THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL – COMHAIRLE na GAIDHEALTACHD

KINGUSSIE HIGH SCHOOL
Àrd Sgoil Chinn A' Ghiuthsaich

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5th August 2020

Dear Pupil/Parent/Carer,

Reopening School Update

I am delighted to be able to welcome your child / young person back to school and I am writing to you today to update you on next steps in this process.

As per the Scottish Government announcement, Kingussie High School will reopen to all pupils on Wednesday 12th August. The structure of the school day will run as normal, with each day starting at 8.50am and finishing at 3.55pm Monday to Wednesday, 3.35pm on Thursday and 12.30pm on a Friday.

I realise that you will have lots of questions about how things will work in Kingussie High School post lockdown and I hope that this letter will reassure you that the safety of pupils and staff is the number one priority. Delivering high quality learning and teaching, reconnecting and re-establishing positive relationships with our young people are also our prime concern.

School transport The latest Scottish Government advice is that "Dedicated school transport should be regarded as an extension of the school estate and it is not necessary to maintain distance between children and young people of all ages (subject to continued low levels of infection within Scotland)." Conversely, when a pupil is using public transport to travel to or from school, the current advice is that face masks are mandatory unless exemptions apply. In the absence of a national or local directive that pupils should wear face coverings when travelling on school transport, parents/carers should consider this as an option. School transport will run as normal and you can find details about school transport at the transport section of the Back to School pages on the Council website available here. Myself and two other staff will travel on the Aviemore buses on the 12th August to ensure that all pupils get on the buses safely and to assist any pupils who may require help.

Arrival at school When pupils arrive at school they will be expected to be in full school uniform, wash their hands and make use of the hand sanitiser at the entry to the social area. S2-S6 pupils will then go to their period 1 class and S1 pupils will go to the assembly hall period 1 for the first week. They will be met each morning by the guidance staff who will ensure any questions are answered and they know how to get to class. There will be an assembly on the first day back with each year group to welcome everyone back and to share the expectations with all pupils. Timetables are enclosed so all pupils know where to go once they arrive and staff will be on hand to support with this.

Safe hygiene routines and movement around school Each classroom will have a hand sanitizer and cleaning solution station available for pupils and staff. On arrival to and departure from each class, pupils can wipe down their work station and clean their hands. Any pupil is welcome to wear a face mask if they wish.

Some practical subjects may not run as normal in the first instance. We will have ongoing risk assessments and measures in place and adhere to Highland Council advice and guidance regarding this.

Pupils will use the one way system to move around the building throughout the day. Pupils are not expected to share their Chromebook or personal equipment with their peers. To support this we would recommend that all pupils come to school with charged Chromebooks and the stationery that they require. Please see the recommended list here.

Break and lunchtime The canteen will be operating with a reduced service when school returns. Pupils entitled to free school meals and regular canteen users will still be able to buy meals as normal. Please can I encourage you to put money on your child's account from home using their Scottish Candidate Number - instructions can be found here. S2-S6 pupils have been emailed their details and S1 details are enclosed.

I understand that there are a large group of pupils who prefer to go down the street for lunch but the Co-Op have been in contact to say that they are unable to have school pupils in the shop during lunchtime at present. While other businesses have indicated that they would welcome the school pupils during lunchtime there will be strict queuing and social distancing measures in place meaning service will take much longer than usual. You will understand that we don't want pupils missing afternoon classes due to being down the street so we are limiting access to the High Street to senior pupils only (S4-S6) and we will review this regularly. We encourage pupils to bring food for their break and lunch if at all possible. These measures will help reduce the number of pupils needing to queue for food. If the weather is suitable we will also encourage pupils to spend break and lunchtime out in the fresh air.

If a pupil or family member displays COVID symptoms As a parent/carer it is your responsibility to ensure your child is not presenting any COVID symptoms before attending school. If a child develops symptoms of the coronavirus during the school day, they will be sent home immediately and advised to self-isolate for 10 days and to book a test. Using the "test, trace, isolate, support strategy" a test will be available, and the results will be delivered rapidly.

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date and you have means of arranging for your child to come home if they become ill.

Senior Course Changes I am aware that some pupils will decide to change courses due to exam results and we want to support as best we can with this. Mr Munro and Mrs Adamson would like any pupil who wants to discuss a change of course to email them before Tuesday 11th August and they will arrange a virtual meeting for Tuesday afternoon. This will hopefully minimise concerns for these pupils before returning the following day.

A reminder that all appeal requests should be submitted here before Wednesday 12th August. If you want to discuss appeals or timetables then please email Rhona Macaskill on Rhona.Macaskill@highland.gov.uk

Lastly, the key focus for us is to ensure we can operate safely and return to the normal process of learning and teaching. We will all need to work together to enable this to be a success and will require a concerted effort by all members of our school community to follow the guidelines.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Adamson
Head Teacher
Kingussie High School