



Rector: Dr J Vance
Depute Rector: Mr C D O'Neill
Depute Rector: Mr I Weafer
Depute Rector: Mr R Sim
Depute Rector: Mr D Munro

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28th March 2024

Hello,

It appears that the weather is not going to give the Easter holidays a warm welcome. Irrespective of this, I think pupils and staff will all be looking forward to the break after a very long term. If this term is defined by hard work and planning for change, next term is all about endings and beginnings- the end of time in school for some, the end of classes and courses and, in late May, the beginning of a new timetable and all new opportunities for our learners. I hope that our seniors manage to make the next two weeks a mixture of relaxation and genuine progress in consolidating their learning ahead of the exams that start a week after they return.

Please keep an eye on the school website for details of key developments and opportunities next term- key dates are added to the end of this letter. Also, if you didn't receive an email copy of this letter but would like one, please email us at culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk and let us know your child's register class so that we can add you to the correct mailing list.

Staffing changes

We have been busy recruiting staff for next term and next session and are pleased to tell you that we have appointed a new English teacher and Languages teacher who will both start shortly after the holidays. We have also appointed a new Guidance teacher for Brodie House to replace Mr Munro and allow him to move properly into his post as Depute Head Teacher here after a long month of doing both jobs. Finally, we have appointed a new Physics teacher who will join us in August when Mr Kennedy leaves.

I should also say that this week we have had to bid a sad farewell to Mr Brian Gray who has been an invaluable support to the school as a supply teacher for many years now. There are few classrooms he has not taught in and few pupils he has not engaged with; his positivity and kindness will be missed around the school.

Start and End of day arrangements

I am writing once again to ask for your help in keeping our school safe. We had an incident recently where a parent's car came into contact with a pupil's bike- luckily the pupil had jumped off in time but it highlighted the potential for serious injury at the start and end of day. Similarly, we had another incident earlier this year where a cyclist collided with a car in the school, resulting in a broken nose. I know that our young people could pay more attention but I notice a significant difference between their concentration when cycling to school and their practice once they are in the school grounds and feel safe. We will continue to educate, we have reached out to various people in the Council who have safe cycling/road safety on their remits and we will, when properly advised, purchase additional signage. However, teenagers will still be teenagers and so I need the assistance of the adults to reduce the risk of serious injury as low as possible.

At start of day, we would strongly prefer it if you would drop your pupil outside the school- it will be a lot quicker for you than getting caught in the 5 mph circuit round the car-park. I don't underestimate the task in trying to get a teenager into the car five minutes earlier in the morning so that they have time to walk the last 500 yards- maybe the warm and sunny mornings of spring and summer could be taken as a good time to retrain them?

Previously janitors stood at the gates and would not let parents in at the end of the school day but this is no longer one of their duties and they have other end of school responsibilities. I have no means to legally enforce it but I am once again strongly requesting that parents not come into school between 3.25 and 3.55pm- we do have 1100 pupils all funnelling out the front gates, buses trying to get in and out, staff trying to get in and others trying to get out as well. If your pupil needs collected, could you meet them down Keppoch Road or by arriving in school after 3.55pm to collect them please? An exemption is in place based on short- or long-term medical conditions; please contact Guidance if you think this should apply to your child.

Social Media

Mr Weafer has asked for this message to go out specifically to S1 parents. We would both agree, however, that other year groups have similar issues and ask that parents use the opportunity of the holidays to support the message about appropriate online behaviour.

"As social media has become a larger part of our lives, the number of issues relating to online bullying that schools have become involved in has increased dramatically. Recently we were made aware of a series of TikTok videos that were directed at some of our pupils. The people responsible for these videos need to be mindful of the impact that this type of behaviour has on others. Should the school be made aware of videos like these about our pupils online we will not hesitate to report the video. Please take time over the holidays to speak to your young person about the dangers of social media and about appropriate and safe behaviour online."

Key Dates

17th April- S6 Prom

22nd April- start of Study Leave and SQA exams.

2nd May- in-service day (school closed to pupils)

6th May-May-Day holiday

14th May- S1 reports issued

20th May- Change of Timetable for new S2, S3 and S4

22nd May- P7 Transition evening

24th May- last day of study leave

27th May- First day of new timetable for S5 and S6 (unless they still have an exam¹)

TBC, (early June)- Prize giving ceremony.

18th-20th June- P7 Transition days

27th June- Last day of term.

Finally, thank you very much for your help and support this term- it is noted and appreciated by the staff. We make most progress when we persuade the young people that parents and school collectively have their best interests at heart.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance
Rector

¹ Art and Design N5 and Higher are on Tuesday 28th May and Economics N5, Higher and Advanced Higher and Practical Metalworking are on Wednesday 29th. Pupils sitting any of these exams should return to school the day after their last exam.