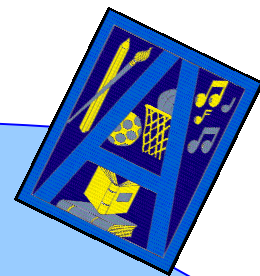


Abercorn News



April 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the April edition of our newsletter. Pupils and staff have returned refreshed from their Spring Break and everyone is continuing to work hard to ensure that Abercorn goes from strength to strength. As you can see from all of the articles in this newsletter we have had a very busy few weeks. So far this term we have already achieved success by securing our third green flag. Well done to all of those involved. Our S4/S5/S6 pupils are working hard in preparation for the SQA examinations and I wish them every success.

Our school funds have also received a boost. I would like to say a special thank you to Mr & Mrs Maher who organised a very successful fundraising event at the end of last term. I was thrilled to receive £1,136, an outstanding sum, raised during this successful social night. Thank you to both of them for all their hard work. I would also like to thank Mrs Nicholson and Partick Bowling Club for donating £126 to our school funds.

As you are all aware, I am always interested to hear your views regarding the school and would urge you to contact me by telephone, email or using the tear-off slip provided.

Patricia McGowan

Dates for your Diary (May 2012)

	S1 Reviews Parents will be informed of appointments
Friday 4th	Standard Grade, Int 1 and Int 2 Administration Exams
Mon 7th	Holiday
Tues 8th	In Service
Wed 9th	S1 (1A and 1C) Trip to Coca Cola Factory East Kilbride (am)
Friday 11th	Standard Grade Modern Studies Exam
Mon 14th	S1 (1B and 1D) Trip to Coca Cola Factory East Kilbride (am)
Wed 16th	Int 1 and Int 2 English Exams
Fri 18th	Glasgow Youth Games at Scotstoun
Mon 21st	Int 1 and Int 2 Maths Exams
Wed 23rd	Parents café (10am - 11am)
Sun 27th - Mon 28th	Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
Mon 28th	Dog's Trust to visit Modern Studies and S1
Wed 30th	Int 1 Business Management Exam
Thur 31st	Standard Grade SVS and Int 1 and Int 2 Computing Exams

College Interviews

Our senior pupils have been attending taster sessions at local colleges with a view to helping them decide on suitable courses to study when they move on from Abercorn. Those who have decided and applied for courses have been attending interviews and should be advised if they have been successful in the next few weeks. It is an important time for our older pupils and it is important that they are aware of the choices they have to continue their education when they leave school. Others in the year group have been attending interviews for employment including Glasgow City Council's Commonwealth Apprenticeship Initiative which is an excellent programme offering successful candidates the opportunity to undertake an apprenticeship with a local business. We will do all we can to support all of our senior pupils and wish them well as they make these choices and attend these interviews.

Planned Appointments

We have had a number of pupils ask permission to leave school or come in later for planned appointments with the doctor, dentist, orthodontist etc. Whilst we make every effort to accommodate these appointments we must ask that parents provide us with the appointment card so that the pupil can be given the appropriate mark on the attendance register.

Parents Cafe

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Parents Café in April. It was once again an enjoyable morning and our S3 pupils once more did their very best to ensure the parents who were here were well looked after. The next parents Café will be held on **Wednesday 23rd May from 10am till 11am** and we hope as many of our parents/carers and friends as possible will be able to attend. On the subject of the café we are pleased to announce that the pupils who are involved have been awarded a *Social Enterprise in Schools Award* for their work on the café. The Social Enterprise Academy have been extremely impressed by their hard work and commitment to using their profit to address social issues. More details on the award to follow but well done to the 12 S3 pupils who are involved and thank you to Mrs Johnston in HE for her hard work in organising the products available at the café.

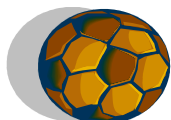
After School Club

The Thursday After School Club has now resumed. Pupils were given the choice of staying in the group they were in before the Spring Break or changing to a new group. All pupils should now be in a group they are happy to participate in till the summer holidays.

If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve the school or you wish to discuss a particular topic with Ms McGowan, Head Teacher, please complete and return this tear off slip to the school.

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____



Football Success

West of Scotland 7 a side Regional finals

Toryglen was the location for the West Region School League season finale. The pupils, who have won the regional trophy the past two years in a row managed to secure a third consecutive title without losing a game all season. The team now looks forward to taking part in the National final on May 30th. Good luck to all the boys.

Glasgow Green National 5 aside finals

- The Senior A team were able to achieve a fantastic 2nd place finish in the tournament, competing against players twice their age. Well done to everyone involved.
- The Junior B team also managed to secure a 2nd place finish ahead of teams from Edinburgh and Ayrshire. This was a fantastic effort from the younger pupils. Well done!

Abercorn's Apprentice

S2 pupils are all now working hard on their Abercorn's Apprentice project. This is an Inter-Disciplinary Learning (IDL) project which pupils work on in a variety of subjects across the school. They have been set the task of devising a product to be sold to spectators during the London 2012 Olympic Games. At present they are preparing their product pitch for the judges in Enterprise, they are preparing their product in HE and they are designing logo's and packaging in Art & Design. The final will take place on 13th June where the judges will listen to each groups presentation. Good luck to all of the teams.

Eco Schools Assessment

We've got 3!



Abercorn successfully gained our third Green Flag Award from Eco-Schools Scotland. The assessor, who visited the school on Tuesday 24th

April, was particularly impressed by the schools Eco-Code (sung by Ronan Corfield, Mrs Couper, Mr Cochrane and the Eco Warriors). She was also quick to point out how knowledgeable the pupils were about Eco matters and how enthusiastic they were about the school. She enjoyed the presentations given by Ronan (S1), Jamie, Kieran and Humza (S2) and Ava and Caitlin (S3). Leah, Michael, Alistair, Darren and William also answered questions about the Eco committee and how Abercorn cares for the Environment. Thank you to everyone who helped, particularly Miss Jaffrey for her excellent art work and Lorna for her crop planting.

Ruchil Fun Run

A group of boys from Abercorn did the 5K fun run at Ruchill Park on Sunday. Mr Kerr organised entry to the event which was attended by Derek Keith, Wesley Young, Eddie Farquar, Jack Roach, Alex Ferrier, Billy Nicholson and Kyle Hannin. The boys did incredibly well with Wesley Young finishing in an astonishing 21mins, the rest of the group finished around the equally impressive 22-25minute mark. The staff (Mr Baird, Miss McAllister and Mr Anderson) weren't that far behind! This is part of the Blairvadach Adventure Race Team's training as they prepare to take part in the race once again this year. Well done to all who took part.

Senior Prom

Preparations are now well under way for the annual Abercorn Senior school Prom which will this year take place on Thursday 7th June. Mrs Leyden and the Prom Committee have been busy organising the venue, menu and entertainment and have been running a "Pennies for the Prom" fundraising campaign to help meet the costs. They sent home money bags for pupils and their families to donate any loose change which they had spare - lots of pupils have returned these bags full of pennies and the Prom Committee are very grateful. If anyone else would like to contribute please send pennies in to Mrs Leyden. In addition, we would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Leyden and Mrs Youngson who spent an afternoon packing bags in Marks and Spencer Sauchiehall Street to raise additional funds.

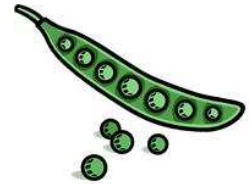
S1 Outings



As part of their Enterprise course S1 will be visiting the Coca Cola Factory in East Kilbride during the month of May. Due to the size of the current S1 year group they will go in 2 groups.

While there we will focus on product development and will be told the story of the Coca Cola product. They will then be given the opportunity to design a drinks product of their own. This is excellent preparation for their move to Enterprise in S2 where they will be designing products of their own as part of the Apprentice project.

Free Peas!!



Enclosed with this month's newsletter, courtesy of the Eco Committee, is a packet of peas. The pupils will be growing peas in the classroom and the Eco Committee would be grateful if you would attempt to grow some at home too. They would also love it if you could take some pictures of your successful plants and send them in!

Determined to Make Movies

Abercorn were recently invited to submit a proposal to take part in a film making programme and competition called Determined to Make Movies. For the 2012 project Education Services have embraced the Games Legacy for Glasgow theme associated with the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and were invited schools to make movies inspired by the theme '**the Commonwealth**' and in particular to make movies that showcased or linked in some way to their partner Commonwealth country. Abercorn was partnered with Vanuatu, a small island located in the South Pacific Ocean and Mrs Couper and Mr Cochrane worked long and hard with a group of pupils to prepare for, film and edit a movie entitled '*Vanuawho?*' based on their experience and knowledge of the island. We recently received word that the film has been nominated for awards in 3 categories. Myles Blockley (S1) has been nominated in the category of best Actor/Presenter and the film has been nominated in both the Best Documentary and the People's Choice categories. Congratulations to all involved, especially Myles, and a big thank you to Mrs Couper and Mr Cochrane for their hard work. Winners to be announced at the GFT on Sunday 17th June so we will have our fingers crossed until then!

Archdiocese for Glasgow

As you may be aware, Archbishop Conti has, in past years, celebrated Mass for Catholic children who attend S.E.N. schools and units. This Mass has always been a very special event, a happy and uplifting occasion, celebrating the gifts of our children and young people and affirming their parents, carers and teachers in the care, support and love they offer. This Mass usually takes place in the summer term, and this year it will be on Monday 28th May at 7.00pm. The venue is St Andrew's Cathedral in Clyde Street, Glasgow. The Archdiocese are extending an invitation to all children/young people, staff and parents who would like to attend. All of the details are included in the enclosed leaflet.

Healthy Breakfast

Pupils in our Maths and PE departments recently carried out a survey of all pupils to find out who has breakfast before they come to school in the morning. This survey was undertaken as part of a unit of work where they are looking at the effects of eating a healthy breakfast on the ability to learn effectively. They did, however, discover that 1/3 of pupils in the school do not eat anything before they leave the house in the morning. Since they now know that this can lead to pupils feeling tired, hungry and lacking in concentration they would like to point out the importance of eating a healthy breakfast. They are currently compiling what they have learned into the form of a leaflet promoting the benefits of starting the day in a positive way.

Awards Ceremony
22 June 2012
10.15 am