

# Parent Briefing

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022



## Introduction

I hope this briefing finds you safe and well.

We have reached the end of week three of the new term and it has been an extremely busy few weeks so far. It is great to see the days starting to stretch just that wee bit and it makes a huge difference to our own wellbeing, particularly during the winter months.

We have returned to school with the same COVID measures in place that are outlined later in this briefing. We are continually watching the news for updates and things do seem to be easing a little more in the wider community. We hope this will soon be reflected in school in the coming weeks, but until such time we continue to adhere to the current guidance.

## LEaPs (Learning Experiences akin to Prelims)

Over the course of the last two weeks our Senior Phase pupils have returned to an exam experience akin to Prelims. We understand this has been an extremely anxious time for all S4-S6 pupils who, with the exception of S6, have not had this experience before.

Our pupils have been incredible in how they have conducted themselves and making the most of this opportunity. It is important for them all to remember that this is only the dry-run and the experience is as important as the result. There is still plenty of time for learners to develop their knowledge for the SQA exams in May.

There will be further 'mop up' opportunities for pupils who have missed any LEaP over the course of the last two weeks.

## Vandalism

Over the first few weekends of the new term we saw some fire damage in the woodland area beside the astro-pitch. The trees and a container (belonging to the Nurseries) have been set alight in an act of vandalism.

It is distressing to think this type of act is going on particularly in our community affecting a resource that is shared across various groups in Keith. We have reported this to the Police and we are looking at ways we can make the area safe and fit for purpose again.

If anyone has any further information to help us prevent this happening again it would be greatly appreciated.

## Parent Council AGM

Due to the continued restrictions in school we have been unable to host the annual Parent Council AGM as normal. The re-scheduled date is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm and this will now be held as a virtual meeting.

We would like to encourage as many parents as possible to attend and we would welcome new members to be part of the Parent group supporting KGS. If you would like to attend, please e-mail the school admin account for details of how to access the meeting. [admin.keithgrammar@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:admin.keithgrammar@moray-edunet.gov.uk)

# Ready, Respectful, Safe



## Trespassing on Train Lines

Every so often we are provided with a reminder of the need for safety particularly on the railway line that connects Keith. Due to the very high level of trespassing on the tracks by young people in our local area, Network Rail in partnership with Learn Live are working to help raise awareness to students across the UK educating them about the dangers of the train tracks.

For information, the link below provides access to the safety talk provided by Network Rail and Live Learn. It is important we share this with our young people to keep them safe and well.

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/>

## School Uniform

We have started to see a recent slip in school uniform. As part of our school expectations we want to build respect, readiness and a sense of pride in our daily work.

Please be reminded of the current uniform policy below. We would appreciate your support in encouraging our young people to wear the following;

**ALL pupils** should be wearing:

- Black skirt/trousers/shorts
- Predominately black shoes (need not be formal)
- Plain white shirt
- School tie is provided and can be worn daily or for formal occasions
- Black jumper/cardigan if required (optional; non-branded or with school logo if you still have this)

**Please note: Jeans and branded clothing is not acceptable dress.**

## Mid-term Break

Please be reminded of the mid-term break on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February where the school will be closed at this time.

## HPV Immunisation Programme 10/03/2022

As part of the Scottish Immunisation schedule all pupils are advised to receive two doses of the **HPV** vaccine. The HPV vaccine helps to protect both girls and boys from cancers caused by the HPV virus.

The first dose is given around March in S1 and the second dose is given around March in S2. The consent form covers both doses, so does not need to be completed for each dose. If your child is in S2 and you consented last year, they will also receive their second dose during the school programme.

Further information on these vaccines can be found at [www.nhsinform.scot/immunisation](http://www.nhsinform.scot/immunisation) It is very important that these consents are returned promptly so that the team can plan effectively for their visit. A 'return by' date can be found on the envelope.

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## Free Bus Travel for Under 22's

The Scottish Government has announced plans to begin the new Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme from 31 January 2022.

We recognise that some families are having difficulty applying online for free bus travel. This is what we are doing in Moray to help:-

### **For young people aged 11 to 15 attending a secondary school who have a Young Scot Card/National Entitlement Card**

- If you have applied via Get Your NEC, your application is being processed and your child will receive a replacement Young Scot Card in the post soon. Your child will need to visit the school office with their card to have it activated on the school cashless catering system
- If you are having difficulty with Get Your NEC, you can also now apply using a form available from your child's secondary school

### **For young people aged 16 year and over and still attending a secondary school who have a Young Scot Card/National Entitlement Card**

- If you have applied via Get Your NEC, your application is being processed and you will receive a replacement Young Scot Card in the post soon. You will need to visit the school office with your card to have it activated on the school cashless catering system
- If you are having difficulty with Get Your NEC, you can also now apply using a form available from your child's secondary school

### **For young people attending a secondary school who do not have a Young Scot Card/National Entitlement Card**

- If you have applied via Get Your NEC, your application is being processed and you will receive a replacement Young Scot Card in the post soon
- If you are having difficulty with Get Your NEC, please contact your secondary school office to pick up an application form

### **Important notes**

- To receive free bus transport you must have a National Entitlement Card with transport added. The card will have a blue circle on it that says 'ITSO'. Just tell the bus driver where you are going and tap your card on the electronic card reader to use it
- Due to the high demand for cards, it is possible that you may not receive your card for the scheme launching on 31 January 2022
- What we are doing in Moray is providing paper application forms for those having difficulty applying online. To help with demand we are providing dedicated staff to prioritise application forms, which we will process as quickly as possible
- Moray Council processing time is likely to be up to 14 days after receipt of your form. Cards then need to be printed by the card supplier who are dealing with high demand from across Scotland. If you have not received your card within 28

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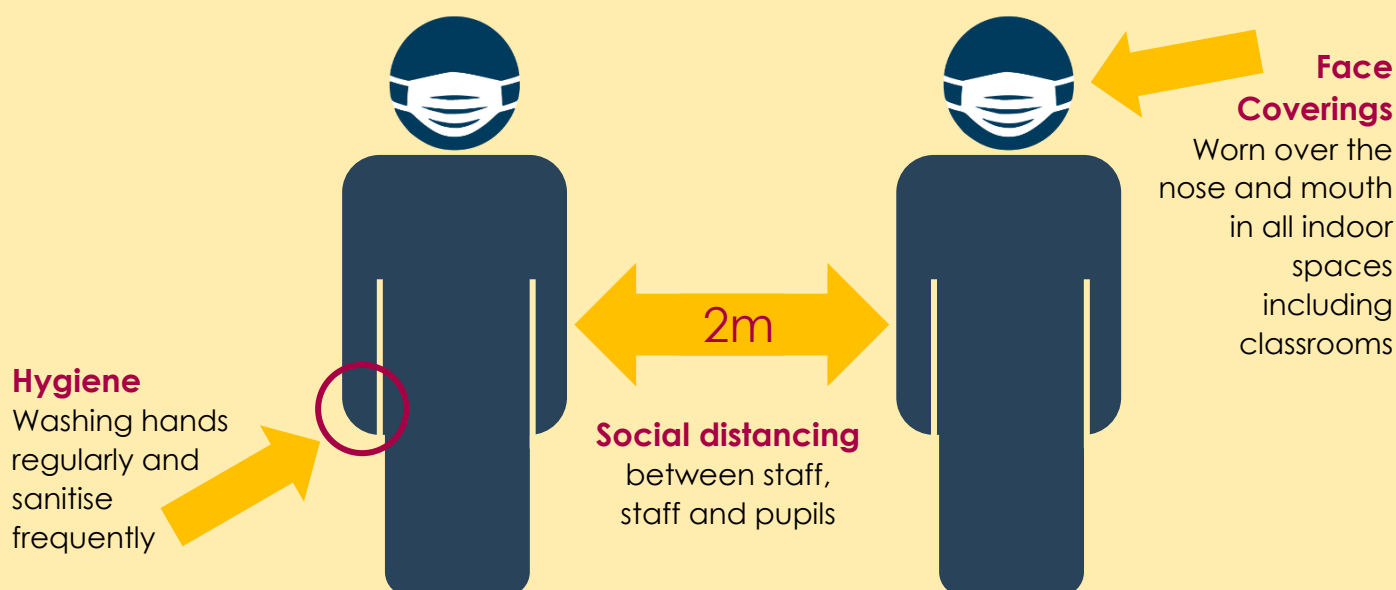


days, please contact our Customer Services team by emailing [accessmoray@moray.gov.uk](mailto:accessmoray@moray.gov.uk) or calling 0300 123 4565

## COVID Update

As noted above from the Scottish Government 'Reducing Risk in Schools' guidance (version 7.0) sets out the measures schools should take to continue to retain a safe learning environment. Thankfully many of the measures outlined are already in place at Keith Grammar with little change since our return after the Christmas break.

### KGS COVID-19 measures include:



### Additional measures in place set to continue:

- Continued lateral flow testing at least twice a week
- Following the one-way system.
- Staggered lunch break.
- CO2 monitoring in all learning spaces
- Ventilation measures to support a good flow of air

## COVID Self-Isolation Guidance

Here is a reminder of the self-isolation guidance still in place at present. Positive cases are advised to self-isolate for 10 days. However, if the individual returns two consecutive negative LFD tests taken at least 24 hours apart with the first test no earlier than day 6 they may end isolation before the end of the 10 day period if they have no fever.

Please stay safe and have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Alan Bruce  
Head Teacher

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