



CULLODEN
ACADEMY

Rector: Dr J Vance
Depute Rector: Ms T Lomas
Depute Rector: Mrs J Urquhart
Depute Rector: Mr C D O'Neill
Depute Rector: Mr I Weafer
Acting Depute Rector: Miss V Forrester

Keppoch Road
Culloden
INVERNESS
IV2 7JZ
Phone 01463 790851

25th June 2021

Dear Pupil/Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of a very challenging year for us all I would like to start by thanking all our pupils, parents and carers for your support and co-operation this session in what was a genuine home-school partnership to support the learning of all our young people. Thank you.

I am hopeful that in August we will see the increased return to a more pre-COVID way of working, learning and engaging with parents. However, this is far from certain and in the meantime we have been advised that we must not remove any Covid-19 restrictions. I know pupils are very keen to hear when they can stop wearing masks but whilst we can all hope that it is soon, I will need to wait to understand the situation in August. Updated Scottish Government advice will be issued to schools in early August and I will release details in the last week of the holidays of our plans for the start of the new academic year and any changes to the current arrangements. This will be published on our website and school social media accounts.

Earlier this week all of our senior students received their provisional results from the school and formal SQA certificates will be sent out to arrive on 10th August. We have been working with pupils who were disappointed by their results this week to see if an appeal is appropriate and hope that all our learners go into the holidays with a clear understanding of next steps. This assessment system has been a huge undertaking by all concerned and I know that the uncertainty and newness of it all has been difficult for pupils and staff alike. I hope that we can now all reflect on the process with satisfaction that opportunities were offered and taken to attain strongly.

In terms of Lateral Flow testing, pupils and staff can stop testing over the holidays and only need to complete a test the weekend before we are due to return. New supplies of Lateral Flow tests will be provided in the first week of term so I ask that pupils participating in the scheme please ensure they have 1 or 2 left at the end of this week to enable them to test before we return to school. If pupils wish to continue testing over

the summer, they can request extra kits are delivered to their house by requesting them at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or they can be collected from some pharmacies.

I am confident that by the return to school in August we will have almost completed the renovation of all of the main pupil toilets and will have installed 12 new classrooms which will significantly improve the experience for all of our pupils. Further improvements- in catering areas and outdoor space are planned for completion by October. The new toilets- as with all new build schools- will be open plan and unisex with the cubicle and cubicle doors being floor to ceiling height to ensure privacy. The experience of schools who have started to use these is that it leads to greater respect for the area and less graffiti and anti-social behaviour and I hope for the same here.

In August, I am keen to return to our previous high levels of uniform and hope you will support me in this matter. Experience suggests that this helps set a positive tone, both in the school and the community. People are constantly making judgements about Culloden Academy pupils and I am keen that as many as possible have a positive first impression or a recurring positive impression of the great young people of this school. Beyond that, there is also a safety dimension in allowing us to recognise potential intruders- particularly if we have to continue with masks.

The only authorised supplier for items with the Culloden Academy logo is Highland Embroidery who can be accessed at https://www.highland-embroidery.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=59_81 and school ties can be purchased from the school reception. Just as a reminder, the uniform requirements for all pupils is as follows:

- Black or white shirt
- School tie
- Optional black v-necked jumper or cardigan (can have a Culloden Academy logo but not essential)
- Plain black skirt or trousers

Hoodies are **not** part of our school uniform and we ask that they are not worn except as external garments to be taken off in the building.

Finally, we have seen a number of changes to our staffing and I have listed these below;

- Ms Lomas finishes today and Miss Forrester has been appointed as her replacement.
- Mrs Stewart is on maternity leave from Home Economics and so we tried three times to replace her. We have been unable to and have recruited an additional PE teacher Mr Brown to help run broad based HWB activities in S1-2 and prioritise the specialist teaching in S3 and above.
- Mrs Cruden is on maternity leave and we have recruited another PE teacher to replace her- Mr Mackay.
- Miss Carson has been appointed to a permanent position in the PE department.
- Mrs McIntosh is on maternity leave and we have recruited someone on a one-year contract to replace her- Miss Doran. We also welcome Miss Bogan to the department.
- Miss Domene has resigned from the Languages department and last week I reappointed a former colleague Mrs Henderson to the department who will join us at the end of August.

- I have also appointed Miss Morris to the Languages department.
- Mrs Skinner has been appointed to a permanent position in the Technical department
- Mr Hughes-Smith who started with us full-time in February is a permanent addition to the school.
- We welcome Miss Slater to the Biology department in August.
- Mr Snow has left and I have appointed Mrs Kirby to the Social Subjects department.
- We welcome Miss Boa to the Social Subjects department in August.
- Mr Maclean, Facilities Supervisor has advised me that he has decided to bring forward his retirement by a year and he will leave this summer. I am keen that the CCFM service move quickly to make an appointment, but I have no influence over it.
- We have been allowed to keep our 1.5 additional Guidance teachers for another session as part of the recovery of Scottish education. So too the primary teachers who work with some of our S1 and S2 pupils on a Monday.
- I have advertised for a new Children's Services worker for one session as part of our PEF programme. This post will support helping children and families re-engage with learning after lockdown.
- Mrs Lyall begins a year long career break in August. We welcome Mr Duffy to the English department to replace her in August.

We very much look forward to welcoming our students back on 17th August. In the meantime, I wish you all the very best for the summer and I hope that you are able to relax and enjoy the holiday.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Vance". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'V'.

Dr J Vance

Rector