



Perth Grammar School

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Miss Fiona Robertson
Head Teacher

Perth Grammar School
Gowans Terrace PERTH PH15AZ

Tel 01738 472800

Email PerthGrammar@pkc.gov.uk

Twitter @PerthGrammar

Contact F Robertson

Ref FR / SJ

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All Parents/Carers
Perth Grammar School

Dear Parent/Carer

Return of Pupils from Wednesday 18 August 2021

I hope you and your family have enjoyed the Summer break. We are looking forward to the Term ahead and as we prepare to welcome back pupils, I would like to update you on some important information.

Following the First Minister's latest briefing on 3 August 2021, it has been agreed that with the updated Scottish Government guidance, many of the COVID-19 measures in place at the end of term in June will remain for a period of at least six weeks. This is to enable monitoring of the impact of the return to school on COVID-19 case numbers.

Measures remaining in place until the October holidays will include:

- Physical distancing of at least one metre distancing between all staff, and between staff and pupils.
- Face coverings to be worn by all staff and young people aged 12 and over. Pupils should bring their own face covering to school each day.
- Enhanced cleaning, ventilation and hygiene measures.
- Our changing rooms will continue to be out of use and therefore, we accept that when pupils have PE then they can wear kit on these days. School uniform should be worn at all other times.

There are changes to other measures which are to be put in place as soon as possible, including:

- On dedicated school transport only adults and young people aged 12 and over should wear a face covering.
- Changes to the arrangements for self-isolation and contact tracing.

Self-isolation, contact tracing and testing

- If your young person tests positive for COVID-19, or if they display symptoms, then they should isolate as previously advised.
- If your young person is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, they should arrange a COVID-19 test as soon as possible and not wait for any symptoms.
- Self-isolation requirements (including contact tracing and testing) are being updated in line with the changes to self-isolation for the wider community. This will mean that if your young person is identified as a close contact, then while they will initially be asked to self-isolate, they can return to school if they subsequently receive a negative PCR test result and remain symptom-free. The revised approach to contact tracing means that the previous consistent groupings of pupils are no longer required and will be removed as soon as possible.
- As you will be aware, asymptomatic testing is available across the whole school through the issuing of Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs). If they have not already signed up, please encourage your young person to participate in the testing as this is one of the measures in place to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. [Click here to find out more.](#)
- It is recommended that your young person takes a test before returning to school.

Face Coverings/Physical Distancing

- Face coverings still require to be worn by all pupils and staff in school.
- Face coverings must also continue to be worn by secondary pupils on school transport.
- There is still no requirement for pupils to physically distance from one another in school and on school transport, however, teaching staff may still ask pupils to physically distance within school wherever this is possible.
- Pupils are still required, however, to physically distance and wear face coverings in the community, e.g. when visiting shops at lunchtimes, (where necessary school staff will continue to remind pupils they should comply with this). Your ongoing support with this message is appreciated.
- All staff are still required to physically distance from pupils and other adults in school.

Young People Living with someone in the Highest Risk Group

- Children and young people who live with a person who is at highest risk should now attend school from Wednesday 18 August 2021. All children and young people attending school should comply with the arrangements for the reduction of risks of transmission of the virus within schools, including hand hygiene and the use of face coverings where appropriate.

School Meal Service

- Currently due to ventilation restrictions, we will continue to operate the existing bagged meal service for the first few weeks of school. This will mean the existing restricted menu will remain in place while we plan for the full return to a dining centre-based service.

Drama, Music, PE and Dance

- Restrictions on Drama, Music, PE and Dance have been removed and further information on how and when these will return in school will be provided in due course. It continues to be the case that external/community halls are not to be used by schools at this time.

External Support

- Support provided from other Services/Organisations can resume in school where necessary, however, provision of the support will continue remotely via virtual means where appropriate.

Ventilation

- Ventilation is one of the key mitigations in minimising risk and, as we move towards colder weather, you are asked to ensure your young person is dressed appropriately to take account of changing temperatures within the school building. Perth & Kinross Council is undertaking assessment of ventilation throughout schools, including using CO2 monitors.

Continuing to Manage and Minimise Risk

Current measures, such as hand hygiene will continue. Whilst the changes to restrictions are very welcome, I would stress the importance of following all measures we have in place within the school to ensure the safety of pupils and school staff. I would appreciate your assistance in reinforcing the importance of this message with your young person.

We will continue to monitor any further announcements by the First Minister and will keep you updated if there are any further changes affecting your young person's education.

Perth & Kinross Council updates information for parents/carers on its website www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools and also its Facebook and Twitter sites.

You and/or your young person may have ongoing concerns about the return to school with the changes in restrictions, however, I would wish to reassure you that as well as their education, the health and wellbeing of our learners is very important to our staff, and in partnership we will continue to support all pupils to attend school safely.

I would like to thank you for continuing to support the school and your young person's education during these times. If you require any further information, please contact the Business Support Team on 01738 472800 or email PerthGrammar@pkc.gov.uk.

I look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Wednesday 18 August 2021.

Yours sincerely



Fiona Robertson
Head Teacher