



Kirkwall Grammar School

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Head Teacher: Mr D Hawkins

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Dear Parents and Carers.

I wanted to start this update by thanking you and your young people for the many messages of support and feedback during the first two weeks lockdown. I would also like to remind all parents and carers to contact the school if you are having any issues with connectivity or with your IT equipment. As always, we will do all we can to try to help and support both you and your young people.

As you may be aware, we had a number of IT devices allocated to us to help support pupils with their home learning. Pupils who have been allocated a device or data package were identified through information which was provided by parental responses to the OIC parental survey on IT. Families were prioritised based on the information provided through that survey in consultation with the school.

We want to support you as best we can and ensure that as many pupils as possible can access an appropriate device, for at least part of a day. We know that there are still families who would benefit from having increased IT provision at home. If you feel you need support with IT issues to support remote learning then please contact your child's Guidance Teachers or Year Head.

I would also gently remind all key worker parents and carers who require childcare / supervision in school that use of this service should be as a necessity in order to reduce the possibility of spread of infection. Guidance teachers continue to contact other parents and carers to discuss any extra needs their young people may have.

The school is open during the normal school hours of 8.30am to 3.35pm. In the interests of safety please note that all pupils attending KGS during this time will not be allowed to leave the premises during the school day. The school canteen will be open for snacks and lunch but pupils may take a packed lunch if they prefer.

The First Minister in her statement to Parliament earlier this week said that schools are to remain closed to most children until at least the middle of February and that this position will be reviewed on Tuesday February 2nd. As we continue with remote learning please remember that there is a Support Guide that will introduce you to the Digital platforms that your child will be using allowing you as parents/carers to support your child's learning at home available on the school's website or available to download [here](#).

As most pupils will now be learning from Home until at least the middle of February we have decided to reintroduce online registration for S1 and S2. Pupils in S3 to S6 will continue to be registered on a subject engagement basis. We would therefore ask that all pupils in S1 and S2 register their attendance every Friday with their Register Class on Teams starting on Friday January 29th.

Pupils in S1 and S2 will continue to focus on the core provision of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing and we would remind you that opt in tasks from Modern Languages, Design Technology, Art and Music etc. are also available

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Maths	Science	Social Subjects	S1 / S2 Registration PE

The S2 into S3 options opened earlier this week on Monday. Information on the support available was sent to parents/carers and a copy of the option sheet, along with descriptions of the courses available. A video to guide pupils and parents through the course choice process is available on the KGS website. The closing date for the S2 into S3 options is 19th February but completed forms can be returned any time and should be emailed to admin.kgs@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk or can be left at the KGS reception.

The Senior Phase options were due to open on February 1st and close on Friday March 5th. No decision has been made on the dates around this yet as we are waiting to see when schools will re-open. We will update you as and when information becomes available.

We know only too well that motivating your children to work online can be very difficult and frustrating. Try and remember to not worry too much about this. When we see pupils not engaging or failing to register, we will contact them and gently remind them of the importance of their school work and also discuss any issues or barriers they may be experiencing.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding through what continues to be a difficult and frustrating time. Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Guidance teacher and / or year head.

I very much look forward to welcoming your children and young people back to KGS as soon as we are allowed to do so.

All the very best to you and your family

Stay home and stay safe.

Don Hawkins
Head Teacher