



Alford Community Campus

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Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a busy start to the term as we welcome our new pupils and those returning from their summer break. As well as timetabled classes, we offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs and activities for pupils. These will be publicised to all pupils, but particularly our new S1 pupils, at our Fresher's Fayre organised by the Student Council on Tuesday 5 September. We encourage all pupils to come along and look at what's on offer.

We are also planning a full programme of trips and activities for all ages of pupils. Our first Duke of Edinburgh Expedition took place last weekend at Glenlivet. The weather was very mixed but the Silver DOE pupils remained in high spirits and are to be commended for their resilience and commitment.

We have highlighted some key dates in the school calendar below:

### **School Photographs**

Individual pupil photographs for our pupil record system will be taking place on the following dates:

Friday 1 September S1-S3 Pupils

Friday 15 September S4-S6 Pupils

School uniform must be worn for the photograph. The photographer will be Lynn from Tempest. In addition to the taking of photographs for the purposes of the pupil record (copy of whole school privacy notice attached), there will also be the opportunity for parents to purchase individual photographs from Tempest if they wish. Pupils will be issued with a proof photo and information on how to order (there is an option for free delivery to the school). Copyright in such photographs belongs to the photographer involved, not the school or Aberdeenshire Council. There will be no family photographs taken this year.

### **NHS Schools' Vaccination Programme**

Letters and consent forms from the NHS have been issued to relevant pupils today.

### **Key Dates 2023/24**

#### **Term 1**

- 21 August 2023: In-service day (school closed to pupils)
- 22 August 2023: Start of term 1
- Friday 1 September: Tempest Photos (S1-3)
- Tuesday 5 September: Freshers Fayre (clubs and groups)
- Friday 15 September: Tempest Photos (S4-6)
- w/c 18 September: S2 Tracking reports issued to Parents
- Tuesday 19 September: Parent Council Annual General Meeting 19:00-21:00
- w/c 9 October: S4-S6 Tracking reports issued to Parents
- Wednesday 11 October: S1 Parents' Open Evening
- 13 October 2023: end of term 1
- 16 to 27 October 2023: October holiday

## **Term 2**

- 30 October 2023: Start of term 2
- w/c 6 November: NHS flu vaccinations for pupils
- w/c 13 November: S3 reports issued to Parents
- 16 and 17 November 2023: In-service days (school closed to pupils)
- Monday 20 November: Parent Council Meeting 19:00-21:00
- Tuesday 21 November: S4 Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 29 November: S5/6 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 7 December: Christmas Concert
- w/c 11 December: S1 Tracking reports issued to Parents
- Monday 18 December: Christmas Dance (S1-S3)
- Tuesday 19 December: Christmas Dance (S4-S6)
- Friday 22 December 2023: end of term 2
- 25 December 2023 to 5 January 2024 - Christmas holiday

## **Term 3**

- 8 January 2024: start of term 3
- Thursday 11 January to Wednesday 24 January inclusive: S4, S5, S6 assessment diet and study leave
- w/c 22 January: S2 reports issued to Parents
- Tuesday 23 January: Parent Council Meeting 19:00-21:00
- Wednesday 7 February: Course choice evening for pupils going into S4-S6
- Friday 9 February 2024: occasional day holiday for Alford Cluster (school closed to staff and pupils)
- Monday 12 February 2024: mid term holiday (school closed to staff and pupils)
- 13 and 14 February 2024: In-service days (school closed to pupils)
- Monday 19 February: S3 Parents' Evening
- w/c 19 February: S4-S6 reports issued to Parents
- Tuesday 27 February: Course choice evening for pupils going into S3
- Tuesday 5 March: S2 Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 13 March: Parent Council Meeting 19:00-21:00
- 28 March 2023: end of term 3 (NB 29 March is Good Friday Public Holiday)
- 29 March to 12 April 2024: spring holiday

## **Term 4**

- 15 April 2024: start of term 4
- Monday 22 April to end of May inclusive: SQA Exam Diet
- w/c 29 April: Issue S3 Tracking Reports to Parents
- Monday 6 May 2024: May Day holiday (school closed to staff and pupils)
- w/c 13 May: S1 reports issued to Parents
- Tuesday 14 May: Parent Council Meeting 19:00-21:00
- w/c 20 May: Residential Trips (S1-S3)
- Wednesday 22 May to Friday 24 May inclusive: S1-S3 Activities Programme
- End of May/Early June: Timetable change and induction for new S5/6 Pupils
- Monday 3 June: Occasional day holiday for Alford Cluster (school closed to staff and pupils)
- w/c 17 June: P7 Link Week
- Wednesday 19 June: P7 Parent Welcome and Parent Council Meeting
- Tuesday 25 June: Awards Ceremony S1-S3
- Wednesday 26 June: Awards Ceremony S4-S6
- 5 July 2024: end of term 4
- 8 July to 16 August: summer holiday

I would also like ask all Parents/Carers to look out for some information to follow shortly from our School office team about the Annual Family Update Form and Parents' Portal. I really appreciate

your assistance in helping to ensure that we continue to hold accurate and up to date information for our pupils on our pupil record system, Seemis. Parents' Portal is now the default system for the majority of home/school communication so its vitally important that our parents/carers have access to their child and family data. If you do not currently have access, please contact our office team who will be happy to assist you set this up.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a summary of our Improvement Plan Priorities for this session. More detailed information can be found in our school Standards and Quality Report (SQUIP) – an updated version of which will available shortly on our website.

## **Improvement Plan Priorities**

### **Action Plan 1**

Self Evaluation

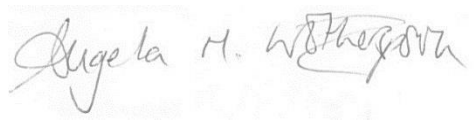
### **Action Plan 2**

To improve learning, teaching, & assessment across Alford Academy.  
To improve the curriculum, offer across Alford Academy, supporting the attainment and achievement of individual pupils.

### **Action Plan 3**

To improve the health & wellbeing of all of our stakeholders as we work through our recovery, renewal, and improvement through the pandemic recovery

Kind regards



Angela M. Wotherspoon (Mrs)  
Head Teacher