



# GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an absolute delight having our pupils back in school, albeit particularly tiring as we have tried to make it as smooth and seamless as possible. I am sure, and hope, that all parents/carers would agree that it is an impressive sight seeing all our pupils, in shining new uniform (hopefully with it staying that way) making their way to the school.

The phased return last week certainly helped us iron out a few initial issues. We have tried to address the way pupils come in to school, using all 8 entrances to the school and sanitising their hands on the way in. We found this has got very busy at a few doors, and as such have made a few adjustments to help with this. The pupils then enter their class and clean their work space as they arrive and leave each class. At intervals and lunchtimes we have wet weather provision in place, which worked very well on Monday.

## Canteen

Our canteen now sells some hot food, rolls at the interval/paninis at lunchtime, as well as the 'grab and go bags'. We have created a structured queuing system which allows our pupils to safely access the range of food on offer.

## Physical Education - PE

Following guidance received from Education Scotland, we have adapted our Physical Education curriculum to ensure all health and safety requirements are met whilst prioritising the wellbeing of our young people. The points below highlight the main changes and have been discussed with all pupils in order for them to be fully prepared for all lessons.

- All PE lessons must be outdoors.
- Pupils must come to class prepared for any inclement weather we may experience:
  - Standard PE kit should be worn with pupils bringing warm and waterproof clothing.
  - A plastic bag should be included as part of kit to store any wet clothing after lessons.
  - A change of footwear is required in preparation for any wet weather during PE lessons.
  - A change of socks and towel may also be appropriate.
  - All kit required by all pupils for all lessons. Non-participants should continue to bring a note for class teacher and also their PE kit to change into and participate in lesson in non-playing roles. This remains particularly important as pupils will remain with classes outdoors even when unable to fully participate.
- Staff will continually monitor weather conditions throughout these times. No classes will be outdoors if weather becomes dangerous in anyway, however we will be outdoors in potentially wet and cold weather conditions.
- Other adapted procedures are in place for changing rooms, activities included within courses and equipment used in order to meet health and safety requirements.

## Activ8

Our weekly after school club returned today, Wednesday 19 August, from 3:00pm - 3:45pm for S1 pupils only as we offer a reduced programme this session with current restrictions.

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Activities on offer include drama and various outdoor sporting activities such as fitness, football, hockey, lacrosse, softball and tennis. From Wednesday 26 August we will open up this programme to S2 and would encourage any S1 or S2 pupils to report to the Games Hall at the end of the school day on Wednesday to register and be set up for the remaining sessions. We will monitor attendance and open to other year groups at a later stage if possible.

### School Uniform

We would ask all pupils and parents/carers to continue to support our School Uniform for the coming session. All pupils will be expected to be in school uniform. School Uniform can be purchased from our main supplier - SchoolWear Made Easy, with details available on the school website.

### Health and Safety

As a school I want to assure you that we will continue to do everything possible to ensure the Health and Wellbeing of our pupils and staff. This is of utmost importance to us. I would ask parents/carers to support us in this, and to feel free to contact us and express your own views of what we are doing well, and where you believe there could be improvement. **In order to protect our school community, I would remind all parents/carers that should your child display any symptoms of COVID 19, they should not attend school and must self-isolate in line with Government Guidelines.**

### SQA Results

As I hope you are aware, from my previous update, we were delighted with the overall whole school SQA Results across all key areas, albeit we were a little disappointed that our fifth year 5 Higher results, although still extremely impressive, were 2% lower than last year. Following changes made by the Depute First Minister, this is now much closer to what we expected, as a genuine and realistic 54% of pupils in fifth year gained 5 Highers or more. Our other SQA Results also went up a little and as such we are delighted with the overall school results across all benchmark areas. With that being said, there are still some pupils who didn't quite achieve what they were hoping for, and as in previous years this is the time where we look at course choices and try our best to support the pupils in selecting and focusing on the subjects that will be best for them in their future career aspirations.

### Her Majesty's Inspection Report

I hope you enjoyed reading this as it gives a very positive view of the significant achievements of our pupils, of which we are extremely proud. HM Inspectors visited Gryffe High School in February 2020, and agreed with our school self-evaluation of:

2.3 Learning, Teaching & Assessment	<b>Very Good</b>
3.2 Raising Attainment & Achievement	<b>Excellent</b>

Gryffe is the **first** Secondary School in Scotland to receive an **EXCELLENT** under the new short inspection model, which started in September 2017, and has been recognised as outstanding in levels of Attainment and Achievement. Our self-evaluation, also verified by Renfrewshire Council, on the other two key Quality Indicators were:

1.3 Leadership of Change	<b>Excellent</b>
3.1 Improving Wellbeing, Equality & Inclusion	<b>Excellent</b>

The best Scottish Secondary School full model inspection is 2 Excellent and 2 Very Good, so our HM Inspection Report, with Local Authority evaluation, places Gryffe High School as amongst the very **best** in Scotland. HM Inspectors made specific comment on our **'Highly motivated, articulate and ambitious young people who have high aspirations.'** - a statement that makes us extremely proud.

Colin Johnson  
Head Teacher



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