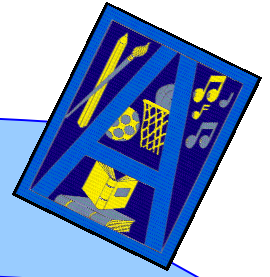


# Abercorn News



June 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

Session 2011/12 is at an end and despite unsettled year with change of Head Teacher of staff, our young people have excelled both in relation to their learning and also their behaviour.

Once again we are Scottish Football Champions for the third year in a row and for the second time we received second place in the Blairvadach Adventure Race, missing first place by less than one minute.

Many of our senior pupils were involved in the recent diet of examinations and we have high hopes that they will achieve some of our best results ever.

Our awards ceremony was absolutely fantastic and the entertainers were excellent in every way. Sanjeev Kohli from Still Game, presented the awards. A big thank you to all involved in making this a great success. The new Catherine McPhillips Award went to Edward Farquhar for the progress he has made during his time in Abercorn.

We are very happy with the progress made in last years' improvement plan and I will send home our priorities for next session early in the new year.

I would like to thank the management team, all staff, the parents and pupils of Abercorn Secondary School for making my first session as Head Teacher so exciting and enjoyable.  
Have a great summer!

Regards

Patricia McGowan

**Pupils return to school for  
the new session on  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

## Double Award Winning School



Abercorn Secondary School were extremely proud of S1 pupil Myles Blockley who was Actor/Presenter in Glasgow's recent 2012 Determined to Make Movies Competition and bowled over when the school went on to win Best Documentary.

The School were given the Commonwealth Country of Vanuatu in the South Pacific to research and create a five minute film under the theme of The Commonwealth. Pupils decided to link Vanuatu, also known as the New Hebrides, to Scotland and for the documentary to detail the history of the island, creation stories and Vanuatu's involvement in World War II.

Pupils throughout the school were involved in writing the script, acting, animation, filming and editing. Pupils also spoke to members of the public when the film crew took to the streets of Glasgow and discovered very few Glaswegians had ever heard of Vanuatu.

Everyone who contributed to making the film agreed it was a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable experience. Abercorn pupils look forward to next years film challenge and hope to build on their amazing success this year.



## Social Enterprise Awards Ceremony

S3 pupils in Abercorn have been operating a successful parent's cafe in recent months and due to the fact that they do not keep their profits but donate them to charity they have been awarded a ***Social Enterprise in Schools Award***.

When the Business class joined forces with the Home Economics class running a cafe seemed an obvious choice, however, less obvious was the decision to use their profit from this venture to help those less fortunate than themselves. Abercorn's Student Council have been actively fundraising to support children in Malawi and the cafe group felt this was such a worthwhile cause they offered them the profits from their monthly cafe's to help boost their total. This gesture turned their enterprise from a money making scheme into a Social Enterprise. When Jay Lamb from the Social Enterprise Academy visited the group in February he was so impressed with their idea and commitment he put them forward to receive a Social Enterprise in Schools Award.



Four members of the cafe group travelled to Edinburgh on Tuesday 19th June to attend the Social Enterprise Academy's Awards Ceremony and to receive the

award on behalf of the whole group. They were delighted to learn that John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, was there to present the awards and listened intently as he explained that he and his government colleagues will continue to support Social Enterprise in the future.

The group plan to continue running cafes in the new session as a joint venture between Business and Home Economics and they are very grateful to Mrs Johnston (HE) for all her support in making the cafe a success each month.

## Abercorn's Apprentice

All S2 Enterprise classes recently participated in the final of Abercorn's annual Apprentice competition. There were 5 teams working on the project this year and their task was to create a food product to be sold to spectators during the London 2012 Olympic Games. On Wednesday 13th June they had to present their ideas to a panel of judges made up of local business partners.

The pupils loved the theme of this year's project and got very excited whilst researching the Olympics and the sports which would be involved. They came up with a variety of interesting products including pick 'n' mix pies, biscuits, flapjacks, family sized fruit salad to share and the winning burgers. This group of pupils decided to theme their burgers around the Olympic medals and had bronze (plain), silver (spicy) and gold (flaming hot) burgers.

All groups spent time working on this interdisciplinary learning project in Enterprise where they developed their business ideas, Home Economics where they created their products and Art & Design where they designed logo's and packaging for their products.

The judges were very impressed with the standard of every group and thought their work on the project was excellent, however, they felt that ***The Flaming Burger Company*** had the full package with a fabulous idea, a great product and very well designed packaging. Congratulations to the Flaming Burger Company and thanks to our judges Des Logue (Barclays Wealth), Caroline McFarlan (Arbonne UK) and Kenneth Munro (W Munro (Rehab) Ltd).





## Summer Barbecue

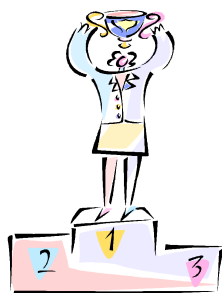


On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June all S1, S2 and S3 pupils were invited to our annual summer barbecue. Despite the rain stopping us from being able to hold the barbecue outside everyone had a great time. Pupils enjoyed the burgers and hotdogs, danced with their friends and all said they had a thoroughly enjoyable night.

## S1 Farm Visit

To complement their work in Home Economics all S1 pupils recently visited Badenheath Farm and enjoyed a very informative talk from James and Robert whose family have farmed there for 4 generations. They got the chance to see the cows being milked, they met the baby calves and, most enjoyably, they all got a shot in the tractor. We are very grateful to the farmers for once again allowing us the opportunity to visit and for explaining so well how the milk is transferred from the cows to the shops!

## Future Works Project Awards Ceremony



On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 8 pupils attended an awards ceremony in the City Chambers where they received awards in recognition of their attendance and effort in a Future Work programme which was geared towards preparing them for moving into employment. The

pupils – Emma Duncan, Sean Harrigan, Marisa Graham, Omar Zaffar, Daryl Healy, Christopher Kelly, Ryan Gurd and Connor Montgomery – were delighted to receive their awards from Mrs Maureen McKenna, Director of Education for Glasgow City Council. Congratulations and well done to all of you!

## Diana Award

On 13th June 150 young people received the Diana Award in Glasgow at the **Glasgow City Chambers**. We are very proud to report that Gareth Kennedy (S5) was amongst them.

The **Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award** for Inspirational Young People was established in 1999 by a board chaired by the then Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who felt that the award would reflect the personal interest of Diana, Princess of Wales in helping and supporting young people. The Diana Award endeavors to appreciate and celebrate the work which young people make to their school, family or community - especially those who are peer mentors, fund raisers, school counselors, environmental campaigners, sports leaders, local community volunteers, and those who have overcome adversity. The vision is to promote a culture that celebrates young people from all sections of society who have made a selfless contribution to their community.

Gareth was nominated because he has given up a vast amount of his own time to support younger pupils by mentoring, buddying and generally just being friends with them – often at the expense of spending time with his own friends. This support has been invaluable to the younger pupils as they settle into the rules and routines of a new school.

The ceremony in City Chambers was attended by Maureen McKenna, Director of Education Glasgow City Council, who said: *"These young people are a credit to our city and their efforts and stories are inspirational. Glasgow has so many young people who are willing to give something back and make a positive contribution to society and they never cease to amaze me. All Diana Award winners have displayed dedication and commitment and we are immensely proud of them."*

A statement which we feel sums up Gareth.



## Uniform Prices

As pupils prepare to leave for the summer holidays we'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents that we will be expecting and encouraging full school uniform on their return in August. In Abercorn school uniform consists of black trousers/skirt, white shirt, school tie and black cardigan or school jumper. Pupils should also wear **black shoes** at all times. For PE pupils should come prepared with black/navy shorts, white t-shirt and trainers and a swimsuit and towel on swimming days. Ties and school jumpers/cardigans are available from the school priced:

- Ties - £3.50
- V Neck Jumpers - £11
- Cardigans - £15

## Summer Service/Awards Ceremony

We recently enjoyed yet another very successful summer service and awards ceremony where pupils not only received awards in recognition of effort and achievement throughout the year, some also demonstrated their talents in a musical showcase. We are very grateful to Sanjeev Kholi who plays Naveed in Still Game for coming along to present the awards and to Barbara Diamond from Mary's Meals who came to accept 21 backpacks filled with clothes, school supplies and toiletries to be delivered to pupils in Malawi. These were donated by the Student Council who filled them with money raised over recent months from various activities, notably the Social Enterprise Parents Café.

## Girls Fishing Trip



On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June a number of girls joined Mrs Egan at Carbeth Fishery to experience fishing, many for the first time. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and some even managed to catch a fish or 2. Well done girls!

## Spain Trip

Post 16 pupils recently enjoyed a fabulous trip to Spain – the culmination of all their years studying the language in Abercorn. As always they were encouraged to speak Spanish at every opportunity as well as exploring the culture and history of the country during their time in Barcelona. There was time to enjoy themselves too however with a trip to PortAventura theme park and the Nou Camp, home of FC Barcelona. All pupils demonstrated excellent attitude and behaviour during their time in Spain and also on the journey there and back. Well done to everyone and thanks to the staff who accompanied them.

## Blairvadach Adventure Race

Our Blairvadach Adventure race team recently took part in this year's competition and did very well. We are pleased to report that they came 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 15 schools across the city – only being beaten by Shawlands Academy who were less than 1 minute faster. Although disappointed not to be first the team recognises that this was a fantastic achievement and were delighted to beat their previous course record. Well done to all who took part and thanks to Mr Baird for his dedication in coaching them this year.



## Farewell to Mrs Beaton

Finally, it is with sadness that we wish Mrs Maggie Beaton farewell as she has decided to retire from Abercorn. Mrs Beaton has been in Abercorn for 25 years, and in that time has been completely dedicated to ensuring that the young people get the very best opportunities and experiences. Amongst other things she has, in particular, worked with post 16 for a number of years and was committed to finding positive destinations for all of our young people as they left Abercorn. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

