



Abercorn News



October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Everyone has returned to school refreshed after our October break and ready to work hard in this very busy term.

You will have received a copy of your son/daughter's curriculum plans for this session. This is a very useful document as it will provide you with:

- names of teachers
- information on subjects and courses
- your son/daughter's planned outcomes for the session
- it is a useful document that will allow you to speak with your son/daughter about their learning in all subjects

Included with the curriculum plans was a letter asking if you agree with the outcomes that have been set and asking if there is anything else that we as a school can do to support you. Thank you to everyone who has already returned this form to assist the ones who have not been able to as yet I have enclosed another copy with this newsletter. I would be very grateful if you could complete and return this letter as soon as possible.

On Tuesday, 3rd October, Mr Baird and two senior pupils, William Mitten and Sean Hughes were given the opportunity to visit Auschwitz with the Holocaust Educational Trust. This was an excellent opportunity for our young people to develop their knowledge and understanding of the traumatic events that took place during World War Two. They are currently working on an interactive visual display that they will use with other pupils so that others can share their experiences. Watch this space for more information

Our first Parent's Evening of the session takes place this week for pupils within the broad general education (S1-S3). We have taken into consideration your feedback from last session and for the first time we are introducing an appointments system. This event will give you the opportunity to speak to your son/daughters subject teachers about your child's learning. A second parents' evening for pupils within the Senior Phase will take place on Thursday, 1st March 2018.

Between now and the end of term two school services/assemblies have been organised and the dates for these are shown below. The first is our annual Celebration of Success event which takes place on Wednesday, 8th November, this assembly gives us the opportunity to recognise the achievements of specific pupils and it is a great way for them to be congratulated in public. I hope that you are able to join us for this event. The second event is our annual Carol Service.

As you will be aware December is always a very busy month here in school. Once again a range of activities and outings will be arranged for our pupils to participate in. Further details will be sent home nearer the time. Mr Devlin and the school band/choir are busy preparing for the Financial Services Association Lunch in December and of course our Christmas Carol Service.

We are also finalising the new school opening hours as the school has been closing at 4 pm since August. However over the coming weeks the school will begin to stay open longer and our range of after-school clubs will begin over the coming weeks. Please ensure that you complete and return any permission forms as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions, queries or suggestions. I look forward to welcoming you all over the coming weeks and hope that you are able to attend at least one of these organised events.

Patricia McGowan

Bingo Night

Abercorn's annual Bingo took place on Thursday 12th October. We raised the fantastic amount of £992. Thank you very much to everyone who came along to support this event and also thank you to those who donated prizes.



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 then be informed of any pupil absence. This number can also be used to enquire about taxi's which may not have turned up on time report any issues.

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 5 minutes. Pupils should be ready and waiting for their taxi to arrive.

Amazonia

To complement their work on the Crash in the Jungle novel they have been studying in English our S1 pupils recently visited Amazonia to find out more about jungle animals and how they survive. They enjoyed the trip very much.



Abercorn Community Champions

We are delighted to share with you the news that Abercorn were crowned *Evening Times North West Young Community Champions* at an award ceremony in Maryhill Community Central Halls.

The panel were particularly impressed by the range of activities we are involved in within the community such as our Sports Leaders coaching in local primary schools; our Volunteering Award classes undertaking a range of activities to become more involved in the community and our senior pupils taking up long term voluntary placements to develop their skills for life and work in local charity shops, nurseries and sports projects amongst other things.

It was also very nice to see some former pupils at the Awards ceremony and catch up with them and we were delighted when Cook n Care and Glasgow Eagles, the organisations they were representing, were also successful - even if the Glasgow Eagles did beat our own Mr Kerr in the sports category!

Halloween Party

Abercorn's Crazy Entertainers have been busy preparing for the annual Halloween party. This will now take place on Friday 3rd November from 1.45pm – 2.45pm and S1 pupils can bring their Halloween costumes to school and change at lunchtime.



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Kayaking

Our young people undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition spent 3 days on the water last week kayaking. Their final day saw them go from Balloch to Dumbarton in some very challenging weather conditions. This counts towards their overall award and they worked hard to achieve the experience. Well done to you all.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Young people in 3A who are working towards their Personal Achievement Award recently planned and organised a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer support.

They worked hard to ensure staff and pupils had a lovely selection of homemade goodies available and were delighted when they counted up the donations to realize they have raised £245 for the charity. Thank you to all for the generous donations and well done 3A.



Computer Xplorers



We have a group of young people working with the Computer Xplorers organization to develop their digital literacy skills in an after school club.

Those who are participating are loving it and are very engaged in the programming process to create their moving lego pieces.

Local Clubs

A number of local clubs, suitable for young people with additional support needs, have started recently. See the attached sheet for more information and contact details.

Ms Thomson is working with Glasgow Life to widen the number of clubs available to our families. She has recently conducted a survey and hopes to use this to ensure a wider variety of clubs are available in times and places that are convenient. If you have not yet completed the survey Ms Thomson will be happy to re-issue a copy.

Student Council

Our Student Council is now set for this session. S1, following their work in Social Subjects on democracy participated in an election. Candidates gave their nomination speeches and all young people in S1 went to the polls to elect their Student Council representative. We are delighted to share with you that Callum Rankin and Charley Wood were successful. Congratulations. In addition, S4 re-elected representatives to see them through tier senior phase, again following an election we are delighted to share that Jai Drake, Andrew Scott and Kirsten Collins were successful. Congratulations to them also.

That means our full Student Council for this session is:

- S1: Callum Rankin and Charley Wood
- S2: Thomas Muirhead and Ismail Sahi
- S3: Kimberley Walker and Braden Carrigan
- S4: Jai Drake, Andrew Scott, Kirsten Collins
- S5: Chantelle McFarlane, Anthony McGroarty, Damien Main
- S6: John Cross, Jamie Henderson, Connor Paterson

Developing Skills for Life and Work

An increasing number of our Senior Phase young people are now out on placements to further develop their skills for life and work. This means they are out of school on weekly placements developing employability and social skills in local workplaces such as South West Community Cycles, Barnardos, Independence and local nurseries amongst others. These are extremely beneficial opportunities and we are very grateful to all of the organisations who have offered places.

Ms Thomson has identified more young people and is working with organisations such as Enable to ensure they are ready to undertake these placements.

Dates for your diary (November - December 2017)
S6 Reviews throughout –appointments to be advised
S5 Reviews throughout – appointments to be advised

Thursday 2 nd November	S1-S3 Parents Evening. Appointments will be issued. Louise from Possibilities will have an information stall for parents.
Friday 3 rd November	S1 Halloween Party 1.45pm – 2.45pm. S1 pupils can bring costumes to school and change at lunchtime.
Tuesday 7 th November	S1/S2 to attend Road Safety (Baldy Bane Theatre Company)
Tuesday 7 th November	S5/S6 to attend a positive peer relationships play (Baldy Bane Theatre Company)
Wednesday 8 th November	Celebration of Success. All welcome. Invitations enclosed.
Thursday 9 th November	Cross Country, Bellahouston
Wednesday 15 th November	Internet Safety Workshop for Parents/Carers – organised and presented by Children 1 st (Jagoda Janicka)
Friday 17 th November	Non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need
Monday 20 th November	"Magic Breakfast" Launch – invites enclosed
Thursday 23 rd November	S1 trip to Glasgow Museum Resource Centre for Young Inventors workshop
Wednesday 29 th November	S4 to attend Skillstart Scotland careers event at SECC
Thursday 30 th November	2C and 2D to Scotland Street School museum for a Technologies workshop
Thursday 30 th November	S3 to attend a St Andrew's Day Café hosted by S5/S6 Business pupils
Wednesday 6 th December	S3 hosting Christmas Fair 10am – 12 noon – All Welcome
Tuesday 12 th December	Whole School Assembly with Mark Adams, GCC – Internet Safety
Monday 18 th December	Trip to Flip Out Trampoline park 10.00 am – 12 noon (identified pupils)
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Service
Wednesday 20 th December	School closes at 2.30pm



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