



# Abercorn News

August 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

We have now come to the end of an extremely busy month here in Abercorn. The first residential trips of the year are about to take place with a group of 10 students visiting Camas next week and then a small group of senior pupils are visiting Blairvadach.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our S1 pupils and their families to our school community. The S1 pupils are looking 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 hardwork. Many young people also achieved success in a range of wider achievements such as 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 support with is in improving our school attendance rate. Like last session I would also like to try to improve our attendance figures Glasgow City Council also aim to have attendance over 95%, therefore if your son/daughter is absent from school then you may receive a visit from our Education Liaison Officer to enquire about the absence. I am confident with your support we will increase our attendance at school.

As a school we are striving to ensure that our young people are confident, successful and ready for life after school. This year we have introduced school blazers as part of our school uniform policy and many of our young people are wearing these. Our young people are looking very smart in their shirts, ties and black trousers and I would like to ask for your continued support in ensuring that young people do not wear hooded tops within the school building and that school shoes/trainers are all black. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries.

Patricia McGowan

## Dates for your diary (September/October)

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Residential Trip to Camas (Mixed Group)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	SDS National Athletics Championships
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	In-Service Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	In-Service Day
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	MacMillan Coffee Morning (organized by S3 Personal Achievement Award)
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Holiday
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Holiday
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Young Scot to take S1 photographs for Young Scot Card
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	S5/6 Drama Workshop in school
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Bingo Night (organized by S4)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	October Week Holiday
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	School Re-opens
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	S2 Technologies Workshop – Young Inventors (GMRC)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	S1 Halloween Party (pm) organized by Abercorn's Crazy Entertainers

## 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.

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.

## Variety Club Outing

S2 took up the kind invitation from to attend the annual Variety Club outing to BlairDrummond Safari Park on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The day, which is organized by the Variety Club of Scotland, is always a huge success and the pupils had a great time.



## Bingo Night



Abercorn's annual Bingo Night is currently being organized by the S4 Personal Development Level 3 class and will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Please see attached flyer for more information. Tickets priced £5.50 (includes 2 books) are now available from the school. Refreshments will be provided. See attached poster designed by Megan O'Sullivan (S4) for more information.

## Camas 2014

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 10 pupils, along with Miss Campbell and Mr Robertson will be leaving Queen Street Station 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 will have a fantastic time abseiling, canoeing, hill walking, peat-digging, swimming and enjoying a host of indoor activities.

This is a great opportunity for pupils to develop deeper friendships with one another, and discover what it is like to live together as a community.

## Uniform

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

## Pastoral Care Year Heads

Pupils have now settled into the routine of school again and are aware of their Student Tutors and Pastoral Care Year Heads. The Pastoral Care Year Heads would be your first point of contact if you had any issues or concerns regarding your child. This year they are as follows:

- S1 – Mr Robertson
- S2 – Miss Campbell
- S3 – Ms Hunter
- S4 – Mr Kerr
- S5/6 – Mr Shields

## Student Tutors

A pupil's first point of contact would be their Student Tutor who they see for Student Tutor Time each morning (8.55 – 9.25 am) and who they can approach with any issues or concerns at any other point in the day. This year they are as follows:

1A – Mr Urquhart	4B – Mr Baird
1B – Mrs Logue (Monday), Mrs Whitelocke (Tue-Fri)	4C – Mr Devlin
2A – Miss McAllister	4D – Mr Anderson
2B – Mr Close	5A – Miss Brown
2C – Mrs Couper	5B – Mrs Johnston
3A – Mrs Collie	5C – Miss Thomson
3B – Mr Cochrane	6A – Mr Dorrian
3C – Mrs Bennett	6B – Miss Walsh
4A – Mr Connor	6C – Mrs Leyden

## Special Olympics Fundraiser

Former pupil Eddie Farquhar, who has been chosen to represent Great Britain at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles in 2015, is holding a charity night to raise funds. Athletes have to raise around £2500 each to attend.

The event will take place in Scotstounhill Bowling Club (G14 9A4, 663 Anniesland Road) on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> September 7-11.45, There will be a disco and buffet and tickets for the event, priced £3.50, are available from Mr Kerr.

There will also be a raffle on the night, tickets will be on sale at £1 each and they have some great prizes including a signed Lisbon Lions top, a luxury hamper and a £50 TK Maxx giftcard.

We also have a number of other former pupils who have been chosen to attend and must also raise the £2500. Alastair Robertson will compete in the Golf, Darren McCluskey, Paul MacAlinden, John Maxwell and Derek Keith will compete in the Football. We in Abercorn are hoping to assist with their fundraising efforts. If you have any ideas or connections with pubs, businesses or sponsors please contact Mr Kerr.

## Mobile Phones in School

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that whilst we allow pupils to have mobile phones, 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 are not allowed to phone or text during lessons.



## Open Water Swimming

A number of pupils have been given the opportunity to take part in open water swimming along the canal. Blairvadach Outdoor Education Centre, who have for a number of years provided great experiences for our pupils on residential trips, have taken over a section of the canal to develop a new Water Sports Complex and named it Pinkston Basin. The group will visit twice in September and have as part of their preparations had health and safety training around swimming in the canal. Having previously visited to take part in watersports such as kayaking they are very much looking forward to the opportunity to swim.

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

The S3 Personal Achievement Class are busy organizing a coffee morning for MacMillan Cancer Support. This will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September for staff and pupils. Pupils have to plan, prepare and run the event so are looking at tasks such as advertising the event, shopping for the event and setting up an area to host the event. More details to follow.

## Art & Design News

### 'Design an Outfit For Clyde Competition'

S3 pupils entered this competition and we were delighted to find out on the last day of the summer term that Kieran McLaughlin and Michelle Wood's designs had been chosen as winners.

Their designs were created on full size fibre glass figures of Clyde that formed part of the Clyde Mascot Trail during the Commonwealth Games. Kieran's Clyde was outside The Riverside Museum, and Michelle's Clyde was in Kelvingrove by the Bandstand - their work was photographed by thousands of visitors to Glasgow during the games and even appeared on the news. Fantastic!



### Trades House of Glasgow Schools Craft Competition

Our Senior and S3 pupils who entered this competition attended



the prize-giving in the Trades Hall in June. Each pupil received a Deacon Convener Commendation Certificate and £10 cash. Well done to:- Lewis Collins, Garry Hamilton, Kyle Hannin, Kieran McLaughlin, David Mott, Michelle Wood, Jamie Cooper, Conor Barbour, Gavin Roberts, Alice Agnew, Brandon Mohsin.

### Knitted Jumpers for Blythwood Care/ International Relief

The pupils' lunchtime knitting group has succeeded in producing 5 wee jumpers for sending abroad to areas of great need. Well done to all pupils from S1-S4 who have taken part, either regularly or in bursts, especially - Rachel Wilson, Michelle Wood and Jaskaran Minhas.



### S1 Eco Awareness/ Energy Saving Poster Competition

All of S1 took part in an Eco themed poster competition building on their work for Eco Schools and linking with Science. There were 2 joint overall winners :- Shannon Kerr and Emrah Tugcu, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Chloe Porter and 3<sup>rd</sup> was Shannon McGeown.



### 'Museums Art Competition For Young People 2014'

A Group of S3 pupils visited Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in June to produce first hand drawings and studies of their choice of items. These were all handed in for entry into the annual competition, which is open to all. At the end of term we heard that David Mott has been awarded a Commended certificate, and Rachel Wilson has won a Bronze Medal award. This will be presented at a ceremony in September. Well done all.



S4 PDA  
Bingo Night



Abercorn Secondary School

Thursday 9 October 7pm-10pm  
Eyes down 7.30pm

£5.50 ( includes 2 bingo books and  
refreshments)



In aid of School funds

Raffle

Tickets available from Mrs Johnston or Mrs Loque

Poster designed by Megan O'Sullivan (S4)