



Kirkwall Grammar School
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Head Teacher: Mr D Hawkins

Wednesday August 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

On Thursday last week the Deputy First Minister informed all Local Authorities that the Scottish Government considers that the balance of risk is now strongly in favour of children and young people returning to school full-time next week. Despite this, we do not expect the return to school to be a complete return to normality and I would ask you all to remind your children and young people to remain vigilant and continue to manage the risks of COVID-19.

I would like to assure you that the health, wellbeing and safety of our young people and staff are our top priority as we plan for re-opening. The Scottish Government have advised that they expect all children and young people to return to school full-time by 18 August at the very latest. We believe that in order to support the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff that we reintroduce all pupils back to school in a phased transition. This will help build confidence and allow staff time to work with pupils to establish relationships as well as relevant programmes of study.

The current plan for opening KGS is detailed below

Monday August 10	Tuesday August 11	Wednesday August 12 0835 - 1535	Thursday August 13 0835 - 1535	Friday August 14 0835 - 1220
Staff In Service	Staff In Service	All S4, S5 and S6	All new S1 pupils. (S1 Induction Day) All S4, S5 and S6	All S1, S2 and S3 only.

This phased period will encompass the 12th to 14th August for the majority of pupils. Bespoke packages will be put in place for a small number of pupils requiring a longer transition period, but we aim to have almost all pupils in a full time, face to face, in-school provision by 31st August.

In this letter I would also like to reiterate my message to our new S1 pupils who will be joining us next week. We hope that you have enjoyed all of the videos that we have sent you and that you are looking forward to joining us in KGS. We are aware that you don't know which House or which class you are in yet, and we understand that this is important to you. When you join us next Thursday this will be one of the first bits of information we will share with you. There will also be members of staff at the door to welcome our new S1 pupils on the Thursday morning.

Attached to this letter are a couple of documents we hope you find useful and informative.

1. KGS Safe Return to School information
2. Return to School FAQ as issued by OIC Education
3. Letter to parents and carers from Executive Director of Education Mr James Wylie

Once again, I would like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding through what has been a very difficult and frustrating time. Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. I very much look forward to welcoming your children and young people back to KGS next week.

All the very best to you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Don Hawkins
Head Teacher