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Hello,

As we bid farewell to 2017, we look back with pride on the achievements of our young people in so many sporting and cultural areas as well as in terms of school attainment and achievement. Please check the website (<http://cullodenacademy.com/>) and our Facebook page for regular updates about many school activities and the successes of our young people. If you haven't seen our Facebook page we can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/CullodenAcademySchool/>. Beyond these achievements it has been a pleasure to work with the young people and the community of Culloden Academy and I'm looking forward to doing it all again- even better- in 2018.

Below are the key dates for the next term and some important information for parents/carers. Information about the meetings and how to sign up will be issued nearer the time.

Key dates for your diary looking ahead

Monday 8 th January	School reopens to staff and pupils
Wednesday 10 th January	S4-6 Prelims begin
Friday 12 th January	S2 Choice of Course form issued
Wednesday 17 th January	S2 Parents Evening
Friday 19 th January	Parent Council Burns Supper
Tuesday 23 rd January	S3 Choice of Course form issued
Wednesday 24 th January	S3 Parents Information Evening
Monday 29 th January	Parent Council meeting
Wednesday 31 st January	S3 Parents Evening
Tuesday 6 th February	S4 Choice of Course forms issued
Wednesday 7 th February	S4/5 Parents Information Evening
Wednesday 14 th February	S4 Parents Evening
Monday 19 th February	Holiday
Tuesday 20 th February	Holiday
Wednesday 21 st February	In-service day (staff only)
Monday 26 th February	S5/6 Choice of Course form issued
Wednesday 28 th February	S5/6 Parents Evening
Monday 12 th March	Concert
Wednesday 28 th March	Last day of term (3.40pm finish)
Monday 16 th April	School reopens to staff and pupils

Lateness- help please

We haven't yet managed to resolve the issue of high levels of lateness in the mornings. When on gate duty I watch huge tail-backs of parents trying to get their children in on time. I don't think there is anything that we can do to speed up the flow of traffic without compromising safety but we have made two changes which we think may help reduce the amount of lateness.

Firstly we are going to go back to a 5 minute warning bell before school and at lunch which means that if pupils are in or near the school grounds, they have more warning of the need to make haste to registration or afternoon classes.

Secondly we are going to start to communicate information to parents more regularly about their child's attendance and lateness. Up to now we have tried to use this as a means to encourage pupils to take responsibility and I am confident that they all know if they have been marked late or not. However it is clear from discussions with parents of pupils not allowed to go to the Christmas dances for excessive lateness that they would have tried to effect a change in their child's morning routine had they also known. Alongside the information in the reports therefore, we intend to put out another two or three (depending on year group and the time that reports are issued) attendance updates. If, when you receive this, there is information that the school needs to know about your child's attendance or punctuality, please let us know. It should also remove any unpleasant surprises for pupils or parents at Christmas Dance time next session.

Poppy appeal

I would like to thank every individual and group who contributed to our Poppy appeal in October and November. The results were spectacular and this could not have happened without the efforts of our community, our pupils and our staff. Many thanks.

Staffing changes

Mr Eadie has moved to a promoted position at IRA. His post has been advertised and in the meanwhile Mr Campbell is coming back from his very brief retirement to help us. Mrs Blake is now on maternity leave and Mrs MacArthur has been appointed to cover her absence. Miss Wallace leaves us next week to take up a post in Glasgow. Mr Weafer will be leaving us at the end of January for a promoted position at Alness and his post has been put forward for advertisement in January.

And finally...

Uniform/ Dress Code

Overwhelmingly our young people comply with our dress code and create a very positive impression in the local community. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to reinforce the message that we would like to see all pupils in shirts and ties whilst the minimum we expect is something that has the school logo on it. Whilst hooded tops are the choice of many for getting to school, they are not part of dress code and pupils are expected to remove them inside the building.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance