



Portlethen Academy
Bruntland Road
Portlethen
Aberdeen AB12 4QL
Telephone 01224 782174
Fax 01224 782076
portlethen.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Staff Bereavement

I write to you with the terribly sad news that Colin Wilson, one of our Computing teachers, died unexpectedly just before Christmas. The news has come as a complete shock to his family and all who knew him. News of his passing has been picked up on Social Media so some pupils and parents became aware of this during the holidays. The school has communicated with all staff during the holiday and we are now doing so to all parents/carers and pupils. Colin had been at Portlethen Academy for two and a half years and while not all pupils would have come into contact with him, he was well liked by those who had. He was hugely supportive of young people, ensuring they achieved success and challenge in his classes. This was coupled with his calm and approachable manner and meant that he was well respected by all who knew him.

While not everyone in the school community will have known Colin, the news will affect many either directly or by reminding them of their own experiences and losses. We will hold brief assemblies today (Monday) to formally announce the news, to stress the need to respect the feelings of others at this time, and to highlight supports for young people. These supports are detailed below:

- Teachers/PSAs
- DCT
- Guidance
- Senior Leadership Team
- Senior Pupils
- Friends
- Parents and family
- Childline

Guidance Teachers will be available to see any young people who are affected by the news and pupils should alert their class teacher that they wish to do this. The class teacher will then call the relevant Guidance Teacher to ensure they are available before sending any pupil to them. Where someone is not immediately available they will be seen as soon as is practical but should remain in class where they are safe until this is feasible. If you have concerns about your child please contact the school office who will link you to the relevant person.

Clearly, we are also in the position where we need to support staff who are affected by the news and will do so through our normal procedures.

In terms of supporting young people academically in Computing, prelims begin on 13 January 2020. Mr Simpson (Principal Teacher of Computing and Business) has already put in place plans to prioritise certificate classes this week. We will work to ensure continuity through supply cover as we go forward and will update you on our progress with this.

The loss of any member of the school community is devastating. Our focus now is to support all those affected and to provide continuity and stability for young people and staff. I know you will help us in this. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Morrison', written in a cursive style.

Neil Morrison
Head Teacher