



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

27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Hello,

With apologies for the length of the letter, I wanted to get in touch one last time this session. It is designed to summarise where we are, outline where we are going and hopefully be a useful reference document for the early weeks of next session. I believe it is all information that you and your young people need to have at this stage. To help, I have divided it into distinct sections and you can hyperlink to any section directly from the list below.

1. [This week and building works over the summer holidays](#)
2. [SQA results day and next steps](#)
3. [Calendar of events for next session and explanatory notes](#)
4. [Staff changes](#)
5. [School values](#)
6. [School consultation on communication](#)

#### **This week and building works over the summer holidays**

Any new S2 or S3 pupil who has not collected their new Chromebook should see Mr O'Neill as a matter of urgency. Thursday is the last day of term and classes will end at 12.25pm. I indicated to parents recently that pupils who normally travel on buses can stay at school until the usual bus time if they cannot make other arrangements to get home. I can now advise that the D and E Coaches Nairnside bus will come at 12.30pm but all other buses will not arrive until 3.40pm. So far only two pupils have been confirmed as staying until 3.40pm although I anticipate a few more appearing on the day. Given these numbers, the canteen will operate at breaktime and pupils can purchase food for lunch as I will not be asking the canteen staff to stay on to prepare lunch.

At about 1pm on Thursday, various Council and external staff will arrive to begin moving boxes out of the areas which are being renovated and improved this summer. By the time that pupils return on 15<sup>th</sup> August, we anticipate having an additional Technical Department workshop, an additional Technical Department computer suite, a renovated ASL Department, another new PE changing room and the redecoration of the current PE changing rooms. This is all in addition to the completion of the 7 additional modular classrooms and the restoration of the upper pitch to a condition that allows meaningful PE teaching to resume there. I believe that this will significantly improve the experience of young people in Culloden Academy come August.

#### **SQA results day and next steps**

SQA will release results to all pupils on 9<sup>th</sup> August. We hope that all our pupils get the grades they want but if your child's result is lower than their estimated grade (handed out last week) you may be entitled to an appeal. The SQA have provided information about how the appeals will work and it is attached to the email that this letter arrived in. We will release a Google Form on 9<sup>th</sup> August, which you can use to let us know that you would like an appeal. Pupils wishing to change courses in light of their results can ring on the in-service day to make an appointment with their Guidance teacher.

### **Calendar of events for next session and explanatory notes**

Also attached to the email that you received this letter in- or available on the school website- is a copy of the school calendar of events that may be of interest to parents. I would like to take a moment to explain what each of the different type of events means- please retain this as a reference document.

Parents' Evenings. These are the events at which you get to talk to your child's class teacher and there is one per year group. We surveyed Parents as to whether they wanted to retain virtual Parents' Evenings or move back to face-to-face events. No clear decision emerged and so we are going to try to deliver a compromise solution whereby for the next two sessions S1, S3 and S5/6 Parents Evenings will be face-to-face in the building (COVID restrictions permitting)- whereas S2 and S4 Parents Evening will be online. Our intention is to retain the same electronic booking system and by increasing the number of appointments that staff are available for, we hope it will be even more effective.

Parents' Information Evenings. These are presentations which Senior Managers and Guidance staff intend to deliver face to face. Class teachers are not in attendance and we do not discuss individual pupil situations. The aim of them is to explain the structure and the options available to your child so that when you meet the class teacher, you can ask more focused questions or when you are discussing their Choice of Course options with them, you have all available information to hand.

Choice of Course returns deadlines. Please note these carefully- they always occur after you have had a report, a Parents' Evening and a Parents' Information Evening. It is important that pupils meet these deadlines- the process of setting up classes starts almost immediately after the deadline and late returns are more likely to find no space available in classes that a pupil wishes to study.

Rector's Drop-ins. I haven't offered these for a while- for fairly obvious reasons- but will bring them back next session. I will be in my office from 5-7pm on these evenings and with no appointment any parent is welcome to drop in for a chat if they want to get some clarification about our processes, about their child's learning or about some of the jargon surrounding education which is confusing them. If your concern is of a serious nature- please do not wait for one of these but instead follow the school's processes and contact your child's Guidance teacher or Year Head. Sometimes in the past I had no visitors and the most I ever had was 9 so queuing is not likely to be a big issue- it is just a genuine offer to improve communication between home and school.

What isn't included: We haven't added Christmas Dances, Junior Prize Giving or Sports Day yet. We aim to run all these but have not confirmed dates for any of them yet.

### **Staff changes**

More than any other summer in my time as a Head Teacher, this summer will see a significant change in staffing at Culloden Academy. I will explain this in three sections- who is leaving, who has secured a permanent contract as part of our team and finally who is joining our team.

#### **Leaving:**

**Mr Macleod**- Principal Teacher of Physics  
**Mr Robertson**- Principal Teacher of Maths  
**Mrs Patience**- Teacher of Home Economics  
**Mrs Cruickshank**- Teacher of Mathematics  
**Mr Moonan**- Teacher of English  
**Mr Johnstone**- Teacher of Physics  
**Mrs Hepburn**- Teacher of PE  
**Miss Bogan**- Teacher of Business Education  
**Miss Young** – Teacher of Geography

#### **Secured contract after competitive interview:**

**Mr Brown**- Teacher of PE  
**Miss Doran**- Teacher of Business Education  
**Mr Duffy**- Teacher of English  
**Miss Boa**- Teacher of History and Modern Studies  
**Miss Slater**- Teacher of Biology

**Mrs Kirby**- Part time Teacher of Geography  
**Mrs MacDonald**- Part-time Teacher of Maths

**Starting:**

**Mr Sharkey**- Principal Teacher of Physics  
**Mr Miller**- Principal Teacher of Maths  
**Mrs Smith**- Teacher of Geography  
**Ms Fleming**- Teacher of English  
**Mrs Fraser**- Teacher of Home Economics  
**Ms McDowell**- Teacher of History/Modern Studies  
**Mrs Lockley**- Teacher of Mathematics  
**Miss Cooper** – Teacher of PE  
**Ms McMorran**- Part time Teacher of Music  
**Ms Brown**- Part-time Teacher of Mathematics  
**Mr Swain**- Part time Teacher of Drama  
**Mrs Munro** – Part time Teacher of Physics

We are excited to welcome the new and retained staff back in August but as I am sure you can appreciate if you have been associated with the school for some time, we are saddened at the loss of so many valued colleagues and so much expertise from the school. It is the job of those of us left behind to keep the school moving forwards and (after our summer holidays) we are definitely up for that challenge.

**School values**

Last year we consulted with pupils, staff and parents around what type of school we wanted and how our priorities and values could be summarised. I am pleased to confirm that we have settled on the following 4 words as the best description of the type of school that we are committed to being.

Culloden Academy is committed to promoting:

Ambition  
Community  
Kindness  
Respect

Over the course of next session we will be talking about these values, what they give each learner and what they ask of each learner. I hope you can recognise in them the type of school that you want for your child.

**School consultation on communication**

I am asking for your help with one final questionnaire for the session. We would welcome your views on how effectively the school communicates with you- is there enough information, is it accessible, are there aspects of learning that you are not kept informed about. If you can spare 2-3 minutes, please complete this survey which will remain open until near the end of the holidays.

[School Communication Survey Link](#)

*I hope you found this information useful and I would just like to end by thanking you all for your support this session and wishing you and yours an enjoyable summer break.*

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance  
Rector