



An t-Eilean Sgitheanach

www.portreehigh.hIGHLAND.sch.uk

PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL

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25 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We plan to have our delayed Parent Council AGM on Wednesday the 30th of September. It will be at 6.30pm and the google meet code has been emailed to all pupils. Please contact the school if your child cannot share this with you. All parents of Portree High School pupils are welcome to attend.

I had hoped to be able to give you an update on the Scottish Qualifications Authority exams for next year. However, there has been a delay in this. John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills wishes to wait until the Priestley Report into the SQA Examination diet of 2020 has been published. It is hoped that the SQA will then inform schools about the 2021 exam diet.

I appreciate that this is a worrying time with much speculation so I want to reassure you that we are continuing as normal with our Senior phase, S4, 5 and 6, ensuring assessments are being done and as much evidence as possible is being produced.

The staggered breaks and lunchtimes continue. We plan to allow S6 to leave school premises at lunchtimes from the last week of this term and then gradually to relax the rules using a phased approach with S5 being allowed out at lunchtimes the first week back after the October holidays. S1 will however be asked to remain in school at lunchtimes all session as we indicated in June. We appreciate your ongoing support in this.

As the weather worsens and winter arrives pupils will be allowed to wear jackets in class. Nicky Grant, Executive Education Officer for Educational and Learning sent a letter out to parents recently about this. She wishes it to be known however that she still believes in schools having a uniform and a dress code policy and she does not wish these rules relaxed. She was merely referring to pupils being allowed to wear extra clothing in class as the weather turns colder and if the temperature in the classes is lower than normal.

We are grateful to Ragtag in Broadford for supplying 130 masks for us. We are however beginning to run out so could you please ensure that your youngster has a mask – indeed it would be good if they also carried a spare.

Pupils are being very good at remembering the routines: facemasks, cleaning desks and chairs, handwashing and hand sanitising and trying to keep a two metre distance. They are not so good at remembering to tie their seat belts on the buses. Please remind them to do so every time they are travelling on school transport. This seems to be an ongoing issue and one that really needs to be addressed.

As always, if you wish to discuss anything or talk to a specific member of the Support Staff then please either e-mail or call the school's number 01478 614810. We are available as normal.

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Thank you for your ongoing support in these difficult times.

Catherine A Macdonald

Catherine A MacDonald
Head Teacher

Miss C A MacDonald
Head Teacher/Ceannard