



Rector: Dr J Vance
Depute Rector: Mrs J Urquhart
Depute Rector: Mr C D O'Neill
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22nd December 2022

Hello,

I'd like to start by wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable time over the festive season. Christmas Dances are now behind us and it was fantastic to have them back in the school calendar again- even if I did worry we were going to end up snowed in with 120 S3/4s last Wednesday. Pupils seem to have enjoyed them, staff definitely enjoyed being part of them and it is a relief to return one of the more joyful experiences in the school year to our calendar again.

Slightly less joyful is the fact that Prelims start at the end of the first week back. If your child is in S4-6 then please reassure them that this is an opportunity to experience the exam situation and level of difficulty before facing the real event in May. If your child is in S1-3 then please ask them to respect all signs asking for silence in certain areas at certain times and give the same opportunity to seniors that they will want when they reach S4.

Before that we have another day of industrial action by the main teaching unions which has led to the decision to close all Highland secondary schools on Wednesday 11th January. S2 Parents please be assured that the Information Evening planned for that date will go ahead at 6.30pm in the school.

There will subsequently be Information Evenings for S3 Parents and then for S4/5 parents later in the term and I would strongly recommend attending them. At these meetings Senior Management, Guidance staff and some Heads of Department will present the broad information about your child's options in the next 2-3 years and answer individual questions after the main presentation. Parents usually report that they can have more purposeful conversations with their child's teacher after attending these meetings. Details will be shared via email, our website and Facebook.

These information evenings support the Choice of Course process and that starts in earnest in January for our current S2 pupils. The key dates that you need to be aware of for next term are:

Prelim exams begin on Thursday 12th January.

S2 Parents' Evening (online) Wednesday 18th January. *Invites have been emailed out today*

S2 Choice of Course form returned by Friday 20th January. *Forms will be issued the previous week.*

S3 Parents' Information Evening Wednesday 1st February.

S3 reports issued Thursday 9th February

S3 Parents' Evening (in the building) Wednesday 15th February *Invites will be emailed out on Monday 6th February*

S4 Reports issued Thursday 16th February

S3 Choice of Course forms returned Friday 17th February. *Forms will be issued the previous week.*

Holiday Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st February

In-service day Wednesday 22nd February

S5/6 Reports issued Tuesday 26th February

S4/5 Parents' Information Evening Wednesday 1st March

S4/5 Choice of Course forms returned Friday 3rd March. *Forms will be issued the previous week.*

Finally, three staff are leaving Culloden Academy at Christmas and they go with our appreciation and best wishes for next steps in their career.

- **Mrs Green** is finishing in her role as PSA having been a mainstay of our Pupil Equity Fund work in recent years. She has been a huge support to some of our young people and I know she will be sorely missed by colleagues, pupils and families.
- **Mrs Macleod** is finishing in her role as Additional Support for Learning teacher to move to a different school. Eileen has been an important member of the ASL department and will be missed by the staff and the young people in her care. A replacement appointment will be made and confirmed in January.
- **Mrs Urquhart** is finishing in her role as Depute Head Teacher to move to a different school. Mrs Urquhart has established herself at the heart of the Culloden Academy community and I know she will be missed by staff, pupils and parents alike. I will be in touch with her Year Groups (S1 and S5) early in the new term to confirm arrangements.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance
Rector