

Peterhead Academy Newsletter

8th October 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

We are now well through session 2014-15 and pupils are making steady progress through their courses. We had a Quality Improvement Visit from Aberdeenshire Council early in the term and, although we have a long way to go, they were encouraged by the sense of optimism from staff and pupils.

Next term, we will continue to closely monitor attendance and pupil progress in order to raise attainment.

This will remain a key focus and, with support from yourselves, we will take the steps we need to ensure that pupils achieve to the best of their ability.

Achievements/Events:

Football:



Congratulations to Alex Kelly 3G2 for reaching the final squad of the Aberdeenshire select U15s. This is a tremendous achievement. Well done too, to Calum Mitchell 3G1, Ross Mann 3M1, Kieran Simpson 3C2 and Tyler Morrison 4M2 who made it to the second trials of the Aberdeenshire Select football team. Peterhead Academy did exceptionally well to have so many of our youngsters reach this stage.

We also just heard that Connor McLennan 4B1 has been selected for a training camp for the Scotland U16s National team over the October break to prepare for games against Northern Ireland, Wales and England. A huge congratulations to him and we wish him every success.

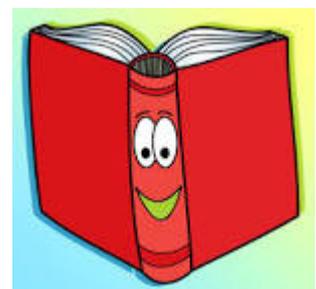
Young Enterprise:



The Young Enterprise company – known as Matters Arising – have started production of their placemats and table reed diffusers. They are upcycling carpet samples and wine bottles. They will be trading at the School Christmas Concert and at the Bon Accord Centre on 22 and 23 Nov. Let Matters Arising take the stress out of your Christmas Shopping!

Our Story:

Last term, one of our English teachers, Mrs Herridge and her 2X1 class participated in a story writing exercise in conjunction with Aden Park. Local stories were collected, collated and displayed in Aden Park's café. Each pupil in 2X1 contributed to the display by writing about a family story. Their stories were well received and have now been written up and kept for prosperity.



Ryder Cup:

Ellis Roberts 6G was selected for the scoring team at the Ryder Cup. This was a fantastic experience for our young golfer and it has opened opportunities for 5 possible golfing colleges in the USA. Ellis' preference would be for one in California as he is an avid links golfer, spending much of his time playing at Cruden Bay. Let's hope that he fulfils his ambitions and we see him on the touring circuit in the future.



Grampian Children's Book Award 2014:

Sebastian Zieciak 2C1 took part in this initiative run by the Library Services of Aberdeenshire, Moray and Aberdeen City. He wrote a book review of his favourite book, 'A Horse Called Hero' by Sam Angus. Sebastian attended the awards event at Aberdeen University and in August, the author sent a signed copy of the book for him to keep. Sebastian was presented with the book and was delighted to have received the recognition that he deserves.



S1-3 Cross Country:



The PE department ran a successful S1-S3 Cross Country Event. It was good to see so many pupils taking part and trying so hard to gain points for their House. House points were as follows:

1 st	– Arbuthnott	82 points
2 nd	– Marischal	81 points
3 rd	– Buchan	77 points
4 th	– Slains	71 points
5 th	– Grange	65 points
6 th	– Craigewan	59 points

For PE updates, please follow on Twitter:
PeterheadAcademyPE (@PeterheadPE)

Gymnastics:



Kayleigh McCallum, one of our new S1 pupils is a keen gymnast and she recently achieved a silver medal at a gymnastics event held in Inverness. There were 35 competitors, many of which were much older than Kayleigh. Well done to Kayleigh and we wish her every success in future competitions.

Girl Guides:



A special mention to Emma Fraser 4C2 who has been selected to be part of Scotland's first ever girl led service project to Mexico. 10 girls from all over Scotland were chosen and will start to plan for a 2 week project to Mexico in July 2015. It will provide an opportunity to meet Guides from other parts of the world but she will also be involved in a project that will contribute to the local community. Congratulations to Emma and we look forward to hearing about her trip early next session.

Information:

Our tracking and monitoring periods are in place and you will have received an early intervention letter if faculties feel that pupils have not made the required progress in order to realise their potential. These letters contain an acknowledgement slip and we ask that you make every effort to have them returned to the school office. The school is keeping a close eye on both progress and attendance as they are key to raising attainment. Attendance figures are improved from the same period last year but we have yet to reach the Aberdeenshire average figure. We will continue to strive to achieve this.

The vast majority of pupils are proud to wear their uniform and members of the public have written to comment on their smartness when they see them around town at lunchtime. We have a few, however, that are wearing shirts without a tie and pupils wearing leggings or denims have also been noted. I ask that you please ensure that your child is coming to school in the appropriate uniform. The details can be accessed on the school website.

Pupils also need to carry their diaries and their National Entitlement cards daily. Although much of their homework is recorded through Show My Homework, they still need their diaries for target setting, profiling and for noting assessments. Forgetting National Entitlement Cards causes problems for librarians and catering staff as it creates unnecessary queues. Please help your child to be prepared for school and check that they have all the necessary equipment with them to ensure a smooth journey through their day. Instead of texting parents, we intend to phase in the use of Twitter to inform parents of letters, dates of meetings etc. Please follow the school on @peterheada to keep informed.

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 12th November: S1 Parents' Evening

Friday 21st November: Murder Mystery Event

Tuesday 2nd Dec : S1-3 progress reports issued

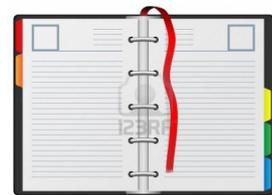
S4 written reports issued

Wednesday 3rd Dec: S2 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 9th Dec: Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 18th Dec: S5/6 written reports issued

Friday 19th Dec: end of term



Further school information can be found in our school website which is currently being updated by our senior pupil media team this session: www.peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

On behalf of the staff here at Peterhead Academy, I wish to thank you for your continued support and I hope that you have an enjoyable October break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shona Sellers', written in a cursive style.

Shona Sellers
Head Teacher