



Introduction

I hope this briefing finds you well. Now at the end of our third week of term and yet again everyone has risen to the challenge of keeping our school community safe. It does feel like we are taking one day and one week at a time as school life continues to return to some sense of normality. As we progress it is quite easy to forget we continue to live with restrictions in place, particularly as these begin to ease elsewhere.

It is clear the prevalence of the virus continues to be around us with increasing cases across Moray that could set us back in our recovery. Our continued use of face coverings, hand washing and social distancing are helping make sure our pupils return to a consistent school experience. Responsible behaviour in school and the wider community will help keep us safe, transmission levels low and our pupils in school. Everyone has been brilliant in adhering to the guidance and it looks like we will be living with these measures for some time so let's keep going. Thank you for all of your support so far!

Health and Safety

Lateral Flow Testing

Lateral Flow testing continues to be rolled out across the school to all S1-S6 pupils and staff, for those opting in.

Our days for testing are Sunday and Wednesday, preferably in the morning. It is essential pupils and staff remember to do their test. A wee tip would be to set a regular reminder in a phone calendar to help.

Replacement packs are issued every Monday and Thursday between 12.45pm to 1.45pm in the hall. Next week the Monday pick up day has been changed to a Tuesday to account for the May holiday.

COVID Safety Measures

While it has been great to see our young people back in school this week, we must remember there is still a risk of increasing cases during this pandemic. A separate letter accompanies this briefing to raise your awareness of the current situation in Moray and to ask for your support.

With some further easing of lockdown and our ability to travel that little bit further from home, please remember to stay safe and follow the safety measures set by the Scottish Government that will help us to keep our school community and wider Keith community safe.

Face Coverings

Pupils have been doing a great job of wearing their face coverings around school with only a few requiring reminding. While face coverings are an essential part of keeping us all safe they also need to be disposed of responsibly. Unfortunately we have had some concerns from members of our community that face coverings are not being put in bins and are instead being thrown on the ground. We would appreciate your support to reiterate the message of being responsible and respectful in and around Keith to keep our community tidy, thank you!

General School Information

School Car Park

Please be aware, following the period of disruption due to the construction work at the new Nursery, all traffic into the car park area must now use the entrance rather than the exit as was previously advised. The car park is considerably busier due to the ongoing work and being accessed by secondary, primary and play group children. Please drive carefully and be aware of those around you.

Parent Briefing

Friday 30th April 2021



Senior Phase Assessment Window

Our Senior Phase assessment window started on Monday 26th April. The next three weeks will be very busy for pupils and staff. We know it is an anxious time for our students following on from a significant period of disruption to their learning. Please remember and reiterate that we are all here to support them at this time.

The assessments for each subject have been broken into sections so that there is adequate time for consolidation in between. Pupils should continue to work hard and listen to the feedback and advice from their teachers in readiness for the next part of their assessment.

School Uniform

Our pupils have been great in helping to re-establish a smarter dress code this week. There continues to be the odd exception which has been picked up quickly and those pupils have been encouraged to dress smarter.

While we are unable to return to the full uniform as yet, we would hope to return to this post summer.

As a reminder, pupils should continue to wear smarter clothing, preferably black. **Pupils should not come to school in jeans of any description. We are asking pupils to remove hats and hoods while in the school building also. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated.**

Fizzy/Energy Drinks

Fizzy drinks such as cola (no added sugar included), Lucozade, and any variety of energy drinks are no longer permitted in school or on the school grounds.

This measure is to promote health and wellbeing so we ask that pupils do not bring energy drinks or large bottles of fizzy juice to school. Disappointingly we continue to see some students, particularly senior pupils, bringing bottles into school.

If seen in school, these will be confiscated and will have to be collected from one of the Senior Leadership Team at the end of the day. Where we have ongoing concerns around this we will be in contact with you directly.

Pupils are allowed to drink water only in classes and there are water refill stations available.

We would ask that you discuss healthy choices with you child and we would appreciate your support to help keep our school community healthy.

Mobile Phones

We would appreciate your support in reminding pupils that mobile phones should be switched off and safely stored in bags during the school day with the exception of break and lunchtimes. Mobile phones should not be out in class or used in the transition from class to class. Persistent inappropriate use of mobile phones will result in their confiscation. Mobile phones will be sent to the school office where they can be collected at the end of the day.

Dates for the Diary

A reminder of some key dates this session:

- Monday 3rd May - May day holiday
- Thursday 13th May – Inset day
- Friday 14th May – inset day
- Monday 31st May – inset day