

19th March 2021



Plans for the Summer Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your children have enjoyed being back in school, albeit part-time. We have been impressed with how well they have coped with a very altered school routine and procedures. One lovely innovation has been that to spread people out in the corridors we have turned off lesson changeover bells, and this has led to a much more “chilled” atmosphere. Announcements in parliament this week and the vaccination of most staff over this week and next are giving us hope that we will be returning to relatively normal school after the Easter holidays, and your children’s willingness to work with us to keep to the current restrictions is a crucial part of achieving that.

You may be aware that the Scottish Government announced that there would be 2 extra in-service days to allow teachers to do the assessment of SQA courses which is normally done by SQA staff. The dates of these for Stromness Academy will be:

Monday 17th May

Monday 7th June

Please note also that Monday 3rd May is a Bank Holiday. School is closed to pupils on all three of these days.

Below is a fuller timeline for the Summer Term, with particular reference to how SQA Assessment will be carried out and the results moderated and communicated to pupils and parents. If your child is in S4-6, please share this with them.

Also included below are:

- Information about the extension of at-home covid testing to S1-3 after the Easter holidays
- A reminder of the rota for attending school for the remaining 2 weeks of this term
- An update on Orkney College course attendance for the remainder of this term
- Information on Scottish Government Chromebooks for pupils
- A reminder to book in with the School Office if you need to use Key Worker Childcare

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Jane Partridge

Head Teacher

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Stromness Academy

Summer Term Timeline 2021



There are differing requirements for SQA assessment for different subjects this year, leading to us planning 2 distinct periods for SQA assessments:

- 19 Apr – 14th May Normal lessons for all S4-6, with shorter assessments carried out in some subjects in class time. Teachers will inform pupils if/when they will be having assessments during this period.
- 18th May – 28th May Longer assessments carried out off-timetable. We are working on a schedule for this and hope to have it completed by the first week of the Summer Term at the latest. When not in an assessment, pupils will attend normal lessons for revision, collection of other assessment evidence such as coursework, and feedback on completed assessments.

Week commencing	Activity
19-Apr-21	Normal lessons. Assessments and SQA evidence gathering for N5/H/AH in normal lesson time
26-Apr-21	Report to parents of S4-6 pupils of current working grade and target grade for end of course Normal lessons. Assessments and SQA evidence gathering for N5/H/AH in normal lesson time
03-May-21	Bank Holiday Mon 3rd May – School closed to pupils Normal lessons. Assessments and SQA evidence gathering for N5/H/AH in normal lesson time Thursday 6 th May Periods 3&4 National 5 English assessment for S4/5/6 pupils who attend College on Fridays Friday 7 th May Periods 1&2 N5 English assessment for all other S4/5/6 pupils
10-May-21	Normal lessons. Assessments and SQA evidence gathering for N5/H/AH in normal lesson time Thursday 13 th May P3& 4 N5 English assessment for S4/5/6 pupils who have College on Fridays (in college column D time) Friday 14 th May P1&2 N5 English assessment for all other S4/5/6 I(n PSE/PE/RME time)
17-May-21	In-Service Day Mon 17th May – School closed to pupils From Tues 18 th May, timetable of assessments S4-6 pupils remain in normal classes when not in assessment, for revision, continued evidence collection and feedback on assessments
24-May-21	Timetable of assessments S4-6 pupils remain in normal classes when not in assessment, for revision, continued evidence collection and feedback on assessments
31-May-21	S4-6 required in school if they have incomplete SQA evidence. Leaver events Fri 4 th June (tbc depending on covid restrictions at the time)
07-Jun-21	In-Service Day Mon 7th June - School closed to pupils Report to parents of provisional grades for SQA. These are the “Teacher judgements” of grades based on the evidence/assessments collected. They are provisional as they are still subject to a process of checking and moderation. Timetable Change Tues 8th June – all pupils staying on at school for the 2021-22 session are required to attend their new classes from this date.
14-Jun-21	Lessons in new timetable Quality assurance of provisional grades.
21-Jun-21	Submission of provisional grades to SQA.

Days in school for next 2 weeks

Senior Phase (S4-6) are split into two cohorts, attending school on alternate days:

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
w/c 22 nd Mar	SP2	SP1	SP2	SP1	SP2
w/c 29 th Mar	SP1	SP2	SP1	SP2	SP1

Please see information below about Orkney College/Navigation School courses.

BGE pupils (S1-3) are split into three cohorts, attending school every third day:

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
w/c 22 nd Mar	BGE3	BGE1	BGE2	BGE3	BGE1
w/c 29 th Mar	BGE2	BGE3	BGE1	BGE2	BGE3

Orkney College/Navigation School courses

The following courses are running in person from w/c 22nd March onwards. **ALL pupils taking these courses should attend their course in both remaining weeks of this term**, regardless of whether their cohort is rota'd to attend school for other classes that day:

- Weds/Thurs Higher Care and Higher Psychology; normal transport applies
- Thurs only Foundation Apprenticeship, Early Years/Childcare; normal transport applies
- Thurs/Fri Maritime at the Nav School. Pupils should make their own way direct to/from the Nav School if they are not rota'd to be in school on this day; bus tickets are available from the School Office if needed.
- Friday Coastal Navigation at the Nav School, Hairdressing and N5 Psychology at Orkney College in Kirkwall. Pupils should make their own way direct to/from the Nav School or College if they are not rota'd to be in school on this day; bus tickets are available from the School Office if needed.

All pupils who attend college courses on Friday mornings are not required to attend school on Fridays. Those going into college on Fridays are not required to return to school for P5 (Activities). Transport arrangements for college courses

All other Orkney College courses remain online at present.

At-home Covid testing for S1-3 pupils

Twice weekly at-home covid self-testing is currently being carried out by S4-6 pupils and staff. This aims to identify people who are infected with coronavirus and potentially able to infect others, but may not realise this as they have no symptoms.

After the Easter holidays, this testing extends to S1-3 pupils. Information about this and a consent form will be sent to parents next week. The consent form should be brought in to school before the end of term, so that pupils can be given their test kit to take home and are able to take a test before returning to school on 19th April.

Laptops/Chromebooks

If your child has been lent a Stromness Academy laptop for remote learning, please return it to school, so that IT facilities are available for classes. Chromebooks issued from the Scottish Government do not have to be returned; these are for the pupil to keep and use throughout their school career.

Pupils are welcome to bring Scottish Government Chromebooks and other devices of their own into school to use for private study. If they wish to use them in the classroom this must be agreed with the teacher.

Further Scottish Government Chromebooks are becoming available; if your child is in need of a device on which to do their schoolwork, please contact their Guidance Teacher to put them forward for a Chromebook.

Key Worker Childcare

Key Worker Childcare continues to be available for the next two weeks to parents who have applied to Orkney Islands Council and confirmed as eligible. This is hosted at Stromness Community Centre to give us space in school for the maximum number of pupils to attend lessons.

If you wish to use Key Worker Childcare, please contact the School Office to confirm your requirements.