



Keith Grammar School

Parent Briefing

Term 3 | March 2023

Head Teacher Introduction

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope this briefing finds you well.

Spring is certainly in the air as we end another busy and hugely successful term at Keith Grammar School. The light mornings and longer evenings make a huge difference to the wellbeing of everyone in our school community. Getting out and about to do more outdoor based activities is beneficial for everyone.

Although it has been twelve weeks since we returned from the Christmas break this term has flown by and it's hard to believe we are at the Easter break already. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their diligence, hard work and commitment to our young people over the course of the term. As you will see from the Celebration of Success newsletter there have been many experiences both in and out of class for our young people to engage with and many successes to be proud of! Term 4 will continue to offer many more opportunities too.

It's hard to get to this point in the term and not have our Senior Phase pupils at the forefront of our minds. At this point they should be using every minute to revise and consolidate their learning for the year in preparation for their exams. This is where their hard work will pay off and as Parent/Carers, your support is a huge part of their journey to success. I would like to wish all pupils in S4, S5 and S6 the very best of luck and to remind them we are available to support them throughout the exam diet.

SQA Exam Diet 2023

On Monday 24th April, the SQA Examination Diet for 2023 will begin. All pupils were issued with their individual timetables this week and additional assessment arrangements have been discussed with the individuals concerned. For young people in S4, S5 and S6, the first day of study leave will be Monday 24th April, with their last day in school on Friday 21st April. We wish all young people the very best of luck with their exams.

The final day of study leave will be Wednesday 31st May with all young people progressing into S5 and S6 returning to school on Thursday 1st June. A series of Senior Induction activities will take place on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd June in order to prepare young people for the year of study ahead. We are also currently in the planning stages of organising an S6 leadership event as part of their transition. This is planned to take place from Monday 29th May to Wednesday 31st May. More details will follow shortly.

School Uniform Update

Over the last year, we have been working hard to improve our school uniform policy. This has created a positive ethos within school and is therefore helping to improve the opportunities for our young people to do well and achieve their full potential. This term we have been able to provide S1 and S2 pupils with a free school jumper. We also intend to do this for new S1 pupils joining us after summer.

For all young people in school, we have also been working alongside suppliers to provide the opportunity for parents/carers to purchase more school uniform. Parents and carers can now do this via our school web site. The link is provided below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/keithgrammar/school-information-2/purchase-school-uniform/>

This means that all young people have the **option** of either wearing non branded black clothing, or clothing that has the Keith Grammar branding on it. Unfortunately, a small group of young people continue to do neither of these, and so we are asking for the support of parents and carers in encouraging this minority of young people to wear appropriate school uniform. A full list of acceptable items of school uniform is provided on our web site, which can be accessed via the link above.

Activities

This year, we are delighted that we can offer two activities days to our young people in S1-3 on Wednesday 24th May and Thursday 25th May. Teaching staff have been finalising plans for these days and information will be sent out after the holidays. These activities days will allow our young people to enjoy a different type of learning outwith the normal timetabled classes. This will allow pupils to have fun, build relationships and develop a variety of skills that will benefit them when they return to the classroom. Pupils will be able to choose from a variety of activities offered in school or further afield. Some of the activities will have a fee attached to them, whilst others will be free of charge.

College Input for S1-3 Pupils

This term we have welcomed staff from Moray College UHI into the school on a Tuesday - Thursday. A number of pupils are currently half way through a block of learning which supports them in developing resilience and coping strategies. Developing these skills for life, learning and work will benefit pupils as they transition into the next year of their learning at Keith Grammar.

Garden Project

As the weather improves and days are becoming brighter, we are looking forward to finally being able to offer our garden space to our young people as place to enjoy during social times as well as timetabled learning periods. As soon as we come back from the Easter Holidays, school staff and pupils will be planting vegetables, flowers and other plants as well as ensuring that there is seating available for people to enjoy this space. Should any parent or carer be willing to help us out with transforming this quad area into our garden after the holidays, then that would be very welcome indeed. Please just get in touch with our staff in the school office.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative

This week, we have been able to host our YPI final. S3 pupils have been working on their presentations throughout the term, and six teams took part in the final which was judged by school staff and local partners from the community and the world of work. YPI allows our young people to choose a particular charity that they are interested in or have a particular connection to. The groups then presented to the judging panel about the kind of work that the charity engages in. The winning team then receives £3000 which goes to the charity they are supporting. This year, the winning charity was Moray Sonas Wellbeing Service (Action for Children). Well done to all young people who took part, and thank you to all staff, partners and senior pupils who helped to ensure the event was so successful.

Summer Sizzler

We will be celebrating the young people at KGS and throwing a Summer Sizzler Dance for all year groups on Thursday 1st June from 7pm—10pm. The theme of the dance is Summer Time and we are planning to have Ice Cream,, BBQ and a Pick & Mix stand. There is no dress code, but appropriate summer outfits are encouraged. Get the hula skirts out, and hopefully the Keith weather will hold out! The young people will enjoy jiggling along to Ill Tricket, who will provide a Ceilidh, with a disco in between. There will be awards given out at the event which are decided on by the young people for both pupils and teachers. It is going to be a night to remember, look out for the Facebook take over with pictures and memories from the night!

King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday

Please note that Monday 8th May will be a bank holiday in celebration of the King's Coronation. The school will be closed on this day.

A last wee note...

Lastly I would like to take the opportunity to wish all staff, pupils, families and partners of Keith Grammar School a happy, restful and safe Easter break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 17th March.



Alan Bruce
Head Teacher