



Kirkwall Grammar School

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Head Teacher: Mr D Hawkins

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Dear Parents and Carers.

As we start the new term, I wanted to thank you for your continued support and understanding during this difficult time.

All key worker parents and carers who registered their child / young person as requiring childcare / supervision in school should have received a message asking them to contact the school if they wished to take up their place. We need to know the numbers of pupils for each day in order to plan catering and staffing so please ensure you contact the school to let us know if you are sending your child / young person in. I would also gently remind parents and carers that use of this service should be as a necessity in order to reduce the spread of infection.

Guidance teachers are also in the process of contacting other parents and carers to discuss any extra needs their young people may have.

The school will 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. Most pupils and young people attending KGS will be supervised and given access to a school computer to allow them to follow the same programme of online, remote provision as those children who remain at home.

As we enter another period of remote learning we have learnt from the experience of lockdown 2020 and the difficulties encountered. We have streamlined our approach to online learning and created 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. The Support Guide can be accessed on the KGS website or here:
http://www.kgsorkney.com/uploads/1/4/9/3/14935550/orkney_secondary_parents_digital_literacy_guide_january_2021.pdf

Pupils in the Senior Phase S4, S5 and S6, should receive messages from their teachers over the next few days regarding each of their National subjects. We would also confirm that the Assessment Checkpoints due to start on Monday January 18 have been postponed until later in the term. I have also been informed that all Senior phase pupils undertaking courses at Orkney College will be contacted directly by the College with details of their online learning for the coming weeks.

Pupils in S3 will also receive communications from their teachers in each of their chosen subjects.

Learning for pupils in S1 and S2 will focus on the core provision of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Work and links to online material will be provided to all S1 / S2 pupils next week and for guidance, we recommend they follow the timetable given below. Subjects not included in this core provision such as Technical, Art and Music etc. will be providing online work and tasks over the next few weeks. However, to avoid overwhelming pupils, work from these subjects will be optional.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Maths	Science	Social Subjects	PE

At the moment we are not intending to use any online pupil registration as staff will be referring any pupils not regularly engaging with their learning. All of the above will be reviewed should school closure continue past February 1st.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding through what continues to be a very 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