



Forres Academy

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Head Teacher: Mrs Carol Stuart, BA MEd



Your Ref:

Our Ref: CS/SH

22nd August 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family enjoyed a good summer break. We look forward to another successful year working with you all and as always at the start of a new session there are a number of issues with which I would like to bring you up-to-date.

Data-capture forms

To ensure we have the most up-to-date information on all pupils, a data capture form will be issued to all pupils to take home this week. It is vital that this is completed and returned as soon as possible. You will fully appreciate that we require information in case of emergencies, important information on medical conditions/allergies, contact details to ensure effective on going communication etc. We realise these can change from year to year and ask that should these change at some point through this session, then you inform us by contacting the school office.

Severe Food Allergies – School Meals

Following recent enquiries and discussions with NHS colleagues, Moray Council legal team and Catering Services, it has been decided to update the Moray Council policy position on school meals/food allergy conditions.

With effect from the start of the 2016-17 school session, the following procedure will apply.

- Any child who is diagnosed as suffering from a severe food allergy (anaphylaxis) will not be served school meals. These children will, as a result of their diagnosis, be carrying an Adrenaline Auto Injector and this will be known to the school as part of the normal medical information held by schools.

There are other children who suffer a mild to moderate food allergy and the following procedure will apply to them:

- Children with a mild to moderate food allergy will be able to partake of school meals provided that a parental consent form is completed. We will send this form to those concerned.

The Catering Service will as a matter of course avoid using obvious sources of nuts however there can be no absolute guarantee of traces of nuts not being present in the foodstuffs. Equally, there may be other food or drink (such as milk) used by the Catering Service that could trigger an anaphylactic shock and parents should ensure that details of their child's allergy are passed to the school.

We will contact parents directly if your son or daughter has a food allergy to ensure the necessary forms are completed.

Parent Council

We will be holding our first Parent Council meeting of the new session on Thursday 8th September at 7.00pm in Room B1. Any parent is welcome to attend these meetings. At the end of last session a number of long serving members left as their children were leaving school. We are therefore in need of new members and thank those of you who have already indicated at parent evenings that you would be interested in joining us.

SQA Results

Overall our examination results were as expected with some excellent individual and departmental results. In

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particular we saw an increase in the % of students gaining 1 or more Highers in S5 and in S6 an increase in the % of students gaining 3 or more and 5 or more Higher passes. Our Advanced Higher passes were the highest in the Local Authority with 27% of students gaining one or more Advanced Highers. I am delighted to inform you that we had five students who gained 5A grades in all 5 of their Higher courses. They are John Bonsall, Robert Fraser, Amber Kenny, Anna Macfadyen and Ross Tulloch. As with many of our students, the results are testament to their hard work and the quality of support provided by both staff and parents.

Guidance Team

As you are probably aware, there have been a number of changes to the Guidance Houses and Guidance staff recently. To ensure all parents are kept fully informed the following provides the most up-to-date information:

Altyre House	Mrs Slater (Monday/Tuesday) Mrs Shepherd (Wednesday/Thursday/Friday)
Culbin House	Mrs Riddoch
Darnaway House	Mrs Stevenson (Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday) Mr Edwards (Friday)
Edinkillie House	Mr Wright (until the October holidays)

Homework Diaries/Student Planners

All students have been issued with homework diaries and are expected to use these for planning and recording homework. New pages have been added which include information on bullying (pages 11-12), the new behaviour management system (page 13), literacy, numeracy and science skills (pages 15 – 18) as well as pages on Skills Development (pages 19-21).

School Dress

We are very pleased with the way our students adhere to our dress code and thank all parents for their continued support. Here is a reminder of the dress code:

- School tie – compulsory
- Black skirt or black trousers – compulsory
- If wearing a jumper it should be black V-neck
- Blazer with school crest (optional)

Following discussions with a representative group from the Pupil Forum the following was agreed:

- Black denims are acceptable as long as they are smart, black and not faded grey
- All shirts/blouses must have a collar so ties can be worn
- No round neck jumpers or sweatshirts
- Black leggings on their own are not acceptable. They can be worn under a skirt
- Plain black cardigans are acceptable
- No logos are acceptable
- Footwear and outdoor clothing are not part of the dress code. Outdoor clothing should be removed in all classrooms

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that our July newsletter is available on the school website www.forresacademy.org.uk where you will also find a lot of useful information about the school including the annual calendar, school handbook, daily bulletins etc.

I hope all our students have a successful year and if you have any concerns at all please contact us and we will ensure you are able to speak with the most appropriate person.

Yours sincerely

CAROL STUART
Head Teacher