



GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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SUPPORTING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
VISION SCHOOLS SCOTLAND

Gryffe High School, Level 1, 2020-2023

Friday 25 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since I last wrote to you in this capacity, much has changed in our world and – locally at least - we are looking towards a brighter future. The gradual easing of the necessary constraints created by the pandemic is most welcome in our school community; however, we approach the changes to our practices next week with both optimism and caution.

Young people and staff will no longer be required to wear face coverings in classroom settings from Monday 28 February but will still be supported to do so if they so wish. This is very much a personal choice, and our focus will be on respecting each individual’s right to choose what is best for them. . . we recognise that many of our families are still living with the very real challenges and worries that Covid has brought. As part of our ‘end and send’ routines at the end of each lesson, young people will be asked to put face coverings on before entering the school corridors. When moving around the school and in communal areas such as the canteen - when not eating - masks are still mandatory, and our enhanced school hygiene routines remain an integral part of our approach to limiting the spread of the virus.

The constraints I referred to earlier included the limiting of visitors to our school and this created the need for Online Parent/Carer evenings, the last of which took place for S2 yesterday. I am pleased to report that this format has been embraced by both staff and parents and before agreeing on the approach for next session, I will lead a consultation process. Year Group Assemblies return for the first time in almost two years, and we will use these gatherings - so important in promoting a positive ethos - to communicate and connect with our young people. Extra-curricular programmes continue to flourish, and I would ask that you encourage your child to take part in at least one regular extra-curricular school activity. They are most often free and run by experts - our staff – and details are shared via social media and the website.

In our school, young people continue to do great things, many of which you can keep up to date with through our social media output. Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for ‘real time’ updates on our school. Formal communications such as this Head Teacher update will always be posted on our school website and uploaded to Satchel One. Speaking of our website, a new more user friendly one is under construction. This will include pathways to all of our social media channels, enabling non-social media users to access all of our communication in one place for convenience. We aim to have the website ready to go ‘live’ before summer break.

Teaching and learning is our core business, and this has continued apace since the new year. Pupils in the senior phase are working productively to get ready for SQA examinations, giving our young people the chance to show just how much they have learned despite the challenges they have faced. To support them, our staff are delivering regular Supported Study classes which I strongly encourage young people to take advantage of. We are currently planning an Easter School programme for many of our senior phase pupils, details of which I will share in the coming weeks. Our young people in S1-S3 continue to learn a variety of new skills and their commitment this session has been first class, reflected in the positive school reports you can access through your ‘Parents Portal’ account.

Our temporary relaxation of uniform is in line with Scottish Government guidance. As we look towards next session, I will be focusing on promoting the highest standards in our school uniform. More about this in future updates.

Kevin Christie
Head Teacher

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