



Abercorn News



September 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

I am very happy to be writing my first newsletter of the new school session. As you are all aware it has been a time of change within Abercorn due to both Mrs Beaton and Mrs Cherry deciding to retire with over 50 years service between them. I hope to be in a position to interview for these vacancies within the school over the next couple of months and I look forward to introducing you to any new staff members. In the meantime Mr Shields will continue as Acting Depute Head Teacher. As a result of these retirements we have a number of new staff within the school and I would like to welcome:

- Mrs Green who will teach PSHE and Geography
- Mrs Murphy who will teach Science, Music and ASDAN
- Miss McLaughlin who will teach RE and support the PE department
- Mr Anderson has returned on a full-time basis to teach RE and ASDAN

I would like to congratulate all of our young people who were very successful in their SQA qualifications and a number of pupils are awaiting confirmation of their ASDAN awards – well done everyone and keep-up the good work.

As always the term has been extremely busy. There has already been a very successful trip to Camas for S4 pupils, S2 have enjoyed a day out to Blair Drummond Safari Park and you will be pleased to hear that the football team is continuing to win all of their matches.

All staff and pupils are busy putting their finishing touches to their Curriculum Plans and I hope that you will receive these before the October break.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support. All pupils are a credit to both yourself and our school and are looking extremely smart in their school uniforms, especially the new school cardigans. A special thank you to Mr & Mrs McMaster who persuaded one of their friends to undertake a sponsored cycle on behalf of the school – it raised £329.

Finally, Mr Jim Begley our School Janitor retired on Friday, 28 September after several extremely happy years within the school. I am sure that you will join the staff and pupils in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Patricia McGowan

Dates for your diary

	S1 Post Placement Reviews Parents/Carers will be informed of appointments
Monday 1st	Sponsor Swim
Tuesday 2nd	Parents Café (Social Enterprise Event)
Thursday 4th	Swimming Gala at Tollcross
Thursday 11th	Bingo Night
Friday 12th	School closes for October holiday
Monday 22nd	School reopens
Thursday 25th	Transition Event – P7 Drummore Parents to visit (1.30 pm – 2.30 pm)
Friday 26th	WAA Crazy Entertainers S1 Halloween Party
Monday 29th	Young Scot Card photographs to be taken – S1 pupils only
Wednesday 31st	S2 Trip to Whitelees Wind Farm, Eaglesham

Important dates to remember

Thursday 8th Nov	Parents Evening (Whole School)
Monday 19th Nov	Inservice Day (Preparation for new qualifications)

Art & Design Dept News

- Last session a number of pupils took part in the 'SQA 2050 Competition'. In June the then 1B were invited to attend a Prize giving in the Science Centre, where Kyle Haggarty was awarded third prize. As he was on holiday at the time Kyle Gault received his award for him. Everyone who attended had the opportunity to enjoy free time in the Science Centre.
- In June we sent in entries to the Glasgow Schools Calendar competition. Fingers crossed we will hear good news soon!
- We also sent in a large number of entries into the Queen's Cross Housing Association 'Gala Day Poster Competition'. We are still waiting to hear from them – no news is good news!
- Following on from our winners in last sessions' Trades House of Glasgow Schools Craft Competition, and time spent at the awards ceremony in June. The Incorporation of Bonnetmakers and Dyers were so impressed with Jennifer Orr and her fascinators (which won her Deacon Convener First Prize Higher Award), they have just sent in a cheque for £500 for the Art & Design Department to buy more Millinery materials to keep up the good work! A Huge thank you to Deacon Karen McKenna-Shand and The Incorporation of Bonnetmakers and Dyers of Glasgow.

Eco News



The school are collecting Morrisons 'Let's Grow' vouchers. They can be placed in the box located by the P.E. department.

Anyone wishing to join the Abercorn Eco-Committee as a parent member is very welcome to do so. We will meet regularly on either a Monday or Tuesday morning at 9.00 am. Please contact Mrs Middleton for further details either by email hmiddleton@abercorn-sec.glasgow.sch.uk or on 332 6212.

Variety Club Outing

S2 were very lucky to recently attend the annual Variety Club outing to Blair Drummond Safari Park. The day, which was organized by the Variety Club of Scotland, was a huge success and S2 were chosen to attend since they had won the PUMA competition as S1 at the end of last session. Puma rewards the young people's punctuality, uniform, attendance and merit (behaviour and work-rate).

Camas 2012

On Saturday 8th September, 10 pupils, along with Miss Campbell and Mr Robertson left Queen Street Station for a 6 day visit to Camas Outdoor Centre. Camas is situated on a very isolated part of the Island of Mull. There is little electricity, no TV, no computers, and no shops or houses for miles in any direction. That said however, the pupils had a fantastic time abseiling, canoeing, hill walking, peat-digging, swimming and a host of indoor activities.

This was a great opportunity for pupils to develop deeper friendships with one another, and they were excellent at helping each other through the day's activities. All of the pupils enjoyed the experience and discovered what it was like to live together as a community. The pupils were a credit to themselves and to Abercorn, and it was a joy for Miss Campbell and Mr Robertson to lead the trip. Well done everybody!

Bingo Night



Abercorn's annual Bingo Night is currently being organized by the S4 SVS class and will take place on Thursday 11th October 2012. Please see attached flyer for more information. Tickets priced £5 (includes 2 books) are now available from the school. Refreshments will be provided.

Student Council

With this session now well under way our pupils have been voting for the classmates they wish to represent them on the Student Council. Only S5/6 are left to vote so we should the full list of representatives will appear in next month's newsletter. In the meantime the Student Council continues to represent the pupil voice within the school.

Parent's Café



The first Parent's café of the session will be held on Tuesday 2nd October from 2pm – 3pm. All parents, carers and friends are very welcome. Tea/coffee and home baking is available for £1.50 and since the café is a Social Enterprise all profits go towards addressing social issues. We have a new group of S3 pupils running the café this session and they have some very good ideas on how to improve the experience which they will be working on in the coming months, in the meantime though they wanted to get the cafes back running on a monthly basis. However, please note the change of day and time – cafes will now be on a **Tuesday afternoon 2pm – 3pm once per month**, dates for the full year will be available.

Uniform

All pupils have returned to school looking very smart in their uniforms. Please continue to ensure that they observe our dress code. Our uniform consists of:

- black trousers/skirt
- black shoes or black training shoes
- white shirt
- school tie
- black cardigan/or navy school jumper.

White or coloured trainers are not allowed and strictly no hoodies or football colours.

Pastoral Care Year Heads

Pupils have now settled into the routine of school again and are aware of their Student Tutors and Pastoral Care Year Heads. The Pastoral Care Year Heads would be your first point of contact if you had any issues or concerns regarding your child. This year they are as follows:

S1 – Mr Robertson
S2 – Mr Kerr
S3 – Mr Kerr
S4 – Miss Campbell
S5 – Mr Shields
S6 – Mr Shields

Student Tutors

A pupil's first point of contact would be their Student Tutor who they see for Student Tutor Time each morning (8.55 – 9.25 am) and who they can approach with any issues or concerns at any other point in the day. This year they are as follows:

1A – Mrs Collie	3C – Miss Thomson
1B – Mr Cochrane	4A – Mr Close
1C – Miss Phillips	4B – Miss Walsh
2A – Mr Connor	4C – Mrs Coupar
2B – Ms Green	4D – Miss McAllister
2C – Mr Devlin	5A – Mr Baird
2D – Mr Anderson	5B – Mr Dorrian
3A – Miss Brown	S5/6 – Miss Jaffrey
3B – Mrs Johnston	S6 – Mr McNab

Sponsored Swim

Abercorn is again hoping to provide a variety of residential experiences this session as well as supporting the pupils who have been chosen to represent the West of Scotland at the UK Special Olympics in Bath in 2013. In order to do this it is necessary to undertake some fundraising. There will therefore be a sponsored swim in school on Monday 1st October. Pupils have been given information and sponsor forms. Further information is available from Mr Kerr.



Macmillan Coffee Morning



The S3 Personal development class will be joining the Macmillan Cancer Support "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" on Friday 28th September. They are organizing a coffee morning and inviting both staff and pupils to take part. The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's biggest fundraising event and Abercorn hope to be able to contribute a good amount towards this very worthwhile cause.

Coca Cola Factory Visit



One of our S3 Business groups who will be taking part in the Coca Cola Real Business Challenge recently visited the Coca Cola Factory to find out more about the company and their products. They are now working on their presentation for the challenge where they have been asked to devise a new drinks product. Good luck to the group.

Farewell to Mrs Cherry



It is with sadness that we wish Mrs Margery Cherry farewell as she has decided to retire from Abercorn. Mrs Cherry has been in Abercorn for 27 years, and in that time has been completely dedicated to ensuring that the young people get the very best opportunities and experiences. Amongst other things she has, in particular, worked very hard to ensure that each pupil has a balanced and varied curriculum and extra curricular opportunities to complement that as well as facilitating the SQA exam diets each year for our older pupils and ensuring that each one had the required supports in place. In addition, she has over the years, mentored a number of pupils who have benefited greatly from her support and advice. We will greatly miss her hard work and commitment to the pupils and the school.

Global Children's Challenge

Abercorn pupils have recently signed up to join the Global Children's Challenge in an attempt to improve their overall general health and fitness.



Starting on Wednesday 19 September 2012, The Global Children's Challenge™ is a health initiative designed to get children from all over the world active, and instill in them the habit and importance of daily exercise for the rest of their lives.

Facilitated by teachers within classrooms, the Global Children's Challenge™ empowers children to change their relationship with exercise, their bodies and the environment. The benefits extend beyond making exercise easy and fun – it complements the curriculum, covering everything from geography and social studies to history and technology.

Put simply, it's about reaching out to children and addressing the issues now, not shrugging our shoulders and hoping it fixes itself, because it won't.

Nearly one third of the developed world's children are overweight or obese. These children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and are at a much greater risk of developing mental health issues as well as cancer, Type II diabetes and cardiovascular diseases which can lead to premature death.

Each pupil has been issued with a pedometer which they should wear all day long both at school and at home for a period of 50 days. They will be given the opportunity each day to record their reading from the pedometer (that is the number of steps they have taken). They should aim for 15,000 steps per day by being as active as possible. It is hoped by participating in the project pupils will take a greater interest in maintaining their health and fitness.

