

Dear Parent/ Carer

We reach the end of another busy school year which has seen so many great achievements and events across the school from pupils and staff. These sit alongside our core work of raising attainment for all pupils and are what make the school a special and distinctive place. We celebrated the pupil attainment and achievements in our Achievement Ceremonies this week. 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. A glimpse of these can be found on our Twitter feed @PortyAcad and will give you a real flavour of the activities that take place throughout the year. Looking back over the year it is a real pleasure and privilege to be working with such inspiring young people, staff, parents and community partners.

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 6 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 of 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%. We like to reward young people who do wear the full uniform and our social areas are for their use. 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 in class and require that pupils do not have hoods up in the building for safety purposes. We also 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 and this year we have significant changes. Miss Dickson (Art) retires after 32 years in the school. Other retirees are Mr Simpson (Principal Teacher of Design and Technology), Mrs MacLellan, Principal Teacher of Business and ICT and Mr Emery, Teacher of Maths. A number of staff are moving away from Aberdeenshire for family and/or professional reasons. These include Mrs Keir (Maths), Miss Tait (Music), Miss Cowman (Physics) and Miss Maierbrugger (Maths). I want to thank them all for their contributions to our school and wish them the very best for the future. In addition to the above we have two staff seconded to other posts with Mr Dempsey (Physics) moving to Turriff and Mrs O'Brien (Depute Head Teacher) carrying out work for Aberdeenshire linked to Foundation Apprenticeships and Developing the Young Workforce. Mr Turner and Mrs Evans in English are reducing the hours they work while Mr Jennings has moved into the Support for Learning Faculty. Lastly Mrs Miller (Depute Head Teacher, job share) will commence her maternity leave shortly after summer so Mr Liversedge will move into the full time DHT post. These changes mean that we have had a range of vacancies to fill and I am happy to report we have been successful in doing so despite all the concerns we are aware of regarding teacher recruitment and we will welcome a large number of new teaching staff to the school in August. I will provide fuller information on this in August.

Last day of term

The day will be a dress down day with the theme of Eras before the 2000s. Alternatively, and to keep costs down if you do not have suitable outfits, pupils can dress with a summer theme. A minimum voluntary donation of 50p will be collected from pupils and staff during Daily Contact Time. This money will be shared between senior pupils, fundraising towards the community support element of the Morocco 2020 expedition and the charities committee's chosen charity. We look forward to seeing your outfits.

Classes will continue as normal until 3.30pm with the usual teaching and learning focused on subjects and the curriculum taking place.

New Session

The Scottish Government have added two additional In Service days in session 2019/20 and the first of these falls on Tuesday 20 August. As such the new session begins for pupils at 8.45 am on **Wednesday 21 August 2019**. Our full calendar will be made available on the school website

We 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

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