

WELCOME TO KIRKWALL GRAMMAR SCHOOL!



About us...

KGS currently has about 950 pupils and 100 staff and is the largest school in Orkney. We consistently achieve exam results well above the national average; we have active programmes for citizenship, health promotion and outdoor education; provide outstanding opportunities for young people in sport, art, music and drama as well as offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities. We have recently won awards for e-twinning and Young Enterprise and we have exchange links with schools in Italy, Germany and Norway.

Schools of Ambition

All 6 Orkney secondary schools have won a place on the Scottish Executive's Schools of Ambition programme. This guarantees additional funding of at least £100,000 per year for three years and will enable us to work

together to provide excellent learning opportunities for all pupils in the County. The specific aims of our Schools of Ambition project are:

1. To remove barriers to curriculum opportunity caused by our remote location and the small size of some of our schools.
2. To develop a secondary school curriculum that supports flexibility, diversity, excellence and enterprise in all aspects of young people's learning and to develop ICT to create effective e-learning opportunities.
3. To maximise the impact of learning opportunities through a coordinated drive for sustained and effective professional development for classroom based staff in Orkney.
4. To support planned, personal learning experiences within a flexible curriculum structure that provides equivalent enriching opportunities for each secondary age pupil regardless of their location within Orkney.
5. To engage young people in their learning through a systemic and energetic commitment to the principles and philosophy of 'Assessment is for Learning'.
6. To develop as active participants in the international educational community as part of a quest for excellence.
7. To ensure that all young people, all members of staff and all those associated with the wider community of learning will embrace an ethos of ambition and excellence.

Dates for your diary

22-27 June

St Magnus Festival

26-29 June

Gaan tae the Nor Waast performance

4 July

End of summer term

20 Aug

Start of Autumn term (staff)

21 Aug

Start of Autumn term (pupils)

New Build

As you will know, OIC has been awarded funding from the Scottish Executive to finance the replacement of the Kirkwall Grammar School building. Extensive consultations will begin shortly regarding important issues such as the location of the new school. It's really important that you make your views known - there's every chance that this year's P7s will experience some of their education in a 21st century setting!

Feel free to let us know what you think of our newsletter format or you can contact us about any aspect of education at Kirkwall Grammar School

Tel: (01856) 872102

Fax: (01856) 872911

email: admin:kgs@orkneyschools.org.uk

Parents' Council

From August 2007, all KGS parents will belong to the Parent Forum, from which a Parent Council will be elected. At KGS we firmly believe that education is a partnership and welcome input of all types from parents - whether it is helping with homework, extra-curricular activities, fundraising or recruitment of new staff. If you would like to be a member of the Parent Council, or are interested in attending a meeting about parental involvement, please sign the sheet in the hall and we'll contact you early next week.

GroupCall

Groupcall allows the school to send voice or text messages to the landlines or mobile phones of parents, staff and other school contacts. The system has been in operation for about a year now and overall it has been extremely useful - allowing us to contact parents regarding snow closures, pupil absence, issue of reports etc. For the system to work most efficiently, we do need up to date mobile and home phone numbers so if you change these, please let us know.

School Website www.kgsorkney.co.uk

This is an interactive site which provides lots of interesting information about what is happening in school. Details of courses at all levels, study skills, the daily Pupil Bulletin, weekly dining hall menus, news and dates for your diary are all there - and lots more. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with the development of the website so if you would like to lend a hand, contact us at school.



Newsletters

Newsletters are published approximately twice a term on the school website -

paper copies are available in school and in local newsagents for anyone who does not have internet access.

School Dress Code

The appearance of pupils in any school can be a significant sign to others of the kind of ethos or

atmosphere that prevails in the school. While appearances can be deceptive, they can also indicate an attitude of mind. The appearance of smart and tidily dressed pupils tends to suggest that they are well-motivated and keen to show that they belong to the school community.

There are obviously forms of clothing which are unacceptable in school such as those which:

- Potentially encourage factions such as football shirts.
- Could cause offence such as t-shirts with political slogans or anti-religious symbolism.
- Carry advertising, particularly for alcohol or tobacco.
- Are inappropriately revealing or skimpy.
- Could cause health and safety difficulties.

Following consultation with pupils, parents and staff, we at Kirkwall Grammar School have agreed a dress code which is simple to follow and enables pupils to avoid the problems described above. Pupils are expected to wear a top with the school logo. There are various styles available:

- Sweatshirt
- Polo shirt
- Rugby shirt
- Zip top

At present S5 and S6 pupils may wear a self coloured shirt and school tie.

School tops and ties are available from GornSport in Albert Street.

Homework Planner

For the first term in S1, pupils will continue to use their transition planners. After the October break, they will be issued with Kirkwall Grammar School homework planners. We ask parents to check these each week as there is space for teachers to write comments (usually positive but not always!) about pupil's work. The first section of the planner contains useful information about the school.