



Abercorn News

August 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

We have now come to the end of an extremely busy month here in Abercorn. The first residential trip of the year has already taken place and two more are about to depart, a group of 10 students will visit Camas next week and then a small group of senior pupils are visiting Blairvadach the following week.

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, last year it was 95.16% and I would like it above 96%. I have attached a separate letter regarding this, I am confident with your support we will increase our attendance at school.

As you are aware the school refurbishment programme is still on-going and currently the school is very busy with painters and carpet fitters. I would like to thank pupils and staff on their continued patience and I am confident the school will look lovely when the work is complete. We have also been informed that our school swimming pool will remain within the ownership of the local authority and over the next two years Glasgow Life will look at swimming pool usage within the city over the next few years.

This session we once again will be organizing parent/carer information events, Miss Hunter will forward details of our first one soon.

As you know we operate an open door policy, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughters year head if you have any queries or require more information.

Patricia McGowan

Dates for your diary (September/October)

Thursday 3 rd September	Seagull Trust Canal Trip
Saturday 5 th September – Friday 11 th September	Residential Trip to Camas
Wednesday 9 th September	SDS National Athletics Championship
Thursday 24 th September	In-Service
Friday 25 th September	Holiday
Monday 28 th September	Holiday
Thursday 1 st October	Personal Achievement Award MacMillan Coffee morning for staff and pupils
Thursday 8 th October	S4 Personal Development Award Bingo Night
Monday 12 th October – Friday 16 th October	October Week Holiday
Monday 19 th October	School Re-opens
Friday 30 th October	Crazy Entertainers S1 Halloween Party

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.

Shinty

Abercorn's shinty team travelled to Glenmore Lodge in Aviemore to take part in the annual National Disability Shinty Championship. They spent the Monday training with esteemed shinty player Ronald Ross and then proceeded to start the competition on Tuesday morning.

Unfortunately they lost their first game but rather than become despondent it spurred the team on and they went on to win their next 7 games including one against Drummond who had won the championship for the previous 10 years. This great run of results took them to the final where they met Stanecastle School from Irvine, Ayrshire. The final was a close fought match, however, Abercorn were delighted to win 3-2 and claim the trophy.

The boys had a fabulous time and enjoyed socialising with the other teams on Monday night. Although there was the usual competitive rivalry amongst the teams competing they made good friends and plan to keep in touch with a number of players from the other teams.

Camas 2015

On Saturday 5th 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 and S2 – Mr Robertson
- S3 – Ms Hunter
- S4 – Ms Campbell
- S5 – Mr Kerr
- S6 – 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 Anderson	4B – Mr Dorrian
1B – Miss O'Neill	4C – Mrs Bennett
2A – Mr Urquhart	5A – Mr Connor
2B – Mrs Whitelocke	5B – Mr Baird
2C – Miss Jaffrey	5C – Mr Devlin
3A – Miss Walsh	5D – Mrs Logue/Mrs Leyden
3B – Mr Close	6A – Miss Brown
3C – Mrs Couper	6B – Mrs Johnston
4A – Mrs Collie	6C – Miss Thomson

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 should not be used for texting or phone calls during the school day. Phones must be handed to the PE at the start of the lesson to be locked in the valuable box staff during the lesson.



Special Olympics



Special Olympics
WORLD GAMES
LOS ANGELES 2015

During the summer a number of our former pupils travelled to Los Angeles to take part in the Special Olympics World Games and they did very well. Our congratulations go to Alistair Robertson who won a Bronze medal in the golf, Darren McCluskey who won a Silver medal in the 7 a-side football and Derek Keith, Paul McAlinden, John Maxwell and Edward Farquhar who were part of the gold medal winning 11 a-side football team. The Special Olympics organisers are now in the process of preparing for the World Games to be held in Sheffield in 2017 and they have given us the information for a number of sports clubs within the local area. The details of these clubs are attached to this newsletter. If your child is playing sport regularly and attending these clubs they could be in with a very good chance of attending the next event in 2017. For more information please contact Mr Kerr.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

The S3 Personal Achievement Class are busy organizing a coffee morning for MacMillan Cancer Support. This will take place on Thursday 1st October. 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. The Coffee Morning will be for staff and pupils.



Sainsbury's School Games Manchester

David Morrison (S6) has been chosen to attend the

Sainsbury's School Games in Manchester from the 3rd to the 6th of September. He will be competing in the Table Tennis element of the Games. Good luck David.

S4 PDA
Bingo Night



Abercorn Secondary School

Thursday 8 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