

GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL



CARING LEARNING ACHIEVING

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Date: 22/06/16

Dear Parents/Carers

As we are about to enter the last week of term I can reflect on a particularly busy year in which our pupils have flourished. Once again the range, and quality, of achievements of our pupils has been highly impressive and I hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter, which was uploaded to the News section of the school website on Wednesday 8 June.

Contents of the Newsletter

- ✓ School Theatre
- ✓ Parent Council AGM
- ✓ Eco Committee News; Renfrewshire 'Empowering Communities' Conference
- ✓ Health Food & Technology Primary Sewing Workshop; Gryffe Staff receive Heartstart Instructor Training
- ✓ Morrisons Food Leaflet Competition Success; National 5 Hospitality Practical Cookery
- ✓ Holly is all set for Space School; Seeds from Space
- ✓ The Transit of Mercury; Keir gains a Canadian Science Scholarship
- ✓ Former pupils start up Coffee Bean recycling company
- ✓ World Water Day; Pupils artwork selected for Paisley Art Institute Exhibition
- ✓ S2 University Taster Classes at UWS; S3 Apprentice Challenge 2016
- ✓ Duke of Edinburgh; Gryffe Film Club
- ✓ Book News; English Department reader of the month
- ✓ *Esme comes 1st in District in Rotary International Writer 2016* ; S6 Advanced Higher English Anthology
- ✓ Activities Week 2016
- ✓ Sports Start of the Month; School Athletics championships
- ✓ Farewell to S6 – Class of 2016
- ✓ Gryffe High Theatre Improvement Group

Upcoming priorities/events

Our July Newsletter will be uploaded on Wednesday 6 July, and will have our usual wide range of pupil achievements including: S6 Prom; Induction Days; I can do Anything Day; Winning House Day; Non uniform fundraiser; Vertical Learning Day.

Non-Uniform Day - Friday 24 June 2016

As detailed in our school calendar there will be a non-uniform day on Friday 24 June in order to support school funds. Our intention is that pupils will not only be allowed but encouraged, for this one day only, to wear their own clothes in place of normal school uniform – with a 'summer theme'. 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 participates. We will ask for a donation of £1.

School Uniform in the new session 2016/2017

Please support the school and ensure that ALL pupils are in full school uniform at the beginning of the new term in August.

Our new initiative – Vertical Learning Day on Monday 27 June

This initiative involves us mixing up all year groups in order that we have classes consisting of S2 – S6 pupils. Pupils will attend lessons across some key themes including: Numeracy, Problem Solving; Literacy: Health and Wellbeing Resilience – Fight or Flight; Rights Respecting Schools; Digital Literacy; and Political Literacy.

This event not only provides an opportunity for new learning partners but also improves whole school ethos; provides peer mentoring opportunities, and promotes responsibility and leadership skills; improves communication skills and supports confident individuals; involves a strong pupil voice, and encourages genuine involvement in the school decision making process. We hope that this will improve relationships across the whole school and in the future provide further interdisciplinary learning opportunities as well as engagement with wider achievement awards.

Links to Rights Respecting Schools Agenda

- **Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child):** When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.
- **Article 13 (Freedom of expression):** Children have the right to get and share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or others. In exercising the right to freedom of expression, children have the responsibility to also respect the rights, freedoms and reputations of others. The freedom of expression includes the right to share information in any way they choose, including by talking, drawing or writing.

We look forward to running our Vertical Learning Day and believe it an appropriate and adventurous end to a very successful session. As usual I would expect all pupils to be prompt for the 8:50 am start to the day, all in full uniform.

Upcoming priorities/events

JUNE

Tue 21 House winners day out – Wallace House
Fri 24 Non-Uniform Day – summer theme

Mon 27 Vertical Learning Day, 3:15 pm finish
Tue 28 Last Day of Session, 1:00 pm finish

I wish all pupils, and parents/carers, a relaxing and fun filled summer break and look forward to the start of the next session in August. We will continue to strive for improvement and as such look forward to many further successes in both our pupils attainment and achievement.

Yours sincerely

Mr Colin Johnson
Head Teacher

AUGUST

Tues 9 SQA Examination Results issued
Wed 10 New S5, S6 Timetable negotiation
Thurs 11 In-Service Day 1
Fri 12 In-Service Day 2

Mon 15 Session begins for pupils, prompt 8:50 am start in full uniform
Wed 17 Activ8, session 1, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Mon 22 Photographs;
Launch of Activities Week S1-3 residential;
PTA AGM, 6:30 pm start
Wed 24 Activ8, session 2, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Mon 29 Parent Council Meeting, 7:00 pm start
Wed 31 Activ8, session 3, 3:00 – 4:00 pm