



Portlethen Academy
Bruntland Road
Portlethen
Aberdeen AB12 4QL
Tel: 01224 087880
Email: portlethen.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk
Twitter: @PortyAcad @aberdeenshire

1st June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

SQA Exams

It is hard to believe that the SQA Exam diet for Session 2022-23 is already over. It has most definitely flown by.

We met with all returning 'new' S5/6 pupils yesterday as part of their Senior Phase Induction and made sure to congratulate them on how they conducted themselves throughout this time. We know it can be an extremely stressful experience; however, our Chief Invigilator commented on how well each pupil presented themselves throughout every exam and question paper. Well done! We hope the results in August match their efforts throughout the year.

New Timetables (S2-6)

New timetables begin from next Monday 5th June 2023 where every year group moves up and begins their work for next session. This is a huge logistical piece of work, and we are very grateful to Mr Cowie (DHT), our Curriculum Leadership Group (staff) and our Office Staff for all their work in pulling this together each year.

If there are any issues or required changes for the timetable of your young person, please be patient next week. The Guidance Team will share a process with pupils to notify them of any issues, and they will seek the pupils out individually when they are not teaching to discuss in more detail. It may take a few days for things to settle in and for changes to be made, as class numbers and appropriate pathways/levels for each pupil need to be taken into consideration.

*It is important that pupils remain in all their timetabled classes until any change has been fully confirmed and checked, and new timetables have been printed.

Shared School Vision and Values

Since March 2023 we have been engaging in a refresh of our School Shared Vision and Values. This has been a big undertaking and has involved seeking the views of all pupils, all staff, yourselves as parents/carers, and our local business partners in many focus group discussions, surveys, and most recently with our Vision/Values Day on Wednesday 24th May 2023.

In this event we shared our most recent Draft Vision and Values and sought additional information to begin to bring this information to life. From all the information gathered, we have agreed on the following thus far:



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In Portlethen Academy, our vision is **‘to be the very best we can be!’**

To achieve this, we are **‘READY’**:

- Ready for learning
- Ready to contribute to our local community
- Ready to overcome challenges
- Ready for life and the world of work

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

RESILIENCE

We are working now on refreshing our ‘Expectations of All’ policy and collating information around what each of these ‘Ready’ statements and ‘Values’ look and feel like across the school. More information to follow in due course, and further opportunities to have your say.

Uniform

We have held recent Assemblies with our pupils to reiterate our expectations around School Uniform from the change of timetable and beyond. From August 2022 the standard of Uniform wearing was exceptional; however, from Dec 2022/Jan 2023 this has significantly decreased, and we need to see an immediate improvement. I have been liaising with our Parent Council and we hope to be able to publicise a ‘swap shop’ in due course, to help reduce the cost of the school day.

As you know, our Uniform in Portlethen Academy is very plain and non-branded to remain affordable to all. The only item with our school logo on it is a school tie, which can be purchased from the School Office for £5.

Our Uniform expectations are as follows:

Expectations of All	Not Accepted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie – Junior (S1-3) – School Colours Senior (S4-6) – Black *Available from School Office for £4.80/5 • White collar – shirt/polo shirt Plain black jumper, V-neck, cardigan if extra layer needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black trousers, skirt, jeans • Black/dark trainers or shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Leggings / Sports Wear / Joggers • Jackets and hats/hoods (to be removed in school/workplace). • No bright / coloured trainers or shoes.



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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, and to have this noted on their file and timetabled teachers informed.

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 S3/4 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.

The benefits of wearing a school uniform cannot be underestimated. It creates equity across our pupils; improves school ethos and behaviour; and gets our pupils ready for the world of work amongst many other things. Information about School Clothing Grants for those eligible can be accessed here: [School clothing grants - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

*Please can you ensure you discuss this information with your young person and help to check they are dressed appropriately for school each day. If pupils and parents/carers need some time to be able to purchase appropriate items, please also liaise with your child's Guidance Teacher in the first instance to make them aware. Clan Leaders will be checking Uniform regularly and Guidance Teachers will liaise with home as required.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next week to begin their new timetables and in improved school uniform. Enjoy the weekend.

Yours sincerely

Barry Drennan
Head Teacher