



Viewfield Road
Portree
Isle of Skye
IV51 9ET
Phone/Fon - 01478 614810

Portree High School Àrd-Sgoil Phort Rìgh

E-mail: portree.high@highland.gov.uk
<http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk>

20th August 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

WELCOME

I hope and trust that you have had a good summer, and that you and your family had time to refresh the batteries (despite the weather)! As we start this new session, we welcome back our young people and extend our hand of welcome to our new pupils in S1 as they start today. This week we have also welcomed new members of teaching staff to the school: Mr Stocek (Maths), Miss Lang (Languages), Miss C MacDonald (English) and Miss K MacDougall (Gaelic). Unfortunately, we still have a vacancy in Maths, so a number of changes to the teaching sets have been made to ensure that all pupils are in an appropriate Maths class- this includes changes to our Gaelic Medium Maths provision for S2-4.

COMMUNICATION

We believe in partnerships between pupils, parents, staff, and with the local community and we look forward to working together over this session to provide the best learning, teaching and support possible in order to help them to develop as young people who are *Ready* for any challenge, who demonstrate *Responsibility*, who are *Respectful* to others and who are *Resilient*.

Communication is important to us, so please do get in contact with the school if you need any assistance. If you have any pastoral concerns, the first port of call should be to contact your child's Pupil Support teacher by email or telephone.

Glamaig	Miss K MacPhee	katie.macphee@highland.gov.uk
Marsco	Mr N Burrows	neil.burrows@highland.gov.uk
Tianavaig	Mrs D Macleod	dawn.macleod@highland.gov.uk
Support for Learning	Mr M Fox	martin.fox@highland.gov.uk

We will be issuing Data Collection Forms to your child over the next two weeks. Can I ask that you check and update the details if required- please do return the forms even if there are no changes.

We have a "[Daily Information](#)" slideshow that our pupils are shown each day which contains lots of information about events, After school activities and other notices. Parents are encouraged to check this regularly- the link can also be found on our website <https://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk>. Finally, we share our successes and other parental information on our [school facebook](#) page.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Last week, the Scottish Government published their "[Mobile Phone Guidance for Scotland's Schools](#)" and as indicated in last term's Skyelines newsletter, we would like our school to be phone-free during the school day- both in classrooms and corridors. There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that over-exposure to mobile phone use can result in limited concentration, unhappiness / isolation, and that mobile phones are disrupting teaching & learning in schools. I would therefore ask that parents and carers reinforce our position that phones should be turned off and put away at the start of the school day, either in their bags or their lockers, which are available to all pupils for a refundable £5 deposit. A small number of exemptions may occur for pupils who require their phones for medical purposes. We want our classrooms to be places where learning is a priority and our social spaces a place where pupil wellbeing is at the forefront, including developing positive relationships and improving our young people's face-to-face social interactions. If a pupil is on their phone during the school day, we will store the phone in reception and it can be collected at the end of the day. If repeated incidents occur, we will contact parents/carers to inform them.

We would be grateful for your support in this matter, but we are aware that on occasion you may need to contact your child- if you do need to get a message to your child, please contact the school office, who will pass the message on.

Mr A Breen
Head Teacher/Ceannard

Striving for Excellence

READY, RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL, RESILIENT





ATTENDANCE

We want every student to do their very best and therefore full school attendance is vital to ensure that students are successful in their learning. Consequently, I would request that parents or carers please telephone or email the school in the morning of any absence (PortreeHigh.Absence@highland.gov.uk). We have a text delivery system in place, which will alert parents or carers if their child is absent from school and we have not been notified. We would appreciate it if parents and carers could please take their vacations within the school holidays if possible; we cannot authorise holidays outwith these dates.

FINANCE

Parents and carers are also encouraged to [apply for assistance](#) with school meals and clothing if they are eligible. The allowance goes directly into your child's canteen account and it is a completely anonymous process (please note that if you were in receipt of this allowance previously, you will need to reapply each year). I would encourage you to apply if you are eligible- the amount of Pupil Equity Funding the school receives (which funds our Numeracy and Literacy Support Programmes) is determined by the levels of free school meals provided.

PARENT COUNCIL

Finally, I would like to make a plea for parents to support our Parent Council. All parents/carers are invited to get involved, and the Annual General Meeting will be arranged at the start of September. Everyone is welcome to come along, whether you are currently in the Parent Council, or not. Details will be sent nearer the time.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Breen, Head Teacher

PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL
Attendance Matters

Days missed can soon add up!

100%	0 lessons missed	0 DAYS
95%	66 lessons missed	10 DAYS
90%	132 lessons missed	4 weeks
85%	198 lessons missed	6 weeks

Just 1 day absence per fortnight would equate to over a year missed over their of school life

As part of the Highland Council Attendance Policy, attendance below 85% will be monitored by School and HC Staff