



Abercorn News

September 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

I cannot believe that it is already the end of September. I feel this has been one of the busiest starts to a school year; we have already had a number of pupils taking part in two residential trips. There has been a very successful trip to Camas and a small number of our senior pupils went to Blairvadach. In addition S2 enjoyed a day out to Blair Drummond Safari Park and you will be pleased to hear that the football team has had a successful start to the season.

We have welcomed a small number of new staff to the school this session:

- Dr Bhutta is working within the Science department for Mrs Middleton
- Mrs Dagleish is working on a Tuesday and Wednesday in Home Economics and General Subjects
- Mrs Foley is working on a Wednesday and Thursday in Home Economics and General Subjects

Pupils and staff are busy finalising this session's curriculum plans and we hope you will receive your copy before the October break.

Finally I would like to thank you all for continuing to support our school in relation to our uniform policy and attendance at school.

Once again please feel free to contact the school if you have any suggestions on where we can improve or if you require any support or guidance in relation to your child's learning.

Regards
Patricia McGowan

Dates for your diary (October-December)

Tuesday 7 th October	Mr Connor, Garry Hamilton and Kyle Hannin (S6) to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Education Trust.
Tuesday 7 th October	S1 English trip to Amazonia 10am
Wednesday 8 th October	West of Scotland Gala, Scotstoun, 10am
Thursday 9 th October	S4 Bingo Night
Friday 10 th October	School closes 3pm for October Week holiday
Monday 20 th October	School re-opens 8.55am following October Week holiday
Tuesday 21 st October	Variety Club Athletics Event, Emirates Arena, All Day
Thursday 30 th October	S2 Young Inventors Technologies Workshop, Glasgow Museum Resource Centre, 10am – 12 noon (group 1)
Friday 31 st October	S1 Halloween Party, organized by Abercorn's Crazy Entertainers, 1.40pm – 3pm

There are a number of dates in the diary already for November and December, please see the full list on the back of the newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the planned activities, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Planned Appointments

A number of pupils have attended planned appointments since school returned in August. We are happy to accommodate these appointments where no alternative time is suitable, however, in order for the absence to be authorized we must see the appointment card/letter or have proof of the appointment time. In addition, we can only provide a half day authorization for attending appointments – pupils cannot be given a full day authorization. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this please contact your child's pastoral care year head to discuss.

MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning



On Thursday 24th September S3 pupils working towards a Personal Achievement Award held a very successful coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. A

total of £145 was raised through donations from staff, pupils and the sale of cards created by the Dynamic Youth Arts and Crafts group. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed.

Variety Club Badges

We will have Variety Club pin badges on sale for £1 at the tuck shop every morning. We have been very fortunate to receive support from the Royal Variety Club for a number of years in the form of out of school experiences for our pupils, recently these have included trips to Blairdrummond Safari Park, M&D's, the Riverboat Cruise and an annual Christmas Party therefore we would like to be able to do what we can to support their fundraising efforts. We hope if pupils have £1 spare they will purchase one of the badges.

Abercorn Secondary School, 195 Garscube Road, Glasgow, G4 9QH. Tel: 0141 332 6212. Web: www.abercorn-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

Access Film Club

The Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT) in Rose Street have provided details of their new Access Film Club which they are launching in association with Scottish Autism. They aim to use this to provide a safe space for teenagers and young adults on the Autistic Spectrum to come along and watch and talk about films.

The first screening will be on Tuesday 11th November at 7.30pm and then at the same time on the second Tuesday of every month thereafter. Tickets will be priced at £5. They will be providing the young people with the opportunity to vote for the film to be shown each month from a different theme and shortlist. The theme for November is Superheroes and the theme for December is Christmas. If you would like to vote please access

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AccessFilmClub>

Health and Wellbeing Focus Weeks

As a health promoting school we intend to introduce Health and Wellbeing focus weeks throughout the year. The first of these will be week beginning Monday 27th October and the focus will be hygiene. It is our intention to focus in particular on personal hygiene, tooth brushing and healthy snacks. More information will be available nearer the time, however, pupils will spend time discussing the focus in various curricular areas as well as during Student Tutor Time.

A recent study has shown that tooth decay is an increasing problem amongst children. During our health and wellbeing focus weeks pupils will be reminded of the need to brush their teeth regularly and reduce the amount of sugary sweets and drinks consumed. Please remember that we would prefer our young people not to have chocolate snacks, sweets etc during the school day as research shows this can affect their learning.

Football Success



The school football team have been back in action again. They played their first 4 games to defend their West of Scotland regional title during September and we are delighted to report they won all 4 games.

In addition, a mixture of S1-S3 pupils took part in a recent Scottish Disability Sport SFA 7 a-side football tournament at Toryglen Regional football Centre. Throughout the course of the day they played 4 games and did very well winning 2, drawing one and only losing one game. All the pupils enjoyed the experience, particularly the S1's who were representing the school for the first time. Well done to all of the boys involved.

Mrs Collie has recently started a girls football club at breaktime. A number of girls have shown an interest. More information to follow as the club develops.

Supported Work Experience

We have a number of S4 pupils going on supported work experience placements over the next few weeks. These placements are in a variety of local workplaces ranging from the Botanic Gardens to a children's nursery. The pupils undertake a number of work related tasks over the course of the week in a supported setting. Our dedicated Work Experience week for S4 pupils this session will begin Monday 2nd February where the majority of S4 pupils will undertake a week long work placement.

Bingo Night

Abercorn's annual Bingo Night is currently being organized by the S4 Personal Development Award class and will take place on Thursday 9th October 2014. Please see attached flyer for more information. Tickets priced £5 (includes 2 books) are now available from the school. Refreshments will be provided. Any donations to the raffle would be gratefully received by Mrs Johnston and Mrs Logue.

Camas Trip 2014

Miss Campbell and Mr Robertson recently left Queen Street Station accompanied by 10 pupils 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. For the first time in years they were fortunate enough to be basking in bright sunshine for the week!

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!

Young Scot Cards

Our S1 pupils will shortly be visited by representatives from the Young Scot Card who will help them to apply for this national entitlement card for young people aged 11-26 which will entitle them to discounts and offers on a range of shops, services and travel. More information will be provided when the card arrives. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Miss McAllister.



Transport Co-ordination Centre Freephone Number

Please call the Transport Co-ordination Centre on **0800 032 4444** if a pupil is not going to be on the morning taxi run. This is a freephone number available 24 hours a day. The school should also then be informed of any pupil absence. This number can also be used to enquire about taxi's which may not have turned up on time.



We must also be made aware if a pupil has not travelled in the morning taxi but does require to be added to the run for the hometime journey. If pupils have not travelled in to school by taxi that morning drivers will not take them home without prior notice.

Please note also that the wait time for taxis is now only 5 minutes. Pupils should be ready and waiting for their taxi to arrive as drivers are unable to wait outside the house for longer than 5 minutes.

Auschwitz

On Monday 7th October Garry Hamilton and Kyle Hannin (S6) will travel with Mr Connor for a one day trip to Auschwitz. Run in conjunction with the holocaust education trust this unique experience will allow the pupils to develop a deeper understanding of what people suffered during the holocaust. The project, titled Lessons from Auschwitz sees pupils undertake 2 afternoon seminars and a one day visit to the former Nazi extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in order to pass on the lessons to their schools and communities. On their return the boys will work on ways to disseminate the information they have gathered through the seminars and the trip.

Parents Evening

Our first Parent's Evening will take place on Thursday 6th November from 4.30 pm – 7.30pm. This is an opportunity to speak to your child's teachers and find out more information about their work and behavior in class. In addition, pastoral care year heads will be available to discuss your child's pastoral care targets for the year.

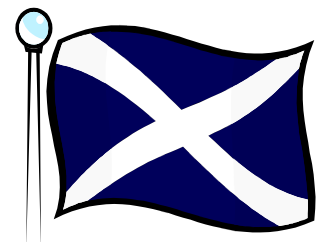
S1 Halloween Party

The Friday afternoon Abercorn's Crazy Entertainers group are busy organizing a Halloween party for pupils on Friday 31st October. The party will take place from 1.40pm – 3 pm. S1 pupils are welcome to bring a costume to change into at lunch time to attend the party, however, we would ask that all they are appropriate to be worn in school.



Scottish Studies Award

A number of pupils are working on a new Scottish Studies Award this term. All of S3 are undertaking the mandatory unit where they will broaden their knowledge about a particular aspect of Scotland. They can then go on to pick up additional units towards the overall award in subsequent years. In addition, we have a number of pupils in S4/5/6 who undertook their mandatory unit last year and will this year complete the required number of units to attain the award. The additional units involve them studying in other curricular areas but with a Scottish focus. Mrs Collie is very involved in the delivery of this award and, consequently, there are a number of pupils learning basic Gaelic.



Dates for your Diary – November and December

There are a number of activities already planned for November and December. Please keep these dates handy so that you can talk to your children about anything they may be involved in. If you require further information about any of these events, please contact the school.

Monday 3 rd November	S3 Technologies Workshop - Centre of New Enlightenment 10 am – 12 noon
Monday 3 rd November	Hopscotch Drama Production (school hall) St Andrew and the Flag pm for Scottish Studies pupils
Wednesday 5 th November	S4/5/6 Drama Classes to Muppets Most Wanted, Cineworld Renfield Street, 10am
Thursday 6 th November	S2 Technologies workshop, Young Inventors, GMRC 10am – 12 noon (Group 2)
Thursday 6 th November	Parents Evening, 4.30 pm – 7.30pm
Monday 10 th November	S5 Finance Trip to Edinburgh, all day, Miss Thomson and Mrs Collie
Wednesday 12 th November	S3 Media class to The Lego Movie, Braehead, 10am
Friday 14 th November	Caledonian Award Trip to Bearsden
Friday 14 th November	S5/6 Media class to The Amazing Spiderman at the Quay 10am
Tuesday 18 th November	S4 Business class to visit Lees of Scotland 10.30am
Thursday 20 th November	S4 Media class to X-Men days of future past at the Odeon Braehead, 10am
Monday 24 th November	S3 Business class to Coca Cola Factory, East Kilbride
Friday 28 th November	St Andrew's Day Celebration Assembly
Wednesday 3 rd December	Mrs Couper's S4 English class to A Christmas Carol, Citizen's Theatre, 10am – 1 pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Service
Friday 19 th December	School closes 2.30pm
Monday 5 th January 2015	School re-opens 8.55am

S4 PDA Bingo Night



Abercorn Secondary School

Thursday 9 October 7pm-10pm
Eyes down 7.30pm

£5 (includes 2 bingo books and
refreshments)



In aid of School funds

Raffle

Tickets available from Mrs Johnston or Mrs Loque

Poster designed by Megan O'Sullivan (S4)

