



Ard-sgoil Phort Rìgh  
Portree High School  
Viewfield Road  
Portree  
Isle of Skye

(01478) 614810

[Portree.high@highland.gov.uk](http://Portree.high@highland.gov.uk)

Absences:  
[Portreehigh.absence@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Portreehigh.absence@highland.gov.uk)

Our new session is well underway and already the work of the school continues to be busy. We have put together our school calendar for the year – some important details listed overleaf and on our website - which lists Parents' Evenings, key dates for Prelims, SQA exams and school trips, etc.

We have welcomed a number of new members of teaching staff this term, and to help you put a face to the name, we have included a page in this term's Skyelines.

As a leadership term, we work together to give our Young People the very best opportunities to succeed, and we firmly believe that full school attendance is vital to ensure that students are successful in their learning. P3-7 contain some useful information as to why school attendance is important. We have been reminding our young people about this in assemblies, and we would ask parents and carers to support us in this. We have a number of unexplained absences each term which our pupil support staff work to clear, so I would be grateful that parents or carers please telephone or email the school in the morning of any absence ([PortreeHigh.Absence@highland.gov.uk](mailto: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 also like to remind parents that your child's Pupil Support teacher is the first port of call with any concern, whether pastoral or subject-based issues.

We recently issued Data Collection Forms for you to update and we are grateful to those who have returned them so promptly. Could I please remind those who have not yet returned them to do so as soon as possible?

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.

**Mr T Breen, Head Teacher**

- [\*● Extracurricular activities\*](#)
- [\*● Allotment adventures\*](#)
- [\*● Bud Bus\*](#)
- [\*● Attendance guidelines\*](#)
- [\*● Key Dates\*](#)
- [\*● Staff news\*](#)

**HOUSE**

**PUPIL SUPPORT**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS**

**Glamaig:**

Miss K MacPhee

[katie.macphee@highland.gov.uk](mailto:katie.macphee@highland.gov.uk)

**Marsco:**

Mr N Burrows

[neil.burrows@highland.gov.uk](mailto:neil.burrows@highland.gov.uk)

**Tianavaig:**

Mrs D MacLeod

[dawn.macleod@highland.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.macleod@highland.gov.uk)



# Key dates

	S1 Interim report	S1 Full Report	S2 Interim report	S2 Full Report	S3 Interim report	S3 Full Report	S4 Interim report	S4 Full Report	S5/6 Interim report	S5/6 Full Report
Reports issued to pupils	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 24	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 24	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 23	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar 24	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 23	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar 24	21 <sup>st</sup> Feb 24	15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 23	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct 23	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 24
Date of Parents' Evenings	Tuesday, 14th November 2023		Thursday, 8th February 2024		Tuesday, 28th November 2023		Tuesday, 27th February 2024		Wednesday, 1st November 2023	

## 2023

- October holidays - 9 October to 20 October
- N5 English Prelim-Monday 4 December
- Christmas and New Year break - 25 December to 5 January

## 2024

- Main Prelims begin 15<sup>th</sup> January
- February break - 19 February and 20 February
- In service day - 21 February
- Easter holidays - 29 March to 12 April
- In service day - 2 May
- May Day - 6 May
- Summer holidays - 28 June to 16 August
- In service day - 19 August
- In service day - 16 September and 17 September
- October holidays - 14 October to 25 October
- Christmas and New Year break - 23 December to 3 January

## PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL

# Attendance Matters



Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential. Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- ✓ To learn.
- ✓ To have social experiences.
- ✓ To connect with others.
- ✓ To experience new things in life.
- ✓ To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- ✓ To achieve.
- ✓ To gain qualifications.
- ✓ To develop life skills.
- ✓ To build confidence and self-esteem.
- ✓ To have the best possible start in life.



When you don't attend school regularly, your chances of success are significantly reduced in later life



# WE MISS YOU YOU MISS OUT



# PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL

## Attendance Matters



! Days missed can soon add up !



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



## PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL

# Attendance Matters



### HOW CAN PARENTS/ CARERS HELP?

- ✓ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ✓ Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- ✓ Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- ✓ Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- ✓ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- ✓ Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- ✓ Take family holidays outside term time.
- ✓ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homework).
- ✓ Attend parent evenings and school events.
- ✓ Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- ✓ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- ✓ Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

Don't be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises - contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher



PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL

# Attendance Matters



HOW CAN PARENTS/ CARERS HELP?

## Family Holidays



- ✓ You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time. Any child or young person who is absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their school work.
- ✓ In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of 190 statutory school days – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time.
- ✓ Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised absence.

Avoid taking family holidays during the school term



## Dancing & Sponsored Walk

Some of our pupils were busy over the weekend- our dancers competed at the Lewis dancing Competition in Stornaway, and a team of South Skye pupils completed a 17 mile sponsored walk, raising funds for their Spain excursion.

4Rs of PHS- Ready, Responsible, Respectful, Resilient!







*Geography fieldwork*

Despite the showery weather, the Higher Geography students were able to work together to collect suitable data during their fieldwork excursion to Braes this term.

*Skye wind Band*

Five of our young people took part in the Skye Wind Band Day on Saturday, making music with members of the Skye wind band plus other musicians from all over Scotland who are part of the wind band association. They were so professional and respectful throughout the day and really did the High School proud.



Pictured (L to R): Eva MacAskill, Megan Campbell, Tom Campbell, Rowan Purrett and



## STEM Engagement Day

This week we had Fionnadh Carroll, STEM Engagement Adviser – My World of Work Live in school, working with our S1 pupils to look at the uses of Drones in the engineering industry.

[#MyWOW](#)

4Rs of PHS- Ready, Respectful,



## Shinty



A well-deserved win for the Skye Camanachd Ladies team, which contain many current and former PHS pupils!



# Poppy Scotland Bud Bus

This term we were delighted to welcome the Poppy Scotland Bud bus. Students learnt about the work of this important, impactful charity and made their own poppy. Thank you to Cat and Colin who engaged our young people so well through their presentations.







Latest News

This month we celebrated a special birthday in our Enhanced Provision group. Calum MacLean had a special 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party in school and was spoiled with the cakes and presents he received!



Former pupil Orla MacLeod has taken up the role of Highland Youth Convener. We are delighted for Orla and we look forward to working with her over the next 12 months.



## New Teaching Staff

We welcomed our new Teaching Staff to the team at the start of the term. We welcomed our Probationer Teachers, Miss K Black to the Science Faculty and Mrs D Fraser to the Gaidhlig Faculty. Mr Neithercut and Miss Poli join the Humanities Faculty. Miss M Travers joins the Creative & wellbeing faculty.



We also welcome Miss S Munro, Mrs R Barrett and Mrs A Morrison to the Pupil Support team. Finally, we welcome Mr T Hodgetts, who has been appointed as School technician, working with the Technology faculty.



## ...and farewell!

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Dolina Matheson, who has been our Gaelic-Medium Science teacher since 2009. WE wish her the very best in her new position at the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway.





## Allotments







A number of our young people have been volunteering at the allotments, both in Portree and in Broadford, where they are developing their crofting skills! We have had different groups of pupils working hard at our allotment project over the last term, from digging beds, edging beds with stones, making raised beds, preparing ground, to eating lots of fruit and trying fresh tomatoes straight from the plant all in the warm sunshine. Thanks to the staff who support them in this endeavour.





# Blythswood appeal

The Blythswood Shoebox appeal is in its 30<sup>th</sup> Year, and once again, we are hoping to send a sizeable donation from staff and young people from Portree High. Could I encourage you to get items for the shoebox over the October Holidays, as they will be collected on Thursday 9th November.

Please ✓ items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.  
**Include the essential items highlighted in the red box.**  
**IMPORTANT: PLEASE ONLY INCLUDE NEW ITEMS.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and Toothpaste	<input type="checkbox"/> Small toy* / gift <small>*small children's toy such as cars, dolls, balls etc. Please only include new shop-bought toys.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweets <small>No chocolate or any other food items. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets. Best before date no earlier than 31st March next year.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hat, scarf, gloves		
<input type="checkbox"/> Soap		
<input type="checkbox"/> Underwear/ Socks/Tights		

**Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)**

- Shampoo or Shower gel
- Face cloth/ Moist wipes
- Deodorant
- Moisturising Cream
- Comb/Brush
- Sanitary Products
- Shaving foam/Razors

**Miscellaneous**

- New Make-up
- Sewing Equipment
- Household Candles

- Screwdrivers/Pliers
- Kitchen Utensils

**Stationery**

- Pens/Pencils/Sharpener
- Notepads/Colouring books
- Rulers/Rubbers

**Clothes and other Items**  
(T-shirts/Pyjamas/Jumpers/ Shirts) etc

- .....
- .....
- .....





The school office receives numerous enquiries about school holidays. The up-to-date calendar and holiday dates are outlined below and can also be viewed on the school website:

<http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk>

The dates can also be accessed on the Highland Council website:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/schools/schooltermdates/>



## HOLIDAY DATES – 2023-2024

Opens	Closes
	1:15pm, Friday 06 October 2023
Monday 23 October 2023	1:15pm, Friday 22 December 2023
Monday 08 January 2023	1:15pm, Friday 16 February 2023
Thursday 22 February 2023	3:40pm, Thursday 28th March 2023
Monday 15 April 2023	Lunchtime, Thursday 27 June 2023

Note:

1. Additional Holidays: May Day - Monday (4<sup>th</sup> May 2023), In-Service Day: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/schools/schooltermdates/>



S5/6 Parents' evening- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November  
 S1 Parents' evening- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
 S3 Parents' Evening- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

PLEASE LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE for any further updates and information.

<http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk>



Please also 'like' PORTREE HIGH SCHOOL ON FACEBOOK, TO CATCH UP ON NEWS, NOTIFICATIONS OF ANY EVENTS, etc.

[www.facebook.com/portreehighschool/](http://www.facebook.com/portreehighschool/)