



GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers

New timetables are well underway, and all pupils, I hope, are engaged in their learning and doing all that is being asked of them by staff. We appreciate that, particularly in the nice weather, it may be a little harder to focus on your work, and that is where your routine and organisation comes in. Please hang in there and manage your time as best you can and get through your work. If you need support, or a chat, then please contact us.

Yesterday I had a very interesting and enjoyable Skype Conference Meeting with the Senior Pupil Council, where the feedback from pupils was very positive. We went through the 7 key focus areas set by the school, and throughout all of it I was delighted that they gave some detail on what they saw as effective practice, which was shared with all staff, along with a few suggestions:

- ✓ Setting work for the week – this helped them get themselves organised, although sometimes they feel a little overwhelmed on a Monday as that is the key day that work is issued. If some work could be issued later in the week for later the following week as this might help.
- ✓ Feedback – quick responses from staff, which they really appreciated and made them feel more engaged. They felt the more feedback they got the more they were engaged.
- ✓ Recorded/video lessons were getting their interest and helped them focus. They appreciated just seeing a familiar smiling face.
- ✓ Live lessons were exciting, but possibly at a slightly slower pace as they found it hard to listen and write as the same time, but liked it.
- ✓ The use of Teams and calls via Teams – they gave examples of their very positive experience of this, and the wish of some more of it in some subjects if possible.

There was a request that if possible, for some Teams/video calls, if a reminder could be built in as a few had missed lessons, through their own fault, as they hadn't checked SMHW often enough.

Next, I am delighted to say that, after discussion with the local authority, all the estimates were submitted to the SQA.

Finally I had a very lengthy Skype Conference Meeting with all the local authority Heads of Services and key coordinators in all services connected to the 'Recovery Planning'. The key focuses of the meeting were: the planning to ensure the wellbeing and safe return to schools for staff; and that the planning for the return of pupils, again within a safe environment, was phased. Further detail of discussion and planning will soon be given from the local authority. As you know the Scottish Government has set out the route map for schools and nurseries to reopen for children and young people across Scotland. You can read about it here: [Scottish Government's route map](#)

The route map includes:

- Teachers, early years practitioners, and support staff returning in June to prepare for the new school term
I am delighted to say that Gryffe will be open from this Monday, for cleaning staff, deliveries and preparation. It is a beginning, and at least shows that we are started to move forward. My Senior Management Team will have the opportunity of also being in the building and preparing for a phased staff return. The priority of our 7 key focus areas continues, with our home learning programme still a key priority. Further detail will be given next week regarding the overall 'Recovery Planning' for June and August.

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- Continued childcare for key workers and vulnerable children in June and during the summer
We continue to support pupils attending the West Johnstone Campus.
- Transition support for children moving into primary one and secondary school
*We have created a detailed and comprehensive **Virtual P7 Class** and Induction programme. Please follow the frequent updates on the school website.*
- All schools and nurseries reopening after the summer break
An expected phased return in August. We are currently working with the local authority on the best and safest way of doing this in Gryffe.
- A blended model of learning at school and at home for pupils from August
Again, we are currently working with the local authority on the best and safest way of doing this in Gryffe. We are making good progress with further detail to follow.

Further updates

General Coronavirus Information (includes a link to schools information): <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Coronavirus Information and FAQs about early years and schools: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>

Online application for free school meals: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>
(Visit the page and then click on 'Apply for Free School Meals' under Related Links on the right hand side of the page)

Online application for clothing grants: this should reopen on 1 June 2020 or shortly thereafter and information is on the same page as for meals. <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>
Please remember that you need to make a new application for each new academic year. Bear in mind that there will likely be a lot of new applications over the next few weeks and it may take a couple of weeks for applications to be processed.

Activities Week

All refunds have now been completed for non-residential trips. We are still awaiting the outcome of insurance claims for residential trips. We unfortunately do not have any control over timescales for this to be resolved. As soon as claims are settled we will issue refunds via Parentpay and notify you accordingly.

S3 Bronze DofE and S5/6 Silver DofE

Whilst in lockdown, progress regarding expeditions continues and discussions are well under way to coordinate Bronze and Silver Expeditions with all other Renfrewshire Schools to ensure that pupils will still get their award. More information to follow as we get it. Pupils can currently be creative with Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections during lockdown. More than 1 activity can now be done for each section as pupils will be restricted at the moment. If there is anything pupils can do from home there is some allowance for this in eDofE and anyone who needs information can message Mr Taylor via eDofE. Please ensure that all of your sections are up to date with the necessary evidence. If your section is completed please ensure you have 4 pieces of evidence and the necessary Assessor's Report for each section.

Please continue to do all you can to be safe and take care.

Mr Colin Johnson
Head Teacher



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