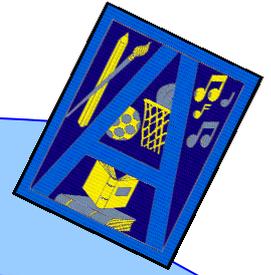




Abercorn News



March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

This has once again been a very busy term for all of the staff and pupils in Abercorn and everyone is looking forward to their Spring Break. In particular, our senior pupils have been busy preparing for their internal assessments and SQA examinations which they will complete over the next few months. I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success

As you will read from this newsletter it has been another extremely busy month here in Abercorn. The young people have had the opportunity to extend their learning experiences both within and outwith our school and these will continue next term. An integral part of these learning experiences is the large number of residential trips that we organise for our young people to participate in. A group of 24 fifth and sixth year pupils and 4 staff are currently away in Blairvadach. Next term we will see trips within Scotland to Aviemore, Isle of Skye, a Duke of Edinburgh expedition and our annual international trip to Spain.

One of the current initiatives by the Scottish Government is the 1+2 Languages programme. This is where young people speak in their first language ie English and then experience two others. Within Abercorn young people have been learning Spanish for a number of years, we recently introduced Gaelic to our curriculum and this has proven to be very popular. I am also very pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Glasgow **Gaelic Language Learner Award 2016**. Mrs Collie, Miss Hunter and a number of our pupils attended the awards ceremony on Thursday, 25 March to collect our certificate – well done to everyone for all of their hard work!!! In addition, one of our second year pupils, Rabia Safia received the **Language Learner of the Year Award** – congratulations Rabia.

The weather has been very wet for most of the winter it has been dryer in recent weeks and we hope that this continues. We are encouraging the young people to go outside during break times, this is usually for 15 minutes in the morning and approx. 15 minutes at lunchtime. We know that the weather is very changeable at present and I would like to ask you to remind your son/daughter to bring their outdoor jackets with them and to put them on during break times.

I would once again like to thank you all for your continued support and your attendance at all of the events organised by the school. Thank you to all parents/carers who attended annual review meetings this term and we had a turnout of 51% at our recent parents' evening and an overall attendance of 65% for the session.

We have received information regarding our S1 intake for August 2016 and it is currently significantly larger than last year. Timetabling for next session will begin in earnest at the start of the new term. Over the next couple of months we will provide you with as much information regarding curricular choices and individual opportunities for you to discuss these options will be made available.

I hope that you all had a very pleasant Easter weekend and the spring break will give everyone the opportunity to recharge their batteries and come back refreshed for the new term.

Patricia McGowan

Bingo Night

Our senior pupils are currently preparing for a residential trip to Spain in June and to help towards the costs they have organized a bingo night to take place on . Tickets will be £5 and are available from Miss Campbell.

College Tasters

Our S4/5/6 pupils have recently begun attending college for taster sessions with a view to deciding which courses they would like to undertake next session. This is an excellent opportunity for them to get a chance to look around the college and get an idea of what the course entails. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Shields.

Football News

Blairvadach

We have a number of senior pupils currently on a residential stay at Blairvadach as part of either their John Muir Award or their Duke of Edinburgh Award. They will be engaged in a number of outdoor activities over the course of the 4 days which will help develop their confidence and resilience. Photographs and videos are appearing on our Twitter feed every day.

Language Awards Success

We were very pleased to be shortlisted for the recent Glasgow City Council Language Awards in 2 categories and even more delighted to win both categories. We won the Gaelic Language Award and Rabia Safi (S2) won Language

Congratulations to Kyle Gault and Blair McGregor (S5) and former pupil Kyle Hannin who have been selected to play for the Scotland under 19 squad. They will travel with Mr Baird to Kilwinning Sports Club during the first week of the Easter holidays to take part in the Home Nations Football Tournament. We wish them the best of luck. If you would like to go along and support the team they would be very grateful.

SDS Cross Country

Congratulations to our young people who attended the recent SDS Cross Country event. We were delighted to see so many of them returning with medals. In addition, a number of young people have volunteered at these vents over the course of the year which is contributing to the number of hours required to gain a volunteering award. Well done to them all.

Learner of the Year for her outstanding progress in learning English, Spanish and Gaelic over the course of this year.

Tesco Maryhill

We would like to extend our thank to Tesco Maryhill who visited us last week to deliver an Easter egg for every young person in the school as part of their community involvement programme.

Special Olympics Social Café

Our Special Olympics athletes who will be attending the UK Games in Sheffield have been working hard to raise the funds necessary to make the trip. As part of this they organized a social café after our recent Easter Service where they prepared and served hot drinks

and hot rolls to our parents, carers and friends. They raised a magnificent £250 from this event and would like to thank all those who supported it. The funds are much needed to allow these talented young athletes to attend the games. Thank you again and keep your eyes peeled for further fundraising events.

ASN PE Conference

Our congratulations go to Jennifer Neil (S5) and Stephen Lamb (S3) who recently gave up a Saturday to attend the ASN PE Conference in Isobel Mair School to talk about the many and varied opportunities available to them in PE in Abercorn. They spoke very well and people commented on how confident they were. Well done to you both and thank you for giving up your tie to promote the school

Waterways Trust

Our S5 group who have been working on their self awareness as part of the Personal Development Award recently unveiled a poster at the Canal. In conjunction with the Scottish Waterways Trust they have been working hard to improve the appearance of the canal and

educate others of the need to protect the wildlife by keeping the area tidy.

Blythswood Care

Our S1 Enterprise class recently took part in a competition run by the local Blythswood Care charity where they were given £20 and challenged to turn it into as much as possible. They used it as initial start up to purchase juice and cakes to run a social café for pupils and proceeded to run one for every year group over the course of a month. In total their profit was £ which will now be donated back to Blythswood Care. This has been a great introduction to the idea of Social Enterprise for them to build on in subsequent years.

Comic Relief Red Nose Day Friday 13th March



Great Fun was had by all on Red Nose Day this year. uniform day was enjoyed, with many pupils taking up the red theme!



At morning break there was:-

- * a 'Red Nose Café' where pupils enjoyed a cake, a drink of juice and could have their noses painted
- * 'Red Hair Spraying' with a choice of 6 stencils



Earlier 120 Official Noses were on sale (we sold out) a 'Who's behind the Nose Quiz' and a 'Who's Hair Quiz'. Prizewinners were announced in the afternoon and prizes presented.



In the run up to the day, pupils learned in Modern Studies about people and projects, at home and abroad, supported by Comic Relief. They also used this information in Art & Design.

A FABULOUS TOTAL OF £411 was raised by all in Abercorn. WELL DONE EVERYONE!



A HUGE THANKYOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART IN THE FUNDRAISING AND HELPED ON THE DAY!



SQA Exam Diet 2015



Exact times to be advised individually

Date	Subject	Level
Wednesday 29 th April	Administration	Intermediate 1
Wednesday 29 th April	Administration	Intermediate 2
Wednesday 6 th May	Computing	Intermediate 2
Thursday 14 th May	English	Intermediate 1
Thursday 14 th May	English	Intermediate 2
Thursday 19 th May	Maths	Intermediate 1
Friday 29 th May	Spanish	Intermediate 1

Exam Stress

We are aware that a number of our senior pupils are beginning to feel the effects of the upcoming exams and are displaying signs of stress. As their subject teachers work with them to complete the essential coursework they are becoming aware that their course is nearing an end and the final exams are looming. For some of our pupils this has a greater effect than others and, as each child is different, the signs manifest themselves in different ways.

We are working with each individual pupil to support them in the best possible way and will continue to do so throughout the next few weeks as well as during the exams and we would encourage any parent who feels their child is concerned about the exams or suffering stress to let us know.

We have advised all pupils preparing for the exams of the importance of completing work at home to ensure they are best prepared, however, we have also made clear that it is important to relieve stress to have some time out from the constant pressure and have spoken to them about some relaxing activities they may consider when taking a break from studying.

Dates for your Diary (April 2015)

Thursday 2 nd April	School Closes at 2.30pm
Monday 20 th April	School Re-opens
Tuesday 21 st April	1B to Coca Cola Factory East Kilbride 9.30am – 12 noon
Wednesday 22 nd – Thursday 23 rd April	2 Day trip to Aviemore Shinty Competition
Tuesday 28 th April	1A to Coca Cola Factory East Kilbride 9.30am – 12 noon