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12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Hello,

With our website and Facebook being used regularly there seems less need for letters such as this but as we approach the end of session, I thought it worthwhile to pull into one place a lot of information that you may need or want in order to support your child. I hope you find this helpful.

### Staffing

As ever at this time of year we say goodbye to some staff and prepare to welcome some new staff in August. We will be saying farewell to **Ms Reid** from the Art and Design department. We have appointed a new Art and Design teacher- **Mr R Douglas**- who will join us in August.

**Mr Double** is leaving the Drama department in the summer and we have an advert out at the moment to replace him.

**Mr Kennedy** will be replaced by **Miss Shepherd** who joins us In August.

**Mrs McIntosh** will not be returning to the Business Education department after her maternity leave and we have appointed **Miss Mackenzie** in her place.

After over two decades of supporting young learners, **Miss Dowell** has moved onto a new challenge alongside her colleague **Mrs Duncan**. Our new Skills Development Scotland (Careers) Team is **Mrs Eisner** and **Mr Bauld** who both started with us on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

We are also saying goodbye to **Mr Macdonald** from the ASL department (not Guidance) for one year and we have appointed **Mrs Donaldson** to replace him.

**Miss Doran** will not be with us next session and **Mr M Douglas** will replace her to take forward our computing curriculum.

We have appointed **Mrs Wilde** as a Teacher of Technology and she will join us in August.

In anticipation of **Ms Boa's** impending maternity leave, we have appointed **Mrs Ford** to join the Social Subjects department.

**Mr F Gray** has returned from his career break and **Mr Rice** has moved on to a new post in Moray Council.

**Ms Seymour** will be moving on from our PEF team and we are advertising for a new member of the team next week.

**Ms Henderson** has secured a new post and will be leaving our clerical team at the start of the summer holidays.

Earlier this week **Mr Wilson** secured a new post and will be leaving us at some point early in the new session. The process of recruiting a replacement has already started.

**Mr Blyth** will join the Technical Department as a Technician.

### **End of term process**

As with previous years, the last day of term- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June- will be a half day with school ending at 12.25pm. Pupils who take the D and E Coaches bus to Nairnside will be able to get it at 12.25pm. Unfortunately, Stagecoach have been unable to adapt their schedule and so the Stagecoach buses will arrive at school to collect any pupils at the usual time of 3.40pm. We know, that in reality, most pupils will make other arrangements to get home but there will be staff in the building and pupils who cannot make other arrangements are welcome to stay. We have a request for any such pupils to ensure that they get home: so that we know when we can release the buses, any pupil who will want to get their usual bus home at 3.40pm must give their name to Mr O'Neill in person to confirm this.

On the final day of term, food will be available in the canteen for all pupils who will be in school. However, so that the canteen can have enough food in, but can minimise waste pupils are asked to fill in the online order form early that week. The form will be available on everyone's PSE Google Classroom.

### **SQA results and Appeals.**

All pupils who sat exams this year will receive their results on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August- or 24 hours earlier if you signed up to receive them by text. If you do not receive your results, contact the school and we will be able to tell you your results and investigate why you have not received your certificate. We must have up to date addresses. Similarly, if there is a mistake on your certificate, contact the school.

If you are concerned that there has been a mistake in the marking, you can appeal to the **SQA directly through Learner Direct** (from you direct to SQA) or **you can request that the school does this for you**. We will provide a Google Form for this in your PSE Classroom.

If you choose to use **Learner Direct** these are the deadlines:

Priority appeals: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 11:59pm (Please note that Priority appeals are ONLY for candidates who have a conditional offer for university, college or training which depends on your grade.)

Other appeals: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 11:59pm

If you **wish the school to appeal** for you, you will need to complete the Google form by the following school deadlines so we have time to submit to the SQA:

Priority appeals: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 11:00am

Other appeals: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 11:00am

Please note that Appeals have changed a lot in recent years- if you appeal your grade, a senior appointee will carry out a **marking review** of your SQA-marked assessments. This is not a re-mark.

A marking review checks that:

1. all parts of your SQA-assessments have been marked,
2. the marking is in line with national standards,
3. the marks given for each answer have been totalled correctly; and

4. the correct result has been entered on our system.

Please note that after being reviewed, your result could stay the same, go up or go down. Last session, 90% remained unchanged.

### **Key dates**

There will be a version of the school calendar for session 24-25 published on the school website before the end of term. Here are the key dates for the first term:

19<sup>th</sup> August Inservice Day- staff only return to school.

20<sup>th</sup> August- pupils return to school.

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September- School Photos

16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September- Inservice Days- staff only attend

18<sup>th</sup> September- Sponsored walk (provisional)

9<sup>th</sup> October- S1 Parents' Evening

### **Activities Day**

We are pleased to announce that the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> May next year will include Activities Days, an event we are bringing back for the first time since 2018. Our staff is excited to reintroduce this week of worthwhile experiences for our students. We recognise that quite a few of the trips that we offer are expensive and are not affordable to many households. We also know that trips and days out make strong memories for young people, and we want to ensure everyone gets these opportunities. Between August and Christmas therefore we are going to build a programme of activities that S1-3 pupils can opt into for (probably) three days next May. To make the trips as good as possible and as accessible as possible we intend to use a large percentage of our Sponsored Walk money to reduce the costs.

We are also asking if parents can help us in any of the following ways:

- 1) Could you volunteer to attend one of these trips to help with staffing levels? We would almost certainly not ask you to go on the one your child is on, in case you embarrass them!
- 2) Do you work for or know of organisations offering trips/experiences that would be good to add to our menu of choices? If so please could you please let us know at [culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk](mailto:culloden.academy@highland.gov.uk)
- 3) Do you work for a company that might consider sponsoring one of the activities- 100% of money raised would be passed on to pupils and households as reduced costs?

Thank you for taking the time to read this, thank you for all your support this year and best wishes for the summer.

Yours faithfully,



Dr J Vance  
Rector