



GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers

At the end of this second week back after the Spring Break I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe.

I am sending this letter to all S1 through to S5 pupils, with S6 having left us (although not officially as we would like to recognise their significant contributions to Gryffe) as well as all parents/carers.

I would ask that **ALL** pupils focus on creating their own 'routines' and do their very best to complete work being set by teachers. I would also emphasis again that pupils should work at their pace, if they miss what they see as a deadline then that is okay, just email and say that. The main thing is that pupils continue with routines as much as possible, work at their pace, make returns when they have managed the tasks, **and keep positive in their learning.**

I would also ask all pupils to show the lead as we move forward, and continue, or start!!, to demonstrate your CARING and consideration for others - what are you doing that is genuinely helping others?

We have nearly finalised our complete timetable for next session, which in turn will allow us to create our subject classes and therefore be able to provide further appropriate work for pupil's new courses. We are in the process of contacting some individual pupils/parents/carers where there has been an issue and as such changes need to be made.

For a few days this week I, and a few other staff, have been in school to try and get a few things organised, and in particular some additional resources for pupils Individualised work for some pupils, with a number of pupils getting packs delivered to their doors; general packs of resources like jotters, pens, rulers, paper...etc created, and some delivered to pupils houses and also to the Houston and Killellan Church, for any who wishes to collect. Former S6 pupils have offered to deliver packs on request. I have also asked the local authority if we can have the school open for a day next week, for pupils/parents/cares to collect additional resources/work – further details to follow on this.

In-Service Days

There are two In-Service Days on Wednesday 6 May and Thursday 7 May. These days are for staff to concentrate on their planning for the session ahead, and as such pupils should not be set work as they will officially be on 'holiday'. I have set a fairly extensive range of tasks for staff to focus on in order that we plan carefully for not just the coming weeks but on the full session ahead of us. We, as you would expect, wish our pupils to get the very best service and support possible, regardless of circumstances, and need to ensure that we put the appropriate planning in place.

Likewise Friday 8 May is a pupil 'holiday' although both I am some other staff expect to be supporting pupils in West Johnstone Campus on that day.

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For the moment staff have been in frequent communication with each other in order to establish our 7 key focus areas for the weeks/months ahead:

➤ Keep effective lines of communication open between all staff, with weekly 'check ins' as appropriate and provide updates to pupils/parents/carers.	✓ Working well
➤ Continue creating online resources, for each subject, for S1, S2 and S3 pupils in order for pupils to learn from home.	✓ Working well
➤ Ensure that pupils are able to be in contact with their teachers in order to have support..... via Glow Teams, SMHW, emails etc.	✓ Working well
➤ Support vulnerable pupils and children of front line service parents/carers. Currently Gryffe staff are supporting pupils at the West Johnstone Campus. Staff are also creating and delivering packs of work to families as appropriate.	✓ Working well
➤ Revisit estimates to ensure we have followed all advice for final estimates. This will include records of verification processes within each department/faculty. I want to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to support our young people in ensuring that they gain the grades in their exams that reflects their work and efforts across the year.	✓ Good progress being made
➤ As from Monday 27 April create online resources, for each subject for new S5 and S6 pupils.	✓ Started well
➤ Support pupils/parents/carers/staff wellbeing	✓ Working well

As much as we try and meet the needs of all our pupils this can sometimes be difficult for a variety of reasons. Staff are using an increasing variety of ways to communicate with pupils, and to encourage them to complete work. We are contacting a significant number of parents to ask how things are going, and if we can do anything further to support them. Should you feel we could support you more, or in a different way, then please contact either the appropriate Year Head or the appropriate Pupil Support Principal Teacher and we will do the very best we can.

For S1, S2 and S3 pupils and parents/carers - Activities Week

The school has now received authorisation from Renfrewshire Council to refund parents/carers for non-residential activities as no monies were paid out to any organisations before lockdown procedures were implemented. As such we have arranged for funds to be transferred to Parentpay to allow us to begin the process of refunds. The process of transferring funds will take a few working days to complete and this should allow school staff to begin the process of refund parents/carers on an individual basis starting next week. The refund process will take a few days to complete for every pupil as parents/carers have all paid varying amounts.

The school will place funds back into Parentpay accounts and parents/carers will require to log back in to Parentpay to transfer funds back to their respective debit/credit cards. Can I ask that parents/carers please check school meals accounts beforehand and clear any current overspends before taking funds back out of Parentpay.

With regards to residential activities, we still await instruction from Renfrewshire Council, based on the fact that we still await a decision from the council's insurers for funds paid to Tour Operators. As soon as we are in a position to refund for these trips, we will do so immediately and notify you accordingly.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in refunding monies to you in these unusual times.

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For new S5, new S6 and old S6 pupils and parents/carers - An update from SQA

'Everyone at SQA thanks you for your continued support, and we hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy during lockdown. We are determined to make the latest information on arrangements for SQA qualifications available as quickly as we possibly can, and are continuing to update our website to **keep you informed and answer your questions**. Our work with key parent, carer and learner organisations continues to ensure our messaging is clear for them. We are also looking at ways to help schools and colleges share information with their learners, and we hope to provide more details in the next few weeks.

Encourage your learners to get 'results ready' with MySQA

The easiest way for your learners to receive their National Qualifications results this summer is via our MySQA service. We are promoting MySQA across our own social channels, but we know that not all learners will see or engage with our messages. Any help you can offer by encouraging them to sign-up – either by sharing our messages through your own channels, or by simply directing learners towards MySQA – is greatly appreciated.

Learners must sign up at www.mysqa.org.uk before 5 pm on Tuesday 14 July 2020. To register, all they need is their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and a valid email address. They can then choose to receive their results by text and/or email.

For learners already registered for MySQA, we're asking them to check their details are correct and update their preferences. Learners expecting their results for National Courses and awards, National Certificates, National Progression Awards, and Skills for Work courses, will receive their results no later than Tuesday 4 August. Further guidance for parents, carers and learners is available on our [website](#).

National Qualifications web page for learners

Last week, we created a new page on our website to keep learners up to date on what is happening with 2020 National Qualifications. This page will be updated as and when we have further information. Visit www.sqa.org.uk/2020nqlearners for more information and to view frequently asked questions.

SQA takes part in UCAS Facebook Live

On Thursday 23 April, Gill Stewart, our Director of Qualifications Development, joined a panel of experts from UCAS, Universities Scotland and Colleges Scotland to answer questions from young people hoping to move on to university after school or college. Around 1,800 people tuned in and asked around 1,000 questions which were grouped for the panel to answer. You can watch the session [here](#).'

Finally, and as usual, please feel free to contact me should you wish me to explain anything in further detail.

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Please look after yourselves, and your family and friends wherever possible.

Take care.

Mr Colin Johnson
Head Teacher



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