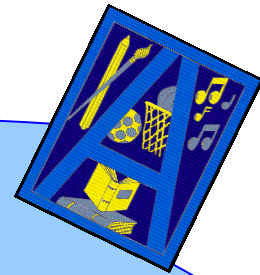


Abercorn News

April 2016



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the April edition of our newsletter. As always this has been an extremely busy month for all of the pupils and staff in Abercorn. Our senior pupils are busy completing their SQA and wider achievement assessments. A number of our senior pupils are preparing for their SQA National 5 examinations next week and two students completed their National 5 Admin & IT assignment last week. I was very pleased with their mature attitude towards these and their ability to keep very level headed during this stressful time. I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success when they receive their results in early August.

As you will see from this newsletter we have been successful for the third year in a row winning the Regional Football competition. The national finals take place on 18th May. Congratulations on their success so far, I am sure you will join with me in wishing them every success for their forthcoming final.

Mrs Collie and our Shinty Team took part in National Shinty Competition in Aviemore this week. As I am sure you will remember our team won this competition last August and were going back this week to defend the title. I am very pleased to announce that they have successfully retained their title – Abercorn National Shinty disability champions for the second year in a row!!! Well done to our team and our coach Mrs Collie.

June is going to be a particularly busy month in Abercorn with a number of residential trips taking place. Many of you will know of the Scottish Government 1+2 initiatives that ask schools to allow pupils to study both English and experience a number of other languages too. Within Abercorn we have been learning Spanish for a number of years. However, after Mrs Collie introduced a very successful and popular Gaelic club a number of years ago we added it to our curriculum. I am very pleased to announce that all of Mrs Collie's hard work has paid off and we have been shortlisted for a Scottish Education Award within the Gaelic Education category. Fingers crossed as the results will be announced during an Awards Ceremony in June. In addition to this we are also organising a 1+2 day to celebrate the language cultures within the school – we will inform you of more details nearer the time.

We are currently preparing for a number of end of term events to take place during the next two months, these include: two residential trips and the Senior School Prom, S1-S3 BBQ, Duke of Edinburgh Expedition and of course our annual Awards Ceremony.

Patricia McGowan

Blairvadach

Our S5 and S6 pupils took part in a residential trip to Blairvadach before the Spring Break holiday. They took part in a number of outdoor activities including obstacle courses, water activities, rope challenges and orienteering. They all enjoyed the week and took lots of opportunities to socialize with their friends. On their return Mr Leahy said everyone there behaved extremely well, in fact he was delighted to report that there was not one person in any trouble. Well done to everyone and glad you enjoyed the experience so much.

Summer Barbeque

Abercorn Crazy Entertainers are busy organizing an end of term barbecue for S1-S3. They have chosen to hold this event on Wednesday 8th June between 6.30pm and 8 pm. They will be providing more information shortly.



Football Success



The school football team retained the Regional title for the 3rd year in a row. This has been another fantastic season for the team. They now look forward to defending their National title at Toryglen on Wednesday 18th May. We wish them the best of luck.

Spain Trip



Final preparations are being made for the senior school Spanish trip and final money towards the cost of the trip should be paid now to Miss Campbell. In addition, please ensure that passports and Health Cards are up to date. During their trip pupils will visit Camp Nou, Waterworld Aqua Park, La Sagrada Familia, and also there will be a visit to a famous tapas restaurant.

Senior School Prom

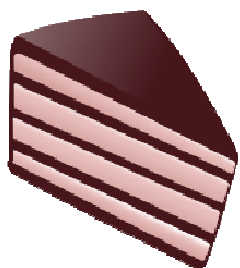
Our senior school pupils will shortly be receiving an invitation to the annual Prom which will take place in the Grand Central Hotel on Wednesday 1st June. The Prom Committee have been busy planning this event to ensure it is a great success. Tickets to the prom are priced at £18, this includes a 2 course meal and still juice throughout the evening. Senior pupils can pay their money now to Mrs Leyden. Further fizzy juice is available from the hotel on the night for a cost if pupils wish to bring some spending money.



Abercorn's Apprentice

On Wednesday 25th May our S2 pupils will take part in the final of the Abercorn's Apprentice competition which they have been working towards in Enterprise. 3 teams will take part in creating products around the theme of "A Family Meal on a Budget". All 3 groups will present to a panel of external judges on the day and S1 will make up the audience.

Bake Sale for City Mission



Our S5/6 Volunteering Group arranged a bake sale to raise money for Glasgow City Mission. They raised over £100 and the City Mission are very grateful for this help towards their work in

supporting people in Glasgow experiencing poverty and hardship. Well done to the group for raising such a great amount of money.

Shinty Tournament

On Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th April six of our young people and two teachers travelled to Aviemore to compete once again in the annual National Disability Shinty Competition. They stayed at Glenmore Lodge, a beautiful setting, looking on to the Cairngorm mountains. On day 1 they had the opportunity to train with Ronald Ross, who is the one of the best Shinty players of all time having scored over 1000 competitive goals for his team. This was a great learning experience and truly inspirational for the boys. On day 2 the competition took place and the boys began their defence of the title they won during the last competition. We are delighted to say that after losing in



the first game they proceeded to win all of their other matches – including the final to bring the trophy back to

Abercorn for the 2nd year in a row. Well done to them all.

Edwina Bracken Exhibition

Our S4 National 4 Art and Design pupils travelled to Patriots Hall in Edinburgh to visit the exhibition of Miss Bracken, our former Art teacher. Titled Remote Proximities the exhibition is an ambitious display of painting, drawing and sculpture.



Miss Bracken took the time during the visit to work with the pupils to create sculptures following her design principles. The young people had a fantastic day and it was a very useful learning experience for them.

Education Scotland Awards

We are delighted to announce that our recent submission to the Scottish Educations Awards for 2016 has resulted in us being shortlisted in the Gaelic Education category. The judges were impressed by the details of the work undertaken in Abercorn to increase young people's awareness of their Scottish culture and heritage and the Gaelic education which takes place. The next stage in the selection process is a visit from the judges so that they can speak to staff, parents and pupils to further supplement the information they have and then we will attend the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 8th June to see if we have won this prestigious award. In any event, being shortlisted to the final 3 is a fantastic achievement of which we are very proud.

Under-19 Scotland Squad



During the Easter holidays 2 pupils – Kyle Gault and Blair McGregor (S5) and a former pupil – Kyle Hannin represented Scotland in the Learning Disability Home Nations Tournament in Kilwinning. The boys got off to a great

start beating Northern Ireland 3-0, despite being reduced to 10 men. In their next game they came from behind to draw 2-2 with Wales which set up a thrilling final game against the Republic of Ireland where victory would see them crowned champions again. They again, fell behind to an early goal, however, showed great determination to fight back and win the match 2-1, this meant they had retained

their title as Home Nations Champions. A number of parents, staff and pupils (both past and present) travelled to Kilwinning to support the boys and they were very grateful for this. We are very proud of their



achievements. A final congratulations must go to Mr Baird who is one of the coaches of the team. He too was thrilled by their success.

Volunteering

A number of our senior pupils have recently begun volunteering placements. Alistair Kemley has returned to Woodside Nursery following a very successful Work Experience placement and will volunteer there on a Friday afternoon. Maxine Chisholm and Jack Paton have secured volunteering placements in Barnardos. This is in addition to the young people who have already undertaken long term placements. All are doing very well.

Safe Road User Award

We have 5 young people from the Senior Phase who have been working on the Safe Road User Award this year. They have successfully completed the 2 internal units and are now preparing for the online assessment which is similar to the DVLA Theory test. Successful completion of the online assessment will mean they are entitled to sit a reduced version of the official theory test when they come to book their test so it is well worth putting in the effort to revise. They will travel to Drumchapel High over the next few weeks to undertake their online assessment and we are grateful to them for facilitating this. We wish all 5 the best of luck.

Blythswood Care Enterprise Competition

Our S1 pupils recently took part in a competition run by the Blythswood Care charity. They have been learning about Social Enterprise as part of their Enterprise studies and were given £20 by Blythswood Care and tasked with undertaking some form of Enterprise to turn it into a profit.

They decided to hold a number of bake sales for each year group within the school

May and June 2016 Dates for your Diary

May	
Monday 2 nd May	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 3 rd May	Badminton After School Club Starting
Thursday 5 th May	In-Service Day
Friday 6 th May	Comicon Day (non-uniform day £1 donation to Children in Need)
Tuesday 10 th May	S2 RE Trip to the Glasgow Gurdwara
Thursday 12 th May	S3 Spanish Culture Trip to Edinburgh
Friday 13 th May	S3 Business Trip to Barclays Inspire Workshop, Bothwell Street
Monday 16 th May	Youth Games at Scotstoun
Wednesday 18 th May	National Football Finals, Toryglen
Wednesday 18 th May	Making Journeys Group trip to Edinburgh by bus
Wednesday 18 th May	S4 PAA "Summer Fun Day" – in aid of the Variety Club/School Funds
Wednesday 25 th May	S2 Abercorn Apprentice Final
Thursday 26 th May	1+2 Language Day
Friday 27 th May	Holiday
Monday 30 th May	Holiday
June	
Wednesday 1 st June	S4-S6 Prom in Grand Central Hotel
Wednesday 1 st June	SDS Athletics Championships at Grangemouth
Wednesday 1 st June	P7 Transition – all day
Thursday 2 nd June	P7 Transition – all day
Monday 6 th June	S1 Science Trip to the Science Centre
Monday 6 th June – Tuesday 7 th June	Duke of Edinburgh Camping Expedition
Tuesday 7 th June	S4 National 1 and 2 Science group trip to Edinburgh Zoo
Wednesday 8 th June	Scottish Education Awards Final – Abercorn shortlisted for Gaelic Education Award
Wednesday 8 th June	Variety Club Athletics Event at Scotstoun
Wednesday 8 th June	S1-S3 Summer BBQ 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Saturday 11 th June	Senior School Spanish Trip (returns Friday, 17 th June)
Wednesday 15 th June	Isle-of-Skye Residential Trip (returns Sunday, 19 th June)
Thursday 16 th June	Social Enterprise Awards Ceremony in Edinburgh
Tuesday 21 st June	Summer Service and Awards Ceremony
Wednesday 22 nd June	European Football Day at Firhill Complex
Thursday 23 rd June	Olympic Day
Friday 24 th June	School closes at 1 pm
August	
11 th and 12 th August	Staff Inset Days
15 th August	Pupils return to school