



Abercorn News

September 2015

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. Our refurbishment programme is on-going and pupils and staff are coping very well with the painters and carpet fitters being in the school – we hope that they will be finished before Christmas (watch this space!!). In addition, we have already had a number of pupils taking part in two residential trips this month. There has been a very successful trip to Camas and a small number of our senior pupils went to Blairvadach. First year also enjoyed a day out to M & Ds and you will be pleased to hear that the football team has had another successful start to the season.

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

- Mr McKenzie is working within the Art & Design department for Miss Jaffrey

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

The weather has been very kind to us over this last month and I am very pleased to say that a number of pupils within the senior school are making great progress with their independent travel skills – well done!!

Finally I would like to thank you all for continuing to support our school in relation to our uniform policy and attendance at school. As you know I would like us to try and increase our attendance rate to above 96% this session – a target I am confident we will reach if we work together.

Regards

Patricia McGowan

Dates for your diary (October-December)

Thursday 1 st October	S3 Personal Achievement Award hosting MacMillan Coffee Morning
Wednesday 7 th October	National 4 PE Pupils to Swimming Gala Scotstoun
Thursday 8 th October	S4 Personal Development Award hosting Bingo Night
Friday 9 th October	S1 to Amazonia, Strathclyde Park
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th October	School Holiday
Monday 19 th October	School Re-opens
Wednesday 28 th October	National 2 Employment Skills: Catering and Customer Service Group operating a hot roll café for pupils and staff at morning interval
Thursday 29th October	Parents evening 4.30pm – 7.30pm
Friday 30 th October	Crazy Entertainers Halloween Party for S1 1.50pm – 2.50pm
Wednesday 4 th November	S1 to Age of Invention workshop in the People's Palace 10am – 12 noon
Wednesday 18 th November	S4 pupils to Skillstart event in SECC
Wednesday 9 th December	S3 Personal Achievement Award hosting Abercorn Christmas Fair

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 unless there are exceptional circumstances. 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 1st October our S3 pupils working towards a Personal Achievement Award will host a coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Bingo Night

Abercorn's annual Bingo Night is currently being organized by the S4 Personal Development Award class and will take place on Thursday 8th October 2014. Please see attached flyer for more information. Tickets are priced £5 for adults (which includes 2 bingo books) and £2.50 for children (which includes 1 bingo book). Tickets 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 2015

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. 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!

Transport Co-ordination Centre Freephone Number

Please call the Transport Co-ordination Centre on **287 1056** if a pupil is not going to be on the morning taxi run. 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 report any issues.

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 5 minutes. Pupils should be ready and waiting for their taxi to arrive.



Auschwitz

On Wednesday 28th October Tammyjoe McDonald and Dougal Fraser (S6) will travel with Mrs Whitelocke 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 29th October 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 30th October. The party will take place from 1.50pm – 2.50 pm.

S1 pupils are welcome to bring a costume to change into at lunch time to attend the party, however, we would ask that the costumes 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 so we have a number of pupils in S4/5/6 who undertook their mandatory unit last year and will this year work to 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.

Employment Skills

We have a number of pupils working on the new National 2 Employment Skills units from SQA in a variety of subject areas. These units give pupils the opportunity to investigate working in certain employment sectors and also the chance to experience working in that sector. For example, the Marketing and Events group are organizing the prom; the Catering and Customer Service group plan to organize a café and a lunch over the course of the year and the Office Administration group are learning about working in an office and in fact they produced and distributed the recent letter you received regarding the September weekend holiday. These units are an ideal way to introduce pupils to the employment opportunities available in different sectors.

Malawi

Mr Anderson of the RE department is currently in Malawi on a month long educational exchange programme called Malawi Leaders of Learning. He is working to broaden the literacy skills of the pupils in a school there. The pupils have the chance to follow his journey when they read his blog during Student Tutor time each morning. I'm sure he will update you all on his experiences when he returns.



Santander



We were delighted to have the support of Santander recently to revamp their

outdoor garden space. The team of volunteers worked to make the outdoor area a tranquil, tidy space which can be used for outdoor learning, or for quiet time for some of the young people.

Ceri McGregor from Santander, and her team cleared paths, cut back the trees and cleared the raised bed ready for spring planting. The staff and young people were delighted with the new area and are hoping for some autumn sun so they can start using the area soon!

Newsround

We were recently approached by producers of the CBBC news programme newsround to film a piece about our rugby



team in preparation for the Rugby World Cup beginning. Mr Baird in the PE department has recently formed a rugby team who have proven to be very successful so far. They had the opportunity to train in the school hall and were filmed doing so. In addition, Stephen Lamb (S3), Chloe Porter (S3) and Ronan Corfield (S5) were interviewed. The piece was broadcast on CBBC and all pupils had the opportunity to watch it on BBC iplayer in school.

Safe Road User Award

A small group of S5/6 pupils are working on the Safe Road User Award from SQA. This gives them the opportunity to prepare for driving in later life. They will be developing a positive attitude to the roads and also planning journeys by road taking into account the highway code and common road signs amongst other things. They have some excellent

presentations lined up from Fire Scotland who will be delivering their "Cut it out"



Road Safety

presentation showing the effects of road traffic accidents and also from Glasgow City Council's Road Safety team. Successful completion of the Award will gain them the right to sit an abridged version of the theory test where they will be given a test with less questions than the standard version – this is proving to be very motivating for them!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or suggestions.

If you would like us to get in touch with you regarding any matter feel free to complete the information below:

Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Best time to call: _____