



# GRANGE ACADEMY BULLETIN

26<sup>th</sup> October 2020

# CAMERON



Congratulations to Cameron McGill who won the Players' Player Award at the U15s Awards Ceremony at Kilmarnock Rugby Club.

# SCHOOL CAPTAINS LEADING DECISIONS



Our school captains have chosen five aspects of school life they think pupils should lead improvements in.

They are putting together teams of prefects and beginning their planning. More details to follow!



# COVID-19: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Why can't we have assemblies?**

A: Schools have been given written instructions by the local council and the Scottish Government - these are called risk assessments. The risk assessments that Grange is working with explicitly instruct the school not to hold assemblies.

**Q: But how does this make sense considering that there are lots of pupils in the assembly hall together for lunch?**

A: Assemblies are not essential; pupils eating is essential. One we have a choice in; the other we have no choice in. Where we can't eliminate risk, we minimise risk.

# COVID-19: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: In the assembly hall at interval and lunchtime, why do we have to sit at the tables of six instead of being allowed to bring extra chairs over to make a bigger group? This is especially annoying considering we're in classes of 30.**

A: We must set limits on seating in *social* areas. This rule exists outside of school too – for example, in restaurants. The Scottish Government instructs schools to spread you out *wherever possible* – and it's *more possible* in the hall than in classrooms.

**Q: Why do we have to wear face coverings in the Assembly Hall and The Street at lunchtime when we don't have to wear them in lessons?**

A: In all *social* areas, Scottish Government guidance is that you should. Also, in lessons you're not facing each other but with pals in The Street and Assembly Hall, you are.

# COVID-19: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Can we come indoors for PE now that that weather is becoming colder?**

A: The risk assessments mentioned a minute ago say no. However this will change eventually and the minute we have permission to bring PE back inside, we'll do it.

**Q: What was the point of cancelling the National 5 exams considering that we can socially-distance ok in the assembly hall if the exam desks are spaced out in the usual way?**

A: That's not why they were cancelled. The decision was to do with coverage of the courses, not with social distancing. National 5 preparation would have begun while you were still in lockdown last June. In many schools, it would have started well before that. Too much learning time was missed. This is also why SQA has made some changes to National 5 coursework this year. It would be unfair to zoom you through the National 5s at super-fast speed and still expect you to perform as well as previous year groups.

# COVID-19: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Are Higher and Advanced Higher exams definitely still happening?**

A: We don't know yet. There is no guarantee that they will and the Scottish Government has promised that the very latest they will tell us if the exams are cancelled is February.

**Q: I'm sitting Highers and Advanced Highers and I'm confused - how should I prepare if we don't have a final answer about the exams?**

A: Stay calm and organised. Your teachers are holding the reins and planning cleverly. If you follow their instructions and advice in class, you'll be fine. The only problems you'll have will be if **a)** you're missing lessons **or b)** you're not studying **or c)** you're not planning to study hard until prelims or exams. You need to be building up good grades in your assessments all through the year.



# SENIOR COURSES

All S4, S5 and S6 pupils have been added to a Microsoft Teams page for their year group.

In the absence of assemblies, this is where we will communicate information about exams, prelims, study leave, new SQA announcements etc.

It's important that you interact with this, otherwise you may miss out on information.

If you are having any problems logging into Glow, please see Ms Cooper in the library.

As always, please see Miss MacKinnon any interval or lunchtime in The Street if you have questions.





# FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

Family photographs will take place in the small gym this Thursday (29th October). If your parents/carers have requested for you to attend, please arrive at the following times:

Bruce House P1

Douglas House P2

Graham House P3

Hamilton House P4

If your sibling is in a different house group, come down when the older sibling's house is due down.

There will be time during P5 for anyone who forgets their slot or if you forgot to have your photo taken last month.



# FIRST AID TRAINING

All S3 School of Rugby pupils: please meet in The Street today at the start of period 2 for First Aid training.

Thanks.



# HAVE A GREAT WEEK, GRANGE

Work hard.

Be kind.