



Introduction

I hope this briefing finds you safe and well. Today we have successfully reached the end of the first term. It has been a very fast term where we have faced many challenges along the way; sadness and loss as well as success and pride in all our achievements. With the weeks passing as quickly as the seasons are changing, it is a great opportunity to take stock in all we have accomplished so far. Attached to this briefing is our Celebration of Success newsletter with a fantastic range of pupil work from the last eight weeks. This is a real showcase of the hard work and talent that we have here at Keith Grammar and we are immensely proud of every pupil.

Whole School Information

Active Schools

Active Schools Opportunities – Young Leader Programme

- Our Young Leader Programme includes the offer of volunteering experience as well as training/qualification opportunities for children and young people aged 11-25 in the Moray area.
- Great for personal development, gaining confidence, Saltire Awards, CVs – and fun too!
- Young Leaders can be involved in many things including coaching, events planning, photography, and school sport council to name a few.
- We have a hoodie scheme, where participants earn different coloured hoodies when they have completed a certain number of volunteer hours.
- To find out more, visit this page:
 - <http://sportinmoray.co.uk/mcsh/young-leaders/>
- Please feel free to contact the Keith Active Schools Co-ordinator:
amanda.walker@moray.gov.uk / 07817955335

Rights Respecting School - Bronze

We have recently been re-accredited as a Unicef UK Rights Respecting School at Bronze Level!

Keith Grammar School aims to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve well-being and to develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. As part of this plan we are working towards becoming **Rights Aware** which is the second stage of being a 'Rights Respecting School', an award given to schools on behalf of Unicef UK.

Unicef is the world's leading organisation working for children and young people and their rights. In 1989, governments across the world agreed that all children have the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

Keith Grammar School pupils will learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. A Rights Respecting School models rights and respect in all its relationships.

We really hope that you will be able to support our school on our journey towards becoming a Unicef UK Rights Respecting School.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Parent Briefing

Friday 08th October 2021



Holiday Support Payments for Financially Eligible Families

This October, holiday support will be provided to families receiving free school meals on the basis of low income. This is in addition to the Autumn Bridging Payment of £160 per eligible child.

If your child currently attends secondary school you will receive £24, which is 10 days at £2.40 per week day.

Moray Council will make direct payments into bank accounts on Tuesday 12 October 2021 for both the Autumn Bridging payment and the October free school meal support payment. If you have changed your bank details since you received the summer holiday payment please contact revenues@moray.gov.uk

If your financial circumstances have changed recently this could make your child eligible for free school meals. Find out if you are eligible and how to apply at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55486.html

October Holiday Activities

Over the October holidays a wide range of activities have been organised for young people to get involved in across Moray. The activities range from Football with Elgin City FC, Badminton, Street Football, Climbing Wall, Coastal Rowing and Taekwondo to name a few.

The link below will provide further details of the activities on offer over the two week break.

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_138618.html

Staff Achievements

It is not only our pupils who are achieving great success lately, our teachers are also making their mark with some extra-ordinary, superhuman efforts of late. Mr Cowie (PT Humanities) completed the London Marathon in an incredible sub- 3 hours but missed a PB due to malfunctioning toes from mile 10. A huge well done to Mr Cowie on a brilliant performance.

If that wasn't impressive enough, Mr Paterson (PT PE) went that wee bit further and clocked up a 100 mile run participating in the Moray Way 100. The course started at Forres and followed the Moray Coastal Trail to Garmouth and finally the Dava Way to Forres in one big loop. Mr Paterson started at 5am and took 22 hours and 10 minutes to complete the course. Impressively he came 7th out of the 65 who started the run. What a show of stamina and resilience, a huge well done to Mr Paterson; he's certainly earned his holidays so that he can put his feet up!

Staffing Update

Dr Barclay

Dr Barclay (Teacher of Chemistry) is temporarily moving into a different role at KGS. After the October break Dr Barclay will be taking up a position as an ASN teacher for some of the week. This role will go until summer 2022. We are currently advertising for her replacement but we have already secured a Chemistry teacher to take up the reigns until we get a more permanent fixture.

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Mrs Bayliss

Off the back of her successful term as Acting Depute Head Teacher here at KGS, Mrs Bayliss has managed to secure an Acting Depute Head Teacher post at Lossiemouth High School which starts after the October break and will run until Christmas. This is an incredible appointment for Lossie and they are extremely lucky to be getting a valued and committed member of staff joining their team. We wish her well in her secondment and we hope she enjoys the new challenge. We are sure she will do an amazing job as she has done for the staff and pupils here at KGS.

Deborah Reck

This term we welcome Deborah Reck who joins our Admin staff. We hope Deborah finds the school a welcoming place to work and enjoys being part of our team.

Health and Safety

COVID Update

The current safety measures we have in place will remain for a bit longer. I would ask for your continued support of these measures and reinforce them with your child(ren). We all hope things will change soon, but if we can hold on for that wee bit longer it will ensure we are all safe and schools will remain open for the whole year.

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.

We are expecting further updates and these will be shared with you after the October break, as soon as they are confirmed.

Lateral Flow Testing

Please remember, replacement packs are issued every Monday and Thursday between 12.45pm and 1.45pm in the hall for staff and pupils.

We have also started delivering test kits to BGE and Senior Phase classes across the week to make sure pupils have enough supplies.

As we near the October break, pupils may have decided to continue testing throughout the holidays or plan to stop and re-start on **Sunday 24th October** before we return. In either case, we have reminded pupils to ensure they have sufficient LFT supplies to last.

Ready, Respectful, Safe



Ventilation

As we have explained previously, good ventilation is one of the key measures to reduce the risk across the school. Windows will continue to be open throughout the day and during lessons to ensure a good flow of air. As we near the winter months it will get colder. Windows will not be open during the whole lesson but they will be open for parts of a lesson. Please make sure your child(ren) dress appropriately in clothes that will keep them warm.

School Visitors

A reminder that, for the foreseeable we are still working within the COVID restrictions, which also includes a limited number of visitors in the school building. We continue to find new ways to engage with our families and those who support the work of our school, and this will remain in place until the National guidance is updated once restrictions ease a little more for schools.

Canteen

Over the winter months, the canteen will return to limited use so that pupils have a dry and warm place to eat lunch. The grab bag service will remain for the foreseeable future. Recycling facilities have been provided for pupils to dispose of the paper bags and waste to help KGS take another wee step towards being more environmentally friendly.

S1 Pupils at Lunchtime

As part of our extended transition while our new S1 cohort have been settling in we have asked pupils to remain on the school grounds for the duration of this term. We would ask that this arrangement continues for a short spell into next term also. We are keen to make sure our pupils continue to be ready, respectful and safe for venturing out of school grounds at lunchtime. We plan to carry out some work with S1 so that they understand the expectations when they are in the community and also to keep them safe over the winter months.

School Flu Immunisation Programme

We are still waiting further details of the flu immunization schedule in school. This programme is for both pupils and staff. The website noted below is a good starting point for more details: www.nhsinform.scot/flu. You will be updated with further information as soon as we have it.

A last wee note...

There is much to celebrate in the work of the school this term and I want to thank you once again for all of your support as we continue to work towards a greater sense of normality. With restrictions easing in our wider community It is easy to forget that the pandemic is still with us. While we want everyone to enjoy their October break, relax and have fun, we also want to keep everyone safe so a cautious and sensible approach to holiday activities would be advised and appreciated.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break.

Best wishes

Alan Bruce

Head Teacher