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29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## END OF SESSION PARENTAL UPDATE

### Introduction

Just before school closes, I wanted to update you on arrangements over the summer and in the first few weeks after the summer.

The school office is staffed almost every day of the holidays and if you need to pass on some information please contact on the usual number. Below I explain a change to our uniform deliveries which may necessitate a visit to the school office-opening hours are 8.00-2.00. Please be aware, however, that aside from the office staff there is no guarantee when any other member of staff will be able to respond.

### SQA processes

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August is SQA exam results day and inevitably when results come out, pupils need to make some changes. If pupils wish to appeal their results, they can do so by contacting the SQA directly or asking the school to do it for them. Pupils should ensure that they are aware of their estimated grade for each of their subjects before they consider appealing. Pupils who have left school and want to appeal can collect a copy of their estimated grades from the school office from the 9<sup>th</sup> of August onwards. All other pupils who want to appeal can enquire about their estimated grades on their return to school. The SQA will issue more information to learners about the appeals service later in the summer. However, it is important that you are aware of the closing dates for learner direct submissions:

- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of August for priority appeals (a pupil's place at college/university/other further education is dependent on a result)
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of August for non-priority appeals (for pupils not awaiting an immediate response for access to a course)

Staff return to school on 14<sup>th</sup> August and Pupils on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August. You can ring up from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> to book an appointment with your Guidance Teacher if in light of your results, you need to change the courses you will be studying in session 23-24. Guidance staff will be available on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon or from Tuesday onwards but please do book a time to meet with them via the school office.

Key dates are already on website but for ease of access, here are the term one deadlines.

- 15<sup>th</sup> August- Pupils return
- 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August- School photos
- 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September- In-service days
- 4<sup>th</sup> October- Senior School Reports issued
- 5<sup>th</sup> October- Sponsored Walk
- 6<sup>th</sup> October- Last day of term

### **Staffing changes**

#### *Staff Departures:*

Mrs Macmillan (English, left at end of May)

Mr Affleck (Business)

Mrs Morris (Modern Languages)

Mrs Brown (Maths)

Miss Cooper (PE)

Miss Fleming (English)

Mr Gray (Social Subjects, for one year)

Mr Maclean (Technology)

Mrs Manivelan (Maths)

#### *Staff arrivals:*

Mrs Bremner- PT Business Education

Mr Houston- PT Health and Wellbeing

Miss Frew and Mr Rorison- English Department

Miss Martin and Mrs Mulraine- PE Department

Mr Kennedy- Physics department

Mr Rice and Miss Cooper- Social Subjects department

Mrs Hilton- HFT department

Ms Gibbins- Art and Design department

There are further additions to be made in ASN and Technical on Thursday of this week.

### **Uniform**

Our position on uniform remains the same- all pupils are expected to wear something that identifies them as a pupil of Culloden Academy and nothing else with a logo. The school tie is both the smartest and the most affordable and therefore the preferred option of the school. School ties can be purchased from the school office.

However, there has been a change this session with several unwanted intruders in the school forcing us to take all possible steps to uphold security. From August, all pupils MUST wear something that identifies them as a pupil of Culloden Academy. We will be contacting home each morning to ask that uniform is brought in if a pupil is not identifiable as a Culloden Academy pupil or providing temporary replacements. For some pupils the tie is uncomfortable and alien to them which is why I have asked the school's uniform supplier to add black and white round neck and v-neck t-shirts to the website. In addition, we have a limited stock of polo shirts with logos on them and these can be purchased directly from the office.

I am aware that everything comes at a cost. Our preferred supplier is an online supplier and therefore there is a postal charge for delivery of uniform. In order to make it easier for you to support us with uniform, you can request delivery to the school and I will identify funds to meet the postage costs, removing this charge from you. We have a small stock in school and if you want to size check your child before ordering, please call in (with your child) and try on possible options before ordering.

Please also remember that you may be entitled to a School Uniform Grant.

To receive free school meals and assistance with school clothing, your household must be in receipt of any one of the following:

- *Income Support*
- *Universal Credit (where the monthly earned income does not exceed £726).*
- *Income-based Job Seekers Allowance*
- *Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Child Tax Credit, but not in receipt of Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £18,725 (as assessed by the HMRC)*
- *Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and an income below £8,717 (as assessed by the HMRC)*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *Pension Credit Guaranteed Credit*

*You can also apply:*

- *If you are 16 to 18 yrs old and receive any of these benefits in your own right*
- *If you have no recourse to public funds, normally due to immigration status*

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools\\_-\\_grants\\_and\\_benefits/10/free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_assistance\\_with\\_clothing](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing)

If you are on Universal Credit, we require evidence of your current award, showing:

- Name
- Address
- Period Payment covers
- We require to see **ALL** the elements which make up the award and all the deductions, including any for take home pay
- For all other Benefits we require **ALL** pages of your current award letter

Current recipients of means tested clothing grant and free school meals **only** need to reapply if any of the following have occurred since your most recent Clothing Grant Payment

- Change of address
- Change of bank details
- Any new P1 children for August 2023
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**If you have a child in Secondary School S5/6 who will be returning to school after the summer holidays, you will not receive your clothing grant payment until the school confirm their return to school.**

**The School Clothing Grant is £154 for Primary School children and £165 for High School children.** Our online application form asks you to provide your bank details to allow us to make payment. If you are unable to provide bank details please contact us by email at [clothingandmeals@highland.gov.uk](mailto:clothingandmeals@highland.gov.uk).

If you have questions relating to the Free School Meals and Clothing assistance scheme, please contact us by email at [clothingandmeals@highland.gov.uk](mailto:clothingandmeals@highland.gov.uk).

### **Sports Day**

We recently held School Sports Day, our first sports day since 2019 due to the pandemic and last years late call off due to the weather. The day was fantastic, the pupils really bought into the event with 175 individuals representing their house relay teams. Our pupils demonstrated an abundance of determination, resilience, and a positive attitude throughout, making the day a resounding success. We would like to extend a special thank you to Carlos, our dedicated staff member who tirelessly lined the athletics track, ensuring that the tracks events took place.

Among the numerous highlights of the day, one event truly stood out and left everyone in awe. The senior pupil / staff relay captured the hearts of the spectators, as the entire crowd gathered on their feet, cheering loudly and passionately on either side of the track. It was a sight to behold, with students, and teachers all joining in the excitement. The race exemplified the unity and ethos that our school community cherishes and demonstrated the power of teamwork.

We look forward to many more opportunities for our students to showcase their athletic abilities, foster teamwork, and celebrate the joy of sports in the next academic year.

1<sup>st</sup> - Brodie 418

2<sup>nd</sup> - Cawdor 315

3<sup>rd</sup> - Dalcross and Strathnairn 311

5<sup>th</sup> - Kilravock 300

6<sup>th</sup> - Rait 207

### **Mobile Phones**

I've previously mentioned our mobile phone policy and I want to end by re-iterating that we will be strongly promoting this next session as we are confident that doing so will improve learning and relationships in the school.

Pupils can still

- bring phones to school,
- use them at break and lunch,
- check timetables between lessons

However, all pupils need to have their phones out of sight for the duration of each class including if they ask out for the toilet. Phones will be confiscated until the end of the lesson or the end of the day if seen to be distracting learning and engagement. It has always been the case that if a parent/carer/family member needs to get an urgent message to a child, then phone the school and we can get a message to their teacher within seconds. Please help us create the best conditions for learning but emphasising this expectation to your child in August.

Thank you for all your support this year.

Regards,



Dr J Vance  
Head Teacher