



# GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

Old Bridge of Weir Road, Houston, PA6 7EB

Tel: 0300 300 1323

e-mail: [gryffehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:gryffehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

web address: [www.gryffehigh.com](http://www.gryffehigh.com)

Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers

I hope you are safe and well as we are in such strange times and can only look forward with optimism and a little hope. It is refreshing to hear so many stories of people thinking of and supporting others, family, friends, neighbours, a great community spirit. Caring is shining through and is something we can all be proud of.

I looked at my end of term letter to parents/carers of last year –

*I write to inform you that the school closes for the Spring Holiday at 2:30 pm on Friday 29 March, and that pupils return to school at 8:50 am on Monday 15 April.*

*... then detail of pupil achievements, upcoming events, Easter Service, Awards Ceremony, School Show...etc May I take this opportunity to wish all pupils and parents/carers an enjoyable and relaxing break, albeit I would expect our S4, S5 and S6 pupils to be studying hard for the forthcoming SQA examinations!*

I am sure that we all are looking forward to getting back to our 'norm', and when we do I hope we are looking back with all our families safe and sound, and looking forward to fully embracing and enjoying the joys and experiences, and normality, that school life can bring.

Update on **our continued focus:**

- Creating online resources, for each subject, for S1, S2 and S3 pupils in order for pupils to learn from home

*... as well as this has been going, a few pupils have talked about the amount of work. I would wish to emphasise 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 will be uploading some further 'Supporting At Home Daily Online and TV activities for Fun Learning'*

- To support S4, S5 and S6 pupils where possible get further evidence to support estimate marks where appropriate ... this might be course work...etc along with further evidence  
*... Any further work assigned to senior classes during school closure is primarily to keep pupils engaged, reinforcing the skills they have learned over the session and to ensure smooth transition should they be progressing with the subject next year. For some subjects this has given the opportunity for some pupils to complete assignments, however there are also pupils who are unable to do this due to absence/illness and as such we must ensure fair systems for all our pupils. We still await the 'further details on the estimation of grades, .... and fuller details of our approach to certification' from the SQA, however 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.*

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*Also, as mentioned in my last update, if pupils are not back in May/June then we will consider new S5 and new S6 pupils starting their National 5/Higher/Advanced Higher work via digital platforms similar to the S1, S2 and S3 pupils. I will provide more information on this once we receive updated detail from the SQA.*

- Pupils able to be in contact with their teachers in order to have support..... via Glow Teams, SMHW, emails ..... etc

*... The communication channels seem to be working well.*

- Support vulnerable pupils and children of front line service parents/carers

*... Our Senior Managers and our Principal Teachers of Pupil Support have been contacting a range of families as a check in and to ask if we can do anything more to help.*

*If you, or anyone else you are aware of, are unable to access on-line resources for your child then please pick up ready made packs which we have left at Houston and Killellan Church, Houston.*

*There are packs for S1, S2 and S3 pupils, with each pack having appropriate English and Maths work to start with. The packs are being taken by S6 pupil volunteers to the church tomorrow.*

*Church contact details are: 01505 612 569 or email [gnoonan@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:gnoonan@churchofscotland.org.uk)*

We are about to officially start the 'Spring Break' and I will be asking staff to take the time to be safe with their own family and concentrate on them. I believe, even under the present circumstances, that we use this time, as far as possible, to relax, probably work around our homes, care for others and enjoy family time – as much as this can be challenging when all together in close proximity. I have upload to the school website some 'Supporting At Home Daily Online and TV activities for Fun Learning', and of course there is also keep fit, home exercise, walking/running with social distancing in mind... etc.

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

[gw09johnsoncolin@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw09johnsoncolin@glow.sch.uk)

Please stay safe and keep healthy in both body and mind.

Mr Colin Johnson  
Head Teacher

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