



Abercorn News



September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

I cannot believe that we are at the end of September once again. We have already had 3 very successful residential trips to Blairvadach, Camas and a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. First year have also enjoyed a Variety Club day out to Blair Drummond Safari Park and our football team have had another successful start to the season.

Pupils are currently finalizing this session's curriculum plans and we hope you will receive your copy before our October break.

I would like to thank you for your continuing support in relation to our uniform policy and attendance at school. As you know I would like us to try and increase our attendance rate to above 96% this session – a target I am confident we will reach if we work together. I also sent home a letter to ask that you ensure that your son/daughter brings an outdoor jacket with them as the weather has been very wet over the last week or so.

Parent Council

Over the last two years a number members of our parent council have stepped down as their son/daughter reached the end of their schooling within Abercorn. If you would be interested in joining our Parent Council could you telephone the school with an expression of interest after that we will have an election if appropriate. Our meetings will take place on a Tuesday afternoon from 2.00 pm until 3.15 pm approx.

Regards

Patricia McGowan

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||| **Our First Parents Evening will** |||
||| **take place on Thursday 3rd** |||
||| **November from 4.15pm –** |||
||| **7.15pm** |||
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Dates for your diary (October 2016)

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| Monday 3 rd October | S1 English Trip to Amazonia |
| Thursday 13 th October | Bingo Night |
| Friday 14 th October | In-Service |
| Monday 17 th October – Friday 21 st October | Holiday |
| Monday 24 th October | School Re-opens |
| Tuesday 25 th October | Sponsored Swim |
| Wednesday 26 th October | S4 to Skills Scotland event in the SECC |
| Friday 28 th October | S1 Halloween Party |

Planned Appointments

A number of pupils have attended planned appointments since school returned in August. We are happy to accommodate these appointments where no alternative time is suitable, however, in order for the absence to be authorized we must see the appointment card/letter or have proof of the appointment time. In addition, we can only provide a half day authorization for attending appointments – pupils cannot be given a full day authorization. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please contact your child's pastoral care year head to discuss.

MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning



On Wednesday 21st September our S3 pupils working towards a Personal Achievement Award hosted a coffee morning raising £170 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Thanks to all for the support

Bingo Night

Abercorn's annual Bingo Night is currently being organized by the S4 Personal

Development Award class and will take place on Thursday 13th October. Please see attached flyer for more information. Tickets are priced £5 for adults (which includes 2 bingo books) and £2.50 for children (which includes 1 bingo book). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are now available from the school. Refreshments will be provided. Any donations to the raffle would be gratefully received by Mrs Johnston and Mrs Logue.



Camas Trip 2016

Miss Campbell and Mr Robertson recently left Queen Street Station accompanied by 10 pupils 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 had a fantastic time abseiling, canoeing, hill walking, peat-digging, swimming and a host of indoor activities.

This was a great opportunity for pupils to develop deeper friendships with one another, and they were excellent at helping each other through the day's activities. All of the pupils enjoyed the experience and discovered what it was like to live together as a community. The pupils were a credit to themselves and to Abercorn, and it was a joy for Miss Campbell and Mr Robertson to lead the trip. Well done everybody!

Transport Co-ordination Centre Freephone Number

Please call the Transport Co-ordination Centre on **0800 032 4444** 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. 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 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 now 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.



Auschwitz

On Wednesday 28th September David Mott and Gavin Roberts travelled with Mrs Couper for a one day trip to Auschwitz. Run in conjunction with the holocaust education trust this unique experience allows the pupils to develop a deeper understanding of what people suffered during the holocaust. The project, titled *Lessons from Auschwitz* sees pupils undertake 2 afternoon seminars and a one day visit to the former Nazi extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in order to pass on the lessons to their schools and communities. On their return the boys will work on ways to disseminate the information they have gathered through the seminars and the trip.

Parents Evening

Our first Parent's Evening will take place on Thursday 3rd November from 4.15 pm – 7.15 pm. This is an opportunity to speak to your child's teachers and find out more information about their work and behavior in class. In addition, pastoral care year heads will be available to discuss your child's pastoral care targets for the year.

S1 Halloween Party

The Friday afternoon Abercorn's Crazy Entertainers group are busy organizing a Halloween party for pupils on Friday 28th October. The party will take place from 1.40pm – 3 pm. S1 pupils are welcome to bring a costume to change into at lunch time to attend the party, however, we would ask that all they are appropriate to be worn in school.

Transition Club

Miss Thomson has been running a Transition club for former pupils to keep in touch with the school community. It takes place after school one Thursday per month and so far all attending have been really enjoying it.

Scottish Studies Award

A number of pupils are working on a Scottish Studies Award this term. All of S3 are undertaking the mandatory unit where they will broaden their knowledge about a particular aspect of Scotland. They can then go on to pick up additional units towards the overall award in subsequent years. In addition, we have a number of pupils in S4/5/6 who undertook their mandatory unit in previous years and will this year complete the required number of units to attain the award. The additional units involve them studying in other curricular areas but with a Scottish focus. Mrs Collie is very involved in the delivery of this award and, consequently, there are a number of pupils learning basic Gaelic.

Literacy Club

Mrs Bennet, Miss O'Neill and Miss Hunter are running a lunch time literacy club to further develop young people's awareness and love of literacy. So far they have celebrated the 100th



birthday of Roald Dahl as well as making items related to some of the books they have been reading. Those who attend really enjoy the experience and hopefully are more enthused about reading and literacy as a result. The club is on a Tuesday during the second half of lunch.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

Our Duke of Edinburgh students recently undertook their Silver practice expedition. This involved a 2 night camping trip where they had to navigate their way along. Despite some torrential rain leading to very soggy tents they did very well.

S4 Personal Development Award Bingo Night

Abercorn Secondary School



Thursday 13 October 7pm-10pm
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