



Introduction

I hope this briefing finds you safe and well.

We continue to see a steady rise in the number of positive COVID cases across the country and the wider community. Understandably, this is also having an impact within our school where we are seeing a steady rise in those self-isolating and getting tested. Overall, cases continue to be relatively low at KGS and our safety measures are still in place across the school, however we have noticed an increase in cases which we are monitoring closely. The current situation shows us the virus is still prevalent and impacting on our schools and communities.

I cannot emphasise enough the need for caution at all times. Please encourage your child(ren) to you wear a face covering over their nose and mouth in all indoor spaces within the school (unless exempt).

Whole School Information

Moray Young Citizen

We were extremely honoured to have four KGS pupils recognised at the recent Moray Young Citizens Awards. The achievements of Katie Dunbar (Individual Award (Highly Commended), Cassie Findlay (Individual Award - Winner), Lucy Mark (Individual Award – Commended) and Dodi Simmers (Individual Award – Winner) are in recognition of the work they do in and beyond school to make the lives of others better.

It is humbling that their selfless actions have been awarded in this way and we couldn't be more proud of them. Congratulations to all winners across Moray.

Senior Phase Pupils – Study Support

As a support to our young people in S3-S6 we arranged for a Live-N-Learn presenter to come to KGS for three days to deliver workshops to support them with their wellbeing and provide them with information around study skills as detailed below.

Starting on Wednesday this week the workshops covered a range of study support to help our Senior Phase pupils prepare themselves for after Christmas and onwards to the final exams this year.

- Time Management & Prioritisation
- 4 Step Study Process & 20+ Revision Strategies
- Growth Mindset & Responding to Feedback
- Marginal Gains & Managing Anxieties
- Resilience Planning & Building Confidence
- Conditions for Study & Common Distractions
- Personal Responsibility & Grasping Opportunities

Live-N-Learn will also provide resources for us to use with our pupils to consolidate and further support them after these workshops. More information about the company and their workshops and resources can be found here:

<https://live-n-learn.co.uk/>

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Parent Briefing

Friday 26th November 2021



Active Schools

On Monday 6th December the Active Schools Leaders will be promoting the range of activities available to all pupils through a lunchtime showcase. This event will take place in the school hall and is open to all pupils to drop into so that they can hear about all of the opportunities available to them in the coming weeks. We hope to encourage pupils to take part. What a great way to support health and wellbeing!

Social Media

We have recently been made aware of online posts from a small number of students that target members of our school community, including some staff. Action has already been taken in requesting the posts be removed and those students who we have been able to identify are part of an ongoing investigation.

We recently launched the Safe Schools App which is part of a Moray wide initiative to support families and particularly our young people to better protect themselves online, through delivering safeguarding information.

A letter was issued asking for parent/carer support in discussing the positives and dangers of social media. Support and advice is available using the Safer Schools app.

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/>

Reverse Advent Calendar

For the second year running we have our Reverse Advent Calendar in action to support Moray Food Plus. This initiative will support many in the local community who are having to rely on food banks to feed their families and for whom the festive period can be challenging. We have asked people in the school and local community to donate any/all of the items on the calendar to the school office by Friday 17th December. Items can be dropped off in the festive box at reception. Thank you in advance to those who plan to make donations, your help will make a difference for many this year!

Late Arrivals

While many of our young people are great at arriving on time every day we are seeing an increase in late arrivals. We are currently reviewing our lates policy. While we appreciate it happens from time to time, we want to encourage healthy habits that support a good start to the day 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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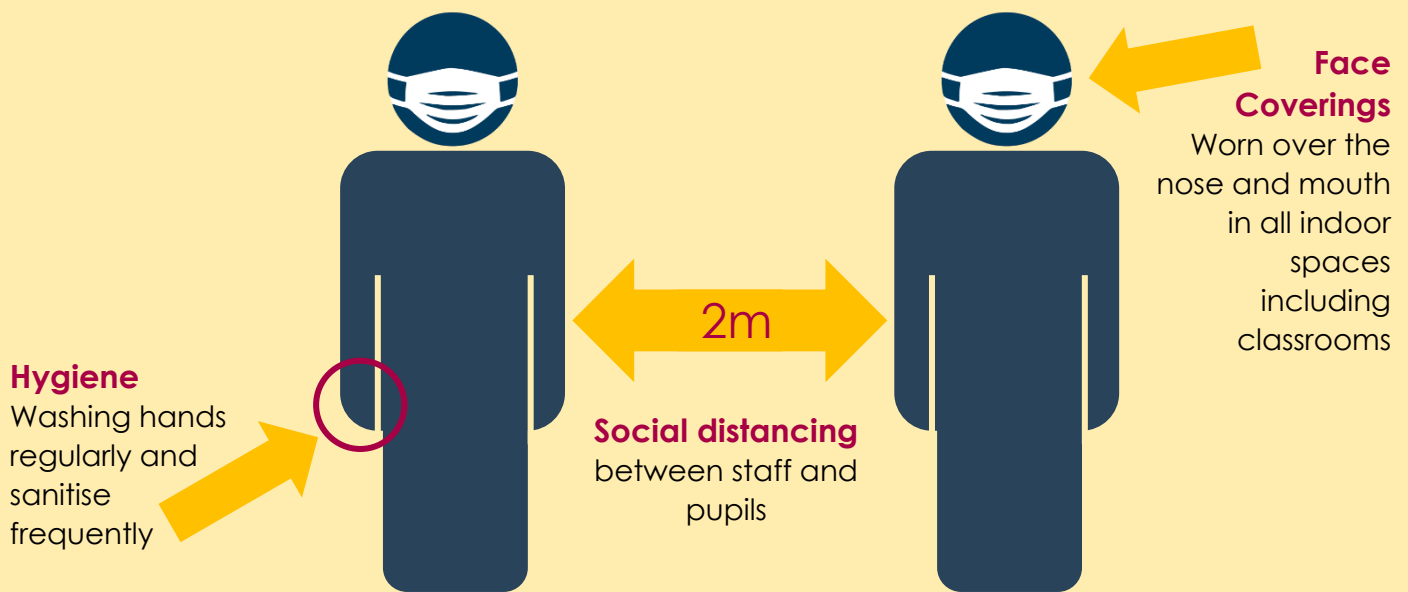


Health and Safety

COVID Update

As noted in the introduction to this briefing, we are continuing to face daily challenges and this will inevitably put pressure on us as a school. Now more than ever we need to continue to follow the guidance below to keep ourselves and colleagues safe. Your continued support of these measure is greatly appreciated.

COVID-19 Measures include:



Additional measures in place:

- Continued lateral flow testing, at least twice a week (Sunday and Wednesday)
- Following the one-way system.
- Staggered lunch break.

Lateral Flow Testing

Regular lateral flow testing is proving the best way to detect possible positive COVID cases. We are aware that not all pupils are engaging with the routine testing programme and we would ask for parent/carer support in ensuring our pupils are testing themselves. It is recommended that we test twice weekly at least, however regular testing is certainly helping our school community remain safe, particularly when we are seeing an increase in cases.

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 plenty test kits available for staff and pupils.

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Christmas Activities

Due to the continued uncertain and fragile situation with COVID, we have unfortunately had to take the decision to cancel our Christmas dances this year. This decision has not been taken lightly, however we feel it is a necessary step to keep our school community safe.

Alternative activities will be arranged in the lead up to the holidays so that we are able to celebrate the festive season safely.

School Visitors

We are reminded that for the foreseeable future, while we are still working within the COVID restrictions, we need to limit the 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.

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 in classrooms and across the school to ensure a good flow of air. The forecast for the coming week is set to be considerably colder which is unlikely to change as we near the winter months. Windows will not be open during the whole lesson but they will be open for parts of a lesson (roughly ten minutes in every hour). Please make sure your child(ren) dress appropriately in clothes that will keep them warm throughout the day.

Best wishes
Alan Bruce
Head Teacher

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