

Dear Parent / Carer

As we move into June, the end of the SQA exams and of the current timetable and get ready to move on to next session's one on Tuesday, I thought it time to share a number of areas with yourselves in terms of where things are across the school.

Firstly a reminder that next Monday, 5th June is a holiday across the Mintlaw Cluster Schools. The weather looks to be good over the weekend so I trust you all have a lovely weekend.

As years one to five become our new S2 to S6, it's always good to remind ourselves of key processes to ensure we all move forwards positively. Can I ask please that you ensure your son/daughter comes to school on Tuesday to start their new timetable in appropriate School Dress Code. It was lovely to see our new S6 today in School Dress Code across the year group. A reminder of our Dress Code is on our website but essentially we are looking for a shirt and tie, plain black trousers or skirt and black footwear. It would be great to start our new timetable with all pupils in appropriate dress code as a real marker of moving forwards positively.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind all parents/ carers that it is important you do not contact your son/daughter during the teaching day. I'm sure you can all appreciate that phone calls / texts during lessons are quite disruptive to ongoing learning and teaching and I have been made aware this is something that does appear to be on the rise. Pupils are clear that they should not be using their phones during lessons unless it is part of learning in that particular subject area so good to ensure everyone is clear about the importance of that. Phones are a key part of where we are in society but it is important for our young people that we work with yourselves as parents to support them in knowing when they should and should not be on them. If you do need to get in touch with your youngster urgently during the teaching day please contact the school office who will ensure any message is passed on. Of course contacting them yourselves during interval / lunch is fine.

We are also keen as a school as we move into the start of our 23/24 session to tighten up on late arrival to class which has become an increasing issue over recent months. I would ask for your support in ensuring your son / daughter is able to get to school in plenty time for the start of the school day and also to discuss with them the importance of getting from lesson to lesson promptly in order to ensure classes can start sharply across all year groups across the school.

We are running Induction programmes for S4 – S6 today and tomorrow and will ensure the information above is shared with our new S4 – S6 pupils as part of the programme of events each year group will participate in. We will also share with our new S2/S3 during year group assemblies in June. I would repeat though, your help in reinforcing the messages would be most helpful.

Looking forward to next session, we are looking as a school at potentially opening a Facebook page. The purpose would be to more broadly share achievements and celebrate success across our school community. As you will be aware we already have a number of Twitter pages, a whole school one and separate pages for individual Faculties. However, we are aware that many of yourselves are already on Facebook and would welcome a page to share our successes across the school via it. I will share more information on this one in August when we have had the opportunity to look at how best to set our new page up. Hopefully this will be a welcome addition for yourselves in your being able to share in the many activities going on across the school in session 23/24.

Once again in closing can I take the opportunity to wish you all a lovely long weekend. Good to enjoy some much needed summer weather across the North East!

Linda Duthie HT

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