

**Grange Academy**

Head Teacher: Mr Robert Johnston

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As time in lockdown goes on, the school building may remain closed but Grange Academy remains very much open! There is a great deal of activity going on across subjects as we continue to provide support to our young people, both in terms of their learning and of their wellbeing. Naturally, it is impossible to replicate the experience of a classroom setting in the current circumstances; however, parents, carers and teachers are to be warmly commended for continuing to do their very best to encourage progress.

We are approaching the time of year when we would normally be changing our timetable with young people at all levels moving on to the next stage or level of study. In previous years, this has taken place during the first week of June, however, given our current circumstances, we have decided to bring this forward and will be moving to our new timetable next week. For our current S1 and S2 this is, for the most part, a continuation of their BGE (Broad General Education) and for our current S3, S4 and S5, new courses will begin in their chosen curriculum. In a number of subject areas of the Senior Phase, preparatory work has indeed already started.

**VIRTUAL TIMETABLE CHANGE**

Our school timetable will 'virtually' change on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. All year groups will move on to their new subjects/levels on this date and these changes will show when they log into Show My Homework. Please note that because different households have different routines and facilities, following a school period-by-period 'timetable' at home is not the aim. Young people are encouraged to find a routine which works well for them in their unique environment and circumstances. Below are some frequently asked questions about timetable change:

***Did I get all the options I asked for?***

This year we offered a free choice process for selecting subjects and we are delighted that we have been able to accommodate almost all requests made. There is a small number of pupils for whom this has not been possible and Principal Teachers of Pupil Support will continue to make contact this week to explore options.

***I'm in the new S3 and have chosen a DYW Course. What does this mean for me during lockdown?***

These courses are delivered in conjunction with staff from Ayrshire College and will therefore not run online.

***I have applied to a college course. What does this mean for me during lockdown?***

The outcome of these interviews is still unknown. Where college applications are unsuccessful, we will conduct interviews at a later date to establish what will replace the school/college provision for those young people who will no longer attend college.



***I seem to have more than one teacher per subject.***

Having more than one teacher per subject is not an error. A number of teachers work part time and this results in some classes being split between two teachers. We have worked to minimise this as much as possible in the Senior Phase.

***Can I get a copy of my timetable to structure my week?***

As detailed above, following a school timetable at home is not the aim but we know that it can help you to structure your day and week. If you feel you would benefit from a new timetable then please message your Pupil Support Teacher on Show My Homework.

**ACCESSING YOUR WORK**

Show My Homework continues to be the main platform through which teachers will communicate with their classes. For that reason, where a lesson is being delivered on Microsoft Teams, teachers will still flag this in a Show My Homework post so that parents and carers are aware of it too.

Requests for password resets can still be made via the school website or using this link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/GrangeDigital>

**SURVEY RESPONSES**

Thank you to all who completed our pupil, parent and teacher surveys. We have been able to learn a lot from these about the experience everyone is having at the moment. The overwhelming message is that the experience is very different for everyone and we are all making adjustments in different ways. There were many contrasting opinions. A group of teachers has been looking over the responses and will share an action plan later this week.

**THANK YOU AND WELL DONE**

I would like to thank you for your forbearance during these difficult times. There are very few definite answers to the many questions we all have about the future at this stage, however, I would like to assure you that the staff at Grange Academy are working extremely hard to maintain a sound level of education and care for our young people. My thanks go to all parents and carers for your patience and partnership.

Yours faithfully,



Robert Johnston  
Head Teacher