

# Parent Briefing

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021



## Introduction

I hope this briefing finds you safe and well. It is hard to believe we have already reached the halfway point of the term and how quickly the weeks are passing. Learning is in full swing and it is great to see more opportunities safely starting again for our young people to get involved with, as we gradually and cautiously return to normal service.

## Whole School Information

### Kai Anderson

We recently said a sad goodbye to a much-loved pupil of Keith Grammar School. Kai was a huge part of our school and brought a sense of joy and great humour to those who spent time with him. It was clear to everyone how much he loved being a pupil here, as much as we loved him being here.

I think many staff and pupils will remember the courage, determination and resilience Kai presented every day, always considerate and putting others first, despite his own challenges. It is testament to his strength of character that he is leaving an incredible legacy at KGS and is a role model for us all.

Our celebration of colour around the school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September was a fitting tribute to a wonderful and colourful character. I have been proud to see the show of strength in staff and pupils and the sense of community in school and beyond to help us all through this difficult time.

Our thoughts go out to Kai's family and friends; he will be greatly missed.

### Parent Council Meeting

This Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September will be the first Parent Council meeting of the session. The meeting will be held virtually on Google Meet starting at 6.30pm. Any parent(s) who wish to attend should contact the school for the meeting code.

This meeting would ordinarily be the annual Parent Council AGM but while we are still unable to have larger groups in the school building the decision was taken to postpone the AGM until such time we are able to have it face to face. Further details will be shared once restrictions ease and the AGM has been rescheduled.

### STEM ROV

Over the past few weeks, the **ImpROVise** team have been presenting their company around the school, hosting a showcase day and working on a recruitment drive to encourage new members.

The team of three seniors delivered around twenty presentations throughout last week to entice students to come along to the showcase day that took place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The showcase was very successful for the ROV team with 43 pupils signing up. Following this, interviews were conducted among senior pupils for the Ranger team (that has a maximum of 12 pupils). From the success of the showcase day the team also decided to make two more teams at navigator level to keep the STEAM clubs alive in KGS.

During the summer holidays, the team took part in the international MATE ROV competition but due to the coronavirus pandemic the team were unable to travel to the USA to compete in person so instead competed in telepresence for the international. ImpROVise performed well and came 11th.



## STEM ROV continued

For more information head to

TWITTER: @KGS\_Engineers

MATE competition: [materovcompetition.org](http://materovcompetition.org)



The first meeting of the Navigator level participants



The existing and newly appointed recruits of the Ranger team

## Duke of Edinburgh

On the afternoon of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, our 2021 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Team, "Sidokibear", gave a very professional and polished presentation as the final component of their silver award. The team (comprising of Aria Carr, Siobhan Donnison, Kirstie Low, Bent Michielsen, Dodie Simmers, Charlie Stephen) shared their expedition findings and the highs and lows of their experience. The pictures show them in action and some of the stunning scenery from their expedition. They have done extremely well and we are very proud of their achievements.....it's onwards and upwards to the Gold Award now!



## Duke of Edinburgh continued.



## Modern Languages Upcoming Events

### Multilingual poetry competition

The Mother Tongue Other Tongue (MTOT) multilingual competition is running again this year across Scotland and we would love to have KGS represented. You love languages? You speak another language at home other than English? Celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity through a poem, song or rap.

Come over to Mrs Begou – Room E2 for more information at lunchtime either Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm (Seniors lunch break) or Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 12.20pm (BGE lunch break).

### European day of Languages

On Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> September we will be celebrating the European day of Languages by hosting a selection of events that everyone is invited to take part in. There will be three main events running on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> and two events running throughout the whole week. The events are:

Monday 27<sup>th</sup>

- A Bake off competition
- Dress up day – donations will be going to a charity helping refugees arriving in the country and who face some barriers with their language
- A Library quiz at lunchtime

Throughout the week

- Language challenges
- Staff languages fact



## Health and Safety

### COVID Update

Over the course of the last few weeks we have noticed a very small increase in positive cases. It is a stark reminder that COVID hasn't gone away and our increase in cases is only a reflection of the National picture. This week has seen a slowing of cases which is a positive step forward.

Firstly, please be assured we are taking every case seriously and we are continuing to work with Public Health and the Local Authority on this. Our wider school community and families have been great in supporting us deal with positive cases and ensuring their child(ren) are safe for the duration of the isolation period.

Two sites with further details on updated symptoms and a self-help guide are noted below:

<https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/covid-19-public-information/subpages/covid-19-community-testing/>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/self-help-guides/self-help-guide-coronavirus-covid-19>

### Lateral Flow Testing

This is optional for all pupils who wish to continue testing as part of the universal testing offer. Please note that testing should be carried out on a Sunday and Wednesday. If your child needs a replacement kit, these are available from the school hall Monday and Thursday lunchtimes. We have also started delivering test kits to classes across the week to make sure they have enough supplies.

### School Flu Immunisation Programme

We previously shared information on the Scottish Government plans to extend the flu immunisation programme to secondary school pupils this session. The proposed date for the programme to start was the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This date has now been cancelled and we are awaiting further guidance. Further information is still available on the website noted below:

[www.nhsinform.scot/childflu](http://www.nhsinform.scot/childflu)

Best wishes  
Alan Bruce  
Head Teacher

