



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

6th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As Term 2 begins, I would like to draw your attention to a few key pieces of information and updates.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We have collated all available extra-curricular opportunities for pupils this session, and this has recently been published on our school website below and on our School Twitter/X account

@PortyAcad: [Portlethen-Academy-Extra-Curricular-Activities-Session-2023-24.pdf](#)

Pupils have had this shared via Clans; however, it would be great to also discuss at home and encourage as much participation as possible. Please do take a look and ensure you follow our Twitter (X) and Facebook pages, to keep up to date with all school events and successes.

Education Scotland – Briefing Paper

I am delighted to share that Portlethen Academy has featured quite prominently in a very recently published Education Scotland Briefing Paper. The paper focuses on Senior Phase curricular models across Scotland and our Foundation Apprenticeship model and achievements. Links below, and paper attached. (Portlethen Academy - Pages 23-28)

Education Scotland - Realising Parity in the Senior Phase: Learner Pathways Briefing Paper:

<https://education.gov.scot/media/sxtnrhww/briefing-paper-1-realising-parity-in-the-senior-phase.pdf>

This is testament to the hard work of Craig Cowie (Depute Head Teacher), our Curriculum/Timetetable Group, all staff delivering in school and externally, support from the Aberdeenshire DYW/FA Team and our pupils past and present. The pupil stories on Page 27 are so powerful to hear, and I am sure many of you will see some familiar faces.

A big thank you to Craig and all involved. We are very #ProudOfPorty!

Sponsored Walk Total

A huge thank you again to all who managed to raise some sponsorship money for our recent Sponsored Walk. I am delighted to share that our final total raised is £5708.43, which is fantastic.



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This goes towards our School Fund and directly towards pupil opportunities such as school trips, excursions, and events, to help reduce costs to parents/carers and pupils.

Quiz Night – Reminder

A reminder that a Quiz Night is being organised by our Parent Council on **Friday 24th November 2023**. Details are shared below. Please ensure you sign-up for your Team entry without delay.



Teams of up to 4 can register for this event for only £10 here: <https://forms.office.com/e/qvKsqgugNW> or by scanning the QR code in the poster below.

This is going to be a fun night. Questions are being generated by pupils in different faculties- so will be questions to suit all. All ages and member of the community are all welcome to attend.

Make sure you register your Team now for this fun night. Refreshments will be available to purchase on the night or bring your own. (No alcoholic beverages please). A cash prize will be awarded to the winning team.

If you have any questions, please get in touch by emailing: PortlethenAcademyPC@outlook.com.

Merits / Recognising Success

A big focus in our school improvement priorities for this session is in recognising those pupils who consistently meet our [Expectations of All](#), and go over and above the minimum that is expected.

Following consultation with pupils, our Pupil Action Group, staff, and our Parent Council, we have agreed to bring back Merits from this session onwards. We have consulted on our Merit categories and have linked these closely to our newly refreshed Vision and Values. Please see below:



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Merit Categories

1. **RESPECT/RESPONSIBILITY** – consistently meeting our Expectations of All.
2. **READY FOR LEARNING** - Outstanding piece of work.
3. **BE THE VERY BEST YOU CAN BE** - going out of your way to help someone in class, corridors, or the school.
4. **CONTRIBUTING** – to our school ethos and local community.
5. **RESILIENCE** – overcoming a barrier or challenge in learning.
6. **OTHER** – Faculty/Teacher/Staff discretion.

Merit certificates will be shared with pupils and parents/carers once a specific number have been reached, and totals shared with Clans, Clan Leaders, Guidance Teachers, and Year Heads. We look forward to celebrating the successes and achievements of our pupils more regularly.

YoungScot Survey

[YoungScot](#) have been in touch to share details of a survey for pupils, which we would encourage discussing and completing at home.

We currently have an opportunity for your pupils to share their thoughts on what they need to feel ready to learn and engage with education. This is a chance for young people to directly feed into the wider work of the Scottish Attainment Challenge with their insights being shared anonymously with the Scottish Government.

This survey takes only 5 minutes to complete and young people will receive 100 Young Scot Rewards points for completing it. The survey can be accessed from here: [YoungScot Survey](#)

Wishing everyone a great start to the term.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Drennan
Head Teacher