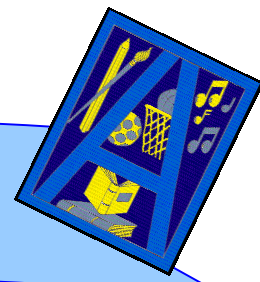


# Abercorn News



March 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

This has once again been a very busy term for all of the staff and pupils in Abercorn and everyone is looking forward to their Spring Break. In particular, our senior pupils have been busy preparing for their examinations and internal assessments which they will complete over the next few months. I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success.

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 once again like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your continued support. Thank you to all parents/carers who attended annual review meetings and parents evening for your son/daughter and to the large number of our school community who attended our Bingo Night, we will also re-introduce our Social Enterprise Café next month – without your continued support these events would not be successful.

The weather is gradually improving and the longer days have arrived. This means that it is an ideal time for some of our young people to begin gradually moving towards independent travel. Over the next few months 12 of our young people from S2 to S5 will begin on this journey. Over the years we have found that this very important life skill has improved our young people's opportunities by increasing the number of post-school destinations that they can apply for and has had a positive impact on their mental health as it has allowed them to meet up with friends and join clubs outwith the school day. I would like to thank you with your support in this area.

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 2014)

Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	School re-opens 8.55am
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	GAA Athletics Games (Emirates)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Youth Games
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	UK Netball Championships (Leicester)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	S1 Science Trip to Edinburgh Zoo
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Social Enterprise Parents Café 2.30 pm – 3.15pm

## Prom Committee Fundraising



The **2014 Prom Committee** raised over £140 to put towards this year's Prom by doing a sponsored "Hatwalk". The Senior School Prom is to be

held in the Grand Central Hotel in June. Very well done, and many thanks to their families for supporting them.

## S2 Visit to Whitelee Windfarm



On a cold and windy day S2 visited the Whitelee Windfarm to study renewable energy production. They were given a tour of the windfarm, visiting turbine 54 for a close up look. They learnt about how the turbine produced electricity from

the wind and also found out which wildlife lived on the site. It was then back to the visitors centre to explore the interactive exhibitions. The group then carried out a workshop to determine the best blade shape/ number of blades on a turbine to produce the most electricity. It was a very enjoyable (if windy!) visit.

## National 2 Life in Another Country trip to Edinburgh

**Who says it's drier on the east coast?**

Despite the wind and rain, S4 pupils studying National 2 Life in Another Country enjoyed a successful



day trip to Edinburgh Castle. Aimee, Courtney, David, Neil, Samantha, Skye and William visited the Royal Mile, the Royal Scots Museum, the oldest building in Edinburgh and watched the one o'clock gun being fired.

## Glasgow's Dragons' Den – 26 February 2014

The S3 Social Enterprise Group, Aberscove, took part in the Dragons' Den Event at Glasgow City Chambers. Each of the groups attending had to give a presentation to the 4 "dragons" and then be questioned about their social enterprise. Our group gave an outstanding presentation and answered all of the questions that were put to them in a very professional manner.

Congratulations to the team as they were awarded with a cheque for £50.00 to help develop "Aberscove" and they also received a certificate in recognition of their hard work.



## Bingo Night

Our senior pupils are currently preparing for a residential trip to Spain in June and to help towards the costs they organized a Bingo Night. This was once again a successful evening with over £600 raised.

## Sport Relief 2014



In Modern Studies pupils learned about different projects at home and abroad supported by Sport Relief, and produced posters. They also developed sales displays for

the **Official Wristbands** that we were selling for £1 each. (**We sold 120!**)

In Art & Design they continued their discussions and designed 'Sport Relief Strips' along with some posters.

There were a wide variety of fundraising activities during the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March, every morning break and on the Friday of Sport Relief itself. Monday – Thursday the pupils in the Duke of Edinburgh group gave up their morning break and helped run the Bean Bag Challenge.

Pupils were able to:- buy Wristbands, take part in Quizzes and Bean Bag Challenges, enjoy a café, have their hair sprayed red through a variety of stencils, and were able to buy cakes generously donated by Mrs Mckenzie!

A HUGE £400 was raised!!! A massive **Thank You** to all who supported and took part in the events – WELL DONE ABERCORN.

## Sport Relief Prize Winners

### 'Design A Sport Relief Strip'

1<sup>st</sup> Jaskaran Minhas 2C  
2<sup>nd</sup> Conor Barbour 3C

### "Quiz – Match the 'Sporty' Leg to the Face"

1<sup>st</sup> Shinead McDonald 2B  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hussain Mahmood 4B  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sophie Carrick 1B

### 'Bean Bag Challenge'

1<sup>st</sup> Brandon Mohsin 3A  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Bulloch 4A  
joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Damien Main 1A & Max Miller 6A

## Rugby Success

Congratulations to our brand new rugby team who recently attended a tournament. Not only were they promoted up a league they were also undefeated in their final matches, only losing in the final on points difference. They met Glasgow Warriors and Scotland 7's players and were a real credit to the school. Well done!



## S4 Hospitality

S4 Hospitality pupils recently visited the Tennant's Training Academy to participate in workshops on pizza making, mocktails and serving skills. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and their behaviour throughout made them a credit to their families and the school.

## S4 Work Experience

A number of our S4 pupils spent a very productive week on work Experience in February. As always, Miss Brown managed to secure a number of placements in various occupational sectors around the city to allow pupils to gain a realistic experience of working life. We are pleased to say that, once again, reports from the employers were very positive and the pupils appear to have been a credit to themselves, their families and the school during this time.

## S4 Work Awareness



The remainder of the S4 pupils spent the week undertaking a Work Awareness programme where they visited workplaces and had in school speakers giving them an insight into the world of work.

The pupils very much enjoyed this week and

in particular found the visit to the Dog's Trust interesting, they enjoyed seeing the dogs and getting the chance to interact with them. We were also very grateful to Elizabeth Arbuckle from Asda, Torglen who came in to speak to them about working in a supermarket.

## The Arts and Crafts Dynamic Youth Group

The Arts and Crafts Dynamic Youth Group have raised £62.50 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Thank you to all who supported us by buying goods that we made on a Friday afternoon. We sold our work on the Craft Stall at the Bingo Night, and at morning break on 28.3.14 we sold out our remaining 'Gift Eggs'

## Congratulations to Kyle Hannin

Our congratulations go to Kyle Hannin who has been chosen to attend the Leonardo Sportilia 2014 from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014. This is a vocational Coaching Experience where Kyle will have the opportunity to further develop the coaching skills he has acquired by participating in the Partick Thistle Employability Programme.

Kyle will travel to Sportilia in the Emilia Romagna region of Italy where he will be involved in coaching local Italian school children, this will also allow him the opportunity to learn basic Italian phrases. Well done Kyle!

## Scottish Referendum on Independence

With the Scottish Referendum on Independence now only 6 months away, we have been asked to ensure that all pupils who have attained legal voting age by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 are registered to vote. Therefore, we have been completing the appropriate forms for all pupils who will be 16 or over by that date. If you require any further information please contact Mr Shields at the school.

## Financial Services Association Donation

Our school band once again performed at the Financial Services Christmas Lunch before Christmas and, as always, the organization have very generously donated the proceeds of the raffle to Abercorn. They recently came to school to present us with a cheque for £2500. We are very grateful to them for the continued support.



# SQA Exam Diet 2014



## Exact times to be advised individually

Date	Subject	Level
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Modern Studies	Intermediate 1
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	English	Intermediate 1
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	English	Intermediate 2
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Maths	Intermediate 1
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Administration	Intermediate 1
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Administration	Intermediate 2
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Computing	Intermediate 1
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Computing	Intermediate 2
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Spanish	Intermediate 1

Pupils will receive a detailed list of their own exams in due course including the times allocated to them for each paper. If you require any further information regarding any of the exams please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## Exam Stress

We are aware that a number of our senior pupil are beginning to feel the effects of the upcoming exams and are displaying signs of stress. As their subject teachers work with them to complete the essential coursework they are becoming aware that their course is nearing an end and the final exams are looming. For some of our pupils this has a greater effect than others and, as each child is different, the signs manifest themselves in different ways.

We are working with each individual pupil to support them in the best possible way and will continue to do so throughout the next few weeks as well as during the exams and we would encourage any parent who feels their child is concerned about the exams or suffering stress to let us know.

We have advised all pupils preparing for the exams of the importance of completing work at home to ensure they are best prepared, however, we have also made clear that it is important to relieve stress to have some time out from the constant pressure and have spoken to them about some relaxing activities they may consider when taking a break from studying. To this end Miss McAllister has agreed to start a Yoga club. More details to follow.