

Portlethen Academy

Learn and Improve. Get Involved. Think of the Consequences. Respect All.

December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I would like to provide a reminder on key dates and to cover a couple of general points.

Christmas Concert

One of the big dates in our whole school calendar is the annual Christmas Concert this Wednesday (11 December 2019). This is always a fantastic event showcasing the talents and hard work of our young people and staff. A limited number of tickets are still available. You can attend either the afternoon showing, along with pupils from our local primary schools (2.10pm- £3), or, the evening showing (7pm – Adult £5, Concession £3). Tickets are on sale from the Library or Music Department or call 01224 782174. Proceeds go to Friends of Anchor and the Expressive Arts faculty - to enhance pupil activities. Refreshments will be provided by the Health Promotions Faculty.

Pupil Leadership

Our pupils lead a whole variety of activities in school and many of you will have met some of our pupils at the recent Senior Phase Parents Evenings where we had Prefects on duty carrying out our regular surveys, Morocco Expedition pupils fundraising towards their experience and our My World of Work Ambassadors showcasing the careers website. We post many of these activities on our Twitter feed for your interest @PortyAcad. A recent and important example is highlighted in the screenshot below where some of our girls led an assembly on Osteoporosis. It was fantastic seeing them deliver to their peers.



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Security

We continue to review our procedures in light of issues in November and plan work with our young people in the New Year around emergency responses to a variety of situations. As previously highlighted the wearing of full uniform is an important part of our process and we want to thank the overwhelming majority of families who support this. It is greatly appreciated. A very small number don't manage to wear full uniform. We are also aware that occasionally what a young person leaves the house wearing in the morning will not always be what they turn up to school in. We will contact you if we have ongoing issues regarding uniform and we would ask for your support if this is the case.

S2 Youth Philanthropy Initiative Final, Wednesday 8 January 7-8.30pm Academy Theatre

Each year our S2 classes research a local Social Enterprise or Charity and then present their case to win £3,000 for them. This event is the final and showcases the winning effort from each class. All are welcome to see our inspirational young people.

Parent Council Meeting Thursday 9 January 2020

Our first Parent Council of the New Year will be in the staffroom 7-8.30pm. Agenda items will include:

- School Self Evaluation (we recently had a visit from colleagues at Mackie and Mearns Academies and will feed back on that)
- School Security
- Named Person Update
- Excelerate Learning Update

Foundation Apprenticeships

As we head into next term the choice process picks up for senior pupils and a significant change over the last year has been the offer of Foundation Apprenticeships. The video below provides some broad information on these career related courses.

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/foundation-apprenticeships>

In conclusion, the holidays will be upon us soon however our focus remains on learning. Some lessons may be Christmas themed as long as it matches with the course needs. Seniors have prelims starting from Monday 13 January 2020 and we know that the majority have clear revision plans as they look to do their best in these. Where pupils don't have revision plans, we ask that you support and encourage them. School breaks up at 3.30pm on Friday 20 December 2019 and we return at 8.45 am on Monday 6 January 2020. In anticipation of the n=holidays I wish you a hppay and asfe time.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Morrison
Head Teacher