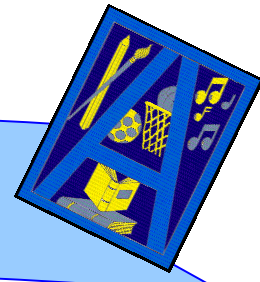


Abercorn News

June 2014



Dear Parent/Carer

We are now approaching the end of the session, this last term has been a busy one with a number of promoted staff being appointed within the school and a few new teachers joining our team. These include:

- Pauline Egan, Faculty Head Maths and Science
- Thomas Leahy, Faculty Head Expressive Arts
- Julie Logue, Faculty Head of Technologies
- Stuart Kerr, Principal Teacher of Pupil Support
- Derek Robertson, Principal Teacher of Pupil Support

In addition Mr Urquhart, Miss McAllister and Mr Anderson are now permanent member of our school community. Over the last few years we have had a number of staff retiring from the school and this session is no exception. It is with great sadness that I must say farewell to Mr McNab, a very well respected and popular member of our teaching staff. Mr McNab has been in Abercorn for 8 years and throughout this time he was dedicated to ensuring that our young people achieved their very best. I am sure you will join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

This month we have also looked about over the developments that we have made this session and I am pleased with the progress that we have made in relation to our school improvement plan especially in relation to the new qualifications and awards that our senior pupils can achieve.

As you will read from our newsletter we have once again participated in a number of outings, celebrations and, of course, the SQA examinations and assessments for our senior pupils. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all good luck and we are confident that our young people will once again be recognised for their excellent achievements.

We are very pleased to announce that we are once again Scottish Football Champions. The school team, their managers and our school community are very proud of their achievements and we hope that their successes continue into next season.

School Refurbishment

Last month I informed you of the plan for the school windows to be replaced during the summer break and work is due to begin on Thursday, 26 June. As I said last month this is a huge task and they are working around the clock to ensure that we will be ready in time for the start of the new session. The Scottish Executive have allocated us two additional days to ensure that the school is up and running for our young people, therefore **pupils will return on Friday, 15 August**. The refurbishment programme will continue next session internally with rooms being re-painted, carpeted etc – watch this space for more details.

I would like to thank the management team, all staff, the parents/carers and pupils of Abercorn Secondary School for their support, hard work and dedication this year and wish you all a happy summer break.

Finally, as I am sure you are aware the Commonwealth Games are coming to Glasgow this summer, I think there may be a nice surprise for you if you watch the opening ceremony

Patricia McGowan

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Future Works Awards Ceremony



Glasgow City Council's work experience

programme aims to develop employability, personal skills and self-confidence for young people from all sectors in Secondary education. As part of this, the Future Works programme aims to enable pupils with additional support needs to undertake work experience and develop workplace, employability and personal skills. The programme is aimed at pupils at transition stage.

There are two strands to the programme: strand one involves classroom-based learning sessions focussing on development of employability skills and knowledge. These sessions take place throughout the school year. Strand two consists of supported work experience and is aimed primarily at pupils whose additional needs mean they would not be able to take part in work experience without support.

Placements are chosen which are appropriate to the needs of pupils and can be delivered in a variety of ways, from a minimum of two hours per day to a maximum of four hours, and from one day a week over a number of weeks to consecutive days within a single week.

We are delighted to announce that 10 of our S4 pupils participated in the programme, successfully completed both strands and have been invited to an awards ceremony to have their achievements recognised. Well done to all of them.

Hillwalking

During the last week of term all pupils had the opportunity to go hillwalking. With the weather being so nice, everyone agreed these days were very pleasant, especially considering, since they walked near Loch Lomond the views were stunning. Thank you to the PE department who organized the outings and to the staff who accompanied the pupils.

School Uniform

Further information is attached to this newsletter regarding our school uniform and an idea of where you can purchase items if you have not already done so. We are also currently in the process of ordering enamel pin badges with the school logo for the blazers. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you require any further information.

Junior School BBQ

On Thursday 19th June the junior School (S1-S3) enjoyed a summer BBQ.

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

The pupils who have been working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award successfully completed their overnight expedition – this was the last remaining component of the course which means they have now gained their accreditation. Well done to all of them.



Spanish Trip



The senior pupils are enjoying a lovely break to Spain. They left on Saturday 14th June for a week. On the agenda this year is a trip to Barcelona and to see the impressive Nou Camp stadium where FC Barcelona play their home games. All the pupils have had a great experience and have had the opportunity to use the Spanish language skills developed throughout their time in Abercorn.

Future Savers launch

On Monday 16th June our S1 pupils received a talk from the Future Savers team who are responsible for rolling out Glasgow City Council's Credit Union initiative. All S1 pupils have been given a Credit Union account and Glasgow City Council have kindly deposited £10 into each account in an attempt to encourage the pupils to save. Over time this will ensure that every young person in the city has access to a dependable, responsible option for savings and money advice. It will also mean that, as adults, they will always have a better alternative to payday loans if they decide they need to borrow.

Race for Life



On Friday 13th June all pupils within the school took part in a sponsored Race for Life event with the proceeds

being donated to Cancer Research. The fantastic sum of £450 was raised. Thank

you to everyone who took part and donated.

Commonwealth Activities

We will be having Commonwealth activities in the last week of term. Pupils have been placed into mixed groups and allocated a country to represent. In preparation, they have been given the task of finding out national colours, flags, dress and foods in preparation. May the best team win!

Senior School Prom

On Wednesday 11th June our Senior pupils enjoyed a lovely evening at the Grand Central Hotel for their Senior school prom. The food was lovely, the pupils looked fabulous and the music, provided by DJ Mr Close was great. A brilliant night was had by all. Thank you to Mrs Leyden and Mrs Reilly for all their hard work in preparation for the event and our thanks must also go to the staff of the Grand Central Hotel for looking after us so well. Mrs Leyden would also like to extend her thanks to all those parents who contributed through *Pennies for the Prom* which raised £267.15.

Rights Respecting Schools Award



Abercorn has embarked upon the journey to the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

This is a national award from UNICEF which recognizes those schools who work hard towards ensuring the rights of pupils are met. Mr Anderson, Mr Connor and Miss Hunter will lead the work on this award and the pupils were given an insight into how they will contribute at a recent assembly. More information will be given

in the new year and regular updates will be provided on our progress.

School Uniform Comparison



Boys Uniform

Item	Asda	Tesco	M&S
Black Blazer	£11	£11	£20
Black Trousers	£7	£6	£11
White Shirts	£6 (2 pack)	£6 (2 pack)	£10 (2 pack)
Black v neck jumper	£5	£5	£8
Total	£29.00	£28.00	£49.00

Girls Uniform

Item	Asda	Tesco	M&S
Black Blazer	£11	£11	£20
Black skirt	£5.50	£5	£16 (2 pack)
White Shirts	£6 (2 pack)	£6 (2 pack)	£10 (2 pack)
Black cardigan	£6	£5	£12
Total	£28.50	£27.00	£58.00

In addition, ties are available from school priced £3.50

Junior School (S1-S3) – Blue Striped tie (can be provided in a clip on)

Senior School (S4-S6) – Plain blue tie

Dates for your Diary for the new session

Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th August

In-Service Days

Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th August

School preparation days after refurbishment

Friday 15th August

Pupils return

Thursday 18th and Friday 19th September

In-Service Days

Friday 26th and Monday 29^h September

September Weekend

Monday 13th October – Friday 17th October

October Holiday

**School Meal price increase from
August 2014
Cost: £1.50 per day**