

Grantown Grammar School
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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE NA GAIDHEALTACHD
BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY AREA

Mrs Claire McGonigal, Headteacher

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER - June 2016

As we approach the end of one school year, it seems appropriate for me to share my vision for the school as a new headteacher. My main aim is to drive up attainment while keeping the strong sense of community and achievement of which Grantown Grammar School can be so rightly proud. Raising attainment and building on achievement will give our pupils the best opportunities as they go forward into the world of work, further or higher education and become adults in our community. My aim is "work hard and play hard" and we are encouraging pupils to push themselves both in class and around the school by making the most of extra-curricular opportunities. There will be changes, some small, some larger but all with this same aim in mind. As staff we have ideas we would like to put into action but I know that there will be questions and suggestions from parents and the wider community. Therefore I will be available on a drop-in basis for 'Headteacher's Surgery' every Thursday from 5-6pm starting in August. If you can't come in then but would like to meet for a chat then please contact the school as I would be delighted to arrange an appointment.

School Uniform

There's always a lot of debate when it comes to school uniform, but, having spoken to pupils, parents and staff, there is a general feeling that our school uniform policy needs to be more strenuously enforced. I believe that wearing school uniform sets the tone for a positive working environment where pupils have a sense of belonging and are prepared for future dress codes in the world of work. However, I know that with our variable weather, uniform needs to be practical as well as smart. One thing that pupils felt especially strongly about was the three colour logo in the junior school. They don't like it and, therefore, it will be phased out. Pupils can continue to wear this logo but it will no longer be produced. Instead, all pupils will wear the crest logo. The crest logo has been slightly updated as explained below. Pupils will have the option of polo shirts or T shirts. Pupils will also be able to buy black hoodies with their name on the back in House colours in addition to other uniform options. Senior pupils will be encouraged to wear shirts, ties and blazers. It should be noted that other than the school logo, there should be no logo visible. If pupils do not wear school uniform they will be expected to wear plain black or white clothing with no visible logos. At this time of year, I should emphasise that pupils should not wear coloured shorts or crop tops. I also do not expect to see any underwear, including bra straps. Leggings should be thick enough to conceal underwear. School uniform has slipped as the year has gone on and I know that it has caused concern with parents. I would, therefore, like to thank you in advance for your support as we tighten up on school uniform. There will be consequences for pupils who do not comply with the dress code especially when it comes to extra-curricular events such as discos and the prom.

School uniform is available from Zippy Embroidery in Grantown-on-Spey, Schoolwear Made Easy and Highland Schoolwear in Inverness. All of these outlets will be selling uniform with the updated logo. The old logos will be phased out over the next year or as long as it takes for pupils to outgrow them!

Ordering New School Uniform

I've enclosed an order form for Schoolwear Made Easy with this newsletter. If you would like to place an order please return the form in an envelope clearly marked with your son's/daughter's name and either cash or a cheque made payable to "Gilmour Sports Ltd." The uniform ordered will be delivered to school, in individual packs, on Monday 15 August for collection after 10.30am, ready for pupils to wear on Tuesday 16 August. Your order form must be returned to school in an envelope with payment by **Friday 24 June**.

School uniform can also be ordered directly from Zippy Embroidery.

Tuesday Afternoons

There are some changes to Tuesday afternoons. Although the aim and design of Tuesday is going to stay the same, the afternoon itself is going to be shorter. From 7 June, Tutor Time on Tuesday will be extended by 15 minutes. This will create a half hour slot which will enable assemblies to take place and also give time for tutors to work more closely with their tutor groups on target setting and resilience. Pupils will also return to their tutor group directly after lunch in order to be registered before going to their Tuesday afternoon activity. The timings will be as follows:

Tutor time: 12.26 - 2.56 pm
Lunch: 12.56 - 1.55 pm
Registration: 1.55 - 2.00 pm
Tues pm: 2.00 - 4.00 pm

If pupils need an extended afternoon for Outdoor Education, they will have an early lunch during Tutor Time. I hope that this will make Tuesday afternoons more focussed and productive.

Textbook Amnesty

If any pupils have any old textbooks or library books lurking at the back of cupboards or under beds, please hand them into the school office. No questions asked and books can be handed in at any time. Thank you!

Lost Property

At the end of term all of the cloakrooms and racks will be cleared by Mr Carrott. Anything left by pupils will go into Lost Property. There will be an opportunity next term for parents to look through this lost property before it is donated to charity.

Rugby/Football Pitch

The pitch will be out of bounds during the school holiday due to grass seeding. The pitch is having a very overdue refurbishment which I'm sure we'll all appreciate in the future.

School Logo

The school logo has caused a lot of debate recently. It's become apparent that we are using a lot of different logos in different ways. There's a different logo for the letterhead, school uniform, ties, keyrings and almost every area where the logo is used. As we talked through ideas a completely new logo emerged but, having shared it with pupils at a whole school assembly, it quickly became apparent that there were two main aspects of the school crest which everyone wanted, the Latin motto and the shield. Therefore, we have stepped back in time a bit and from now on will be using as close a logo to the original which can be seen on the Dux board and war memorial lectern. The only slight change is that 'GGS' is now included in the encircling belt and above the shield is a representation of the Cairngorms to reflect the fact that we are a National Park School. We hope that everyone is happy with this traditional approach. The uniform is reproduced here in black and white due to copying costs but in colour it incorporates the three house colours of red, yellow and blue. If you have any comments, please let us know.



Opportunities

There are a lot of opportunities for pupils to get involved in the wider life of the school. All pupils can take part in the school show, The Adams Family, either on stage or back stage. There are many instrument groups in Music but all pupils can join the school choir even if they don't play an instrument. Rock Challenge was a huge success last year and we aim to be bigger and better this year which means we need pupils to dance, fundraise and organise. Sports teams are building in strength and we have football, rugby and netball teams as well as other sporting clubs for pupils to take part in. There are also opportunities in Art, Drama and Science for pupils to get involved in addition to a growing Duke of Edinburgh programme. Finally everyone can support events in the school from discos to fundraising. This is the year to make the most of opportunities and for pupils to get out of their comfort zones!

Re-Act Strathspey

In August we will start facilitating regular focussed collections for refugees. There are already a number of S6 pupils who have volunteered to help advertise and organise collections so keep your eyes open for information about what Re-Act Strathspey are looking for people to donate. (on the website and on Facebook).

Summer Music Concert – Wednesday 22 June

An opportunity to come and enjoy the vast array of musical talent at our school.

Wednesday 22 June, Main Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets £5 Adults £3 Concessions - available from the school office from Wednesday 15 June

Grantown 250+1

On Friday 24 June the school Music Department is involved with this year's celebrations. During the day buskers will be performing in the High Street. In the afternoon the Traditional players will be taking part in a workshop with Hamish Napier. These pupils will then perform at the concert on Saturday night (25 June) at the school. This concert is a performance of Hamish Napier's composition, The River. Our pupils are his support act! Tickets are available from The Bookmark or on the door.

On Monday 26 June there is a concert at Inverallan Church at which the various choirs will be performing. It starts at 7pm. Tickets are not necessary but there will be a collection at the end.

Diary Dates

Thursday 16 June	-	Leavers' Graduation and Senior Prizegiving
Monday 20 June	-	P7 Visit
Tuesday 21 June	-	P7 Visit
		P7 Parents' Night
Wednesday 22 June	-	P7 Visit
		Summer Music Concert
Monday 27 June	-	Sports Day
Wednesday 29 June	-	Sports Awards
Friday 1 July	-	12.30 pm school finishes
Monday 15 August	-	In-Service
Tuesday 16 August	-	Pupils return to school at 8.55am



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Headteacher

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Mrs Claire McGonigal, Head Teacher



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16 May 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

PE Kit

At Grantown Grammar School, we believe every pupil should be given the best opportunity to achieve and progress their learning in every lesson. In order for us to do this we are moving to encourage all pupils to get fully changed for PE classes despite any injury or illness. This is because we feel, participation and engagement in PE is fundamental to every child's development, learning and health and wellbeing.

At present, pupils who are injured or ill are asked to assist the teacher in a range of tasks in order to participate as much as possible in the learning of the lesson. The current system can end up with pupils sitting at the side of a PE class in school uniform and not maximising their learning experiences or potential.

During an average week, PE staff collect in excess of thirty notes excusing pupils from PE for various different reasons. As you can imagine this is very time consuming for staff, pupils and parents/guardians.

Starting from the change of timetable (07 June 16) there will be an expectation that **all** pupils will get changed (appropriate change of T-shirt, top, shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings for the activity/conditions) for PE. There will be no need for pupils to take in a note or show their teacher a text message. It will be the pupil's responsibility to inform the Teacher of any short term injury but they will still be expected to get changed.

If the pupil is unable to take part in PE for an extended period of time then a doctor's note or communication from home will be expected. When this happens PE staff will endeavor to keep pupils as involved as possible, taking account of illness or injury, so that they can continue their learning alongside their classmates. As they may be involved in a limited capacity they would still be required to bring their kit and get changed in order to accompany their class to both indoor and outdoor venues. Where limited movement is possible it is of course acceptable to bring additional clothing such as a waterproof or tracksuit so that they can keep warm when not being physically active.

If a pupil fails to take in appropriate kit they will be provided with spare kit that is laundered daily. Refusal to use kit provided or any pupil continually forgetting their own kit will be treated with the same procedures for forgotten/inappropriate kit.

Thank you for your support in this matter. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact the school.

Yours faithfully

Scott Wilson
Acting Principal Teacher
Physical Education and Outdoor Learning

SCHOOLWEAR MADE EASY - INVERNESS

Cheques, payable to "Gillmour Sports Ltd", or Cash only

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL	
UNIFORM ORDER FORM S1 - S3	

NAME _____	Ordered On: _____
TEL _____	

GARMENTS REQUIRED	NAME	NUMBER	COLOUR OF PRINT	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	ADULT PRICE
RUSSEL 575 BLACK HOODIE												£16.00

ON HOODIES ONLY NAME AND NUMBER IN PRINT ON BACK IN RED, ROYAL OR GOLD. SCHOOL CREST IN WHITE.

				11/12	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	
RUSSELL 539 WHITE POLO												£9.95
RUSSELL 539 BLACK POLO												£9.95

ON POLO SCHOOL CREST LEFT BREAST WHITE ON BLACK/BLACK ON WHITE

				11/12	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	
RUSSEL 180 WHITE T SHIRT												£5.95
RUSSEL 180 BLACK T SHIRT												£5.95

ON T SHIRT SCHOOL CREST LEFT SLEEVE WHITE ON BLACK/BLACK ON WHITE

		TOTAL	

