



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

27 October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that everyone enjoyed the October holidays. Everyone was certainly looking refreshed and well on Monday morning returning to school, both pupils and staff. There are a few items and dates which I would like to bring to your attention as we start this new term which I know will be another successful one at Culloden Academy.

TikTok and Social Media

There are some very unpleasant Tik Tok accounts circulating with the Culloden Academy logo targeting some of the younger pupils in the school. As these accounts are anonymous and the videos created outside of school, we are limited as to how we can respond beyond reporting the accounts to TikTok. I would advise all parents and carers to regularly check their child's phone and social media use particularly Snapchat and other group chats which can be anonymous and abusive. If there is any such content, please block the contact and/or delete the app. If appropriate, contact the police and again if appropriate, inform your child's Guidance teacher. I have huge sympathy for our young people who can feel trapped in a social media loop and we do our best to both support and educate them about the dangers at school but this is an area where the best approach is to work together as this kind of nasty behaviour mainly takes place outside of school. Currently children under 13 are banned from having accounts on most social media platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, X and YouTube. From March 2027, this will become a ban on all these platforms for all children under 16. If under 13s do have profiles on these platforms currently, then, unfortunately, the first thing they have learned to do on social media is to lie about their age.

Halloween Dress Down Friday 30th October

We are having a Halloween themed dress down day on Friday 30th October where pupils are encouraged to come to school in either costume or non-school uniform and donate £1 to former pupil Conor Perrins' GoFundMe page to support him with buying specialised biking and other equipment. The S6 Pupil Leadership Team have also organised a spooky film to be shown at lunchtime on Thursday 29th October in the theatre where admission is £1 donation.

Please remember that all Halloween costumes should be school appropriate with no underwear on show and no one should wear a mask, other than that the more imaginative and creepy the better!

School Dances

Much as I hate to mention the C word in October, the dates for the Christmas dances are listed below. Attendance at the dances is dependent on positive behaviour, wearing school uniform and good attendance. In class attendance should be at least 80% this term in order to secure a ticket so make sure you are in your lessons and engaged in your learning if you want to dance the night away in December.

Sponsored Walk: Walk for Your House

The Sponsored Walk, rechristened the Walk for Your House this year, was a huge success and it was great to see so many costumes and pupils dressed in House colours. This year we have House Captains and House Vice Captains as part of our Senior Pupil Leadership team who held House Assemblies to encourage their Houses to earn House Points. All staff, except Rector and Deputes, also have a House allegiance so the competition between Houses is heating up! All monies pledged should be returned to school by Friday 30th October when we will be able to calculate the overall amount raised and the points for each House which the House Captains are very keen to know. There will be Inter House events organised by the Captains throughout the year where pupils can earn points in addition to in class merit points.

National 5 Prelims

The National 5 prelims start on 23rd November which will be the first time sitting exams for our S4 pupils. The prelim timetable was shared last month with pupils and is available on the school website and also on Google Classrooms. Mr Weafer will hold an S4 Assembly on Thursday to discuss the prelims and will then share the presentation on both Google Classroom and also the school website for parents to access.

Uniform

As the weather is turning colder, wetter and much windier, we are seeing more coloured hoodies creep into school. School uniform has been very good so far this year so please can we stick to black and white with no, or small, logos except the school logo. Thank you.

Staffing

I appreciate that there have been a number of unavoidable staff absences last term which have caused concern in some areas. As a result, we have made some timetable changes to ensure as much continuity for pupils as possible. This term these issues should resolve as I continue to work closely with Highland Council to address the pressures staff absences can bring to the whole school community.

Finally

The winter term is always a good one as we all get excited for Christmas including the dances, concert, fayre and other festive activities but before then there are prelims, study clubs and a real push to make sure course work is well underway. At Culloden Academy we aim for excellence both in and out of class! As ever, if anyone has any concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully



Claire McGonigal
Rector

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 4 th November	S5/6 Parents Evening
Monday 23 rd November	N5 Prelims begin
Wednesday 25 th November	S2 Parents Evening
Thursday 3 rd December	Christmas Concert
Friday 4 th December	N5 Prelims end
Thursday 10 th December	Culloden Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 15 th December	S3/4 Christmas Dance
Thursday 17 th December	S1/2 Christmas Dance
Monday 21 st December	Senior Christmas Dance
Tuesday 22 nd December	End of Term
Wednesday 6 th December	First Day of Spring Term