



GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



Dear Parents/Carers

On Monday night we had our usual monthly Parent Council Meeting, chaired by Mr David Macdonald. I find these meeting particularly productive as there is opportunity to give updates about the current focus within the school, and it always leads to healthy and constructive discussion.

The meeting started with the introductions, and then an update from some of our Pupil Management Team – Rachael Bell, School Captain, giving a general update in regard to the organisation and work of the Pupil Management Team, followed by Alex Christie and Andrew Hay who gave an update on the work of the Eco Committee.

Sheila McHarg gave a PTA update, with the key focus on our 'Gryffe PTA Xmas Shop 2020'. I would ask all parents/carers to please support our PTA with the terrific efforts they go to in order to raise funds for the greater benefit of our school.Please order by Friday 20 November....

We have also, via ParentPay, created an option for any donations to the PTA funds. This was suggested at the Parent Council Meeting.

I then had the opportunity to give a Covid 19 Health & Safety update

As you know, the Scottish Government has now introduced a system of new protection levels to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and Renfrewshire has been placed at Level 3. This means some extra guidance for schools to help keep everyone safe, and I have briefly listed what that means for you below, although I did cover some of it in my last update:

- we can now resume indoor PE for pupils. A letter was issued via Show My Homework (Satchel) by each Year Head to their Year Groups. Also issued was detail on the Parent Portal, where you can get access to your child's Report Card, Timetable, Attendance Data and Annual Data Check information.
<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/schools/parentsportal>
- currently, school staff keep a two-metre distance from pupils as normal practice, but staff will now also wear a face covering. We are conscious of the impact of this on our pupils - where children require additional support, we will identify a different approach which balances safety and quality of communication.
- visitors, parents and carers should wear a face covering when entering the school.
- the national advice is good airflow within schools is important to minimise spread of the virus. As we approach winter and colder weather, we will make sure classrooms are safe, warm and comfortable. However, we ask parents and carers please provide warm clothing, such as a jumper or fleece, in colder weather – our preference is still for pupils to wear their school uniform, with possibly a jumper, then Blazer and possibly a coat over that. My only request is that pupils do not wear 'hoodies' to school as they were starting to be the 'norm' whereas I am of the firm opinion that a Blazer should be the 'norm'.

Gryffe PTA Xmas Shop 2020

The PTA are delighted to announce the opening of our online Xmas shop. We have a selection of bespoke Xmas items for you to choose from, all of which can be personalised with a name, date or Xmas message (max 15 characters). Order form is available on the school website & social media platforms. Order by 20 November for collection or delivery by 18 Dec, contactless of course. Payment by cash or cheque in envelope marked PTA Xmas Shop. Please support your school.....Merry Xmas.



Please note decoration on bottles & glasses will vary.

Price List
Light up bottles - £5
Decorated wine glasses - £4 each or 2 for £7
Personalised hand sanitizer - £2
Selection of baubles - £2
Various fillingsplease specify when ordering.
Choose from Mum socks, Yankee Votive candle, Lego bricks, chocolates, dog treats.....or random Xmas decs.

CARING LEARNING ACHIEVING



Website



Show My Homework



www.gryffehigh.com



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We would also like to remind parents and carers that all children should wear a face covering when travelling to and from school by school bus, unless they are exempt, and on entering the school and walking through corridors. And as you know, all pupils in S4-6 should now wear a face covering in class.

You will know that we have Dry weather procedures, and wet (inclement) weather procedures. On the Wet weather days we have allowed pupils to go to classrooms and as such we need these rooms to be clean for the class coming after interval or lunch. All rubbish must be placed in the bins, and seats put back to the way they were. Should pupils not support these procedures then I am afraid we will ask them to move outside. The responsibility and trust lie with the pupils, with consequences if rooms are left untidy.

We know the ongoing situation is very challenging for everyone, but we are doing all we can to keep our school safe, and maintain a welcoming and nurturing learning environment for pupils. We strictly adhere to all local authority and government guidelines. **The response from our pupils continues to be outstanding** and we cannot thank you and them enough for your continued support.

I then gave an update on curricular progress, with a focus on National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Courses.

We continue, as always, with a focus on Learning and Teaching and are happy with the overall progress being made across all year groups. Pupils are working well in class, we are covering our curriculum and continue to ensure timely interventions as appropriate.

We are finalising a calendar of key dates for each year group, including detail on communication and reporting, which we hope will be useful. For S4 – S6 pupils we will also give detail on some key assessment dates:

- i.e. We are having assessment diets for our S4 National 5 classes. The first of these assessment diets, the S4 N5 Practical Assessments start in the week beginning Monday 23 November, with the S4 N5 Non-Practical Assessments starting on Tuesday 1 December. All S4 pupils have had class group meetings with Mrs Skillen, Ms Dhesi and myself. The presentation given to the S4 pupils has also been issued via Show My Homework to all S4 parents/carers.

We aim to have our usual 'Prelim' diet for Highers and Advanced Highers a little later than usual, starting on Thursday 21 January. This will allow for time in which pupils can focus on identified areas for improvement, supported by staff, on the run up to the actual SQA Examinations which are scheduled to start on Monday 10 May 2021. We are about to have class group meetings with all S5 and S6 pupils and will provide all the key detail to them. The presentation given to pupils will also be issued via Show My Homework to all S5 and S6 parents/carers.

For any pupils who are absent, or self-isolating, we have ensured that all subjects are maintaining contact with them, generally through SMHW/Teams, and issuing detail on coursework being covered, lesson content and access to any PowerPoints issued. We ask that pupils do the work asked for, regardless of year group, and make any submissions requested.

Should any parents/carers have questions to ask then please follow our usual procedures and contact the appropriate Guidance Teacher of Year Head.

The meeting finished with Mr Macdonald giving an update on National & Regional Parent Council issues/updates, and with myself giving a brief school update on our Dyslexia Awareness focus, our Rights Respecting Schools GOLD Award, and our attempts via various events to get some 'fun' back into the life of the school – obviously following all Health and Safety Guidelines.

Finally, please look at the 'Brief Updates' section on the school website for Remembrance Day detail, and please take time to view the video https://youtu.be/V4szU_fMy00



Colin Johnson
Head Teacher



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