

Grantown Grammar School

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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE NA GAIDHEALTACHD

Mrs Claire McGonigal, Headteacher

14 June 2022

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

End of Summer Term Newsletter 2022

As we reach the end of the Academic year 2021-22 there's an opportunity to reflect on some of this term's achievements and also look forward to a fun last few weeks of term. I'm particularly happy to be writing this without a mask, not having to do regular lateral flow tests and having held assemblies. We really seem to be finally moving away from the pandemic. This has been a tough year for pupils, staff and the whole community. Thank you for your support and patience with all of the covid restrictions, navigating our path through the past year took all of us working together. I think that the impact of lockdown and covid will continue to be with us for some years to come, but it's great to know that we are finally, hopefully, moving away from the worst of it.

Dates for your Diary

As we are starting to open up again, we are very busy over the last three weeks of term and there are a number of dates for your diary below;

Tuesday 14 June	-	Sports Heats
Thursday 16 June	-	Sports Day
Friday 17 June	-	Sports Awards
Monday 20 June - Friday 24 June	-	P7 Transition Week
Wednesday 22 June	-	Junior Summer Disco for S2, S3 and S4 pupils. Tickets on sale £2, from Friday 17 June.
Thursday 23 June	-	Senior Prizegiving and Graduation followed by Senior Prom for S5, S6 and S6 leavers. Tickets for Prom on sale £15 from reception.
Monday 27 June	-	School Concert. Tickets on sale £5/£3 from reception.
Thursday 30 June	-	12.30pm School finishes for Summer Holidays

The Marquee is coming on Wednesday 22 June ready for the Junior Dance and Senior Prom and we are all looking forward to these celebration events.

Buses on the Last Day of Term

As we are closing at 12.30pm on Thursday 30 June for the summer holidays, there are some adjustments to bus times and some pupils will be starting their summer holiday slightly earlier than others. Those pupils who get school transport run by Bremners and Lindsay Jack, will be collected at 12.30pm from the school. Stagecoach pupils are a little bit more complicated, they will be operating the service buses from the square at;

37a	11:58am	-	Cromdale
37	12:32pm	-	Nethy Bridge / Boat of Garten / Aviemore
x37	12:50pm	-	Dalnain / Carrbridge / Inverness

Pupils who go on the Braes bus will be taken home at 12:30pm on the school minibus.

Please discuss these new arrangements with your child and as always, contact the school if you have any concerns.

HMIE Recovery Visit Inspection

We had a Recovery Visit inspection by the HMIE at the end of May. They looked at the continuity of learning, wellbeing of children, young people and staff and also approaches to safeguarding and child protection procedures. The inspectors were very impressed by the whole school community including pupils, parents, partners and staff. Given the amount of events which we are holding at the end of term, one quote stands out in particular:

“Stakeholders all note the regrettable loss of major experiences for young people over the periods of remote learning. Staff are making commendable progress in reinstating events such as school shows, educational trips and residential stays. Young people are becoming more involved in planning and delivering contributions to the school’s recovery.”

It’s great to be slowly getting back to normal and the inspectors were clear that we have “such a richness in what there is, all the component parts are there and thereabouts.” The suggestions they made for extending aspects of planning and progress in terms of wellbeing with relation to national wellbeing indicators were welcome and useful.

Senior Pupil Leadership Team

We held elections for our Senior Pupil Leadership Team last week and the following pupils were elected:

School Captain	-	Fergus Riach
School Vice Captain	-	Freddie Talbot-Heigh
Roy House Captain	-	Olivia Robinson
Roy Vice House Captain	-	Alice Kemsley
Roy Vice House Captain	-	Isla Oakes
Revoan House Captain	-	Fraser Casaru
Revoan Vice House Captain	-	Lexie Murray
Revoan Vice House Captain	-	Molly Pawsey
Revack House Captain	-	Siana Lambie
Revack Vice House Captain	-	Xander Blair
Revack Vice House Captain	-	Adele Sellars

Senior Prefects: Rose Allan, Sophie Bell, Rebekah Bissett, Alice Carrott, Rachel Gordon, Ffion Townsend

We have a very strong pupil team, which is going to be a lot of fun. We are looking forward to seeing their fundraising, disco ideas, suggestions for the school and, coming up on Thursday, their events for Sports Day!

Junior Prizegiving

It was lovely to be able to invite parents and grandparents to the Junior Prizegiving on Friday 27 May. Pupils who received four or more subject nominations for effort and progress received their certificates at the awards ceremony. However, teachers were able to nominate 3 pupils per class so there were many pupils who received their certificates for 1, 2 or 3 nominations during Tutor Classes. Please check with your child as to whether they received a certificate, although hopefully they will have shown you their certificates. All pupils in S1 - S3 last year are to be commended for their resilience and determination as they coped with facemasks, one way systems, social distancing, testing and vaccinations to help our whole community come through the covid pandemic.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Recently the new S3's took part in the final of their Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) competition which is sponsored by The Wood Foundation and where they have the opportunity to win £3000 for a local charity. The social issues which the S3's chose to focus on were very varied and included health, disability awareness, mental health, children's activities and homelessness. The winning group of Torran Lambie and Brodie Bostock were able to present £3000 to Moray Fresh Start which helps homeless people get started in their new homes. Moray Fresh Start is a small charity which is entirely run by volunteers, so the donation was very much appreciated.



SQA Exams

The exams went very well and we very much hope that all our pupils get the results they want. Results are sent to pupils by post on **Tuesday 9 August** and if pupils have registered to get their results by text or email, they will receive that in the morning. I've attached a letter about the SQA appeals process in case results aren't what was hoped for and would urge you to get in touch with Mr Ross, if you have any questions about this process.

Outdoor Learning

The final outdoor education sessions for the year went to our new S2 pupils who all took part in open water canoeing sessions. Mr McGougan and Mr Hepburn were hugely impressed with the enthusiasm, effort and sense of humour which the pupils brought to their canoeing experience. The photo below really represents the fun which all of the pupils had on the water.



Staff Farewells

We are saying farewell to Mr Lopez in PE and Miss Bushe in Science at the end of term. I know that they will stay in touch with us and I also know that the whole school will join with me in wishing them all the best in the future.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very happy, relaxing, fun and sunny summer. I will be in school for the week of exam results and am available in event of an emergency during the holidays on claire.mcgonigal@grantowngrammar.org.uk. I'm already looking forward to hearing about everyone's adventures when we come back to school in August.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire McGonigal', followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

Claire McGonigal
Headteacher