



CULLODEN
ACADEMY

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Hello,

This is the final newsletter of the year and represents a small snapshot of what we have been doing this term. We have seen a huge amount of information on our Facebook page and even this is just a fraction of what goes on in school. If you haven't yet seen it we can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/CullodenAcademySchool/> and we look forward to welcoming you. It really has allowed us to reach our families, friends and carers much more quickly, with some posts almost being live!

Key dates for your diary looking ahead.

Friday 30th June	School closes for the annual summer break
Tuesday 15 th August	School opens for pupils
Wednesday 30 th August	Rector's drop in session, 5.00 – 7.00 pm
Monday 11 th September	Parent Council Meeting 7.00 pm
Monday 25 th September	Rector's drop in session, 5.00 – 7.00 pm
Thursday 5 th October	First Tracking report issued to pupils S4 – S6
Friday 6 th October	School closes for October break

Registration

We have recently changed the configuration of our school week- in line with other Highland secondary schools- and the finer details of this were outlined in the last newsletter. One aspect that parents need to be aware of is that the start of the school day has moved by 5 minutes to 8.40am, with a 2 minute warning bell at 8.38 am. This is catching a number of families out and is resulting in some pupils being late for the morning registration and missing the important information given to all pupils at the start of the day. Please emphasise this new start time to your child. Punctuality is vital in order to get our pupils into classes on time and it is a critical employability skill. Also, references that we write make reference to punctuality and attendance.

Health and Well-Being day

This was a new event for the school and helped mark the change to the new timetable. It was a huge success. The fact that it took place on a day of glorious sunshine was a terrific bonus. The purpose of the day was many fold but we looked to increase awareness of a range of activities, some of which may have been new experiences for pupils, as well as getting pupils out of the classroom and active. Pupils reported in their feedback that they greatly enjoyed the day and in some cases there has been increased participation in activities, eg a shinty club is starting in school. It also allowed pupils and adults to build better relationships through a shared enjoyment in sports and hobbies.

School hike

This had been held off from its usual October slot. We also opted for an event involving pupils in S1 – 3 instead. We couldn't have picked a better day as the weather was glorious throughout. The course is roughly 10 Km long and goes through a mixture of our local habitat. It certainly showed our pupils off in the best possible way. They were in the public eye for large parts of the walk and were excellent ambassadors for the school in the way they conducted themselves. They raised just over £7000 and this will be used to support a wide range of activities throughout the school year. Feedback suggests that the May event would be a welcome change. Senior pupils were in evidence taking roles as helpers and guides to the younger participants. This was excellent preparation for them readying themselves for prefect and leadership roles in the school.

P7 Transition days

We welcomed our new S1 pupils last week and it is always refreshing to see the school through their new eyes. They have had the experiences of moving between classes, they have met some of their new teachers and got a real feeling for what it is like to be a pupil in secondary school. We would urge all parents of new S1's to have a good break and a good night's sleep on the 14th August!

The key skills any youngster needs to make a success of the transfer is being organised with belongings, open to making new friendships, and keen to make a success of Culloden Academy. Remind them that if they are unsure about any aspect they should ask for help and advice as quickly as possible.

Staffing changes

In the last few weeks of the term there have been some changes of staff. We bid a fond farewell to the following:

Mr Brough (Maths), Mrs Cathcart (Science), Mr Campbell (Technical), Mrs Shepherd (Support Dept), Mrs Maclean (PE) and Linda Tracey who is our Children's Service Worker and has worked to support our youngsters with a variety of issues. We wish them all the best as they move to the next phase of their lives and thank them on your behalf for their work, support and contributions to school life.

We must also say farewell to Ms Thomas who is moving to Charleston Academy and Mr McKay who is moving to Grantown Grammar School. They have made an enormous contribution to the Social Subjects department and to the wider school life.

However, joining in us in August will be:

Mrs Lothian (Social Subjects), Ms Steel (PT Modern languages), Mr Sim (PT Health Wellbeing and PE), Mrs Gudelis is joining us as a new Children's Service Worker in place of Linda Tracey.

Mrs Stewart and Ms Green will be joining us in August with a focus on inclusion and attainment, Mrs Needham and Mr Patton join us as PSAs.

Additionally we look forward to 4 newly qualified teachers joining us and they are:

Mr Gray and Ms Ludvigsen (Social Subjects), Dr Ledingham and Ms Powell (Science).

I look forward to welcoming them all to our community.

Finally we hope that everyone has a refreshing holiday break and that we all meet again on the 15th of August.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance