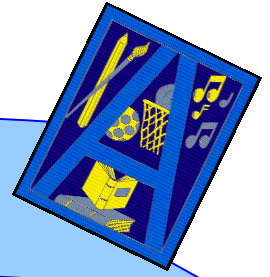


Abercorn News



March 2015

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 SQA 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. At the end of this newsletter is a list of all of the examination dates. Individual letters will be sent home with individual pupils with information on their specific assessment arrangements and the start/finish times of their exams. If you have any SQA queries please do not hesitate to contact Miss Hunter at the school. The official school leaving date is 31 May 2015 although many young people choose to continue attending until the end of session.

As you will read from this newsletter it has been another extremely busy month here in Abercorn. The young people have had the opportunity to extend their learning experiences both within and outwith our school and these will continue next term. An integral part of these learning experiences is the large number of residential trips that we organise for our young people to participate in. A group of 27 third and fourth year pupils and 4 staff have just returned from another very successful trip to Alton Towers and Blackpool. Next term we will see trips to Aviemore, Stirling, Spain, Blairvadach and a Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

Our refurbishment programme is continuing and over the Spring Break there will be work done on "sound proofing" our classroom areas. Unfortunately the school swimming pool has not been in use this month and we are hoping to hear very soon that the pool will be operational again for the start of next term. This has meant that the heating has been on in school 24 hours per day, if the weather is mild outside then the school can be very warm in some areas. We are encouraging the young people to go outside during break times, this is usually for 15 minutes in the morning and approx. 15 minutes at lunchtime. We know that the weather is very changeable at present and I would like to ask you to remind your son/daughter to bring their outdoor jackets with them and to put them on at during break times.

I would once again like to thank you all for your continued support and your attendance at all of the events organised by the school. Thank you to all parents/carers who attended annual review meetings this term and we had a turnout of 47% at our recent parents' evening. As many of you know Mr Kerr has been absent for the last few weeks and we have not organised all of the S4 Review meetings as yet, these are in the process of being reorganised for the start of next term.

We have received information regarding our S1 intake for August 2015. It would appear that our first year will be much smaller than previous years. This will mean that next term we will plan for a much smaller school roll which will also mean that we anticipate there to be a number of staffing changes. Over the next couple of months we will provide you with as much information regarding curricular choices and individual opportunities for you to discuss these options will be made available.

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

Exam Revision Guides

Please see below the links to the National Parent Forum's Revision in a Nutshell guides for the new Highers (20 subjects) and updated Revision guides for National 5s (20 subjects). These revision guides contain direct links to SQA specimen question papers, exemplar question papers plus past question papers, where appropriate. They are designed as digital resources and work well with I pads or other tablets.

The guides advise learners to check with their teachers to make sure that material is relevant. The guides are primarily intended to provide the SQA direct links by subject in one place, and to give some additional revision opportunities (if relevant) which are web-links to school pages or to the websites of subject-relevant organisations. Any feedback or comments would be much appreciated.

20 Revision Guides for the new Higher qualifications

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/new-higher-revision-guides/>

20 Updated Revision Guides for the National 5 Qualifications

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/national-5-revision-in-a-nutshell/>

In addition, the following may be of interest:

Assessment in the Senior Phase in a Nutshell
This is a summary of the types of assessment in the new National Qualifications

http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/nutshells_assessment_E1.pdf

Learning Pathways in a Nutshell for the Senior Phase and beyond

http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/nutshells_pathway_P1.pdf

The National Parent Forum of Scotland's publications guide

http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NPFS_publications_guide_2015_E.pdf

Abercorn Secondary School, 195 Garscube Road, Glasgow, G4 9QH. Tel: 0141 332 6212. Wel

Bingo Night

Our senior pupils are currently preparing for a residential trip to Spain in June and to help towards the costs they have organized a bingo night to take place on Thursday 30th April. Tickets will be £5 and are available from Miss Campbell.

College Tasters

Our S4/5/6 pupils have recently begun attending college for taster sessions with a view to deciding which courses they would like to undertake next session. This is an excellent opportunity for them to get a chance to look around the college and get an idea of what the course entails. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Shields.

Football News

Congratulations to Kyle Gault, Kyle Hannin, Blair McGregor and Rocky Singh who have been selected to play for the Scotland under 19 squad. They will travel with Mr Baird to Wales during the first week of the Easter holidays to take part in the Home Nations Football Tournament. We wish them the best of luck.

Sports Success

Our congratulations go to Shinead McDonald who was recently won Gold in the 100m at the Victoria Park Athletics Championships and Alistair Kemley who won Gold in the Bellahouston Gymnastics competition.



.sch.uk

Alton Towers



On Sunday 22nd March at 7.30am 28 pupils set off on a residential trip to Chester. The first stop was Blackpool Pleasure Beach where we spent the

afternoon before travelling on to the Woodhey House Hotel in Chester where they stayed for 2 nights. On Monday they spent a great day at Alton Towers and some of the group even discovered their inner thrill seeker side going on the "scary rides". They visited Old Trafford, home of Manchester United on Tuesday and took part in the stadium tour before having lunch in Frankie and Benny's on the way back to school. All the pupils had a great time and were very well behaved. Thank you to Mrs Johnston for organizing the trip and Mrs Logue, Mr Dorian and Mr Baird for accompanying the pupils.

GIRFEC

Getting it right for every child - update

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on detailed guidance that supports parts of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This Act is a new law that will give children, young people and their families extra support and will encourage everyone to talk about children's wellbeing using the same words. The consultation on the guidance is due to run until 1 May. It is mainly aimed at the people who support your child – including parents' organisations – but individual parents are welcome to get involved if they wish. You can take part in the consultation via this link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/02/1851>

Barclays LifeSkills

On Friday 27th March a group of 8 pupils took part in a Lifeskills event run by Barclays in their city centre office. The morning centred around personal finance and money skills and pupils learned the importance of budgeting. In the afternoon they were set an apprentice style task to create a fundraising event. They did very well when they faced the dragons who were in fact so impressed with the ideas they couldn't choose a winner! We are grateful to Barclays for giving us the opportunity to take part and hope to participate in similar events in the future.



'Egg'citing News

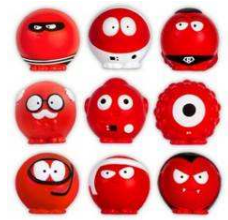
We recently took delivery of 10 hen eggs carefully stored in their own incubator. Our cleaners and some lucky staff watched the first chicks hatch out early the following morning



and during the day many pupils had the privilege of watching the rest of our chicks being born. In total we had 6 boys (yellow) and 4

girls (brown). S1-S3 classes got to name a chick each and the chicks were marked with food colouring so we could identify each one. During Science classes and at both interval and lunchtime pupils were able to handle the chicks (with a lucky few being pooped on). The chicks were also the star attraction on Parents Night. Hopefully all the chicks are enjoying their new life after their 'egg'cellent time at Abercorn.

Comic Relief Red Nose Day Friday 13th March



Great Fun was had by all on Red Nose Day this year. uniform day was enjoyed, with many pupils taking up the red theme!



At morning break there was:-

- * a 'Red Nose Café' where pupils enjoyed a cake, a drink of juice and could have their noses painted
- * 'Red Hair Spraying' with a choice of 6 stencils



Earlier 120 Official Noses were on sale (we sold out) a 'Who's behind the Nose Quiz' and a 'Who's Hair Quiz'. Prizewinners were announced in the afternoon and prizes presented.

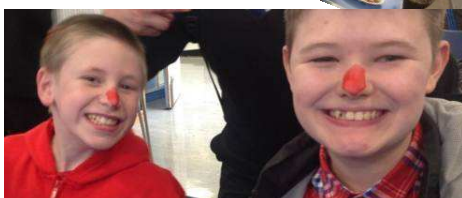
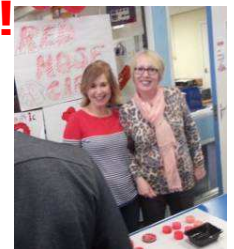


In the run up to the day, pupils learned in Modern Studies about people and projects, at home and abroad, supported by Comic Relief. They also used this information in Art & Design.

A FABULOUS TOTAL OF £411 was raised by all in Abercorn. WELL DONE EVERYONE!



A HUGE THANKYOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART IN THE FUNDRAISING AND HELPED ON THE DAY!



SQA Exam Diet 2015



Exact times to be advised individually

Date	Subject	Level
Wednesday 29 th April	Administration	Intermediate 1
Wednesday 29 th April	Administration	Intermediate 2
Wednesday 6 th May	Computing	Intermediate 2
Thursday 14 th May	English	Intermediate 1
Thursday 14 th May	English	Intermediate 2
Thursday 19 th May	Maths	Intermediate 1
Friday 29 th May	Spanish	Intermediate 1

Exam Stress

We are aware that a number of our senior pupils 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.

Dates for your Diary (April 2015)

Thursday 2 nd April	School Closes at 2.30pm
Monday 20 th April	School Re-opens
Tuesday 21 st April	1B to Coca Cola Factory East Kilbride 9.30am – 12 noon
Wednesday 22 nd – Thursday 23 rd April	2 Day trip to Aviemore Shinty Competition
Tuesday 28 th April	1A to Coca Cola Factory East Kilbride 9.30am – 12 noon