



Introduction

As we near the end of our third term at Keith Grammar School it has certainly been one of many challenges. Over the course of the last five weeks we have welcomed back more pupils, albeit in a phased return. It has been great to see more life in the school building as we get back to some form of normality. What has impressed me most is the positive way our pupils have engaged with their teachers and their work. They have been incredible in following the safety measures by wearing their face coverings in class, sticking to social distancing and looking out for each other and staff.

I want to acknowledge my colleagues who have worked tirelessly to ensure our pupils have continued to get the best learning experience possible over this lockdown. Everyone working together has meant the various plans we have set in place have been efficiently and effectively implemented.

Post Easter return

I had hoped to be communicating our plans for a full return after the Easter break. Whilst it is more than likely this will be the decision, we are unfortunately not yet in a position to confirm it fully as yet. We have been told that the final decision will be made on the 6th of April during the second week of our holidays.

Please be assured that we have contingency plans in place that will support different scenarios should the Government announcement differ from a full return. We will be back in contact with you during the second week of the Easter holidays to confirm arrangements.

Face Coverings

In whatever scenario our return to school is based, face coverings will continue to be a feature of school life post Easter. All pupils (S1-S6) will be required to wear a face covering in all internal spaces including corridors, the canteen and in classrooms. During break and lunchtimes pupils will be encouraged to go outside so that they can take their face coverings off and get some fresh air, as we have in place presently.

Social Distancing

In order to ensure all pupils are back in school the current 2m restriction cannot be in place. As with last term we will return to social distancing in corridors and outdoors, where possible. The 2m distance will still be adhered to between staff as well as between staff and pupils, particularly in class.

Lateral Flow Testing

Lateral flow testing (asymptomatic test) will be rolled out across the school to S1-S6 and all staff. All staff and pupils will have received a letter and consent form for completion and return.

While we are encouraging all staff and senior pupils to participate in order to contribute to the wellbeing and safety of our school community, please be aware the test is voluntary, and nobody will be required to undergo testing without consent.

On Wednesday the 24th March we started to issue the S3 test kits for those opting in. S1 and S2 pupils will be issued with their kits after the holidays during the first week back. For those opting into the testing, please ensure consent forms are completed and returned as soon as possible.

Parent Briefing

Thursday 25th March 2021



Lateral Flow Testing continued//

Please note - tests do not need to be done over the Easter holidays. Staff and pupils in S3-S6 should commence testing on **Sunday 11th April**, prior to our return from the Easter break.

Staggered Lunches

Next term we plan to trial staggered lunches as a measure to mitigate potential risk and to support social distancing. By introducing this approach it will help reduce the number of pupils in social areas at this time, where the canteen will be for collection only, and the number of pupils going off campus for their lunch, where there may be greater potential risk to our school and the wider community.

The plan would mean the following:

- BGE pupils (S1-S3) will have their lunch during period 5 each day.
- BGE pupils will then return to class over normal lunch time to do their period 5 subject
- Senior Phase pupils will have lunch at the normal time

School Uniform

School uniform will again be relaxed for term 4. We understand the pressure families will have in trying to buy new school clothing which pupils may grow out of over the Summer break. We would ask that pupils return:

- smartly dressed
- in black or white top/shirt/blouse/ t-shirt
- in black trousers/ skirts

Pupils should not come to school in blue or ripped jeans of any description.

Wellbeing

A crucial part of our recovery will be the supports we put in place around the wellbeing of our school community. We are planning activities that will engage our pupils for the first week back after Easter. These activities will be a crucial part of settling our young people back into school life and set the last term of the year on the right footing.

Hub provision

As we come to the end of the second lockdown before the holidays recognition should be made of all staff who have contributed to the Hub for key worker children. Pupil Support Assistants and Teaching Staff have done an amazing job at supporting our young people with a range of learning opportunities and wellbeing activities. The value of their input has been hugely appreciated.

School Progress Update

Next term will be incredibly busy with many aspects of school life trying to return to normal. Term 4 will be an important time for our Senior Phase pupils as we try to gather as much evidence as possible to support the process of determining their predicted grades.

E-sgoil Easter Study Programme

There continues to be a number of resources, recorded lessons and webinars available as part of the National offer to complement the delivery of learning and teaching by school staff. E-sgoil has shared their programme for Easter study for S1-S6 and we would encourage our Senior Phase pupils particularly to make the most of the opportunity. The link below will take pupils to the relevant page on the site where further detail on the Easter study programme is available:

<http://www.e-sgoil.com/lockdown-live/>

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SQA Update

There have been significant updates from the SQA this year around the qualification process. At school level we have set a number of key dates and an assessment window so that subjects have sufficient evidence on which to base our pupils provisional grades.

When our pupils return the assessment window has been planned for late April and early May to allow sufficient time for pupils to revise and have as much support as possible to succeed. Assessments will only happen when a class teacher believes pupils are ready and have a high chance of success.

Grades will be shared with pupils so that they know what has been submitted, however this may not be the final grade as this data will then need to go through the SQA quality assurance process.

P7-S1 Transition

Transition planning is underway in readiness for our P7 pupils coming into secondary after the Summer break. At present the majority of the transition programme will be virtual again but we are hopeful we can welcome our new pupils into school in some way, depending on the easing of restrictions and where the guidance allows.

Awards Ceremony

Our awards ceremony will be going virtual again this year and planning is well underway. Although this is not the ceremony we'd hoped for or the ceremony our pupils deserve we hope it will be a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our pupils.

MFR Cash for kids

We recently received an e-mail from MFR Cash for Kids thanking us for the donation of £186.56 raised by all at Keith Grammar School. The contribution from the school will be a much needed boost right now to helping children who are unwell, living with a disability, in poverty or those who simply need a little extra support in life. Well done everyone!

Finally...

I would like to thank you for all of your support over the last term as without it we would not have accomplished as much as we have. The collective effort of our school community has meant we have been able to give continuity to our young people and continue to deliver learning. We cannot wait to welcome all of your young people back to school after the holidays and look forward to seeing them back in the building full time.

Lastly, can I take this opportunity to wish all staff, pupils and their families a restful break over the Easter holidays.

Best wishes
Alan Bruce
Head Teacher

