



Abercorn News

August 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We have now come to the end of an extremely busy month here in Abercorn. We have two residential trips taking place over the coming weeks to Auchengillan and Camas as well as our first Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our S1 pupils and their families to our school community as well as others who have joined year groups throughout the school. Our pupils are looking extremely smart in their new school uniforms and are settling into the routines of secondary school life.

The exam results this year were once again outstanding and I would like to thank both pupils and staff for their hard work, dedication and determination. As you will know one pupil successfully achieved a Grade A in his Advanced Higher Music, I am sure you will join with me in congratulating him. Many young people also achieved success in a wide range of wider achievements such as Saltire Award, 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. For our young people to achieve their potential they must attend school on a regular basis. If a young person has to be absent for a medical appointment can I please ask that you either collect them from school for the appointment or ensure that they return to school after their appointment. They will only be given permission for a half day absence. A number of young people have also been absent in the first few weeks of school as a result of transport issues, can I please ask that you contact the school if there is a problem and to make every effort to get your son/daughter to attend school every day.

Thank you for continuing to support our school uniform policy, I am sure you will agree all of our young people are looking extremely smart!!!

Pupil Equity Funding

We are very pleased to inform you that as a result of our PEF we are continuing to offer the following within the school:

Breakfast Club

Our school breakfast club is open to all pupils every morning from 8.30 am until 8.55 am. A healthy breakfast offering a range of breakfast cereals, porridge, bagels and drinks are available. It is important for our young people's health and wellbeing and learning that they are fed and ready to learn. Please encourage them to attend.

Children's First, Family Support Worker

Unfortunately during our summer break Jagoda Janick moved on to a teaching post. However we are pleased to welcome Deborah Agnew to our staff team. Deborah works within the school offering support to both our pupils and our parents/carers.

This session we once again will be organizing parent/carers information events, we hope to forward you details of our first event very soon.

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

Transport Co-ordination Centre Freephone Number

Please call the Transport Co-ordination Centre on **287 1056** if a pupil is not going to be on the morning taxi run. The school should also 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 home time 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.

College Courses

S5/6 pupils who are taking part in the school/college link programme are beginning to settle into their routine and courses at college. Please contact Mr Shields if there are any issues or concerns 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 school policy that pupil are not allowed to take photographs with their phones etc.**



Uniform

All pupils have returned to school looking very smart in their uniforms. Please 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.

The weather is also changeable so it would be good to send a waterproof jacket to school.

MacMillan Coffee Morning



S3(A) 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 on Friday, 28th September. They will be providing treats for pupils and staff with all profits raised donated to Macmillan Cancer Support. More details to follow.

Special Olympics Success



Special Olympics GB
Anniversary Games 2018
Stirling, Scotland

We are delighted to share with you the successes of our young people in Stirling during the Special Olympics Anniversary Games. A number of pupils and former pupils travelled to Stirling in August with the Scotland West Special Olympics squad to take part in events such as Football and Badminton. Our young people achieved a range of medals in each of these sports which is a fantastic achievement. Congratulations everyone!!!





Abercorn Secondary School
Annual Diary
2018-2019

Dates for your diary (September/October)

4 th September	S2 PUMA Outing to Blair Drummond Safari Park
7 th September	Celebration of Success
12 th September	Duke of Edinburgh - Silver Practice Expedition
14 th September	Camas Trip
18 th September	Auchengillan Trip
21 st September	Holiday
24 th September	Holiday
25 th September	Boccia Championship, Emirates Stadium
28 th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning (Staff and Pupils)
3 rd October	Swimming Gala
11 th October	PD Award, Bingo Night
12 th October	Inservice Day
15 th October	October School Holiday
22 nd October	School re-opens

Annual Calendar Dates for your diary

October	Post Placement Review meetings for new pupils
1 st November	Parents' Evening (S2, S3 and S4)
November	S6 Annual Review Meetings
December	S5 Annual Review Meetings
8 th December	Pila, Ski Trip
18 th December	Christmas Carol Service
20 th December	School closes at 2.30 pm for holiday
7 th January 2019	School reopens
January /February	S4 Annual Review Meetings
11 th February	Mid-Term Holiday
12 th February	Mid-Term Holiday
13 th February	Inservice Day
February/March	S3 Annual Review Meetings
28 th February	Parents Evening (S1, S5 and S6)
March	S2 Annual Review Meetings
27 th March	Easter Service
29 th March	School closes at 2.30 pm for holiday

15 th April	School reopens
19 th April	Good Friday - School Closed
22 nd April	Easter Monday - School Closed
24 th April	National 5 Admin & IT Examination
May	S1 Annual Review Meetings
	Senior School Bingo Night
6 th May	May Day Holiday
7 th May	Inservice Day
9 th May	National 5 English Examination
22 nd May	National 5 Computing Science Examination
24 th May	May Holiday
27 th May	May Holiday
June	Senior School Prom
10 th June	Blairvadach Trip
26 th June	School closes at 1 pm for summer holiday