



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter. Once again it has been another very busy month in Abercorn.

On Tuesday, 17 November we held our annual Celebration of Success event. This gave the school community an opportunity to recognise a number of our recent achievements including an appearance from some of our Special Olympics medal winners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents/carers who attended this event.

As you will see from the "dates for your diary" section December is going to be a particularly busy month. I will strive to keep you informed of all outings/trips as these have an impact on our young people's timetables and I am very aware of the necessity to ensure that everyone is fully prepared for any changes within the school day.

Included with this envelope is an invitation to our Christmas Carol Service on Friday, 18 December, I hope that you will all be able to attend.

Patricia McGowan

Dates for your Diary (December 2015)

S5 Reviews throughout December – Parents will be advised of appointments	
Tuesday 1 st December	S5/6 Planning Outdoor Activity Group Canal Walk
Friday 4 th December	Dynamic Youth Arts and Crafts Group to Nautical College
Friday 4 th December	Special Olympics Football Trials
Tuesday 8 th December	Group to Pavillion Pantomime 11am
Tuesday 8 th December	Group to Boccia Competition in Gorbals
Wednesday 9 th December	Christmas Fair 10am – 12noon
Wednesday 9 th December	Group to Variety Club Christmas Party at Hampden Park
Thursday 10 th December	School Band to Central Hotel to play at the FSA Christmas Lunch
Friday 11 th December	Group to Dick McWhittington in the New Athenaeum Theatre
Friday 11 th December	S1/S2 Christmas Party 1.45pm – 3pm organized by Dynamic Youth Crazy Entertainers Group
Thursday 17 th December	S5/6 Wider Achievement Group Ice Bucket Challenge
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Carol Service 10am
Tuesday 22 nd December	School Closes at 2,30pm
Wednesday 6 th January 2016	School re-opens

Pantomime

On Tuesday 8th December 120 pupils will attend the Christmas show in the Pavillion Theatre – Santa Claus is Coming to Town. We are very grateful once again to Mr Alan Rennie who donated the tickets.

Variety Club Christmas Party

On Wednesday 9th December 65 pupils will attend the Variety Club Christmas Party at Hampden Park. Once again the Variety Club has offered each of the pupils the chance to choose a

Christmas Present to receive at the event. We have been supported by the Variety Club for a long number of years now and appreciate the efforts they make to ensure our pupils enjoy the treats they offer.



Christmas Fair

The S3 Personal Achievement Award group are busy organizing the annual Christmas Fair. They have chosen to hold the fair on Wednesday 9th December from 10am till 12 noon. There will be a selection of stalls including toys; books/DVD's; home baking; raffle; tombola; café and our ever popular Christmas Gift stall. The pupils have been busy deciding on Christmas Gifts to make and sell and are hopeful you will like what they produce. All parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to come along to the fair. Donations for the home-baking stall and our Tombola would be gratefully received.

Celebration of Success

On Tuesday 17th November we held our annual Celebration of Success assembly. We were delighted to celebrate a number of recent successes within our school community, including our former pupils Special Olympics World Games successes; Mr Anderson's Malawi adventures; our Student Council and our Shinty Teams amongst others.

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Christmas Carol Service

Our next event will be the Christmas Carol Service which will take place on Friday 18th December in the morning and, again, all parents, carers and friends will be made warmly welcome. To allow for appropriate seating to be made available you will shortly receive an invitation, please return this to us indicating how many people will be attending.



Business Education Trips

S1 pupils participated in a museum workshop on the 4th November. The workshop - The Age of Invention at the People's Palace was excellent and pupils enjoyed the experience very much.

S4 Business visited the Aurora Building in Bothwell Street – the Glasgow Headquarters of Barclays, where they took part in an Inspire event on Thursday 19 November. The day was fun packed and full of life skills challenges in relation to finance. Students had to think about how they spend their money through a series of tasks including money skills, the Budget Game and a Dragon's Den challenge. The Budget game explores the cost of running a household, developing the ability to manage a budget and the impact of making different borrowing decisions. All students thoroughly enjoyed their day with Martin and Rosie from the Barclays Lifeskills Inspire Team and came away with a better understanding of how they should spend, or not, their money!



Christmas Market Tour

S4 pupils along with Mrs Logue, Mrs Johnston, Miss Brown and Mr Connor recently visited the Argyle Street Christmas Market. They were given a tour of the market and heard the background and history to each of the stall holders as well as the Christmas traditions in their country. They were given the opportunity to try as much of the food as they wanted and everyone agreed that some of the food items available were delicious.

Christmas Lunch

Pupils will have Christmas lunch on 18th December. They will shortly have the opportunity to order what they would like to eat.

Making Journeys

The post 16 group who having been working on a unit designed to give them the skills required for



making journeys recently planned and carried out a walk. They managed to link this to Road Safety Week. They planned a journey to the Glasgow Botanic Gardens in the West end. Each group member was to take responsibility for a section of the route and had to safely guide the rest of group along that part of the journey. All students were able to remember and follow the road safety rules along the way. Luckily the weather was on our side and a successful and dry arrival was made to the Botanic Gardens. Well done to Maxine, Rosie, Lyndsey, Aimee, Skye, Shannon and Jacob!

Catering and Customer Service



The S5/6 group studying National 2 Employment Skills with a focus on the Catering and Customer Service

sector recently held a hot roll café for pupils and staff. They had to plan for the café and prepare the food to strict timescales and then serve the customers in a polite and courteous manner. They did very well and managed to raise £70. They will be carrying out more work related activities in the coming weeks to gain more experience of working in the catering industry and they will also be visiting a restaurant to speak to the staff and find out more about their jobs.

Flora Tubs for Tablets

We are taking part in an initiative run by Flora whereby if we can collect 50 tubs with tokens attached from Tesco they will give us a Samsung Galaxy tablet.



Please see the attached letter for more details. If you have any of these tubs please send them in to us by the 12th December.

Social Enterprise

1B Enterprise run a social enterprise initiative called Abercorn's Social Café. On Friday, 27 November they offered staff cakes for a donation of £1.00. All of 1B helped decorate the cakes and were excited to see the final results.

The staff in Abercorn were very generous and the café was a success. After the New Year the café will be offering a similar



event to each year group. All the money raised goes back into buying ingredients and the profit left goes to Yorkhill Children's Charity. Well done to Vladimir, Jamie, Kyle, Kimberley, Bella and Billiejo.

Developing the Workforce

As part of our commitment to developing skills for learning, life and work Miss Thomson has been looking to secure volunteering placements for a number of senior pupils. So far we are delighted to say Samantha McKillop volunteers a day a week in Caldercuilt primary; Michelle Wood volunteers a morning a week in riding for the disabled and Jamie Lawrence volunteers half a day a week in the pre-5 gymnastics group in the Emirates Arena. So far they are all enjoying the experience and are doing very well.



Celebrating Success – Determined to Animate

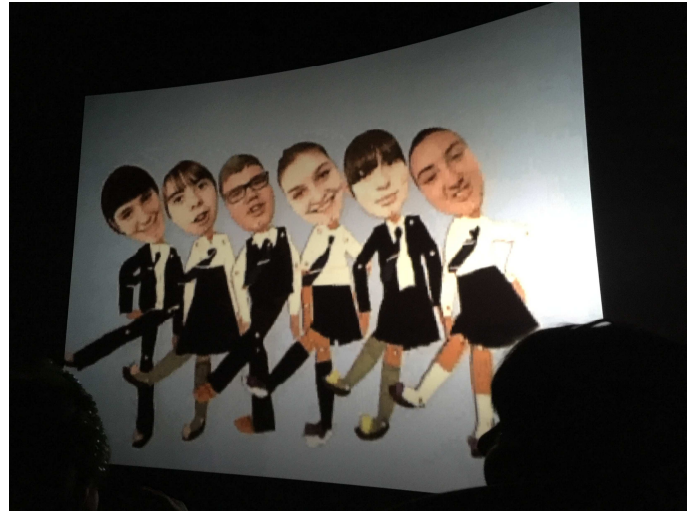
In September of this year Abercorn - along with 17 other Primary and Secondary Schools in Glasgow - was invited to create a short animation linked to First Aid and Health, in partnership with St. Andrews First Aid.

Mrs Couper's S3 Media class decided to make their animation on choking. They researched the most common choking hazards and watched information films on the internet on what to do if you find yourself unable to breathe. Through discussion work pupils were able to storyboard their ideas and decide what their animation would look and sound like.

Pupils decided to create jointed puppets of themselves in full school uniform and star in the animation. They made an ambulance and contacted St. Andrews First Aid to see if any First Aiders would like to appear in the film. They decided to call the film "Chokin'? You're Jokin'?"

The animation was only allowed to be one minute long and we only had a short time to make it in.

As a first experience at making an animation within the Media department we can honestly say it was not an easy one! However all the staff at Abercorn happily gave up their time and talents to help overcome any technical issues and together the whole school was very proud of the collective finished result.



On Friday 27th November S3 attended the Determined to Animate Awards Ceremony held at the IMAX cinema. It was incredibly exciting to watch all of the entries on the 85 foot high cinema screen.

We were very proud when Abercorn was announced Winner of the Best Animation in the Secondary School category.

Media students in other year groups are looking forward to making further animations within their National 3 Media courses. Watch this space!

