



Rector: Mrs C McGonigal
Depute Rector: Mr C D O'Neill
Depute Rector: Mr I Weafer
Depute Rector: Mr R Sim
Depute Rector: Mr D Munro
Depute Rector: Mrs J Urquhart

Keppoch Road
Culloden
INVERNESS
IV2 7JZ
Phone 01463 790851

26 August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

New Term: High Expectations

I hope that you all had a lovely summer break, pupils and staff certainly seem to have come back to school refreshed and ready for a new academic year. Thank you for your support with uniform and school equipment, the pupils look very smart and are well prepared for lessons.

The qualifications results in the school were good and we are very proud of the achievements of our young people, hard work definitely paid off. When the results come into school, we spend a large amount of time analysing them and setting school targets as to how we, as teachers, can improve our practice and our pedagogy. This forms part of our school improvement plan and continual cycle of self-evaluation and improvement. However, analysis has shown that one link has become very clear this year and that is between attendance and attainment. We are clearly seeing a **10 Block Impact**. This means that if a pupil misses 10 taught blocks of a course, on average, they drop a course grade from their target grade to their actual grade. This means going from A to B, B to C or C to D. There are exceptions to this which is when pupils put the effort into catching up missed work through attending supported study classes or speaking to staff about how to catch up. However, we as a staff cannot emphasise the need to attend school regularly strongly enough. If pupils miss 20 blocks of a course, on average, they fail the course. This is true for Nationals, Highers and Advanced Highers.

Good habits start young and we are encouraging all pupils to attend class and be on time whether they are sitting qualification courses or not as learning is layered and the harder pupils work in the BGE years, the better their attainment in the Senior Phase.

Like you, we have very high expectations of our pupils and all that they can achieve. I feel lucky and privileged to work with some of the most creative minds in the country, even if sometimes those minds work against me! To that end, we are making sure that pupils are in class as much as possible and I thank you for your support with this.

On a more positive note, we have a lot of fun events planned this year starting with the sponsored walk on Friday 2nd October which this year is going to be "Walk for Your House" to encourage inter house competition in addition to raising money for the school fund. The school fund helps pay for sports affiliations, transport costs for short trips, subsidises Activity Days, benches around the school, extra-curricular club resources and sports team strips amongst other things. We also have a school show this year, Billy Elliot and I would encourage pupils to get involved with this either on stage or backstage as the school show is great fun to be part of. Pupils should see the Drama Department for more information.

If you have any questions about the content of the letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Claire', followed by a horizontal line and a period.

Claire McGonigal
Rector