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East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

Grange Academy

Head Teacher: Mr Robert Johnston

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Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils,

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

As I am sure you will appreciate, the task of reintroducing large numbers of children and young people safely back in to school is a challenge and every school has its own unique context. I know you are well aware that Grange Campus (Grange Academy, Annanhill Primary and Park School) is operating at 100% capacity and this year our anticipated school roll in Grange Academy is the highest it has ever been.

The guidance from the Scottish Government (issued Wednesday 3rd March) has asked us to consider the following:

- 2m social distancing within the school building
- 1m social distancing on school transport
- Consideration of the maximum number of pupils that can be in school with recognition given to staffing, accommodation, transport, school capacity and local constraints
- Key Worker and Identified Pupil In School Provision to continue
- Priority to Senior Phase learners undertaking National Qualifications
- BGE (S1 – S3) pupils to return to reconnect with school (at least once per week)

In line with the current Scottish Government 2m social distancing rule, secondary classrooms in Grange Academy can safely accommodate between 6 to 10 young people plus their teacher, depending on the particular curricular use of the room. On average, this is approximately 33% of the normal room capacity. We also have to take into account wider issues such as access to toilets, handwashing facilities and the overall campus footfall in corridors, social areas and shared spaces. It is within these very tight physical parameters that we aim to reintroduce our young people to face-to-face learning with a meaningful curriculum.

To achieve this, we have developed a new timetable which will operate for the 14 day period as follows:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Bruce House (S1 – S6)	Graham House (S1 – S6)	Douglas House (S1 – S6)	Hamilton House (S1-S6)	All S5/6 Pupils

In addition, we will also target individual groups of Senior Phase pupils for additional contact throughout the week. These pupils will be contacted individually to make arrangements.

SIBLINGS

In the vast majority of cases, sibling will be within the same House Group. However, there a few examples of sibling being split across different houses. In these situations we would ask that the older sibling (S3-S6) attend on the House Day of the younger sibling (S1/2).

For example, Pupil A is in 2D2 and Pupil B is in 5G1. Both pupils should attend on the Douglas House day.

CURRICULUM

We have adapted our timetable to maximise curricular contact time on the days which pupils are in school:

S1	English, Maths and PE plus 4 other subjects
S2	English, Maths and PE plus 4 other subjects
S3	English and Maths plus 5 other subjects (timetabled as staffing and accommodation allows). Some pupils will have PE – this will be communicated to pupils via their PE teacher on SatchelOne/Teams
S4	Pupils will have contact with each of their seven subjects. Only pupils studying SQA PE will have PE. There will be no core PE.
S5/6	Pupils will have contact with each of their subjects during their “house day” plus additional contact on a Friday. Only pupils studying SQA PE will have PE. There will be no core PE.

In the overwhelming majority of cases, S3-S6 pupils will be taught by their class teachers. In a handful of cases this is not possible but subject specialists will deliver lessons.

Given the constraints we need to work within, it is not possible to guarantee that S1 or S2 pupils will be taught by their class teachers. This is unavoidable as we need to divide S1 and S2 pupils into bubbles of 6/7 pupils. However, we have managed to maintain subject specialist teaching.

PUPIL TIMETABLES

There are some very real logistical and administrative challenges in generating and issuing new individual pupil timetables. We will communicate start of day arrangements to pupils via the school app and email prior to their first day back in school.

STRUCTURE OF SCHOOL DAY

We will be following the same structure to the school day as we had before Christmas with split intervals/lunches for BGE/Senior Phase pupils.

MONDAY to THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Period 1	8:45 – 9:35	Period 1	8:45 – 9:35
Period 2	9:35 – 10:25	Period 2	9:35 – 10:25
Period 3a	10:25 – 11:00	Period 3a	10:25 – 11:00
INTERVAL		INTERVAL	
Period 3b*	11:15 – 11:30	Period 3b*	11:15 – 11:30
Period 4	11:30 – 12:20	Period 4	11:30 – 12:20
LUNCH (12:20 – 13:10) Pre-ordered food will be available from 12:40pm		Period 5	12:20 – 13:05
Period 5	13:10 – 13:55	LUNCH	
Period 6	13:55 – 14:45		
Period 7	14:45 – 15:30		

*Pupils return to Period 3 class after interval for 15 minutes before moving to Period 4 class

STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL DAY S4 – S6 PUPILS

MONDAY to THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Period 1	8:45 – 9:35	Period 1	8:45 – 9:35
Period 2	9:35 – 10:25	Period 2	9:35 – 10:25
Period 3	10:25 – 11:15	Period 3	10:25 – 11:15
INTERVAL		INTERVAL	
Period 4	11:30 – 12:20	Period 4	11:30 – 12:20
Period 5	12:20 – 13:10	Period 5	12:20 – 13:10
LUNCH		LUNCH	
Period 6	13:55 – 14:45		
Period 7	14:45 – 15:35		

Period times are unchanged for Senior Phase Pupils

REMOTE/HOME LEARNING

Remote/learning at home will continue from Monday 15th March for those pupils not timetabled to be in school. It is inevitable that as teachers will be preparing and delivering face-to-face teaching in school they may not necessarily be available to engage directly with young people at the times you have been accustomed to up until now.

HEALTH & SAFETY

When we return on Monday all pupils and staff are asked to observe 2m social distancing at all times when in the school building. Classrooms have been set up to allow for this and pupils will be expected to respect 2m distancing at all times.

To help us maintain a safe environment pupils are asked not to socialise or congregate inside the school building before the start of the school day, during interval or lunchtime (after eating lunch). We appreciate however that if the weather is inclement this will not always be possible and during such times young people will be allowed to remain indoors. Pupils are advised to come to school prepared with an appropriate weather proof/warm jacket for this purpose.

All young people from S1 to S6 and staff are expected to wear a face covering (unless exempt) in class and throughout the school building and wash/sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day.

ASYMPTOMATIC/LATERAL FLOW TESTING

As advised last week, all senior pupils are encouraged to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme. After completing the online consent form, test kits can be picked up from the school office from today.

We are aware that plans for voluntary lateral flow testing for S1-S3 pupils were mentioned by the Scottish Government in an update given to parliament earlier this week. We are awaiting further information and time scales regarding this and will provide an update when we are able to.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Buses/Taxis will be running as normal from Monday 15th March and young people will be expected to wear a face covering at all times (unless exempt) and observe 1m social distancing while on the bus.

KEY WORKER AND OTHER IDENTIFIED PUPILS

Our in-school provision will continue from Monday 15th March for pupils of key workers and other identified young people.

UNIFORM

While it is unrealistic to expect a return to full school uniform at this stage for a variety of reasons, we would encourage young people to wear uniform where and when possible. It is our intention that all young people will be wearing uniform when education returns to 'normal' however this will be a gradual process. Now would be a good time to make a start if possible!

As PE is still outdoors, pupils are welcome to wear appropriate clothing to school on days when they have PE.

We very much look forward to welcoming our young people back to school and thank you for your ongoing support throughout this time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R A Johnston', written in a cursive style.

Robert Johnston
Head Teacher