

*A'Cholaisde Ghàidhlig / The Gaelic College*

There have been a number of questions asked and statements made in recent days with regard to Gaelic College programming. As a result of this, we would like to take this opportunity to provide the public with accurate information. The following Q&A has been prepared to provide clarity on these programming issues.

1. Has the Gaelic College cut Highland Dancing from its' curriculum?

No. Highland Dancing will be offered during the March Break Program in 2012 as well as in the Summer Program for 2012.

2. Is it the hope of the Gaelic College to phase out Highland Dancing?

No.

3. Will the Gaelic College offer only "non-competitive" studies moving forward into 2012?

No. The Gaelic College will continue to offer and develop many disciplines. Some will have an element of competition and some will not.

4. Will studies in the Great Highland Bagpipe be available moving forward into 2012?

Yes. The Great Highland Bagpipe will continue to be taught at the Gaelic College. In the March Break 2012 and Summer School 2012 brochures, the name on the piping course has been changed to Cape Breton piping. This has been done to emphasize this particular style of piping and by no means excludes any style of piping previously taught at the Gaelic College.

5. Will the Gaelic College teach only Cape Breton style piping?

No. Cape Breton style piping will be emphasized in our piping course offerings as will the more competitive style of piping used in competition bands. Excellence is the goal and our instructors will have the experience of working with and performing in competition pipe bands as well as the unique ability to play the Cape Breton style of piping which is inherent to our Gaelic Culture.

6. Will the Gaelic College offer a high caliber of instruction in all of its' disciplines?

Yes. Professionals who excel in their fields will teach at the Gaelic College.

7. Is there presently a Pipe Band at the Gaelic College?

No. There has not been a pipe band at the Gaelic College since 2006.

8. Will there be a Pipe Band re-established at the Gaelic College?

Yes. In 2012, a new Pipe Band will be established under the direction of past mass band competitors Kenneth MacKenzie and Paul K. MacNeil. Both pipers bring experience and expertise in both competition style and Cape Breton style piping.

9. Will Bursaries be removed or no longer offered through the Gaelic College?

No. The past years' bursaries will continue to be offered through the Gaelic College.

We appreciate the overwhelming response and interest in the College and welcome further communication once we have had the opportunity to complete our planning session in January 2012.