



Abercorn News

August 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

We have now come to the end of an extremely busy month here in Abercorn. The first residential trip of the year is taking place as we speak to Blairvadach and a group of 12 students will visit Camas in the coming weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our S1 pupils and their families to our school community. The S1 pupils are looking smart in their new school uniforms and are settling into the routines of secondary school life. They will participate in their first outing next week to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

The exam results this year were once again outstanding and I would like to thank both pupils and staff for their hardwork. You may also have read in the Evening Times that one pupil successfully achieved his Higher in Administration, this was a first for our school and I am sure you will join with me in congratulating him. Many young people also achieved success in a range of wider achievements such as The Duke of Edinburgh Award, John Muir Award and a range of sporting, art and enterprise activities. We are extremely proud of our young people and delighted that they continue to achieve such high standards.

One area that I would like your continued support with is in improving our school attendance rate to over 96% - I am confident with your help we will achieve our target.

This session we once again will be organizing parent/carer information events, Miss Hunter will forward details of our first one soon. We will also be contacting you over the next couple of weeks with information regarding our Parent Council.

As you know we operate an open door policy, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughters year head if you have any queries or require more information.

Patricia McGowan

Dates for your diary (September/October)

Tuesday 6 th September	Variety Club Trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park
Wednesday 7 th September	Dance and Drama Event, Tramway Theatre
Thursday 8 th September	Music and Gaelic trip to Piping Centre
Friday 9 th September	Football League, Toryglen
Saturday 10 th September	Residential Trip to Camas leaves
Tuesday 13 th September	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Expedition leaves
Wednesday 14 th September	Athletics Championships, Grangemouth
Monday 19 th September	Seagull Trust Trip to Kirkintilloch
Wednesday 21 st September	SDS Football 7's Toryglen
Friday 23 rd September	Holiday
Monday 26 th September	Holiday
Wednesday 28 th September	Mrs Couper and 2 students to Auschwitz
Thursday 29 th September	S1 and S2 Young Scot Card Applications
Monday 3 rd October	S1 English Trip to Amazonia
Thursday 13 th October	S4 Bingo Night
Friday 14 th October	In-Set Day
Monday 17 th October – Friday 21 st October	October Week Holiday
Monday 24 th October	School Re-opens

Transport Co-ordination Centre Freephone Number

Please call the Transport Co-ordination Centre on **0800 032 4444/287 1056** if a pupil is not going to be on the morning taxi run. This is a freephone number available 24 hours a day. The school should also then be informed of any pupil absence.

We must also be made aware if a pupil has not travelled in the morning taxi but **does** require to be added to the run for the hometime journey. If pupils have not travelled in to school by taxi that morning drivers **will not** take them home without prior notice.

Please note also that the wait time for taxis is only **5 minutes**. Pupils should be ready and waiting for their taxi to arrive as drivers are unable to wait outside the house for longer than 5 minutes.

Camas 2016

On Saturday 10th September, 10 pupils, along with Miss Campbell and Mr Robertson will be leaving Queen Street Station for a 6 day visit to Camas Outdoor Centre. Camas is situated on a very isolated part of the Island of Mull. There is little electricity, no TV, no computers, and no shops or houses for miles in any direction. That said however, the pupils will have a fantastic time abseiling, canoeing, hill walking, peat-digging, swimming and enjoying a host of indoor activities.

This is a great opportunity for pupils to develop deeper friendships with one another, and discover what it is like to live together as a community.

College Courses

S5/6 pupils who are taking part in the school/college link programme should be beginning to settle into their routine and courses at college. Please contact Mr Shields if there are any problems or issues in relation to colleges.

Mobile Phones in School

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that whilst we allow pupils to have mobile phones at school, they must not be switched on in class during the school day. We would be grateful if you would remind pupils that if they carry a phone to school they must switch it off when they arrive in the building and they should not be used for texting or phone calls during the school day. Phones must be handed to the PE at the start of the lesson to be locked in the valuable box staff during the lesson. It is also the school policy that pupil are not allowed to take photographs with their phones etc.



Student Tutors

A pupil's first point of contact would be their Student Tutor who they see for Student Tutor Time each morning (8.55 – 9.25 am) and who they can approach with any issues or concerns at any other point in the day. This year they are as follows:

1A – Miss Brown	4B – Mr Close
1B – Mrs Johnston	4C – Mrs Couper
1C – Ms Thomson	5A – Mrs Collie
2A – Mr Anderson	5B – Mr Baird
2B – Miss O'Neill	5C – Mrs Bennett
3A – Mrs Whitelocke	6A – Mr Connor
3B – Mr Urquhart	6B – Mr Devlin
3C – Miss Jaffrey	6C – Mrs Logue/Mrs Leyden
4A – Miss Walsh	

Pastoral Care Year Heads

Pupils have now settled into the routine of school again and are aware of their Student Tutors and Pastoral Care Year Heads. The Pastoral Care Year Heads would be your first point of contact if you had any issues or concerns regarding your child. This year they are as follows:

S1 – Mr Robertson	S2 – Mr Dorrian
S3 – Ms Hunter	S4 – Mr Kerr
S5 – Ms Campbell	S6 – Mr Shields

Uniform

All pupils have returned to school looking very smart in their uniforms. Please continue to ensure that they observe our dress code. Our uniform consists of:

- black trousers/skirt
- **black shoes or all black training shoes**
- white shirt
- school tie
- black cardigan
- black blazer

White or coloured trainers are not allowed and strictly no hoodies or football colours.

Blairvadach

A group of S2 and S3 pupils are enjoying a week of fun activities in Blairvadach. As always they will have the opportunity to participate in the many and varied outdoor activities under the watchful eye of the instructors. So far, they have been having a great time.

Auschwitz

On the 28th September Mrs Couper will travel to Poland with David Mott and Kyle Gault (S6) to visit the concentration camp at Auschwitz. The trip is organized by the Holocaust Education Trust and the group will have the opportunity to learn more about what happened there.

MacMillan Coffee Morning



S3 pupils have begun to work on their Personal Achievement Award and as part of the Fundraising unit they are organizing a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. They will be providing treats for staff and pupils and all money raised will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support to help in their support of people with cancer. More details to follow.

Lost Property

Our Pupil Support Assistants have been working through a large pile of clothes and shoes recovered from student's lockers at the end of last term. We have managed to reunite a small number of people with their belongings but there are still a lot unaccounted for. If your child lost anything before the summer holidays please let us know so that we can try to get it back for you. To try to avoid this happening again could you please write your child's name on all of their belongings – especially PE Kit, jumpers and jackets.

Variety Club Outing to Blair Drummond Safari Park

We are delighted to once again be invited to send a group of



pupils on the Variety Club Summer Outing. This year they will be going to Blair Drummond Safari park. We are very grateful for the continued support of the Variety Club who are very generous in providing experiences for our children throughout the year. In recognition of our thanks we raised some money to donate back to them through our summer fun day last year.

Ski Trip to Italy

Mr Leahy is busy putting the finishing touches to the residential ski trip to Italy planned for December. All young people who are going on the trip should now have a valid passport and European Health Insurance card. Money towards the cost of the trip should continue to be sent in. We are very happy to take this in installments if that suits parents/carers better. If you have any questions relating to the trip please do not hesitate to contact Mr Leahy at the school.



S4 Personal Development Award
Bingo Night

Abercorn Secondary School



All welcome

Thursday 13 October 7.30 pm-10 pm
Eyes down 7.30pm

£5 (includes 2 bingo books and
refreshments)



In aid of School funds

Raffle

Tickets available from Mrs Johnston or Mrs Loque