



Date: 26/11/15

Dear Parents/Carers

You may have noticed that we are having some issues in updating our school website. I would like to apologise for that and assure you that we are in the process of rectifying the issue with our web host and hope to be back to normal, with frequent updates, within the next few days.

Meanwhile I would like to give you detail of our up and coming events, along with some brief SQA Examination Results detail.

I will start with the SQA Examination Results detail as you may have noticed the recent detail published in the Sunday Times.

The top 50 state secondary schools in Scotland

I would like to congratulate all pupils, staff and parents on Gryffe being acknowledged in the Sunday Times as the 9th top attaining school in Scotland in relation to Higher Results. The last 3 years results are taken into account in their analysis.

The analysis also puts Gryffe as overall 12th in Scotland as it now, for the first time, takes the 2+ Advanced Higher Results into account. We will consider this in the coming years, however our advice to pupils in sixth year has always been to take the courses most appropriate to their future career aspirations and as such have not persuaded pupils, to pursue 2 or 3 Advanced Highers unless it is in their best interests.

However, with continued great annoyance, I also must moan and remind you that for the last three years they have used the wrong 2013 results – the results before the 20 pupils sitting Higher Music were correctly marked (you may remember they didn't include the marks for one of their papers and as such failed 11 pupils who almost all ended up with Higher As or Bs). The SQA mistake means that our grades were severely affected – shown as 31.4 % for 5 Highers and 54.65% for 3+ Highers..... our actual results in 2013 were 35% for 5 Highers and 56% for 3+ Higher - and as such Gryffe has been penalised for 3 years running in the National Press (via their 3 year average). **This will now cease to be an issue as next year the 3 year average will be from the 2014, 2015 and 2016 results and as such we will have a fair comparison with schools across Scotland.**

All being told however it is still a fantastic achievement and I offer a genuine well done to our pupils for their efforts.

I would add to this, as you would expect, that attainment is only one aspect of what we strive for. Our major focus on achievements in the school has equal status, particularly in recording and giving pupils' credit for their successes. I would hope that we will push forward on both fronts and continue to be amongst the top attaining and achieving schools in the country.

Events over the coming weeks:

Thursday 26 November - PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE, 6.30 – 9.00pm.

A real effort has been made to attract stalls which will be selling a wide range of Christmas gifts at a range of prices. The school choir will also be singing Christmas carols. This is a great opportunity not just to support the school but also to get the festive spirit, and Christmas shopping, started.

Tickets (£3 for adults and £1 for children) will be on sale in the school, and also on the door on the night. They include complimentary refreshment and mince pie.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Friday 27 November – Non uniform Day, wear something tartan

(in support for St Andrew's Day Activities throughout the school)

On Friday 27 November we are having a non-uniform day where pupils will not only be allowed but encouraged, for this one day only, to wear their own clothes, including something tartan, in place of normal school uniform. We would not, of course, wish to see any extremes of fashion, football colours or other inappropriate dress. We will suspend the normal requirements to wear school uniform for this particular day and hope that everyone joins in to support our chosen charity as well as support school funds.

The normal £1 Donation, or any other appropriate donation, raised from the non-uniform day will be split between Erskine Hospital and School House Funds in order to further support pupil wider achievement opportunities.

Monday 30 November – St Andrew's Day Holiday

Tuesday 1 December – Pupils start back for a prompt 8:50 am start. National 5 Theory Prelims start.

Wednesday 2 December - The December Newsletter will be uploaded to the News section of the school website

www.gryffehigh.com

I hope you enjoy reading our November Newsletter and take pride in reading about our pupils significant achievements. We offer a wide variety of additional learning experiences that our pupils engage and thrive in, which is a great credit to themselves and you, and it is particularly pleasing for staff to be involved in the pupils' successes.

Please remember that you can get frequent brief updates on the school website (once we have it up and working again!), as well as a wide range of useful information including all our letters and monthly Newsletters.

Yours sincerely

Colin H Johnson
Head Teacher



Web Site



iPhone App



Android App