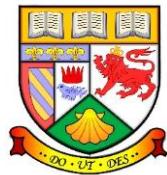


# Parent Briefing

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021



## Introduction

I hope this finds you all safe and well. This week the First Minister announced that this period of lockdown would continue until mid-February to try and reduce the number of new positive cases of Coronavirus. Our online learning timetable looks set to continue for a bit longer and so far we are hearing some encouraging stories of how well our young people are adapting to another phase of online learning.

## Learning and teaching

It can be difficult for pupils to maintain their motivation and keep going and evidence has shown that the value of a teacher's input cannot be underestimated. At the moment staff are continually working hard to look at new ways to deliver online learning. It's great to see staff sharing ideas with each other and colleagues across the country. Class teachers have been developing a range of resources and learning opportunities for young people including live learning, recorded lessons and question and answer sessions.

The timetable issued previously remains in place as a guide to when staff are available, although we know staff availability goes beyond the identified time slots. The timetable will continue to be reviewed, based on feedback from parents, pupils and staff, to ensure we are making the most of the time available.

It should be noted that we cannot replicate the normal school experience but we are certainly making good progress to ensure continuity.

## Online learning – The National offer

A number of resources, recorded lessons and webinars have been shared across Scotland as part of the National offer to complement the delivery of learning and teaching by school staff. As well as subject specific sites, pupils have access to support sites such as e-sgoil and Scholar to support them further. Teachers will advise how and when to use these as well as introduce other resources available from across Scotland. Further details will be shared via social media channels also.

## Pupil engagement

We have heard a number of positive stories regarding pupil engagement this week and it appears our young people are more involved in their learning and this is fantastic to hear. Certain year groups have been highlighted positively as working really well and we would encourage all pupils to keep the motivation going.

Pupils accessing Show My Homework this week has averaged 91.5%. This is very encouraging as long as their accessing SMHW corresponds with the level of engagement. There is certainly room for improvement for some year groups and subjects.

We are aware that some pupils have yet to log into Show My Homework and at this stage, this is quite concerning. We are at a time in the year that is critical in the learning of every year group. Subject choices are being made by some and we need to make sure our young people are ready for the next phase of their journey. S3 pupils, for example, will soon be finalising their choices for their transition to the Senior Phase. Continuing their learning right now will be critical in making the jump to National Qualifications. We would encourage pupils to log in and check the work set regularly.

Systems have been set up, as per the last lock down, to monitor pupil engagement in classes. It is important we identify pupils who may be struggling to access online learning and support them to re-engage and get the help they require to continue. We will continue to contact parent/ carers in such instances.

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## Submission of work

As part of the learning experience offered it is important for pupils to receive quality feedback from their teachers. In order to do so pupils should endeavour to meet the deadlines set so that they are able to get feedback that will help their progress. It is also really important our pupils take care to submit their best work at all times. Please encourage our young people to take as much time and care over the various activities; don't rush through work and make sure what they submit reflects their ability.

## ICT

ICT issues are monitored regularly and support is available for those experiencing problems. We are working through the issues as quickly as possible and we appreciate your patience until we resolve these. If a pupil has received notification that they can pick up a laptop, please come to the school reception as soon as possible for collection.

## Health and Wellbeing

### Hub provision

We have had two weeks of pupils attending the KGS hub. Our young people have settled into the routine and are well supported in their learning and wellbeing. The lists of pupils attending are reviewed regularly and will be based on the criteria set by the Authority, the needs of our young people and our ability to ensure a safe school environment.

### Attendance/ virtual registration

This week saw our first week of virtual registration. Registration classes were set up, each led by a member of staff. Pupils are asked to sign in before 10.30am each day. Registration is a good opportunity for staff to link with pupils and identify any concerns around their wellbeing or learning. We'd appreciate it if you could continue to encourage our young people to register each day, on time, and check in with their member of staff.

### Weekly check in

Regular surveys will be issued to pupils based around the wellbeing indicators (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included). These will help us gauge how well our young people are coping and allow us to put support in place for those who need it.

Wellbeing phone calls from Pupil Support staff will continue to be an ongoing feature also, to help us support our learners further.

### Contact with school

If you have any concerns regarding online learning, access to work or any ICT issues, please 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

22-01-2021

