



An t-Eilean Sgitheanach

[www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk](http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk)

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18 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

2020 is about to draw to a close and who would have anticipated the year that has passed? Face masks, hand sanitisers, one-way systems, staggered intervals and lunchtimes, a forensic cleaning regime - it has all now become common place.

I wish at the outset to pay tribute to all of the pupils and staff of Portree High School – cleaners, our Facility Management team, cooks, clerical staff, PSAs and teachers - together we have tried to make the school as safe as possible and crucially, an environment where meaningful learning and teaching can still take place. It truly has been a team effort.

The SQA exams have all now been cancelled and the first few months of 2021 will involve many internal assessments for S4, 5 and 6 pupils; Mr Breen issued a letter earlier in the week with the most up-to-date information.

We will make sure that it is as seamless, as transparent and as robust a process as possible; I appreciate that these are stressful times for our pupils and we will aim to ensure that our SQA assessments are done with rigour and are as balanced as possible without compromising on achieving the best results for pupils.

We have tried to make school as normal as we can within the constraints placed upon us. S4,5 and 6 have had interim reports and S2 received full reports on Wednesday. We held a Parent Council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> and were pleased with the numbers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Council for all their help and support this year.

Extracurricular activities and study class have now been established again. January will also see us begin a new relationship with Outward Bound. Instead of S2 going to them they will come here. More details will follow! We will also be re-establishing our relationship with Columba 1400.

Our last day will have the usual festivities, albeit virtually! A Talent Show, a panto – courtesy of the National Theatre of Scotland and a Christmas quiz. We also managed to hold Christmas Worship Assemblies for S1, delivered by Reverend Duncan Murchison.

As ever if you have any questions or concerns then please get in touch.

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School closes at 3.40 pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will reopen at 8.40 am on Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.

I hope you and your family have a safe, peaceful and enjoyable holiday. Thank you for your support, your patience and your understanding.

Yours faithfully

Catherine A MacDonald  
Head Teacher

*Miss C A MacDonald*  
Head Teacher/Ceannard