

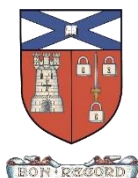
Aberdeen Grammar School

OUR VISION

Working together

Learning together

Achieving together



OUR VALUES

Ambition

Growth

Success

22 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find below key updates for this week.

School Recovery Plan

The return to school requires detailed and careful planning. We will provide you with our School Recovery Plan and Parent Guide (Return to School) by the end of this term. This plan and guide will detail what blended learning (in-school and at-home learning) will comprise of for each year group. It will let you know the time your child will be in school and the arrangements for at-home learning.

I do not want to issue a plan until we have explored all possibilities around securing additional building space. The current social distancing rules mean that we have to apply the 2 metre rule. This means, for example, that a class of 30 pupils, normally accommodated in one room, will need to be spread across three rooms, with three members of staff. To exemplify further, we have 210 pupils in S1. Under normal circumstances, the year group is organised into 7 non-practical classes. With social distancing rules, we will have to run 21 classes. Our school roll remains consistently around 1100, which means that our school building is running at full capacity under normal circumstances.

In addition to this, the situation is constantly changing. I do not want to issue one plan next week and then change it by the end of term.

Clearly, we would all dearly love to be told that it is safe for us to return to school, as normal, in August. For the moment, we do need to have plans in place which adhere to social distancing rules and public health advice, as outlined in the Local Delivery Phasing Plan

<https://sway.office.com/Dd9pxR7RZF46vQek?ref=Link>

Uniform

As stated above, you will be issued with a Parent Guide on a range of practical matters to help you and your child (children) prepare for return to school in August.

Our current advice regarding uniform for August, which was issued to our P7 parents last week, is as follows:

As John Lewis/Stevenson's remain closed, many parents have been unable to purchase a new School Blazer for their children. In addition, Scottish Government advice is that pupils wear clothes to school which are freshly laundered. For these reasons, we do not expect pupils to wear a School Blazer or School Tie in August.

We still expect pupils to dress appropriately for school and they should wear the required items indicated in the table below.

Uniform	Required	Available to buy
School Blazer (with badge)	x	John Lewis/Stevensons
School Tie	x	John Lewis/Stevensons
School Shirt (White/Light Blue)	✓	Parent Choice
Trousers/Skirt (Black/Grey/Navy)	✓	Parent Choice
Pullover (Grey/Navy- no logos apart from those with AGS badge)	optional	Parent Choice
Shoes (Black)	✓	Parent Choice

P7 Link Week

Well done to everyone involved in making our virtual P7 Link Week a great success. Mr Robertson (Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for Primary/Secondary Transition) tells me that we can look forward to a fantastic set of pupils joining us in August.

It was a busy week for the P7s as they completed learning activities across all eight curricular areas. Staff from each Faculty provided them with a range of activities throughout the week. We are delighted with how well pupils engaged with their learning. They approached tasks with enthusiasm and impressed us with their ICT skills and ability to upload/submit work, including multimedia images and videos.

P7 pupils also met with their Principal Teacher Pupil Support (PTPS) daily and their House Head. They were introduced to senior pupils who will continue to provide aspects of peer support when we return to school in August. Pupils were respectful and attentive during live Google Meets.

As a lot of our P7 pupils have not yet had the opportunity to visit the school, we put together a virtual tour. You may wish to take a look, using the link below, especially if you have never had a tour of the building yourself. If you want to listen to the narration, please select this in the settings wheel. You can explore each scene by clicking on the various information points but wait until the narration has stopped before doing so. The assembly scene has the best narrative!

<https://poly.google.com/view/290koQCrdg>

Our P7 parents have expressed their appreciation for the work staff have been doing to prepare pupils for the transition to secondary school in these extraordinary times.

Catch Up Week – week beginning 29 June

I am hearing from teaching staff that our pupils are showing signs of flagging a little as we approach the end of term. It has been very challenging for pupils and I am proud of the way that they have engaged with online learning. As I always say, pupils at AGS want to learn and value the education we provide. That said, attendance at 'live teaching' google meets has dropped a little. I would really appreciate it if you could encourage your child to continue attending Google meets. Teachers put a lot of time and effort into producing materials and present key teaching points during these meets.

I have advised staff not to post any new work in the last week of term in order to allow pupils to catch up on work already issued. Again, this decision is based on feedback from pupil groups. We will also need to use the last week of term to share with pupils what the return to school will look like in August. As I said, this may be subject to change, depending on the social distancing rules in August.

SQA - S4, S5 & S6 pupils

Many pupils have already registered with MySQA to receive their examination results by text or email. If they have not done so already, pupils should sign up at www.mysqa.org.uk before 5 pm on Tuesday 14 July 2020 and check that their contact details are correct. To register with MySQA, pupils require their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and a valid email address.

Should there be a change to their home address since school closure, pupils should contact their PTPS.

Contact details

It is particularly important at this time that we have accurate contact details for all families. If your home address, e-mail address or telephone number has changed recently, please contact AberdeenGrammarSchool@aberdeencity.gov.uk so that we can up-date our school records.

Please be assured that I will keep you well informed and continue to provide you with key updates.

Kindest regards

A. Murison

Ms A Murison
Head Teacher