

6th October 2020



Update for parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

As our first term in school under covid-safe procedures nears its close, I write with some updates – see below. As before, these are labelled with the relevant year group to allow you to pick out what you need to read. Some of these notices have already gone to pupils in our Daily Bulletin, read out each morning, and parents are reminded that they can see the bulletin on our [school website](#).

A key notice for all parents is that there will be a virtual **Parent Council Meeting on Thursday 8th October at 7pm**. The Parent Council's key role is to give a parental viewpoint to the school: at this meeting we will be discussing our covid-safe procedures, the school's plans for the year and a review of how well we did with achieving last year's aims, and (assuming government decisions arrive as expected) the plans for SQA qualifications this year. Parents are also welcome to raise other issues they would like to discuss. All parents are welcome to attend, and you will see below information on how to join this virtual meeting.

As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. I hope to "see" you on Thursday, but if not, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your support of your child's learning this term and wish you and your family a relaxing October break. If you have travel plans, please check the [government guidance](#) and stay safe.

Kind regards

Jane Partridge, Head Teacher

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S1-6: Reports

We aim to continue to provide parents with information on their child's progress once a term. Senior Phase and S3 reports have already been issued, and S1 and S2 reports will be sent home with pupils on **Thursday 8th October**.

S1-6: Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings would normally happen for S2 next term, and for all other year groups in the Spring. We are keen to continue to give parents an opportunity to discuss their child's progress with their teachers, but face-to-face meetings will not be possible; we are investigating possibilities for holding parents' evenings online.

S1-6: Staff

We will shortly be advertising for a temporary Guidance Teacher to look after Magnus House while Mrs Lennon is unwell. We will also be advertising for a Modern Languages Teacher to replace Mrs McLaughlin, who is retiring this term.

S1-6: Feedback on covid-safe procedures

We have asked pupils and staff for feedback on the measures we have taken to comply with the government guidance for reducing the risk of covid19 infection in school, and have made some changes to our procedures as a result. A key change has been shifting our Senior lunchtime later in the day; we are very grateful to our catering staff for the enormous flexibility they have shown in making this possible, and for everything else they have done to enable us to run break and lunch times while keeping Junior and Senior pupils separate. Pupil Council members will be feeding back the results of their discussions on the covid procedures to their classes this Friday. Parents will have an opportunity to discuss the procedures at the online Parent Council meeting on Thursday 8th October.

S4-6: Maritime courses

I am pleased to announce that we have negotiated some extra time at the Nav School for pupils in S4-6 studying Maritime courses; in addition to their Thursday lesson, they now also have a session on Friday. This involves them having a quick lunch before walking to the Nav School; at the end of the lesson they can walk back to school to get school transport home at 1:55, or make their own way home direct from the Nav School if that is more convenient.

S4-6: Changes to SQA Qualifications

We are expecting a government announcement before the end of this week on how SQA courses will be assessed this year; currently this is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. If this comes as promised, I will be able to give parents an update at the online Parent Council meeting on Thursday 8th October.

Stromness Academy Parent Council Meeting Thursday 8th October 2020, 7pm

How to join the meeting

We are meeting using software called VScene. When you join the meeting, you can choose whether your camera and microphone are turned on; if you just wish to listen in, that is fine.

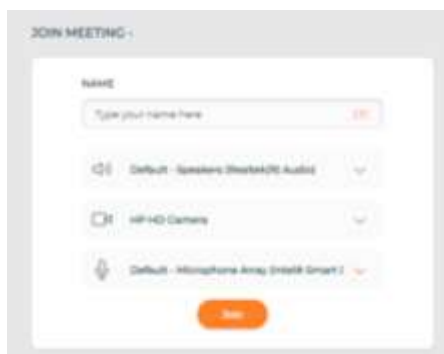
You can join the meeting in any of the 3 ways listed below; the meeting room is open in advance so that you can try it out.

Using a web browser on a laptop/tablet

Please note that VScene does not work with Safari or Internet Explorer; details of which browsers you can use are here: <https://vscene.net/browser-requirements/>

To join the meeting, please paste this link into your browser: <https://app.vscene.net/r/HYU00MOeFz>. This link will only work if you are using a supported browser, such as Chrome, Firefox or Safari.

It will take you directly to join our meeting room. Enter the name you want to show on screen, and then press join (you might need to expand your window or scroll down to see the "Join" button).



VScene help on joining by browser is here: <https://vscene.net/join-by-browser/>

Using the VScene App on a mobile phone

You will need to download the VScene App from the App Store or Google Play before you can join the meeting.

Once the app is loaded, you can use the browser link <https://app.vscene.net/r/HYU00MOeFz> or you can manually type in the room extension 1469148 to join the meeting

VScene help on joining using the mobile app is here: <https://vscene.net/joining-a-call-from-ios-android/>

Using a landline phone or mobile voice call

Call +44 (0)300 201 0142. Then enter the extension: 1469148#