



CULLODEN
ACADEMY

Rector: Dr J Vance
Depute Rector: Mrs J Urquhart
Depute Rector: Mr C D O'Neill
Depute Rector: Mr I Weafer
Depute Rector: Miss V Forrester

Keppoch Road
Culloden
INVERNESS
IV2 7JZ
Phone 01463 790851

9th November 2021

Hello,

1) **Uniform**

I wanted to start this letter by thanking you all for your support with improving school dress code standards. I explained in my previous letter why I think this is so important and I am delighted to say that this term has been significantly better than last and the school looks and feels more purposeful as a result. We intend to continue further improving this over the coming weeks and ask for your ongoing support. If you have any problems with accessing appropriate clothing, please contact your child's guidance teacher.

2) **COVID procedures/ COVID cases.**

Despite regular references to bringing mask wearing to an end, there is no sign of this in the national advice to schools. Masks/ face coverings remain an essential part of our approach to keeping the school open at a time when COVID is still rife in the local community. This week contractors will start to assemble external covered areas in three parts of the school grounds so that pupils can meet with friends without the masks that they must wear indoors. I hope pupils find this option helpful.

Similarly, using the hand-sanitisers provided and regular LFD testing are also important elements of keeping the school safe and keeping as many pupils and staff in school as possible. Please continue to support this message and ensure that your child has a mask with them each day if possible. If your child has not been testing but is willing to do so please contact us at culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk and we will get you the permission form and thereafter the test kits.

You will be aware that there is a national drive to vaccinate 12-15 year olds and one aspect of this is that schools will be used as locations to offer vaccinations to pupils in this age range. A date has been provisionally agreed for vaccinations to be available here. Towards the end of this month I will be able to confirm this date as well as issuing some information from the NHS and a consent form which needs to be completed and brought back on the day if you wish your child to access the vaccine in school. There is no need to take any action if you do not wish your child to access this service.

3) **Parents Evenings and Information Evenings- clarification and dates.**

For many years we have offered Parents' Information Evenings ahead of the Parents' Evenings proper and this session for the first time we are offering it to all year groups. The Information Evenings are used to give whole school information and to make parents aware of what choices and options awaits their child in coming

months or years. The idea behind them is that if we cover this general information then the 5 minutes you get with each of your child's teachers at the actual Parents' Evenings can be spent on details about your child's learning rather than trying to gather general information. Obviously many of you will already have gone through the S1/S2 experience and do not feel that you need that but for those of you trying to get to grips with the newness of secondary school or the acronyms and jargon of education, we hope these events will be helpful. This term we have

- 10th November- S1 Information Evening
- 17th November S2 Information Evening
- 24th November S2 Parents' Evening
- 8th December S1 Parents' Evening

Due to ongoing restrictions, for this term at least these meetings will be conducted virtually.

4) Christmas Dances

The latest round of Guidance on COVID restrictions was issued to schools today. It confirms that the Highland Council position remains that "Large events (ie beyond a class) should not take place indoors or for a live audience. This includes within and outwith school settings." As this stands, therefore, we cannot proceed with Christmas dances. However, I know how much having dances matters to many of our young people and that it would be a really positive statement about better times ahead. For these reasons, I am still not prepared to rule out the possibility of Christmas dances. Advice/Guidance tends to be updated about every three weeks and so I am comfortable with waiting until the end of November to make a final decision on this. I hope this makes sense.

5) Parental Survey on Employability

Attached to this email is a second document that summarises what we as a school have learned from the survey carried out with parents before the summer about careers advice and employability skills. As you will see we have identified a way to improve information sharing between school and home. We hope you find this information- and the improved communication- helpful.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance

Rector