



Portlethen Academy  
Bruntland Road  
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[www.portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)  
Twitter: @PortyAcad @aberdeenshire

5<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**TERM 1 UPDATE LETTER**

It has been a great start to the academic session so far, and it has been lovely to see all our pupils back and mostly in appropriate school dress code/uniform. Our new S1s have settled in very well and we are very proud of how well they have coped with the transition – well done, and a huge thanks to their Senior Buddies for all their support! Below are a few important updates regarding several important topics.

**Uniform**

Given the increased cost of living, we are aiming to keep our dress code as simple and affordable as possible. The only ‘branded’ item we have with our school colours and logo is our school tie, which can be purchased from the School Office for £4.20 either with the correct cash, or by cheque. All pupils must wear a school tie throughout the whole day, and this is regularly checked in Clan and lessons. Guidance Teachers are contacting parents/carers for further support if there are issues with uniform wearing across their House group. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Pupils who have PE period 1 may come to school dressed in their PE Kit; however, they must change out of this and into full school uniform following the first lesson. The S3 AFC class have permission to wear PE Kit all day on a Thursday only. Leggings and/or joggers are not permitted as part of our school uniform and must be replaced with either skirt/trousers or black jeans as quickly as possible.

If your young person has a health or additional support need which means that there needs to be some more ‘relaxed’ rules around our uniform expectations, then please feel free to contact your child’s Guidance Teacher for a further discussion. Our uniform outline is detailed below:

Expectations of All	Not Accepted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tie –</b> Junior (S1-3) – School Colours Senior (S4-6) – Black *Available from School Office for £4.20</li> <li>• <b>White collar –</b> shirt/polo shirt</li> </ul> Plain black jumper, V-neck, cardigan if extra layer needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Black trousers, skirt, jeans</b></li> <li>• <b>Black/dark trainers or shoes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Leggings / Sports Wear</b></li> <li>• <b>Jackets and hats/hoods</b> (to be removed in school/workplace).</li> <li>• <b>Bright / coloured trainers or shoes.</b></li> </ul>



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### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Following the success of our Fresher's Fayre a few weeks ago, we have collated all our extra-curricular opportunities and shared the information via Clan and our school website. Our School Value of #GetInvolved encourages our pupils to learn new skills, try new things and to make new friends.

Our Extra-Curricular Activity offer can be viewed here from our school website: [Portlethen-Academy-Extra-Curricular-Activities-Session-2022-23.pdf \(portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk\)](#)

Please discuss at home and encourage your young person to pop along to a new activity this session.

If they have any questions, they can direct these to the individual staff members listed next to each activity.

### **Important Dates – Session 2022-23 / Parental Communication Guide / Letters Home**

The important dates section of our school website has been updated, with a new format of document/calendar for the year ahead. This should hopefully give you all the information you need in one place.

Please take the time to read this from the following link in the Parent/Carer TAB below:

<https://portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/important-dates/>

We also recognize and appreciate that it can be a challenge to know who to contact and when in a Secondary School, particularly when transition has just taken place. To help with this, we have also created our Parental Communication Guide with themes/who to contact listed on it. This is located in the Contact Us section of our website here: <https://portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/our-school/contact-us/>

Any issues, questions, or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Partnership with our parents/carers is crucial.

Lastly, we update our website with letters that have been sent out to our whole-school or specific year groups. This is over and above the individual e-mail you will have received, with the letter attached. Letters home can also be accessed from the Parent/Carer TAB of our website, and located here:

<https://portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/letters-home/>

### **Portlethen Academy Parent Council**

Our Portlethen Academy meet once a term, usually on a Wednesday from 7.30-9pm in the Academy Staff Room. Occasionally there can be additional meetings called, and/or sub-groups created and formed to help with school events and/or school improvement priorities. Our Parent Council is always open to new members.



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Previous minutes along with the Parent Council constitution and e-mail address for contact can be accessed from here: <https://portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-council/> Our Parent Council can be contacted directly via the following e-mail address: [PortlethenAcademyPC@outlook.com](mailto:PortlethenAcademyPC@outlook.com)

### Senior Phase – e-Sgoil Study Support Sessions / SCHOLAR

As our Senior Phase lessons are well underway and we are looking ahead to Full Reports, Senior Phase Parents’ Evenings and Prelims in January 2023, we wanted to highlight to everyone the many free resources and activities available to all pupils in Portlethen Academy and nationally, to support and enhance their Senior Phase courses. Pupils have been notified of these resources in their lessons and within Faculties, and in Senior Phase Assemblies.

### E-Sgoil

This is the national Study Support e-learning offer available to all pupils. Listed below is the schedule of weekly Study Support sessions, led by Teachers and covering specific, challenging elements of each Senior Phase course and level. Pupils can access ‘live’ at this time, or later ‘on demand’ as each session is recorded for re-visiting later.


**Study Support 2022/23** National e-Learning Offer

DAY	TIME	SUBJECT	LEVEL	
MONDAY	5PM	English	Advanced Higher	
	5PM	Physics	National 5	
	5PM	RMPS	Higher	
	6PM	Maths	National 5	
	6PM	RMPS	National 5	
	6PM	Physics	Higher	
	6PM	Physics	Advanced Higher	
	6PM	Human Biology	Higher	
	6PM	Business Management	National 5	
	7PM	Application of Maths	Higher	
	7PM	Business Management	Advanced Higher	
	7PM	PE	Higher	
	7PM	Biology	Higher	
	7PM	Computing Science	Higher	
TUESDAY	5pm	Modern Studies	Higher	
	5PM	Geography	National 5	
	5PM	Music	National 5	
	5PM	Maths	National 4	
	5PM	Maths	Higher	
	6PM	Gaelic (learners)	National 5	
	6pm	Spanish	Higher	
	6PM	Maths	Advanced Higher	
	6PM	Art & Design	National 5/ Higher	
	6PM	Business Management	Higher	
	6PM	Chemistry	Advanced Higher	
	6PM	Music	Higher	
	7PM	Gaelic (learners)	Higher	
	7PM	Chemistry	National 5	
WEDNESDAY	5pm	German	Higher	
	5pm	Graphic Communication	Higher	
	5pm	Geography	Higher	
	5pm	Applications of Maths	National 5	
	6pm	Graphic Communication	National 5	
	6pm	Gaidhlig	Higher	
	6pm	English	National 4	
	6pm	Design & Manufacture	National 5	
	7pm	Gaidhlig	National 5	
	7pm	Design & Manufacture	Higher	
	THURSDAY	5pm	PE	National 5
		5PM	English	Higher
		6PM	Engineering Science	Higher
		6PM	Chemistry	Higher
7PM		History	National 5	
7PM		Health & Food Technology	National 5/Higher	


Pupils should sign up using the information (QR code or website link) below without delay and use this as part of their daily/weekly study timetable to #DoMoreNow between now and Christmas. This will really pay off ahead of Prelims if pupils do more in the first half of the year.



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## STUDY SUPPORT 2022/23




49 live online webinars each week, covering 26 subjects, ranging across levels from N4 through to N5, Higher and AH.

To view the full Study Support timetable and find out how to register, scan the QR code below or visit



[www.e-sgoil.com/study-support/](http://www.e-sgoil.com/study-support/)


National e-Learning Offer



### SCHOLAR

SCHOLAR is also available in the subjects and levels listed below, and accessible through GLOW. Pupils in these subjects are automatically added into these resources as part of their coursework, and in there they can find support resources, assessment questions, hints, tips, study guides and a lot more.

Available Courses

Humanities and Social Sciences				Languages				Sciences			
	N5	H	AH		N5	H	AH		N5	H	AH
Accounting		✓	✓	ESOL	✓	✓	**	Applications of Mathematics	✓	✓	**
Art and Design		✓		French	*	✓	✓	Biology	✓	✓	✓
Business Management		✓	✓	Gaelic	*	✓		Chemistry	✓	✓	✓
Economics		✓	✓	German	*	✓	✓	Computing Science	✓	✓	✓
English	✓	✓	✓	Mandarin	✓			Human Biology	**	✓	**
Psychology		✓	**	Spanish	*	✓	✓	Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
								Physics	✓	✓	✓

\* Support materials only  
\*\* No SQA qualification for this subject level

Please have a discussion at home and ensure that your young person has signed up and is using these resources to enhance and consolidate the work already covered in classes.



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## **GIRFEC Wellbeing Evening – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022** 7-9pm

You will have already received an invitation to our GIRFEC Wellbeing Evening next Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October from 7-9pm in the Academy. This evening has been organised by Mrs Law (Depute Head Teacher, Pupil Support) and our Local Area GIRFEC Group partners, based on feedback from yourselves as parents/carers. We have listened to your views and your requests for sessions on relevant topics and themes that are pertinent to your young people and families across our local community.

The evening will begin with everyone together for a general introduction and overview, and then parents/carers will have the opportunity to opt in to three different short workshops, prior to an informal Q+A and refreshments in the last half hour, supported by our Parent Council.

It promises to be a worthwhile event, and we look forward to seeing you there.

## **S1 Parent/Carer Open Day / Information Session – ‘Save the Date’**

We plan to invite our S1 Parents/Carers into Portlethen Academy during the school day on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**. The purpose of this is to get to know key school staff, to see S1 lessons ‘in action’, and to understand a bit more about some of our key features across the school e.g., our Guidance/House Structure, Clan, Expectations of All and Universal Support.

Further information will follow from the S1 Year Heads (Mrs Miller and Mrs MacKenzie) in due course, and there will be time slots to book in to throughout the day. We wanted to give you notice to be able to plan your work scheduled around this.

As ever, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school via our communication channels outlined above.

Yours sincerely

**Barry Drennan**  
Head Teacher

**Portlethen Local GIRFEC Group**

**getting it right for every child in Aberdeenshire**

**Wellbeing Workshop Evening @ Portlethen Academy Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 22 7pm – 9pm**

Come along to a range of workshops led by our Guidance Teachers, Community Learning and Development Team, Police colleagues, Social Work and Community Justice colleagues and more...

Designed to support you, as parents and carers, to support your children and young people with their wellbeing.