

Dear Parent / Carer

As we reach the end of Term 2, can I once again thank you all for your continued support throughout 2022. This past term has been a very busy one. As you know HMIE visited Mintlaw Academy during the week of 5 December which meant that both the weeks previous and the week itself were particularly busy ones. I am delighted to say the Inspection went very well and HMIE have now disengaged with Mintlaw Academy. Hopefully it won't be another 13 years before they return! The Inspection Report will be published early next year and we will alert you to its publication when that happens. We did get verbal feedback post the week which was extremely positive so it will be good to see the final report.

In part because of the Inspection and, in part, because Term 2 is always a busy period, both staff and pupils are glad to see the end of term. I think everyone is pleased the Mintlaw Cluster has Friday off this year. The end of term has gone well with the youngsters – and some staff - dressing up and dressing down for charity yesterday. There are lots of pictures on Twitter if you're keen to see the winning entries! Today has seen a return to end of term Christmas Assemblies across all year groups and these have also gone well.

Next term already looks to be a busy one. We have moved our S4-S6 Prelim diet back by one week but planning for the Prelims is now well underway. Our S4 pupils have had the opportunity to visit Macbi and see how the accommodation will look during the exam diet. Pupils who sat the exams last session are unanimous in agreeing that Macbi allowed a good opportunity, away from the everyday life of the school, to sit their exams in relatively peaceful surroundings. As we did last session, we will evaluate the process with the seniors post the prelims and before the SQA exams in May. Seniors now know when their individual exams will be and will once again be offered study leave for the prelim diet. Information on this, and indeed more general arrangements re the exams, will be forwarded in January.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the very best for the holiday period and a positive start to 2023.

L Duthie HT

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