



CULLODEN  
ACADEMY

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1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Hello,

With the end of the longest term of the session, your young people will be looking forward to a rest. With the further relaxation of restrictions on schools, I hope that they can return to us on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> looking forward to an ever more vibrant and enjoyable school experience. I had the pleasure of attending a national HT meeting last Friday and Saturday and the feeling across the country is the same- we cannot wait to get back to the trips, activities and experiences that made schools so much more than just places to study.

In light of the **latest Guidance released by the Scottish Government**, which comes into effect after the Easter holidays until the end of the 2021/22 school session, please see below for what has and has not changed with effect from the reopening of the school on 19<sup>th</sup> April

- There are no restrictions on indoor and outdoor drama activity, music, PE or dance. Routine measures should continue to apply in relevant settings where these activities are taking place (e.g. good ventilation).
- School day visits and residential stays are permitted in keeping with guidance on school visits and trips.
- Contact groups are not required.
- One-way systems are not required.
- As of 19<sup>th</sup> April there are no restrictions on parents, carers or wider family members attending meetings in school buildings, although they will be expected to comply with the school's routine measures. There are therefore no restrictions on "in person" parent/carers evenings, parent/carers related events and meetings in school buildings, e.g. career events, fundraising events, family learning activities, volunteering in school, Parent Council meetings and other similar events or meetings. Parents, carers and family members are able to attend indoor and outdoor sporting and cultural events. *For that reason, it is our intention to hold the P7 Transition Evening in person on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Details have been shared with P7 Parents' via a letter, which accompanied the enrolment packs issued last week.*

**The following measures remain in place and we ask for your support in reminding your young person about them at the end of the holidays.**

- The use of face coverings by all staff and young people in secondary schools in indoor communal areas and when moving around the school building. *I am aware that this is already under debate but at time of writing this is still the official government advice and so will be our position on the first day back after the Easter holidays.*
- While face coverings will not be required in classrooms, including for learners in the senior phase sitting exams, learners and staff should continue to be supported to wear them if they choose to do so.
- Schools should continue to support staff and children and young people to follow advice on good hand hygiene, and to ensure regular surface cleaning in schools and on school transport. *For this reason the extra 5 minutes at break and lunch will continue for the time being to allow for the cleaning of desks between lessons.*
- There should be an ongoing focus on ventilation, and previous guidance continues to apply.

Key dates for the first part of next term:

<b>11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Study Support for S4-6 pupils if they have signed up
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	School re-opens to staff and pupils
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Study Leave starts for eligible pupils. The criteria for study leave has been explained in my previous letter and we are working with children who are not eligible for the full study leave period.
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Start of SQA exam diet
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	P7 Transition Evening (7pm)
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	May Day Bank Holiday- school closed
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Local elections and In-service day- school closed
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Change of timetable
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	First day back for senior pupils after study leave- unless they still have exams

In the last two weeks we have made a series of teaching appointments for next session. I will share details of who is retiring and who is joining us next term- I want to give those staff who are joining us from other schools enough time to break the news to their communities. Also, early next term we will share details with parents and pupils of the new House system which will come into effect from 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Early next term I will share a survey with parents about how you would like Parents' Evenings to look next session. I'll also be surveying staff on the same question- do we retain the virtual system that we used this year or do we revert to face to face meetings in the building? I will share the survey via email to all parents on our email list.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and patience as we have negotiated the many and varied changes of recent months. I look forward to more face-to-face meetings and to restarting my Head-Teacher's drop in again next term now that they are permitted- more details to follow in my next letter.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Vance'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' and 'V'.

Dr J Vance

Rector