



## A Warm Welcome Back!

What an incredible first week back at Keith Grammar School. It has been amazing to see our pupils in school and see more life in the building. There is a great buzz around the school and the cracking weather has gone some way to making the week run smoothly.

Pupils and staff have been brilliant in keeping to the social distancing and safety measures we have in place including the wearing of face coverings in and around school, class included. We know it is not a pleasant way to spend every lesson of the day and this is why we are encouraging pupils to be outside at break and lunchtime to get some fresh air and a chance to take their face coverings off.

This term is sure to be busy with a period of settling in and aspects of our usual school calendar to meet such as SQA procedures and timetable change. We know from your feedback that our young people are facing apprehension around their return to school and we will continue to check-in with pupils regularly to make sure they are safe and well.

## Health and Safety

### Wellbeing

We are looking at ways to support wellbeing across the school. So far we have undertaken wellbeing assemblies with all year groups each with a different focus depending on where they are in their education. More activities are being planned for the remainder of this term, including access to counselling services. Further details will be shared with you over the coming weeks.

### 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. All staff and pupils will have received a letter and consent form for completion and return. Please make sure these are completed and returned as soon as possible, even if your child is opting out.

Please remember, while we are encouraging all pupils to participate in order to contribute to the wellbeing and safety of our school community, the test is voluntary, and nobody will be required to undergo testing without consent.

Our days for testing are Sunday and Wednesday. 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 and 1.45pm in the hall.

### 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.

Pupils are reminded to continue to follow the one way system, socially distance from staff, sanitise and wash their hands regularly and wear their face coverings throughout the day within the school building, including classes.

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.



## General School Information

### Staffing Changes

Prior to the Easter break, Mr Kevin Pirie, Depute Head Teacher, was successful at interview for a post as an Acting Quality Improvement Officer post within Moray Council. This post is due to last until Summer 2021 initially after which Mr Pirie will return. This is an incredible opportunity for Mr Pirie to use his wealth of experience to support schools across Moray and we are sure he will do an incredible job.

We have appointed Mrs Lisa Bayliss (currently Principal Teacher of Modern Languages) and Miss Rosanna Garden (currently Principal Teacher of Art and Design) to replace him on a job-share basis. For information, Mrs Bayliss will now be the Year Head for S3 and Miss Garden will be the Year Head for S1. We are sure they will both do a brilliant job and will be a real asset to the Senior Leadership Team and school community.

### School Uniform

Pupils have come back and so far they are looking smart which is great to see. As previously noted school uniform is slightly relaxed for term 4 to avoid families having to buy new school clothing which pupils may grow out of over the Summer break. Pupils should continue to wear smarter clothing, preferably black. **Pupils should not come to school in jeans of any description.**

### Staggered Lunches

This week saw the start of the staggered lunches. Our BGE pupils are now taking lunch during what would be period 5 and then having their period 5 class during normal lunch break. This has proven to have a positive start to the term so far with more space for pupils in S1-S3 and the Senior Phase to relax and enjoy the sunny weather with staff on hand to help out where needed.

### Fizzy/Energy Drinks

We are concerned with the impact of a healthy diet on learning and the general wellbeing of our pupils.

We see many young people return from 'up the street' with arms full of multi-buys or supersize packets of biscuits, crisps and sweets being carried back to school. Many of our pupils like to drink energy or fizzy drinks however, eight out of ten energy drinks have worryingly high levels of sugar.

From **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April** fizzy drinks such as cola (no added sugar included), Lucozade, and any variety of energy drinks will not be 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. 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 may 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 your child and we would appreciate your support to help keep our school community healthy.

### SQA Update

There continues to be significant updates from the SQA this year around the qualification process. As noted previously we have set dates for our assessment window to run from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May. This will allow subjects to have another opportunity to gather more evidence from pupils that will demonstrate their best work. It should be pointed out that

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Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021



evidence will be gathered from across the school year and not just within the assessment window.

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

More detailed information will be coming to you in a separate letter as to how the assessment will run and how we plan to support pupils throughout the process.

## Online Learning Offer

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. The E-sgoil learning programme continues 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 study programme is available:

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

## Immunisation Information

The Moray Immunisation Team have provided dates for immunising within the schools. A letter will be sent to all parents concerned with the relevant information. The dates are noted below for information:

- DTP/MenACWY (3rd year pupils) - Monday 12th May 2021
- HPV (1st and 2nd year pupils) – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- Mop up (all eligible pupils for HPV/DTP/MenACWY &MMR) - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

## 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.

## School Lunches - Fusion App.

A new app is being rolled out in Moray which enables parents/pupils to pre-order items from the canteen for break or lunch. Login codes were issued to all pupils who were in school today, please ask your son/daughter for the letter, and try this out.

This app will become live for KGS on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Any pupil who did not receive a code, please collect this from the school office on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.