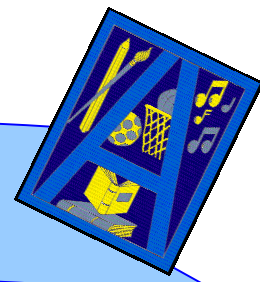


# Abercorn News



March 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

We have decided to put the newsletter out a few days early this term as next week the school have a number of activities planned. These include:

- Blackpool and Alton Towers Trip for 29 pupils and 6 staff
- two football tournaments
- a variety of end of term activities

Hopefully we are coming to the end of a very long winter (although this week we have had more snow!!). This is always a very challenging term for senior pupils and staff as they prepare for their SQA qualifications and exams. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them every success in their exams and I am confident that all of their hardwork will pay off.

As you will read from this newsletter it has been another extremely busy month here in Abercorn. The young people have had a number of opportunities to extend their learning experiences both within and outwith our school and these will continue next term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr & Mrs McMaster for organising the fundraising event at the start of this month – they managed to raise the outstanding sum of £1555 for our school.

As you will have heard from the press we received news this week that the school will be refurbished some time during the next year. This is great news for the school and as soon as I hear any more details I will send a letter home to you.

May I wish you all a very Happy Easter, this holiday will give everyone the opportunity to recharge their batteries and come back refreshed for the new term.

*Patricia McGowan*

## Dates for your Diary (April 2013)

1 <sup>st</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Break
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	School Re-opens for pupils
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Fishing Trip – Newmills Fishery Lanark
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Edinburgh International Science Festival Generation Science Workshop (S2)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Shinty Team At Competition in Aviemore (overnight stay)
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Standard Grade Art and Design Exam (All Day)
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Standard Grade Computing Exam
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Standard Grade English
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Social Enterprise Café for Parents

## T-Shirts for PE



The PE department keep a stock of T-shirts for pupils to borrow in certain circumstances. Their stock is currently running low and they would be grateful for donations of any unwanted t-shirts which are still in good condition.

## Shinty Competition

The recently formed Shinty team are delighted to have been invited by the Camanachd Association (The governing body of Shinty) to be the first Glasgow school to participate in their annual *National First Shinty Festival* this year. This 2 day event is again being run by the Camanachd Association, Scottish Disability Sport, Sport Scotland and the Robertson Trust to allow children with learning disabilities the opportunity to experience the sport of Shinty.

In the past teams from Inverness, Fort William, Oban, Perth, Ayrshire, Angus and the Scottish Borders have competed but this year the organisers wanted to try to extend the boundaries from traditional shinty areas and our team are extremely proud to be given the chance to represent Glasgow in the competition.

So dedicated are the team, they organised a fund raising bag pack in Asda Maryhill which raised £620 towards the costs of the trip and further equipment needed that will hopefully mean we put up a good fight in our first competition.

We are very grateful to Oban Celtic, suppliers of Shinty equipment who kindly donated 9 helmets (which should have cost £50 each) free of charge.

## Mock Interviews



Most of our S4 students took part in a Mock Interview this month as part of their Standard Grade SVS course. This involved them preparing answers to questions about themselves and their work experience. They were then 'interviewed' by one of our local business partners in an attempt to make it a more realistic experience. The feedback from the interviewers was very positive. Most young people did very well and the interviewers were happy to speak to the group and provide them with hints and tips for the future. Our thanks go to Audrey McJimpsey, Learning and Development Manager from RSBI, Des Logue from Barclays and Caroline Smith, Employability Support Officer from Glasgow City Council for giving up their time to provide this valuable support to our young people.

## Spring Fair

Our recent Spring Fair was a huge success and we are delighted to report it raised over £600. Thank you to all the parents who supported the event and a particular thanks to Ms Kilday (mum of Keiran McNiven in S3), Ms Simpson (mum of Harry Gronski in S2) and Mrs McKenzie (Grandmother of David Mott in S2) for their donations of home baking. As always, it went down a storm with both pupils and parents alike.





## Abercorn's Apprentice

As you may know our S2 pupils have recently begun a unit of group work in Enterprise entitled **Abercorn's Apprentice**. This is an Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) project which requires them to undertake work in Enterprise, Art & Design and Home Economics.

Their task is to design, create and promote a new and exciting product using fair trade ingredients. They will also create a logo and appropriate packaging for their product.

To familiarise the pupils with fair trade products we contacted Sainsbury's Braehead and asked if we could visit them to look at the fair trade ingredients which would be available to create their product. They enthusiastically agreed and offered us the chance to attend a fair-trade workshop delivered by a member of staff with experience in the catering sector who also offered to help the teams discuss their product ideas.

## Marie Curie Mini Pots of Care Daffodil Appeal



Congratulations to S3 Business, who have sent £58 to the Marie Curie Mini Pots of Care Daffodil Appeal, to help people who are dying at home.

Thank you very much to the parents/carers who supported our fundraising and bought a daffodil plant.

## Inter School Football Tournament

Mr Baird in the PE department recently organized an Inter School Football Tournament. Pupils were split into mixed age teams and competed in a league competition at Tuesday lunch times. The teams were as follows:

**The Gunners** - Kyle Hannin (S4), Mary Cross (S4), Robert Murphy (S6), Jamie Lawrence (S3), Jamie Henderson (S1).

**Classic Glasgow** - Phillip O'Neil (S5), Garry Hamilton (S4), Martin Lee (S1), Barry McKay (S1), Lauren Fletcher (S4).

**Man U** – Rocky Singh (S1), Neil Simpson (S5), Jack Paton (S2), Christopher McLaughlin (S1), Shinead McDonald (S1).

**The Red Bandits** - Billy Nicholson (S5), Rian Watson (S6), Brendan Tait (S1), William Mitten (S1), Tammy Jo McDonald (S3)

**Team Adidas** - Kosrat Sarder (S2), Victoria Richards (S5), Connor Mills (S3), Gordon Sim (S1)

**Crawley Town** - Michael Quinn (S5), John Cross (S1), Humza Ali (S3), Hussain Mahmood (S3), Alex Reid (S1).

After a very exciting few weeks of competing Team Adidas were crowned overall winners. Mr Baird reported, however, that the behaviour and attitude of all pupils was excellent throughout. Well done to all who took part. A new league will begin after the Spring Break and Mr Baird has invited pupils to create their own teams this time.

## Primary/Secondary Transition

The P7's who will be joining us as S1 in August have been with us one afternoon a week this month. They have been in Enterprise and ICT and have been busy organizing the annual transition party for themselves and S1 to take place during their 2 day visits in June. In addition, they used their ICT skills to create a name badge which they can wear on these days – it is hoped this will help to ease the transition process.

## Mission X



Abercorn took part in Mission X for the first time this year, with all of S1 involved. Mission X is an international programme set up by NASA and other partners to help combat childhood obesity by using

space as a context. Young people are encouraged to learn about nutrition, exercise and their body as they "Train like Astronauts". Our young people took part in a number of tasks which involved learning about hydration and learning how to tell if they are dehydrated, space and the international space station, co-ordination and balance, fitness and team work.

Regular blogs and photos have been uploaded the Mission X website <http://trainlikeanastronaut.org/> to show our progress.

Well done S1. Feedback has been very positive and hopefully we can take part again next year.

## Mission X Blog entries

The following is an example of one of the entries that has been made on the Mission X national blog:

### IC doing adapted crew assembly

Class 1C worked on adapted Crew Assembly tasks. Each person had a go at dressing up in our "Space Suit"—



ski trousers, big warm jackets and boots. They tackled the assault course with

gusto—walking carefully along the path, climbing over the step, crawling through the opening on the spaceship and under the steps and collecting a space rock for sampling before making our way back to safety. Next, wearing protective clothing on



their hands and eyes, they tried to use screwdrivers and spanners to tighten bolts and screws or thread beads onto string. Some of the comments from pupils were – "it was really hot wearing all the jackets and things".

"I couldn't feel my hands", "I got stuck in the tunnel".



# Glasgow Life Spring Break Activity Programme

Glasgow Life are offering a number of sports activity sessions in a variety of locations across the city during the 2 week Spring Break 1-14 April 2013. There are action packed sessions every day of the holidays to make sure they are active and full of fun. From multi activity to specialised sports training sessions there is something to suit everyone.

## Multi Activity Programmes

- Club 511
- Kids Club
- Pool Activities

## Sports Development Programmes

- Athletics
- Cycling
- Disability Sports
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Squash and Racketball
- Tennis
- Table Tennis

### Athletics

Run faster, jump higher and throw further than you have ever done before! Athletics Camps focus on a selection of track and field sports with the emphasis always on fun, enjoyment and skills development. You can learn and develop new skills from qualified coaches who can advise on the Run Jump and Throw sessions throughout the year. These camps are open to children with disabilities.

### Cycling

From novices to confident riders there is a cycling session here to get the kids moving and hooked on cycling for life! Get an introduction to cycle sports and learn new skills or for the more confident, ride the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Scotland's' first indoor velodrome – there is something here for all levels.

### Disability Sports

There are a variety of different fun courses available suitable for 6-16 years olds with additional support needs from crash course swimming to hip hop and free style dance to judo. The emphasis is on fun, enjoyment and taking part.

### Football

Mini Kickers is an introduction to football for young children with fun filled football sessions introducing basic movement and ball skills whilst making friends. Fun 4s is for children aged 5-12 years looking to develop their technique and improve their game. The programme has been designed to replicate experiences from the school playground and street football...maybe creating the next super star player!

### Gymnastics

These come and try fun gymnastics sessions help develop children's physical skills of balance, coordination, flexibility and strength. From parent and child fun sessions to gymnastics skills sessions using the floor, beam, trampette and vault there is something for all levels to take part.

### Squash and Racketball

These 5 hour introductory sessions to squash and racketball are all about fun. Increase your player awareness, develop your ball skills and develop a better understanding of the tactics of the games. These programmes are ideal for players new to racquet sports and for tennis and badminton players looking for a new exciting challenge.

### Tennis

Come and try tennis sessions are available for all abilities. All sessions are led by our team of qualified tennis coaches and provide the perfect way to try tennis for the first time and practice your skills in a safe, fun environment.

### Table Tennis

These are table tennis sessions for young players aged 8 and over who want to improve their playing standard.

Please note booking information, cost and age range differs per activity. See enclosed leaflet for details.



# SQA Exam diet 2013

## Exact times to be advised individually

Date	Subject	Level
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Art and Design	Standard Grade
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Computing Studies	Standard Grade
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	English	Standard Grade
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	SVS	Standard Grade
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Administration	Standard Grade
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Administration	Intermediate 1
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Administration	Intermediate 2
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Modern Studies	Standard Grade
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	English	Intermediate 1
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	English	Intermediate 2
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Maths	Intermediate 1
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Computing Studies	Intermediate 1
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Computing	Intermediate 2

Pupils will receive a detailed list of their own exams in due course including the times allocated for each paper.

If you require any further information regarding any of the exams please do not hesitate to contact the school.

