

# Parent Briefing

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021



## Introduction

I hope this briefing finds you safe and well. It is hard to believe we are past the halfway point of the term and how quickly the weeks are going. 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

### Rugby Trip – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022

All being safe and well, we are planning a trip to Murrayfield to see Scotland play France in the new year. Pupils and staff have been rushing to get their tickets reserved and we currently have around 50 provisional bookings already! If you require further details, please contact Mrs Law, Dr Barclay or Miss Duncan.

### Library

At Keith Grammar School the school library is linked to the Moray Public Library, using their library management system. To give your child the best library experience all pupils at Keith Grammar need to be members of the Moray Public Library Service. To do this all you need to do is complete the yellow membership card and sign it on the reverse, and ask your child to return this to Mr Leitch in the school library where he will complete the membership process. This will then allow pupils full access to all the resources not only in the school library but also the public library which includes eBooks and eAudiobooks. Your child will also be able to borrow resources from any library in Moray and return them to the school library, as well be able to place requests for resources via the online catalogue to be collected at Keith Grammar School. You can also join at any public library in Moray.

For further information on the Moray Library and Information service visit:

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_1472.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_1472.html)

### European Day of Languages

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September we will be celebrating the 2021 European Day of Languages by hosting a selection of events that everyone is invited to take part in:

- Monday 27<sup>th</sup>: Bake-off competition, dress up day, library quiz at lunchtime
- Throughout the week: Language challenges, staff treasure hunt

There are posters around the school with more information. Donations from the Dress up Day will be donated to the Charity SLCo (Speech Language Communication Company) which offers support for speech difficulties and language barriers.

### Bike Week

Bike to school week will take place between 27<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October. If any pupil would like to take part and bike, or scoot to school during that week please sign up on <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/campaigns/bike-to-school-week-pledge/>.

Signing up will enter you into the draw to win a Frog Bike. You can also get a free bike check and join in with some fun lunchtime bike games (sign up to these in the PE department).

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## Photography Competition

This year's Photography Competition was our biggest yet- with almost 100 entries! Our judge found it very difficult to reach a decision given the quality of entries. After lots of deliberation, we are pleased to announce the judge's decision.



Winning Photo - Casey Rennie (S3)



Siobhan Donnison (S5)



Lauren Innes (S3)



Marley Jones (S1)



Fiona Stewart (S5)



Miss Robak (Art and Design)

I am sure you will agree the quality of pictures shown here is of an incredibly high standard and we are proud of everyone who entered the competition. Well done everyone!



## Pupil Attendance – Term 1 (to date)

Following the last period of lock down it is apparent that pupils clearly benefit from face to face teaching and interaction with their teachers, which will have significant benefits to their success.

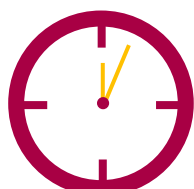
Now, more than ever, consistent attendance at school is essential for all pupils so that they are making the most of every opportunity to learn and achieve. We will be regularly monitoring pupil attendance to support consistency and to encourage improvement so that attendance is heading upwards of 95% on average across all year groups. So far the year group averages since August are as follows:

Week	Holidays	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
16th Aug 21 - 20th Aug 21	1	99%	95%	96%	91%	96%	82%
23rd Aug 21 - 27th Aug 21	0	97%	93%	94%	89%	95%	84%
30th Aug 21 - 03rd Sept 21	0	96%	91%	90%	90%	86%	80%
06th Sept 21 - 10th Sept 21	0	92%	93%	93%	86%	86%	85%
13th Sept 21 - 17th Sept 21	0	94%	92%	94%	86%	88%	84%
Average attendance		95%	93%	92%	88%	90%	83%

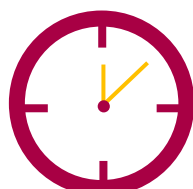
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
Percentage of pupils with attendance at 100%	63%	46%	49%	41%	39%	28%

## Late Arrivals

As we are approaching the end of term one it is a good time to review how our pupils are settling back into school life. Good time keeping helps our young people make the most of their school experience. Even being a few minutes late per day can make the world of difference to their success. Please encourage healthy habits and good timekeeping so that our pupils are ready to give it their best. Did you know that there are 190 school days per year? So.....



5 minutes late per day =  
**3**  
days lost



10 minutes late per day =  
**6.5**  
days lost



15 minutes late per day =  
**10**  
days lost



20 minutes late per day =  
**13**  
days lost



25 minutes late per day =  
**19**  
days lost

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## Skills Development Scotland

Skills Development Scotland

### Calling all parents and carers

Webinar to introduce parents and carers of S1 pupils to Skills Development Scotland and the support SDS advisers in school can offer your child

Wednesday 29 September 2021, 6:30 - 7:15pm

SDS are delivering a national webinar **Introduction to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) for parents and carers of S1 pupils** on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September at 6.30pm.

This session aims to give parents and carers an introduction to SDS, the role of Careers Advisers in school as well as information to support career planning.

Parents and carers can register for this session using the link included below:

<https://s1parentsandcarers.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Health and Safety

### COVID Update

Due to the increased number of positive cases across the country, the guidance around self-isolation has changed. Where there has been an identified positive COVID case, the whole household should isolate and book a PCR test immediately.

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>

### Current Safety Measures

The changes to the safety measures we have in place continue to remain for the present time. The Scottish Government has advised that these will be reviewed so that we can update you prior to the October break. I would ask for your continued support of these measures and reinforce this with your child(ren).

#### The current measures that will continue are:

- We **must adhere** to the social distancing guidance between staff and pupils.
- Face coverings **must be** worn in all indoor spaces where we are in the company of others. Face coverings can only be removed when outside and a safe distance from others.
- Lateral Flow Testing must continue as this is another measure that has proven to help identify cases more rapidly.
- Regular hand washing and routine application of sanitiser throughout the day.
- Following the one-way system.
- Staggered lunch break.

Best wishes  
Alan Bruce  
Head Teacher