



# GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Kevin Christie



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now three weeks into our new term, and I am delighted to inform you that our young people and staff are moving 'full steam ahead' on learning. As I move around the school, observing the learning and teaching that is taking place, there is a definite sense of purpose and commitment within classrooms. S1 pupils have made an excellent start, they have settled well and are already making a positive impact within our school community. Every pupil has a Learning Diary that we use as a key method to consolidate learning across the school, and I encourage you to reinforce the importance of this document throughout the session. Young people continually add to it with key learning points from lessons, you will see this develop as the session progresses. The Learning Diary also contains important detail regarding Wellbeing and key school information.

Our uniform identifies our belonging to the school community. We will continue to focus on maintaining standards, including blazers, plain black footwear and plain jumpers and cardigans that enable our school tie to remain visible. I ask for your support in ensuring we maintain these standards throughout the session.

## Promoting Positive Relationships

Our focus on building nurturing relationships continues. We aim for mutual respect as a matter of course across our school community and this is evident in the language we use in referring to our School Charter, as well as the standards and values we promote. Punctuality is key to effective learning in our school, and we will focus extensively on this over the coming weeks to ensure the climate for learning is as good as it can be. I am confident our 'Relentless Routines' will establish a framework for learning that young people will appreciate and thrive in. Mobile phones are firmly woven into the fabric of our society, and our young people will often use them under teacher direction as part of lessons in our school. Out with such times, all mobile phones should be switched off and remain out of sight. This should also be the case when moving around the school between lessons. School breaks and lunch times provide opportunities for young people to socialise face to face without technology, and we trust you will support and reinforce our approach.



Our extended curricular after school programme has enabled well over 200 young people to participate in exciting activities in the first two sessions. Activ8 continues every Wednesday after school until the October break. Please encourage your child to come along and take part, maybe even trying something entirely new to them. It is a great opportunity to build skills and meet new friends!

Activ8 is the springboard to our 2021-22 full extra-curricular programme, and we encourage every young person to participate in at least one regular school based extra-curricular activity. A programme is currently being produced that we will share with you soon.

## Activities Week 2022 Update

We are currently awaiting guidance (due nearer November) on Insurance liabilities with respect to the potential impact of COVID-19 on our proposed May 2022 Activities week for S1- S3 pupils. Clearly, the launching of our Activities week hinges on this guidance. Our plans are for domestic trips only, with a balance between residential activities and day trips. Our focus is on providing something exciting for everyone.

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### **Parents Portal and Satchel One (formerly Show My Homework)**

If you require support to sign up for Parents Portal, please contact the school office staff who are happy to help. Parents Portal is our conduit for issuing school reports and it also links to ParentPay where you can top up school meal accounts.

Satchel One (formerly Show My Homework) is used by all our teachers for issuing homework and we have had a very positive response from parents/carers this session to our requests to sign up for this. It enables you to track and support your child's homework, we also use Satchel One as a means of communication for Year Groups and whole school announcements. Please request an activation code from the school office if you have not yet signed up for this service.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best regards,

Kevin Christie

Head Teacher

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