



GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers for information

To our pupils - We have just started our second last week of school before we officially stop for the summer break. I **would urge you to 'hang in there', push yourself through these last two weeks.** Do all the work asked for and then feel that you have given your best, and are in place to enjoy a well deserved break in order to prepare for starting back in August. If you need extra support please contact us.

You may have heard a variety of information from the Scottish Government, and letters and video clip from Renfrewshire Director of Children's Services, Steven Quinn, as well as detail on the news. I will be providing a full update on Monday 22 June, along with all Renfrewshire Heads Teachers, as we explain the planning for our return to school in August. We have been in school the last two weeks preparing for a safe return for our pupils, and have created our August curriculum, organised classrooms following all health and safety guidelines and completed our safe entry and exit points to the school – all of this will be in my Monday update.

We took another step forward with the announcement of our School Captains for session 2020/2021 -

Rachael Bell and Calum Robertson

On Friday we also had 24 S6 pupils, socially distanced, in our school theatre as we announced the leadership positions for session 2020/2021. I cannot express how good it felt to be talking to some of our pupils, in school, and discussing how we will make a difference in the session to come - this was another step back to a 'norm', where we look forward to getting our pupils back into school.

Our new Pupil Management Team have already taken on and organised two tasks:

- **Every day from Monday 15 June, from 10:00 - 11:00 am, pupils from our Pupil Management Team will be available to issue jotters, paper, pens, pencils, allocated course work.....etc, from the outside door leading into the S6 social area/canteen. We would ask that if any pupil needs any additional resources then please go there to pick up whatever is required.**



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- Rachael and Calum have also created a rota where pupils in the Pupil Management Team will support our **P7 Visits on Thursday 18, Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 June**. We are providing the opportunity for our soon to be S1 pupils to visit the school in small groups, by House Groups. This will be a fitting end to our extensive online P7 transition programme which has been running every school day since Monday 1 June.

SQA Examinations and course work

We will soon get some detail in regard to the SQA Examinations. As we await further detail I cannot emphasise enough the necessity for pupils to be completing the work asked of them. All pupils need the grounding in their subjects, the foundations to build on as the year progresses in a way that we have never experienced before. For pupils, the motivation and discipline to work on your own and establish consistent routines is a challenge in itself – **this must be done if you wish to be successful in your education, but also remember we are here to help.**

This is the critical point: if you are not doing ALL of the work we are asking for then there is a strong possibility that for senior phase pupils staff will not have evidence over the course of the session and you may be moved to a lower level or will have a lower estimated grade. For S2 and S3 year groups it may result in you not being able to follow a course to the level you are actually capable of, simply due to not completing the work asked for. The work you are doing now is so important.

As always, if there are reasons that you can't complete work then let us know so we can support you as much as possible.

PLEASE contact your teachers/Guidance Teachers/Year Heads or myself if you need any further support – **we are here to help. Email details are on the school website, under 'Brief Updates'.**

At the moment pupils are only receiving online learning and support, however come August it will be blended learning - a mixture of work in school and online learning - so all pupils will need to adapt to both ways of working, as will staff. Our main emphasis in August will be teaching pupils when they are in school, setting further work to do and then doing some follow up online work. Again, more detail will be provided in Monday's update.

- Caring** - Always taking care of yourself, your family and friends. Please be kind and considerate of others.
- Learning** - We are learning how to adapt to different ways of working. Please push yourself to complete what is asked of you.
- Achieving** - Go into your summer break proud of what you have achieved and happy that you have completed the work that will help you have a flying start in August.

Mr Colin Johnson
Head Teacher

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