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Dear Parents and Carers

As we enter the next phase of lockdown I am sure that you have many questions including “what happens on August 11?”. The first thing to say is that it will not be business as usual. There are still many unanswered questions and, instead of trying to give you a number of possible scenarios I will tell you what I know. I also enclose a letter from Paul Senior the new Executive Chief Officer for Education and Learning which maps out the way forward.

The Highland Council will shortly be publishing a leaflet for parents and carers in a “Frequently Asked Questions” format. This will hopefully give you all the further information you require.

So what do I know?

I know that most pupils have been working well and that staff are really pleased with them. Indeed, I have never before handed out so many Headteacher commendation certificates!

Pupil Support staff have been in contact with pupils if there are any concerns and have been monitoring attendance. They are available to all parents/carers at the usual e-mail addresses so please continue to contact them.

The Senior Leadership team have also been and will continue to be available to answer any of your questions.

Next week we begin to look at risk assessments and room capacity. This is a long process and will take much consideration.

The Key Worker and the Keeping in Touch Hubs are operating well with staff from Portree High School, Primaries and Highlife Highland in attendance.

The SQA estimates have now been sent to the SQA and we await the results in August. They will be available to pupils on the 4th of August. Below is a statement from Nicky Grant Interim Head of Education regarding this:

“Friday 29 May was the deadline for schools to send estimates to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) as part of this year’s process for arriving at final grades, following the cancellation of this year’s exams. SQA will now check and validate the information we have submitted. SQA will now moderate it, if necessary, to ensure consistency across schools and colleges and with results from previous years and will use the information from these estimates, in addition to prior learner attainment, where this is available. For example, if learners achieved National 5 or Higher courses, in a previous year. SQA will also look at schools’ previous history of estimating and attainment in each subject and level. SQA may moderate these estimates, up or down, if that is required. This process will produce the results for learners, which will be issued to candidates on 4 August.

Nicky Grant, Interim Head of Education, said, “We would like to thank all of our teaching staff who were involved in the crucial process of submitting estimates. We very much

appreciate their hard work and professionalism as they carried out a complex task that was operating for the first time ever. Their overall professional judgement, based on the available evidence from all candidate activity across the year, is a key part of the process. We are also very grateful to our Principal Teachers, Depute Head Teachers and Head Teachers for carrying out rigorous quality assurance of the estimates across all subjects and courses, to ensure that they accurately capture the attainment of our young people during this very unusual session. It is now over to SQA to apply their moderation procedures and we look forward to seeing our Highland-wide results in August.”

Applications for school clothing grants and free school meals are now available and are on a single form – the link is given below so please take advantage of this.

www.highland.gov.uk/schoolmealsandclothinggrants.

Finally, as always please get in touch if you have any questions, concerns or are just looking for some reassurance. The health and well-being of our pupils remains our top priority.

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Yours faithfully

Catherine A. MacDonald.

Miss C A MacDonald
Head Teacher/Ceannard

