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28th April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our SQA Exams are well underway and our senior pupils are now working hard to ensure they do their best in completing their coursework or revising for their examinations. Pupils on study leave are welcome to come into school to use the study rooms or work from home.

Staff News

Last month we were able to appoint Miss Katie MacPhee to Principal Teacher of Pupil Support (Glamaig House) and she will be taking up this position on the 29th May. Parents of G House pupils should continue to contact Mr Coles during May, after which he will be returning to his substantive post in English. I wish to thank Mr Coles for his support of the Gaelic Medium pupils over the last 20 months.

We continue to advertise several teaching positions and look forward to making a number of new appointments to start in August 2023.

Uniform

We wish to thank parents and carers for supporting our uniform policy which ties in with our school value of being READY to learn. Not only does wearing uniform give pupils a sense of belonging and make the morning routine easier, but it also helps create a common identity regardless of background, finance, culture or religion. As part of our policy, we try to keep uniform as manageable and affordable as possible, by asking for pupils to wear plain white shirts, black shoes, black trousers and black jumpers or the school hoodie. Could I ask parents to bear our uniform policy in mind when they are purchasing new clothing for next year? Clothing grants are available for some families, depending on individual circumstances:

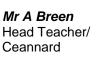
https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools -

grants and benefits/10/free school meals and assistance with clothing

We introduced the PHS hoodie in 2021 and this has proved very popular with our young people. We will be doing another order before the end of term to allow hoodies to arrive shortly in the new session. We also have a number of freshly laundered shirts and jumpers that pupils are able to access if they do not have uniform - if you have any old shirts or jumpers that are in good condition but are too small, we will always be happy to add them to our stock. Please hand them in to Reception.

Promoting Positive Relationships

The diversity of our staff and pupils in Portree High School is at the core of our success. Strong relationships, and inclusion of all different types of people has been recognised as a key strength at Portree High School. As a staff we strive to develop good, positive relationships with all pupils and while most relationships and behaviour are positive, there are issues with persistent and low-level disruption that can interrupt learning.





Striving for Excellence

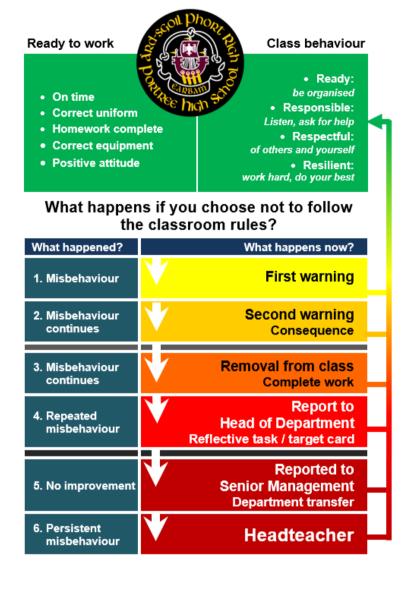




The ethos of 'Promoting Positive Relationships' recognises that everyone needs to be supported to find their role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of a community where everyone is safe, healthy, respected, achieving, nurtured, active, responsible and included. (SHANARRI.) It recognises that it is as important to promote good behaviour, as it is to discourage poor behaviour. We are having a focussed relaunch of the policy with our pupils throughout this term so that they are clear about our expectations, to ensure a positive learning environment for all pupils. I have attached a Positive Behaviour flowchart for further information.

Parent Council Meeting

The Parent Council is vital to ensure a working partnership with the school to represent the wider parental views. Parent Councils have an important role to play in school improvement by ensuring that the parental perspective is represented and taken into account. Our next Parent Council meeting takes place at the school on Tuesday 2nd May at 6pm. All parents/carers are welcome to attend in person, or alternatively join through online through the Google Meets link:



Video call link: https://meet.google.com/adc-pumo-nqs

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with either myself or your child's Pupil Support teacher if you would like more information about Parent Council or if you wish to discuss anything.

Finally, I wish to remind parents and carers that we are closed for public holidays the following two Mondays: 1st and 8th May.

I wish you a good long weekend. Best wishes.

Tony Breen, Head Teacher