

22nd October 2021



News for Stromness Academy parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your children have enjoyed the October break.
Please see below some items of news for the start of the new term.
As ever, please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any queries.

Kind regards

Jane Partridge

Head Teacher

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S1-6: No change to covid mitigations in schools

The Education Secretary has announced that there will be no changes to covid mitigations in schools at the start of this term, but it will remain under weekly review. The full statement is [here](#).

S1-6: Staff news

Miss McCulloch (English) is now on maternity leave.

Mrs Sutherland (Music) returns from maternity leave this term; our thanks go to Miss Bown who covered her classes last term. Mrs Sutherland will be working Mon-Weds while Mrs Fletcher continues to work with us on Thurs/Fri.

We have been recruiting for Support for Learning Assistants and expect to have new people joining us shortly.

Ms Hegarty is returning to school this term.

Mr Hall will be supporting the English Department in Mrs Hunter's absence. Our thanks go to Mr Eschborn for his work in the English Department last term; he is now working at KGS.

Mrs Evans, Mrs Garrett and Mr Thomson are working in the Maths Depart to cover Mr Walker's absence. They are also working with small groups of students who need support to get on track with numeracy/Maths after the covid disruption; this work is government funded as covid recovery.

S1-6: Mobile Phones

The school is taking a stronger stance on mobile phones this term as part of getting learning back on track after covid. From the start of this term, phones may only be used at social times (before school, break and lunch) and in social areas (foyer, theatre, dining room, outside). At all other times they must be kept in school bags, and set to silent or flight mode. Keeping them in a bag during lessons, rather than in a pocket or on the desk means they are out of pupils' sight; this is important as we know that just seeing the phone takes pupils' minds off their work. It then takes the pupil time to refocus on their learning; this is time we cannot afford to lose as we work to catch up on what we lost through covid disruption. Please ensure that your child brings a bag to school with them so that they are able to participate in this.

Pupils will be hearing about this new procedure in the Bulletin on Monday morning; parents are reminded that they can see our Daily Bulletin on the [school website](#).

S1: Parents' Evening

The Parents' Evening for S1 is on Tuesday 9th November. This will be a virtual event and details of how to log on and make appointments will be sent to parents shortly.

S4-6: Reports and Prelims

Reports for Senior Phase pupils (S4-6) will be published on Tuesday 26th October. If the report raises any concerns, parents will be invited to talk with school staff to agree how we can work together to support the pupil to overcome these. Parents should note that Prelim exams for S4-6 pupils start on 17th January, and there is the potential that evidence from Prelims would be used to produce SQA grades if covid disruption prevents next Summer's exams from going ahead as planned. Pupils therefore need to focus during the 8 weeks this term on being prepared for their prelims.

S4-6: Parents' Evening

The Parents' Evening for S4-6 is on Thursday 9th December. It is not yet clear whether this will be able to be an in-person event or will be virtual; details will be sent to parents nearer the time.