

Aberdeen Grammar School

OUR VISION

Working together

Learning together

Achieving together



OUR VALUES

Ambition

Growth

Success

17 August 2020

Today, we welcomed all of our pupils back to school. I am pleased to say that the routines we went through during the induction sessions were followed and I am proud of our young people for behaving so responsibly.

As we return to school, it is my intention to continue to provide weekly updates with key information.

Prevent the spread of COVID-19 – Schools

Anyone who:

- **has the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)** – a new persistent cough, fever, or a loss of sense of smell and/or taste – should stay at home and arrange for coronavirus testing;
- **is living with someone who has coronavirus symptoms** should stay at home and follow the relevant advice;
- **has returned (or come) to Scotland** from a country which is not exempt from the UK quarantine rules, should stay at home following the relevant guidance.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 require all those returning to Scotland from non-exempt countries to self-isolate at home or in another appropriate location for 14 days. **Those self-isolating should not go out to work or school or visit public areas.** This point is covered prominently in the Sector Advice Card

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2020/08/scottish-covid-19-workbook-2020/documents/covid-19-sector-advice-card/covid-19-sector-advice-card/govscot%3Adocument/covid-19-sector-advice-card.pdf>.

As you will know, the list of exempt countries has been changed in recent days, with the removal of some countries, including France and the Netherlands, where people in Scotland commonly spend their holidays.

We attach a link to the relevant guidance

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/overview/> and to the list of exempt countries

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/exemptions/>. Directors of Public Health and local health protection teams are available to offer further support where there are concerns.

School Trips

I am pleased to report that we are beginning to hear from the insurance companies regarding the claims submitted. As yet, we are not in receipt of any monies. As soon as we do receive the funds, we will issue refunds.

SQA

Last week, we informed our pupils, by email, if they were subject to a downgrade by the SQA and confirmed the grade which was submitted by the school.

As I indicated in my most recent SQA update <https://grammar.org.uk/2020/08/12/head-teacher-sqa-update-12-08-20/>, the Depute First Minister, in his statement to Parliament, said "...there remains the need for the option of an appeal in some circumstances and detail on this will be set out by the end of the week." The SQA has informed schools that detailed information on how to submit a post certification review (appeal) will be issued this week. The SQA anticipates that appeals will arise only exceptionally.

I will write with a further SQA update letter on receipt of more detailed information from the SQA.

Attendance

A frequently asked question at this time is:

I'm worried about the local restrictions and would rather my child doesn't attend school. Can my child access the curriculum remotely like before?

As we welcome children back into school buildings, it will not be possible to offer a digital curriculum. Teaching staff will be working to support children and young people in person.

If a child is not in school due to advice from a medical practitioner, please discuss this situation with your child's Principal Teacher Pupil Support.

As we settle into the new term, I will be in regular contact with any new or updated information.

Kindest regards

A. Murison

Ms A Murison

Head Teacher