

# Parent Briefing

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021



## Introduction

I hope this finds you well. On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, the First Minister confirmed arrangements for a part-time return to school for some pupils. This return would be for Senior Phase pupils to complete practical work for National Qualifications.

As well as planning a new timetable for this phased return, our online learning timetable looks set to continue for a bit longer with some minor amendments to reflect the in-school provision. The information to follow gives a brief outline of this initial phase of our recovery programme. More detailed information has been given to those directly affected and further guidance will be shared as we progress in the coming weeks.

## School Recovery Plan

As noted above the purpose of this phased return is to support pupils to complete practical work that cannot be done at home. Subjects have been categorised under three headings, those being practical, subjects with a practical element and subjects that are predominantly theory. This has allowed us to prioritise who we can take into school first and then plan for other subjects thereafter. A crucial aspect of this plan, set out by the Scottish Government, is the cap on the number of pupils we can safely have in the school at one time; within a range of 5%-8% which is between 20-32 pupils in our school.

The success of this stage of the recovery plan greatly depends on adherence to social distancing. We are aware the new variant of the virus is more transmissible and has accounted for over 70% of new cases. Even though there has been a reduction in new cases in recent days, this does not mean we are in a position to relax arrangements in place and strict adherence to these must be followed at all times.

Our hub provision will continue at this time also and arrangements have been ongoing to finalise our plans in order to continue to offer this service.

## Arrangements in School

Whether pupils are local or rely on the transport to get to school, pupils are expected to attend school for the whole day to carry out the practical work set by their teacher. Normal school hours will continue to apply during this time.

While in the school building, pupils are expected to wear their face covering at all times including in class. The only exemption to this would be for medical reasons.

The focus is still to reduce the footfall in our school and we cannot emphasise the importance of adherence to social distancing.

While in the school building pupils need to abide to the physical distancing and hygiene requirements:

- Ensure 2 metre social distancing (there are no exceptions to this)
- Face coverings must be worn at all times (this will be expected of all pupils and staff unless there are genuine health reasons)
- Wash your hands and sanitise regularly

Face coverings must be worn in all indoor spaces including the canteen. Pupils can take their face coverings off at interval and lunchtime **only** when they are outside and 2m away from other pupils or staff.

Arrangements in school//

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Movement around the school will be limited. Pupils will only be able to access their identified classroom, breakout space (for break and lunch) and designated toilet.

Pupils will have a designated space for them to relax over the morning interval and lunchtime period should they wish to. We would encourage pupils to get some fresh air outside on the school grounds where possible, however they should continue to follow social distancing expectations of 2m.

Pupils will not be able to leave the school grounds during break or lunch to go for something to eat. This is set in place to reduce the potential transmission risk to our school and wider community. If a pupil leaves the grounds they will not be permitted back into the school building on that day. Parents will be contacted and pupils will need to be collected if they take a bus to school.

A lunch option will be available for pupils to purchase and orders will be taken each day during the class registration. Pupils are welcome to bring their own break and lunch and should ensure they have sufficient water for the day. Pupils will only be able to collect their lunch from the canteen and either eat outside or in their breakout space.

Transport arrangements are being made with the bus companies. Social distancing will be a feature of the bus journey for pupils also. Pupils can only sit on the identified seats while travelling on the bus and face coverings must be worn at all times.

When pupils arrive at school each day there will be a short induction assembly to go through the guidance and expectations so that we are supporting our young people fully for their return.

## Asymptomatic Testing

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February we took delivery of the asymptomatic test kits for all staff and senior phase pupils. Distribution of these has prioritised staff and pupils who need to access school for the hub and for the completion of practical work. When we receive more detail about the next phase of our return, further guidance will be provided.

For those involved in this initial return, you will have received a letter and consent form for completion and return. It is essential you read these carefully before returning the form to us. Test kits will be issued for staff and senior phase pupils to carry out at home twice a week.

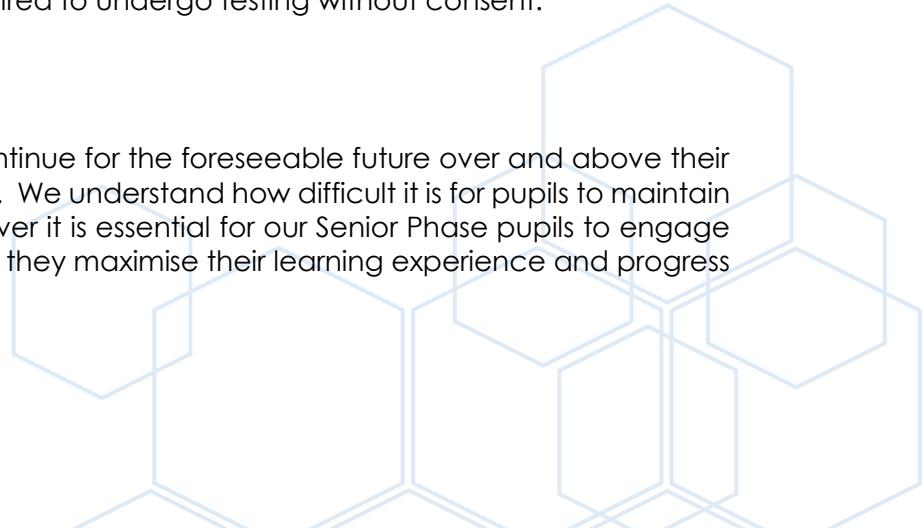
While we are encouraging all staff and senior pupils to participate in order to contribute to the wellbeing and safety of our school community, please be aware the test is voluntary, and nobody will be required to undergo testing without consent.

## Learning and teaching

### Senior Phase (S4-S6)

For all pupils online learning will continue for the foreseeable future over and above their access to school for practical work. We understand how difficult it is for pupils to maintain their motivation. Now more than ever it is essential for our Senior Phase pupils to engage fully with the work being set so that they maximise their learning experience and progress in their subjects.

Senior Phase (S4-S6) //



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**Full engagement will prepare them for our return to school and the planned assessment window that will support the gathering of evidence that will be needed as the basis of their final grade.**

We would ask for your continued support in helping our pupils stay motivated and engage in the learning opportunities offered.

## Broad General Education (BGE S1-S3)

In light of the changes to the Senior Phase, the BGE timetable will need to be adapted to reflect the times staff will be in school supporting the Senior Phase. Some details of these changes are noted below. We are also looking at ways we can alter and refine the BGE experience that will allow pupils the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge across a wide variety of curricular areas. Further details will be made available once we have this in place.

## Online Learning Timetable Changes

Please note the changes below affecting the changes to the subjects listed. It should be noted that class teachers of the subjects below will not be available immediately to answer questions outwith the times stated below. We would ask for your patience and support at this time.

Changes are as follows:

Home Economics

- Work will still be posted every second Wednesday for all classes. This means that the amount of work that will be set, will be appropriate for the 2 week period. Mrs Young has also notified classes that the drop in session will move to every second Thursday. This will be the Thursday when Mrs Young is not teaching in school.

Art & Design

- Work will still be posted on a Friday. For BGE classes, work will be issued every 2 weeks. This means that the amount of work that will be set, will be appropriate for the 2 week period.

Technical

- Work will now be issued on a Friday. Parents are reminded that Mr Tubbs will be very busy in school during the week, due to the practical nature of technical subjects.

Digital Learning

- The day of the week which work is posted will remain the same. For S3 Admin and S3 Digital Technologies, work will be issued every 2 weeks. This means that the amount of work that will be set, will be appropriate for the 2 week period.

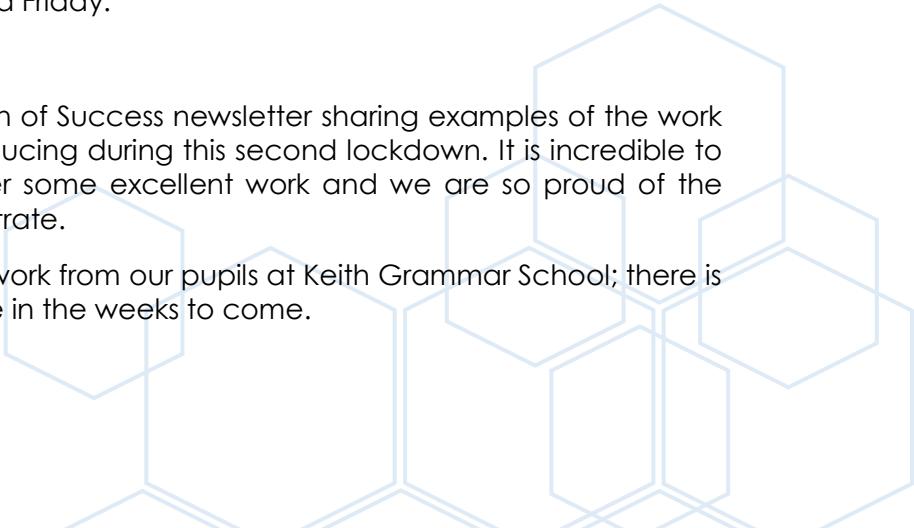
Music

- Work will now be posted on a Friday.

## Celebrating Success

This week we issued our Celebration of Success newsletter sharing examples of the work our young people have been producing during this second lockdown. It is incredible to see our pupils continuing to deliver some excellent work and we are so proud of the resilience they continue to demonstrate.

We hope you enjoy this sample of work from our pupils at Keith Grammar School; there is plenty more to share and celebrate in the weeks to come.



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## Home Learning Consultation - Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to complete the home learning consultation. There was a huge response and some great feedback for us to take away and adapt our approaches. What is clear is the importance of our children's education to our whole school community and demonstrates the will to improve the chances and choices we provide our pupils.

It is always great to get positive feedback, equally we are also keen to hear your views on where we can improve our service. The overview below highlights the response to the survey with some further details on the specific feedback you were able to provide;

Home Learning Survey	Broad General Education	Senior Phase
Pleased with communication	89%	75%
Pleased with amount of work	76%	87%
Quality of work set	4/5 average rating	4/5 average rating
Coping with lockdown	4/5 average rating	3/5 average rating

From the consultation you shared the following points:

- Families appreciating the opportunity to have live contact with teachers/ classes and also recorded content.
- Feedback is very important and some would like this more consistently.
- Families were enjoying sharing in the learning.
- The structured approach to work being released on a weekly timetable helped make work more manageable and easier to monitor.
- Satchel One (SMHW) is helpful in allowing an overview of work while Teams allowed more live content.
- Some parents found more than one platform and too many online resources to be difficult.
- Parents also emphasised the need for encouragement and responses to children in order to keep up motivation.

All of the feedback is being collated and will be shared with staff so that we can make the necessary changes to better the experience we offer our pupils. Further consultation will take place so that we can continue to hear and act upon your views. Thank you again.

## Contact with School

If you have any concerns regarding online learning, access to work or any ICT issues or any general queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office in the first instance, either by telephone or e-mail. [admin.keithgrammar@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:admin.keithgrammar@moray-edunet.gov.uk) Please do not contact teachers directly via online platforms. This will allow us to ensure you are supported by the most appropriate person who will be able to provide the information you require.

Best wishes  
Alan Bruce  
Head Teacher

