



Tain Royal Academy

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Dear Parent/Carers,

I would like to wish you a warm welcome back to the new Academic Session for 2018-2019. I would like to start off by congratulating TRA pupils for the exam results they achieved and I would like to think that we can continue to work together to further improve our results this coming year. There are no exams where pupils can expect to pass easily, each and every exam will require a lot of hard work and resilience on behalf of the pupils as well as ourselves but if we all work together in a positive manner then we give ourselves a much better chance of achieving this.

Another issue that will have a significant influence on the results is attendance as pupils can miss a lot of work over the course of even just a few days absence. There will be of course times when this cannot be helped, such as due to illness or extra-curricular activities, but it is important that any work missed is caught up with, which our staff are very keen to help out with. If a pupil has ninety per cent attendance, on the surface this sounds good but the reality is that the pupil will have missed almost 4 weeks of work, which is a lot to catch up with. It is also important that pupils stay on top of homework and meet the deadlines set to them because not managing to do so will lead to a pile up of work and a feeling of being overwhelmed. We have facilities in school that pupils can use until 5pm, to complete homework which include ICT facilities meaning pupils can use this time to type up work, use Microsoft office or use the internet. It also allows pupils to work in a quiet environment to concentrate on their work. This study club is open to all pupils from S1 to S6 and we have bus passes for pupils, should they usually require transport home.

S1-S4 Pupils have all been issued with their School Planner. Could I encourage you please to look at your child's school planner each week. Each lesson pupils are given a learning intention which is basically what the teacher intends the pupil to have learned by the end of the lesson. Pupils should write these learning intentions in their planners for every lesson. On a Friday we go through their planners with the pupils in Plus Time, the Plus Time teacher signs the week off and there is also a space for the parents to sign off for the week. I would be grateful if you could do this on a Thursday before we discuss the pupils' progress with them on the Friday.

I would like to congratulate Duthus for winning this year's House Competition. It was a very close contest and the sports day went a large way to deciding the final outcome. The PE department as well as a large number of the staff helped make the school sports day a very successful and thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone.

We have some new members of staff joining us for the start of the new session, Dr Rachel Dance in Science, Ms Gayle Henderson in Modern Languages, plus the addition of 3 probationers – Mr Paul Ferrier in RME, Miss Amy McNeil in History/Modern Studies and Mrs Melanie Philip in Science.

Sadly leaving us are Mrs Mairi McDermott and Mrs Marion Munro who are retiring. Mr Iain Carlton will be retiring this September also. I wish them all the very best for the future.

Tempest Photography will be with us on Wednesday 19th September for pupil photographs.

In Service dates for this coming term are as follows:

- Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 September 2018

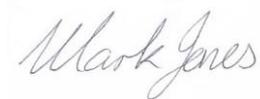
The term dates for 2018/19 and 19/20 have also been agreed and are available on the Highland Council website at http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates

This year's school sponsored walk will be on Friday 12th October, the last day of this term. We did the same last year and it seemed to work well and was a nice way to end the term. There will be a couple of house assemblies during this term to explain to the pupils what will be happening on the day and when sponsor forms will be issued.

We are working with the primary schools to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I. Pupils are making poppies as well as writing a message to go with these poppies which will be displayed communally for Remembrance Day. A lot of time has gone in to preparing for this event, especially from Mrs Gardiner who has coordinated it all and I would like to thank her for this.

Finally I would like to invite you to join the Parent Council. The annual AGM is on Thursday 13th September, starting at 6:45pm so please come along.

Yours faithfully



Mark Jones
Rector