

Peterhead Academy Newsletter

9th October 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

There has been a positive start to the new session and courses are now well underway. We started the session with a significant improvement in exam results and we want to continue to work with both the pupils and yourselves to ensure that this continues to improve over the coming years. There is not only a focus on exam results but also what we can do to maximise wider achievement opportunities for Peterhead's young people. We now have both S5 and S6 prefects and the senior team is delighted with their commitment and dedication to their school.

In order to continue to make progress, we request that you work with us to act upon any intervention letters sent and to ensure your child has both excellent attendance and that they are making every effort to realise their full potential. We are monitoring progress closely from S1 through to S6 and working to ensure that the Broad General Education prepares our pupils well for their Senior Phase. With parental support, we can work together to see this generation of Peterhead youngsters achieve the best they possibly can.

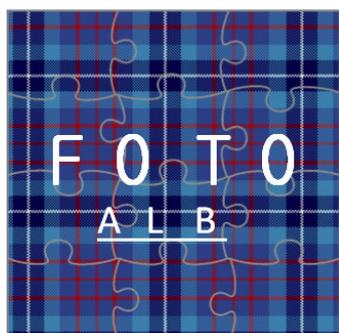
Achievements/Events:

Rock Challenge:



You will already have no doubt heard that Peterhead Academy left Milton Keynes in July with a 3rd place in the UK National Finals. This is the best that has ever been achieved in the 14 years of their participation. It was a long trip but thoroughly worthwhile and a big thanks must go to those who came to support the team. A huge thanks also to the community for continuing to support with both their money and their time so that the school can continue to create such wonderful performances. Well done to the whole team!

Young Enterprise:



Our new Young Enterprise Team – Foto Alba, have been busy taking pictures from Peterhead and Aberdeen and turning them into 500 piece jigsaws. They are also upcycling photoframes by decorating them with parts of CD's and glitter. Managing Directors Cameron Findlay and Maisie Morrison are co-ordinating this year's business and their strapline is 'Piecing together Scotland'. We wish them well in their venture.

European Day of Languages:

The Modern Languages Department ran a “café français” to celebrate the European Day of Languages. We had 8 waiters and waitresses who greeted and served all guests “en français” and one very hard working dishwasher. The café was a great success and pupils coped very well with the overwhelming lunchtime rush! We hope to offer something similar before Christmas but on a German theme. Thanks to all the pupils who volunteered (Inga Svilpaite, Artur Parchaciov, Alise Pavgurte, Callum Young, Alex Wilson, Gordon Fletcher, Kurt Wright, Skye Milne, Louise Green, LukeRigg, Monika Jorudaite, Erikas Paulitis and Stuart Wall). Our S1 and S2 classes designed the décor and menus and we had some S5 music technology pupils making a short radio programme about the event. It was lovely to inject a bit of French culture into Peterhead – Merci mille fois!



Offshore Europe:

A number of our students attended Offshore Europe. It provided them with the opportunity to see what was on offer for future careers in the Oil Industry. The pupils spoke with several Industry professionals about their career plans and some of the different roles in the Engineering industry were explained. They were all taken through the exhibition and looked at some interactive models and displays to learn more. Several pupils have now applied to take part in the Opito work experience scheme that they learned about on this day. This should lead to some very positive destinations for our budding engineers.



Manjushree Project:

S1 pupils presented £1500 that was raised through a sponsored silence for the Manjushree project which the school has been part of for a number of years. The money helps to sponsor students in the very poorest areas of India to continue to study and help them out of the poverty cycle. 4 new students have been identified for the next year and the money will go towards supporting them. We look forward to continuing to work with the Manjushree Project in the coming years



Football:

Congratulations to Dylan Marshall who has been selected for the U15 Aberdeenshire Select Football Squad. We wish him every success.



RYLA:



RYLA is a Rotary International programme for young people fully supported by Rotary District 1010, which includes the Peterhead Club. It offers young people a special opportunity to take part in developing qualities of leadership, team working, initiative and problem solving at the start of their careers. The week long course is spent on team building and includes rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, hill walking, etc. It develops the confidence and skills that will help a young person to deal with the challenges of everyday life.

Two boys took part in the summer and we are looking for two girls for next year. The boys presented at a Rotary meeting in September and received their certificates from the President. To apply for RYLA 2016, contact Peterhead Rotary president Liz Oates, either at Peterhead Academy or email elizabeth.oates1@btinternet.com

Career Ready:



Careers Academies has been rebranded this session and is now called Career Ready. We have 6 new recruits this year and 3 S6s who are into their second year of the scheme. Hopefully, they will do as well as Callum Christie who travelled to Geneva after winning the AstraZeneca STEM Student of the Year Award for Engineering as well as the Career Ready regional in the Sir Winfried Bischoff Award. A huge congratulations to him and we wish him well in his future studies in mechanical engineering.

Young Engineers:



Our Greenpower team received a grant for £750 by the Buchan Development Partnership and were invited to give a presentation in front of more than 60 people. All team members spoke about different parts of the project and answered questions from members of the public. They received praise for their presentation skills as well as the audience being very impressed by their knowledge. Well done to the team.

Theatre Modo:



A number of our pupils are involved with Theatre Modo and are busy preparing for Aden-eeen, the Shell Fireworks Parade 2015 which takes place at Aden Country Park in Mintlaw on Friday the 30th of October from 6.30pm. The pupils were involved in a variety of presentations and activities, with the focus being on Responsibility, Communication, Community and Challenge. The pupils are all now working towards completing a John Muir Award as part of their experience. Their activities included team building workshops, gorge walking, survival night (shelter and cooking on open fire) and conservation work with the National Trust Rangers.

Pupil Voice:

Peterhead Academy's Pupil Voice Representatives, Kathryn Forman and Chelsea Duncan, ventured to Cove on Tuesday the 29th of September and took part in team building activities with pupils from schools across Aberdeenshire. Their activities included coasteering (scrambling around and across the rocks, jumping into the sea and swimming in the sea), whittling wood with team challenges, building fires and preparing food for all the teams. These events were extremely challenging, required courage, determination, trust and teamwork. Kathryn and Chelsea fully embraced these challenges and worked exceptionally well with their peers from our neighbouring academies.

Next term, the challenge for both groups is to highlight the benefits of outdoor learning and their own experiences to pupils and staff through assemblies and at a Parent Council meeting.



Wider Achievement:

Our Prefects and staff have been very busy this term organising clubs and opportunities for Wider Achievement for the year ahead. Pupils are encouraged to get involved with extra-curricular activities and Pupil Working Groups which are designed to ensure pupils are a driving force behind positive change and to involve them in all aspects of school life. Pupils will have the opportunity to sign up to groups through PSE at the start of next term.



Information:

The first years have settled in well and the standard of uniform in S1, 2, 5 and 6 is exceptionally high. Some S3 and 4 girls are still wearing leggings and we have a number of boys wearing a shirt with no tie. Please ensure that your child is in school uniform. It creates a pride and identity that leads to better behaviour which in turn leads to better attainment. It is key that we strive to have every pupil in school uniform across the school. Our prefects are checking uniform as well as preparedness for class at registration. You will be informed if your child is not in suitable uniform.

Attendance is also intrinsically linked to attainment. Our attendance figures for the term showed improvement but there have been a large number of pupils off this week in order to go on holiday. Whilst I

understand that there is a cost factor as well as parental working patterns to consider, it also essential that pupils are in school learning. I ask that you take your child out of school during term time only as a last resort. If pupils do not reach 85% attendance for whatever reason, they will not be allowed to represent their school in wider curricular events e.g sporting events, Rock Challenge etc.

Please follow the school on our Twitter feed @peterheada to keep updated.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 5th November: S5 Safe Drive, Stay Alive

Tuesday 10th November: Parent Council Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 18th November: S4 Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm

Week beg. Monday 23rd November: S4 Work Experience

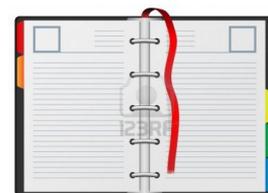
Tuesday 1st December: S2-6 Interim reports issued

Wednesday 2nd Dec: S1-3 Panto trip

Wednesday 9th Dec: S5/6 Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm

Wednesday 16th Dec: Christmas Concert

Tuesday 22nd Dec: end of term



Further school information can be found on our school website:

www.peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

On behalf of the staff 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'.

Shona Sellers
Head Teacher