



GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers

Across Renfrewshire Council today all Secondary Head Teachers are providing updates on the curriculum being offered in August 2020. We appreciate you will be keen to know what our new timetable will look like when pupils start to return to school from Wednesday 12 August, and we can now share that.

You may be aware that we are currently in the midst of our Primary 7 visits, and it was great to see our first group of P7 pupils visit the school on Friday to find all about 'life in Gryffe'. We welcomed Burns House, 1B and 1Bn, and had a really enjoyable time giving detail of the focus points for S1 pupils. Fleming 1F and Wallace 1W House Groups visit today, and then Mackintosh 1M and 1Mk visit tomorrow. The P7 Visits are an extension to our comprehensive P7 Transition Programme which has been running every day since Monday 1 June, with daily work issued via Teams; video clip introductions from a wide variety of staff and pupils; tasks set; and 2 lessons per day from a range of subjects offered in S1.

Staff have taken great delight in teaching our new pupils face to face, and are very much looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to Gryffe High School in August. We understand the past few months hasn't been an easy time and our thanks go to you for your patience and understanding.

This August will look different from any other year in that schools will return to a model of blended learning – with pupils learning in school on some days and from home on others. We know this is not ideal but are sure you will appreciate the situation is unprecedented. We have worked hard to develop a model which delivers the best possible learning experience while taking every precaution to ensure the safety of pupils and staff, in line with government advice. We will ensure physical distancing is maintained as much as possible and will do this through reduced class sizes and using all available space. However this obviously means not all pupils can be in school at the same time.

Our model/days in school

Pupils will attend Gryffe every alternate day and will attend by House Group order as shown overleaf. School days will run from approximately 8:50 am to 2:50 pm, and we will issue further guidance on this to ensure we maintain physical distancing at the start and end of the day. **We will be in touch in the week beginning Monday 3 August with further details of our finalised timings as this could change if the 2 metre social distance rule changes.**

We have tried to ensure all siblings attend on the same day, hence our organisation in House Groups. We realise we may not have been able to satisfy every family's particular circumstances, and for this we both apologise and thank you for your understanding and support.

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How long these arrangements continue depends entirely on advice and guidance from the Scottish Government. We will keep you updated on what that means for you and your family as and when that advice changes.

First week back

The first week back will look different because schools open to pupils on Wednesday 12 August so this is a shorter school week. We are also phasing pupils into school on the first day only:

Week 1	Wednesday 12 Thursday 13 Friday 14	ONLY S5/6 and S1 Pupils of Burns & Fleming All pupils of Mackintosh & Wallace All pupils of Burns & Fleming
Week 2	Monday 17 Tuesday 18 Wednesday 19 Thursday 20 Friday 21	All pupils of Mackintosh & Wallace All pupils of Burns & Fleming All pupils of Mackintosh & Wallace All pupils of Burns & Fleming All pupils of Mackintosh & Wallace
Week 3	Monday 24 Tuesday 25 Wednesday 26 Thursday 27 Friday 28	All pupils of Burns & Fleming All pupils of Mackintosh & Wallace All pupils of Burns & Fleming All pupils of Mackintosh & Wallace All pupils of Burns & Fleming

<u>Week Beginning</u>	<u>Burns/Fleming</u>	<u>Mackintosh/Wallace</u>
Wednesday 12 August	Wednesday/Friday	Thursday
Monday 17 August	Tuesday/Thursday	Monday/Wednesday/Friday
Monday 24 August	Monday/Wednesday/Friday	Tuesday/Thursday
Monday 31 August	Tuesday/Thursday	Monday/Wednesday/Friday
Monday 7 September	Monday/Wednesday/Friday	Tuesday/Thursday
Monday 14 September	Tuesday/Thursday	Monday/Wednesday/Friday
Monday 21 September Updates will be frequently provided	Monday/Wednesday/Friday	Tuesday/Thursday

Every pupil will have an individualised timetable sent to them week beginning Monday 3 August, however we also appreciate that, as happens every year, some S4, S5 and S6 pupils may change their timetable following the SQA Results on Tuesday 4 August.

The school day will be split into 2 learning blocks of approximately two and a half hours, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

For example - a pupil may be doing 8:50 to 11:20 am Mathematics, then lunch, then 12:20 – 2:50 pm Biology

When pupils access school for their learning block:

- ✓ We will provide access to a sanitiser on entry to school, and on leaving school
- ✓ Each pupil will clean their work area on arrival and on leaving, with wipes/cloths provided

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Other information

We appreciate the new model throws up a lot of questions. When pupils are in school, receiving their face to face teaching, they may also be provided with work to complete for the next time they are in school. We will also continue to support home learning, with teachers able to provide a level of support on the days pupils are learning from home, however this will be more limited as staff have their in school face to face commitment to manage alongside the online support. We are confident that we will provide the right balance and blend of learning to ensure that pupils make good progress across their subjects.

Childcare will be available for the children of key workers on the days they are not in school. You can find out more information on the council's website. We know the new model has implications for school transport and these are still being worked on.

The council's website has a detailed Q&A full of information for parents and carers – so please see <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools> If you have any questions which aren't answered in the Q&A please don't hesitate to contact us directly at gryffehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

School Uniform

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

I would like to thank parents/carers who attended our Parent Council Zoom Conference Call on Thursday 18 June. I provided updates, and we had discussion, on a variety of topics:

- Overview of establishing blended learning since last meeting
- SQA estimated grading work/tracking
- Transition of new S1
- Blended learning S1-S3, overview and future work
- Senior phase 2020/21, overview and update
- Returning to school planning for August 2020
- Support for Learning, meeting Additional Support Needs
- Future challenges

I would also like to thank all parents/carers for their support and also for the many kind words in regard to the work staff are doing to support children. Once again, we thank you for your understanding at this difficult time.

We are moving in the right direction and as always our focus is in providing our pupils with the very best educational provision we possibly can. Please enjoy summer and we will do everything we can to make sure the eagerly awaited return to school in August is as smooth as possible.

Colin Johnson
Head Teacher



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Summarised detail on Curriculum provision August 2020

Two teaching blocks per day, morning and afternoon 8:50 – 11:20 am, 12:20 – 2:50 pm
The days that pupils are in means they are in for the full day for their two teaching blocks.

Burns & Fleming Houses coming in week 1, odd weeks, on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while Mackintosh & Wallace come in on the Tuesday and Thursday.

Then reverse the following week: Mackintosh & Wallace Houses coming in week 2, even weeks, on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while Burns & Fleming come in on the Tuesday and Thursday.

Our subject curriculum in August may be along the lines of:

S5/6 pupils will have each subject for a 2.5 hour block once a week..... i.e. If Column A then half of 5A column coming for 2.5 hours learning block, the other half coming, normally a different day, for their 2.5 hours learning block.

S4 pupils will have each subject for a 2.5 hour block a fortnight i.e. Half of an S4 class coming in for a 2.5 hours learning block, the other half coming the next week at the same time for their 2.5 hours learning block ... with planning for some extra English and Mathematics.

S3 pupils will have each subject for a 2.5 hour block a fortnight i.e. Half of an S3 class coming in for a 2.5 hours learning block, the other half coming the next week at the same time for their 2.5 hours learning block with planning for some extra English and Mathematics.

S2 pupils will be a 2.5 hour block a fortnight for most subjects i.e. Half of an S2 class coming in for a 2.5 hours learning block, the other half coming the next week at the same time for their 2.5 hours learning block possibility of some extra English and Mathematics. Due to the 2m distance ruling it will mean that some practical subject rooms will not be able to take enough pupils to make our timetable viable.

S1 pupils will be a 2.5 hour block a fortnight for most subjects i.e. Half of an S1 class coming in for a 2.5 hours learning block, the other half coming the next week at the same time for their 2.5 hours learning block possibility of some extra English and Mathematics. due to the 2m distance ruling it will mean that some practical subject rooms will not be able to take enough pupils to make our timetable viable.

With S1 and S2 subjects there is a possibility of halving the 2.5 hour learning block, however this would only work for some subjects and we are still considering this.

S1-S4 Wellbeing . . .we will have PE and PSE weekly

The online support we will be able to do will obviously become much smaller, for most subjects, than at the moment due to our focus on face to face teaching. We will work out approximate timings for this for each subject department as it will be different.

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