



GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

Old Bridge of Weir Road, Houston, PA6 7EB

Tel: 0300 300 1323

e-mail: gryffehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

web address: www.gryffehigh.com

Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



SUPPORTING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
VISION SCHOOLS SCOTLAND

Gryffe High School, Level 1, 2020-2023

Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers

Since Monday 15 March we have welcomed senior pupils into school every alternate day, and S1, S2 & S3 pupils one day a week, although we wish it could have been more. I have thoroughly enjoyed chatting to the pupils, visiting classes, walking around the playground and watching them interact with each other, and I am of the firm opinion that this has been a good preparation for them starting back, full time, on Monday 19 April. I can say, with no doubt whatsoever, that staff are looking forward to seeing all pupils back in school, with a focus on getting back into face-to-face Learning and Teaching, and of course supporting the wellbeing of our pupils.

I write to inform you that the school closes for the Spring Holiday at 2:30pm on Thursday 1 April, and that all pupils return to school at 8:47am on Monday 19 April.

Pupils will return to their normal period by period timetables, and the school day will be back to our normal timings:

8:47am - 3:40pm	on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
8:47am - 2:50pm	on a Wednesday and Friday

We are, for the first time, running an Easter School for S5 and S6 pupils, which will be delivered by staff, on a voluntary basis. I must stress that I am of the opinion that staff have been working exceptionally hard over the past months, in an ever changing environment, and need their rest in order to be ready for the start of the new term when all pupils return on Monday 19 April. The programme is based on staff who volunteer to be involved, hence there will be limitations on the subjects offered. We must also adhere to the government directive on strict 2 metre distancing between pupils, which again limits our numbers. Further details on our Easter School can be found on the school website, in my update letter of Wednesday 24 March.

There is also detail of an E-SGOIL Easter Study Support programme, supported by Renfrewshire Council, from 6th – 16th April 2021, which covers a range of subjects at National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

Web link is: <http://www.e-sgoil.com/easterstudysupportsessions2021/>

You will find a sign up form on this web page.

S4, S5 and S6 pupils should, as is always the case during the Spring Break holidays, have a focus on revising all work given to date. We will return on Monday 19 April and have an immediate focus on face-to-face learning and teaching in preparation for a range of assessments, which will take place across late April, May and June. Details of our planned assessment calendar will be issued when pupils return to school.

S1, S2 and S3 pupils will be returning to school on a full time basis, and must be prepared to work hard in classes in order to ensure a smooth transition into their courses for session 2021/2022.

CARING LEARNING ACHIEVING



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Lateral Flow Device Testing

We have tried to ensure that **all** pupils in Gryffe have collected their LFD test kits before stopping for the Spring Holidays. We have managed to issue these to most pupils, however we also appreciate that some pupils have not been able to complete and hand in the consent forms as yet. Office staff will be in the building from the week beginning Monday 12 April, so it will be possible to collect tests in order to be fully prepared for starting back. The Scottish Government have stated that testing does not need to take place during the first week of the Easter holidays due to the fact that neither staff nor pupils are in school settings. Pupils attending our Easter School should continue to take their tests. All other pupils should commence the tests in the second week so that individuals have had 2 negative LFD tests before they return to school. This will ensure that we are minimising the spread of COVID-19 and that asymptomatic carriers can isolate and prevent any further spread.

On a slightly different note, I would like to inform all pupils and parents/carers that I intend to retire this year, with my last day being Friday 25 June 2021. The local authority have informed me that they would expect to advertise the position of Head Teacher towards the end of April, and I have assured them that the school is extremely well positioned for continued success.

I retire with a great confidence that we, as a school, are in a very strong position to continue to grow. We have a sound infrastructure and systems in place, and most importantly of all, a grouping of staff and pupils, supported by parents/carers, who work extremely hard and are always striving to improve. We think in a positive way, rise to the challenges, and enjoy so many successes. **Caring** always comes first, we then focus on **Learning**, and we most certainly will continue **Achieving** – we have enjoyed so many wonderful achievements and I look forward to reading about so many more across the years.

It has been, and continues to be, an absolute pleasure working in Gryffe and I look forward to the next few months. The May/June period will be difficult as we manage the assessment processes for S4, S5 and S6 pupils, but we will rise to the challenge, and, as usual, bring our pupils out the other side – having supported and pushed them to the best possible grades. Our S2 and S3 pupils have been through our option choice process and we will prepare them well for moving on in their studies. Our S1 pupils return to enjoy the later part of their transition into Secondary, where we are aware there is a need to re-engage them into Secondary School life due to the unfortunate start/stop introduction.

We can hopefully also welcome in the Primary 7 pupils in June, albeit possibly a wee bit later, and if at all possible start our new timetable towards the end of June. This then sets us up for a quick and efficient start in August.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my update, I look forward to all the pupils coming back on Monday 19 April, and hope it's the beginning of getting back into our routines and that continuous drive for improvement, as well as enjoying being amongst friends again.

May I take this opportunity to wish all pupils and parents/carers an enjoyable and relaxing break, albeit I would expect our S4, S5 and S6 pupils to be studying hard in preparation for their up and coming assessments.

Yours sincerely

Mr Colin Johnson
Head Teacher



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