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Dear Parent/ Carer

We reach the end of another busy school year which has seen so many great achievements and events across the school. These sit alongside our core work of raising attainment for all pupils and are what make the school a special and distinctive place. The highlights of the year are too numerous to mention but range from individual successes to the work of teams and groups across the school and in the community. Many are highlighted on our Twitter feed @PortyAcad. It is a real pleasure working with such inspiring young people, staff, parents and community partners.

The year has had a very sad end with the tragic loss of Zaine Grieve, one of our S4 pupils. Pupils have been hugely responsible for, and supportive of, each other at this difficult time and it has been tremendous to see this. Our staff have also worked hard to support young people and they will continue to support them going forward.

Looking forward to the new session I would like to cover a few points of information:

### **SQA results**

Pupils who sat exams this session will receive their results on Tuesday 7 August. A letter dealing specifically with this has been issued and is available on the school website. This explains the Post Results Service. A small number pupils may need to use this and/or reconsider their options. Parents can leave a message at the school office however Guidance staff and the Senior Leadership Team will not be able to respond to these until the start of term.

### **Uniform**

Overwhelmingly our pupils wear a good standard of uniform and your assistance in this is greatly appreciated. Visitors always comment on the positive impression this gives. We are close to having all pupils in full uniform this year and a final push focussing on black footwear and the occasional non uniform item can see us reach 100% next year. The summer holidays are always the time when the shops stock school wear and we would ask that you stock up as well for next year as your child grows. The school dress code is as follows:

#### **Boys**

Black trousers  
White shirt  
Black knitwear  
School tie  
Black shoes

#### **Girls**

Black skirt or trousers  
White blouse  
Black knitwear  
School tie  
Black shoes

While we know that leggings are affordable and practical we would prefer black trousers as they are more in keeping with a working environment. We ask that pupils do not wear jeans. With regard to shoes we ask that they are black however these do not have to be formal shoes. We do not allow Hoodies and ask that pupils have a change of both clothing and footwear for PE. If a pupil forgets their uniform we have a number of spare items that we can lend out.

### **Pupil Information**

Parental contact details and information about young people (including medical and welfare information) often change and we would ask that you contact the school office to ensure the details for your son/daughter are up to date when there are changes.

### **Staff Changes**

As is often the case at the end of a session there are a number of staff moving on. Mr Craig leaves to become a Depute Head Teacher at Northfield Academy and Mr Sweeney goes to Westhill Academy as Depute Head Teacher. Both have given a huge commitment to young people in Portlethen and we wish them all the very best for the future. Our four probationers, Miss Abbot, Mrs Bircham, Miss Jewell and Miss Coyle have all successfully completed their probationary year and are now fully qualified. All will remain with us except Miss Coyle who is returning to Central Scotland where she has secured a job and we wish her well. As staff leave others come in and we have recruited Miss Cowman to Physics and Mrs Hudgins as Principal Teacher of Science. We have a Physical Education probationer joining us, Mr Gehrich. We are currently recruiting for a new Principal Teacher of English and expect to have the successful candidate in post early in the new session.

### **Last day of term**

The day will be a dress down day with the theme of Get Set for Summer. Classes will continue as normal until 3.30 pm with the usual teaching and learning focused on subjects and the curriculum taking place.

### **New Session**

The new session begins for pupils at 8.45 am on Tuesday 21 August 2018.

I wish you a relaxing, safe and happy summer and we look forward to seeing our pupils back in August.

Yours sincerely



**Neil Morrison**  
**Head Teacher**