



Kirkwall Grammar School

Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1QN
Tel: (01856) 872102 Fax: (01856) 877699
Email: admin.kgs@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk
Website: www.kgsorkney.com



Head Teacher: Mr D Hawkins

27 August 2019

Dear Parent/ Guardian

We were really pleased to welcome our pupils back to KGS last week, and I hope that your son/daughter enjoyed their first week, after their summer holidays.

As you are aware, all pupils at KGS have a Guidance Teacher, and I am writing to confirm the details of the Guidance and Support for Learning Staff, who will share an overview of your son/daughter during their time at KGS.

All members of staff work closely with their pupils, but Guidance Teachers have a particular interest in your child's progress and well-being and are your first point of contact at KGS. If there is something happening in your son/daughter's life, which you feel may affect their learning or presentation in school, please contact the appropriate Guidance Teacher, who will be happy to talk with you about the best way to support your child. This may involve coming into school to discuss matters further, and it may also involve us working together with other professionals who are able to support your child.

Please just call the school and leave a message for the Guidance Teacher and they will return your call as soon as possible. If the situation is of an urgent nature, I am more than happy to discuss any concerns, which you may wish to share.

As a reminder: -

If your child is in Copinsay, Mrs Raksha Woods is their Guidance teacher and Mr Ron Omand is the Support for Learning link

If your child is in Eynhallow, Mr Colin Nisbet is their Guidance teacher and Ms Ibolya Sandor is the Support for Learning link

If your child is in Fara, Mr Mark Berry is their Guidance Teacher, and Miss Laura Gray is the Support for Learning link

Mr Mark Berry replaces Mr Iain MacLean, who has moved across to the English Department. We are pleased to welcome Mr Berry to KGS.

Guidance staff will see their pupils weekly in PSE lessons where pupils will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the four main areas covered in Health and Well Being. These are:

- Substance misuse
- Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
- Planning for choices and change
- Relationships, sexual health and parenthood

In addition to this we work closely with our Careers Advisers, School Nurses, Educational Psychology, In School Counsellors, Pupil Support (OIC) as well as a broad range of partners who support many aspects of our work.

Please ask your child what they are doing in PSE - the topics covered are usually excellent for family discussion! Please do get in touch should you want further details of any of the content covered. We will be putting details on the web site, but I am happy to discuss any aspect of the work we do with you.

The Guidance Department also works closely with Mrs Amy Berry, KGS' Home Link Worker. Amy's role is to foster positive relationship with pupils and their families particularly those students who are finding it challenging to attend school. We are also pleased to have as part of our Team, Mrs Mara Broadhurst, the school's Youth Worker. Mara works with a range of students across all year groups and abilities through one to one sessions and/or small group sessions.

Please feel free to contact us at any time. It is important to stress that we want to work very closely with our pupils and families and we are keen to have strong partnerships in place so that we can work together to support the children.

Yours sincerely

Marlyn Firth
Guidance Manager