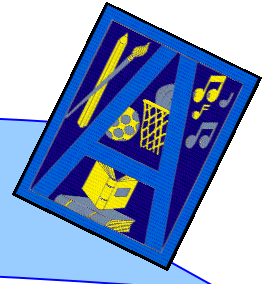


# Abercorn News



December 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will see from this newsletter it has been another busy month here in Abercorn. A number of pupils have enjoyed the two recent residential trips to Blairvadach and Pila, Italy. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed these trips and their behaviour and attitude was excellent – a credit to you and the school. I must also thank the eleven staff who organized and took part in these trips, all of their hard work really paid off. The pupils have enjoyed a number of Christmas activities including a pantomime and the Variety Club Party.

Our Christmas Carol Service was a great success. I would like to thank those parents/carers who were able to attend. The school band and choir has also played at a number of functions this week. It really is lovely to see our former pupils mixing with the new up and coming musicians and continuing to entertain people in the festive season.

Our young people have had a very enjoyable last few weeks in school. I am sure that you will join me in sympathizing with all of the families in Pakistan that have been affected by the recent events that happened in one of their schools. Many of our young people have relations and friends living in Pakistan and our thoughts are with them at this very difficult time.

It is with regret that I must also inform you, that a number of temporary members of staff Mrs Folley and Dr Bhutta will be leaving the school at the end of this term. Mr Loftus will be taking over this post from the New Year and I am confident you will welcome him to our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2015.

*Patricia McGowan*

**Merry Christmas**

## ***Christmas Holiday Information:***

School will close at 2.30pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December and re-open at 8.55 am on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year

## Pantomime

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 60 pupils and staff spent a very enjoyable morning at the Treasure Island Pantomime in the Pavillion. We have been very fortunate for a number of years now to be the grateful recipients of tickets donated to the school by Mr Alan Rennie and he once again provided these tickets.

## Christmas Lunch



On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December our pupils came together to have their Christmas Lunch. Everyone seemed to enjoy the 3 course feast and staff commented on the

good behaviour of the children and the lovely festive atmosphere throughout.

## Christmas Carol Concert

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December we held our annual Christmas Carol Concert. This was enjoyed by all who attended and the pupils who participated were, as always, excellent.



## School Band Gig

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December the school band played a gig at the Grand Central Hotel during the Financial Services Association Christmas lunch. It is a very prestigious event during which we were happy to provide the entertainment and the organisation have kindly offered to donate the proceeds of their raffle to the school. A big thank you to those who took part. In addition, the school band entertained the residents of a local care home on Thursday, 18 December.



## Christmas Fair

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December we held a very successful Christmas Fair. We had a number of stalls selling different things including home baking, Christmas gifts, toys, DVD's and books as well as our usual tombola, raffle and café. It was a fabulous morning and we are delighted to say we raised over £1100 from the event. We are overwhelmed with this total and very grateful to all who supported us. In particular, we must say a special thank you to the families of David Mott in S4, Harry Gronski in S4, Codi Young in S3, Sophie Carrick in S2 and Joanne McDonald in S3 who donated home baking. David's grandmother Mrs McKenzie also made Christmas decorations which were on sale at the Christmas gifts stall. Thanks also to Mrs McKillop (mother of Samantha in S4) who donated a knitted Christmas couple which were raffled. Finally thank you to all parents and carers who donated the items to create a hamper which was first prize in the raffle. We had enough donations to create another hamper and this will be raffled at the Christmas Carol service. Thank you again to everyone for your support. This fantastic amount of money will be put towards forthcoming residential trips.

## S1/2 Christmas Party

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December S1 and S2 pupils were invited to a Christmas Party being organized by the Crazy Entertainers Dynamic Youth group. Pupils were very excited about going along and there were a number of activities and treats planned for them. Thank you very much to Gareth Gillies who came along as Braedolph to entertain everyone.



## Healthy Packed Lunches

We'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that since Abercorn is committed to being a 'Healthy Eating school' we try to encourage all pupils to make healthy choices when it comes to the food they eat. We have, however, noticed that there are a number of pupils whose packed lunch contains items which would not be considered to be healthy.

If possible could parents/carers please ensure that pupil's packed lunches contain healthy sandwiches/rolls and fruit or raisins as opposed to chocolate snacks and no fizzy juice.



The student council have identified lunches as an area they would like to focus on improving so there will more discussion about this in the new year.

## Alternative Transport Contact Number

The transport co-ordination centre have provided an alternative number which is more suitable to call from a mobile. If you use a mobile phone and need to contact the transport co-ordination centre to query your child's transport you can call **0141 287 1056**.



## Blairvadach

A group of pupils, mainly S2 recently enjoyed a 2-night residential trip to Blairvadach Outdoor Centre. Pupils were very well behaved and willingly participated in a number of activities including gorge walking, scrambling and climbing.

Abercorn Secondary School, 195 Garscube Road, Glasgow, G4 9QH. Tel: 0141 332 6212. Web: [www.abercorn-sec.glasgow.sch.uk](http://www.abercorn-sec.glasgow.sch.uk)

## Uniform

As you know the Abercorn School Uniform consists of:

- White Shirt, buttoned
- School tie
- Black cardigan
- Black trousers (boy)
- Black Skirt or trousers (girl)
- Black shoes or trainers
- Black Blazer



We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers as they prepare for their child to return to school in January that pupils are not permitted to wear football colours, hooded jumpers, leggings or white trainers.

## St Aloysius' College voluntary service programme

We have been very fortunate this term to have had 3 pupils from St Aloysius College with us one afternoon per week as part of The Arrupe Programme which is a voluntary service programme. The programme provides St Aloysius students with an opportunity to use their own gifts and talents for the benefit of others; and to reflect and learn from that experience. The pupils will undertake two different placements throughout their S6 year and the group we had recently completed their first ten-week placements in Abercorn. Each placement has a different focus and aims to teach the student different things about themselves and the world. At the end of each week students went back to school and completed a journal, detailing their experiences. The group of pupils we had were excellent, they were very willing to get involved in everything that was asked of them and they very supportive of the pupils they worked with.



## Ski Trip

A group of 41 pupils, staff and former pupils enjoyed a great residential ski trip to Pila in Italy. They had a good, although long journey there and despite an unseasonal lack of snow, managed to get some great ski-ing experiences. We hope to have some more information and thoughts from the group in the next newsletter.



## Cross Country



Congratulations to the following pupils who participated in the first cross country race of the season. All the pupils performed very well in testing conditions.

Congratulations in particular to Ethan Farmer (S1) who was 1st in the u-13 1km; Rocky Singh (S3), who was 1<sup>st</sup> in the u-15 2km and Alastair Kemley (S3) who was 4th in the u-15 2km. Other participating were Aimee Leigh Allan (S2), Chloe Porter (S2), Shinead McDonald (S3), Barry McKay (S3) and Cameron Jackson (S2) in the u-15 1km; William Mitten (S3) in the u-15 2km and Philip Baird (S1) in the u-13 1km.

## Variety Club Christmas Party



the children's charity

improving young lives every day

65 of our pupils enjoyed a festive party courtesy of the Variety Club. They travelled by coach to Hampden Park where they enjoyed a

fabulous Christmas party with music, dancing, entertainers and lovely gifts. Once again, we extend our gratitude to the Variety Club organisation for inviting our pupils to take part.

## Diana Award Inspire Day



On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December Gavin Roberts, Michelle Wood, Shannon Stewart, Brandon Mohsin and Ronan Corfield (all in S4) joined pupils from across Scotland to attend the Diana Award Inspire Event at Glasgow Science Centre. The event began with an introduction from previous Diana Award winners and the CEO of the Diana Award then expressed her wish for young people to gain vital skills as a result of the charity and in particular the Inspire Events. The morning was spent in a music workshop where pupils worked together to create a musical piece based on a rhythm they learned that day. There were musical performances and information further information about Diana Award Services before lunch. After lunch the focus was on building employability skills. Our pupils participated in a CV writing workshop delivered by the Barclays Life Skills team where they learned good tips on how to write a CV and also what not to do. Their last tasks focused on how they as young people in today's society can make a difference. They were asked if they were Prime Minister for a day what law would they pass to help alleviate child poverty – our group said they would make dress down compulsory for employees once a month with donations taken from their wage in return. Finally they had to create a superhero to help alleviate homelessness. The group's creativity skills came through again and they created **HomeHero** who would go around the world transforming derelict buildings and waste lands into affordable, warm housing. The pupils had a great time and participated well in all of the discussions.

## Foodbank

Thank you to all of our parents/carers and friends who have donated to our food bank appeal. A representative from Greater Maryhill Foodbank collected these during the Christmas Carol Service and explained how much it will help families in need this Christmas. Your response was, once again, fantastic and we, like them, are grateful for your support.