it will have to be removed during practical sessions and stored in a school bag.

Costs

Due to current circumstances pupils will be required to pay £1 per recipe made. We have a range of payment and support options available for anyone who requires it. If you need to discuss this further please contact Kevin Smith on the email address above.