



Peterhead Academy Newsletter

5th October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

We have reached the end of our first term. The S1s have settled in and our S4-6 pupils are well underway with their national qualifications. Exam results showed improvements again last session and we are making every effort to make further headway this academic year. We have a new Open Learning Space that will be being used after the holidays and it will provide a more modern technological environment for pupils to experience. We are coming to the end of the consultation process on pupil and teacher expectations and so these will be added to our vision, values and Peterhead Academy Standard. These posters are being used to create a consistent and positive ethos across the school.

The cluster is participating in Children's University where S1s and 2s can complete a passport by participating in a number of clubs across the community. This leads to a graduation at Aberdeen University next June and so I recommend that pupils sign up to this opportunity. More information is available on the website: www.childrensuniversityscotland.com.

The Wider Achievement working group have set up an e-mail address so that pupils, parents and staff and members of the community can contact us directly with pupil success stories. We will then share these stories at assemblies and through our termly newsletters.

Please use the e-mail: sharepupilsuccess@peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

We look forward to using the information you provide in our Christmas edition.

Already, there have been a number of noteworthy things going on the session. Both staff and pupils have made valuable contributions to the school since the start of term:

Achievements/Events:

Young Enterprise:



Last year's MDs (Cameron Findlay and Maisie Morrison) did a presentation about their Young Enterprise experience last session and received great praise from Business Advisors. We have two teams this year with one group already receiving 2 monetary prizes at an Innovation Competition. The money will be used to help start up their businesses and buy stock. Products will be available for sale at Parents' Evenings or you can communicate with the teams through social media. We wish both teams all the very best

Manjushree Orphanage:



Once again, our pupils have supported the Manjushree Vidyapith School and Orphanage. Di Gallagher makes an annual visit to the school and is always so appreciative of the support from our pupils and the Guidance team for this project that is so close to her heart. We will continue to have this important link where our pupils benefit from understanding a different culture and the hardship that some youngsters in the world have to face.

Aberdeenshire Council Volunteer Awards 2016:

A huge well done to Toni McGonigle who has achieved an Aberdeenshire Council award for her volunteering work through Theatre Modo. She was nominated by Cllr Anne Allan. Provost Hamish Vernal said “Toni has been exceptional in her commitment and her responsibility. She has led groups in their preparation for routines at Aden-een, she has worked tirelessly at galas and Drumming Up Peterhead, and has been a brilliant peer mentor engaging young people in the Oot & About programme. She is a real role model for the young people to look up to.”

Martin Danzinger, Creative Director of Modo, also commented on Toni’s commitment and the excellent work she has done.



Murder Mystery:

The drama group and a number of staff held a Murder Mystery fund raising evening last week. The funds will go towards next year’s School Show in June. Staff and pupils entertained over 60 guests with their acting skills as well as those behind the scenes who organised a tasty meal. Well done to one of our former teacher, Miss Bain who cracked the case to reveal who was behind the murder. Both participants and guests had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and credit to our hugely talented youngsters who had to remain in character for over 2½ hours.



10k Beast Race for Charity:

Congratulations to Miss Grant, Mr Ledingham and Mrs Stewart who completed 10k of hills and obstacles for charity. Strength, agility and stamina were all required as well as a lot of determination. At the end, Miss Grant celebrated by doing a re-enactment of the Vicar of Dibley puddle scene only this time, it was in a muddy bog! Over £400 has been raised by our staff for the STEPS charity. A job very well done.



Geography Field Trip:



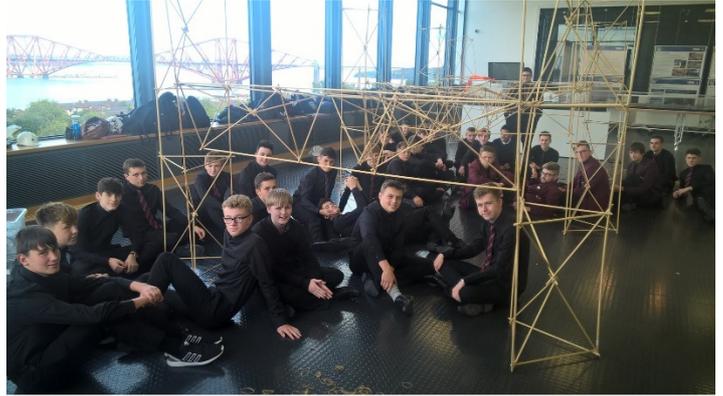
On 13th September, Higher and Advanced Higher Geography students headed off on a field trip to Aviemore. There, they studied river and glaciated environments as well as urban geography. The fog hampered the ability to spot glacial features but they did gather a wide range of field work data which will be used in their Added Value Units later in the session. The trip was also extremely valuable in enhancing the understanding of both river and urban environments. The day was productive and will help senior students in attaining in geography.

Athletics:

As the outdoor track and field season draws to a close, congratulations must go to three academy pupils- Gvidas Margis 1B1, Kyla Mundie 2A1 and Ailsa Hood 3G1 who have been flying the flag for Peterhead athletes. Our young athletes have, for the first time, participated in the Grampian League competing in sprints, middle distance, shot putt, javelin, long jump and high jump. Meets have taken place in Aberdeen, Dundee and Perth with strong competition from athletics clubs in those areas. Despite not progressing to the finals all three achieved personal best performances at some point during the competition. Well done to them.

Queensferry Crossing Trip:

Engineering Science and Higher Maths pupils attended the Education centre at the new Queensferry crossing bridge, replacing the Forth Road bridge. They were involved in Engineering challenges, as well as learning about the Engineering and Project Management of the new bridge. Pupils had an enjoyable and informative day and it allowed them to see how their engineering skills can be used in a progressive world



Macmillan Coffee Event:

Senior pupils arranged a very successful Macmillan coffee event. Thanks to many staff and pupils (no doubt parents were involved too) in making a wide range of bakes that were sold on the day. Well done to Chara Strachan and her team who were key to the event running so smoothly. Thanks also to Miss Cowan and Mrs McNeil who also gave their time to make it such a success. A phenomenal £761 was raised. What a fantastic effort.



Information:

Attendance:

For parents that have pupils at the Academy for the first time, please be aware that we have an 85% rule where pupils need to have at least this attendance if they are to take part in Wider Achievement events. We feel that if they have less than this attendance then their time would be better spent catching up with work missed. Any pupil that dips below this attendance will not be representing the school in sporting events, Rock Challenge, school trips etc. 90% attendance is equivalent to one day off every fortnight and, if we are to prepare our young people for the World of Work, then we need to instil in them the importance of coming to school regularly. Attainment is also intrinsically linked to attendance and, if our youngsters

have any chance of achieving their potential, then they need to be here and working with staff to do the best they possibly can.

We have also had a large number of letters to say that their child will be off of school to take a family holiday. A two week holiday within term results in a senior pupil missing over 8 hours of teaching in each of their subjects. This causes great difficulty for pupils trying to catch up and can hamper progress. I urge you to consider carefully taking your child out of school. Not only does it impact on their learning but it will also affect their % attendance as it will be coded as unauthorised.

Linked to attendance is lateness and we have a significant number of youngsters who regularly arrive late in the morning. Please ensure that your child is ready for school in good time and act upon any letters that you may receive regarding lateness. With a combined effort between the school and parents, we can tackle these issues much more easily.

Adverse Weather Arrangements:

Aberdeenshire council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through myaccount on the Aberdeenshire Council website – if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered.

myaccount is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other myaccount benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red register button in the top right-hand corner.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 28th October: Staff/pupil Bake Off

Thursday 3rd November: S5 Safe Drive Stay Alive

Tuesday 8th November: Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 9th November: S4 Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm

Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th November: Inset days – school open to staff only

Week beg. Monday 21st November: S4 Work Experience week

Monday 28th November: Art Exhibition

Week beg. Monday 28th November: S2-6 interim reports issued

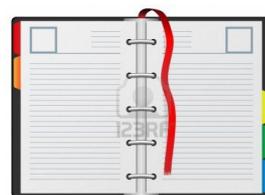
Wednesday 30th November: S5/6 Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm

Wednesday 14th December: Christmas Concert

Friday 16th December: Staff/pupil panto

Wednesday 21st Dec: :Last day of term

We return to school on Thursday 5th January 2017



Further information can be accessed: www.peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

On behalf of all Peterhead Academy staff, we hope you have a relaxing autumn break and look forward to working with you to continue to make progress with attainment next term.

Yours faithfully

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

Shona Sellers
Head Teacher