

# Peterhead Academy Newsletter



15<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

Christmas is very nearly upon us and pupils are now well through their courses for the session. Senior pupils will be returning to the January exam diet and younger pupils will start preparing their profiles to help them reflect upon their learning. As always, raising attainment is top priority and so your support in ensuring good attendance is key. Any early intervention letters will also suggest how your child should make progress and I ask that you work with them to help them reach their full potential. Pupils and staff are very aware that improving exam results is our main aim but as you will see below, there have been a number of other events this term where pupils have had the opportunity to participate in the wider curriculum.

## Achievements/Events:

### Football:



Connor McLennan has had a busy and successful football career over this term. He was selected to play for the U16 Scottish team at the end of October and he played against Northern Ireland where he set up the Scottish goal. He was then selected to play against both Wales and England. Following his success, he has now been asked to play for Aberdeen FC's U18s team.

Well done also to Calum Mitchell who has been selected for the Scottish Youth Football Association (SYFA) National Development Squad.

Congratulations to both boys; Peterhead Academy is very proud of their achievements.

### Young Enterprise:



'Matters Arising' have been busy selling their innovative table mats and scented diffusers. They have raised nearly £1000 from attending 2 Parents' Evenings and the Bon Accord Centre. Local Christmas shoppers can now buy these items at the Trading Post on Marischal Street. Peterhead Projects have offered the group an area in their shop to sell their goods.

The group have worked exceptionally hard and their goods have been very popular. Thanks to Mrs Smith and the Business and IT staff who have given up their time to support our future budding entrepreneurs. We will be hoping that they make the regional finals later in 2015.

Check out their products through [Twitter.com/MattersArising1](https://twitter.com/MattersArising1) and at [www.facebook.com/mattersarising1](https://www.facebook.com/mattersarising1).

## ROV Challenge:



The Blue Toon ROVERS have started work on designing and building an underwater ROV. They will compete against other schools performing tasks underwater, such as lifting objects from the 'sea bed', identifying and removing damaged pipe sections, taking measurement to calculate the volume of an 'iceberg' as well as presenting their technical knowledge of ROVs. Good luck with their design.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning:



The Home Economics staff and the National 4 care class held a Macmillan Coffee Morning that raised a total of £420. A tea or coffee with a home bake was well received in school that day and the cheque was presented to a delighted Macmillan Project Worker.

## NE Schools Cross Country Series:

The first two of five races have been completed and the next will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January at Dales Park. Please go along and support the girls who are representing the school. They are Caitlain Willox (S4), Emily McGee (S3), Sophie Willox (S1), Ailsa Hood (S1) and Ellie Robertson (S1).



## Murder Mystery Night:

A group of students and teachers acted out a Murder Mystery while parents and staff enjoyed an evening of food and entertainment. Well done to both pupils and teachers who stayed in character for the whole evening as they were quizzed about their involvement in the murder. They had to think on their feet and answer some rather random questions as well as remain in character. Pupils and teachers did an excellent job and it was an extremely successful event.



## Sunset Song:



A group of drama students visited the Grassie Gibbon Centre, author of *Sunset Song*, and went to the Dundee Rep to see the play. Pupils have to study Scottish text and *Sunset Song* is a popular choice with many schools in the area.

## S2 App Challenge:

S2 pupils were given a brief in Business and IT and they had to create and design a downloadable mobile application. The winning group from each class then presented to their classmates and the overall winners were selected by S4 Business pupils. Well done to our winners: Megan Duncan, Aidan Low and Rebekah Gerrie 2S2.



## Employability Workshop:



On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, Ernst and Young flew an employee from London to deliver an employability workshop to 20 pupils in Business Studies. They are keen to recruit school leavers and future graduates to their business and accountancy programmes. More information can be found at the following link:  
[Ukcareerguide.ey.com/schools](http://Ukcareerguide.ey.com/schools)

## Author Visit:



Peterhead Academy was delighted to welcome Allan Burnett, author and historian to run 3 workshop sessions in the Library for three S1 English classes. The Theme was remembering World War One as it had been 100 years from its start. The sessions were funded by Aberdeenshire Libraries, Scottish Book Trust and Peterhead Academy Library and addressed CfE experiences and outcomes as well as providing pupils with a greater understanding of war and the impact on people during the time.

Some feedback from pupils included:

‘His stories were brought to life because of his costume’

‘I could imagine in my head what it looked like’

‘He told us about the people who inspired his books – I really want to read them now’

## Swimming:



On the 21<sup>st</sup> November, a group of young swimmers attended swimming trials in Peterhead. Caitlin Davies, Briony Rollo, Lauren Thomson, Aidan Low, Blair Reekie and Lauren Willox all took part and are hoping to have secured a place in the Scottish Schools Finals. They will find out this week if they have achieved this. Good luck and well done for having made it this far.

## Energy for Girls:

Our Energy for Girls course that is delivered by North East Scotland College received an early Christmas gift this term from their sponsors, Shell. Every pupil on the course received their own I-Pad which they will use during the rest of the course. The girls were delighted and realise what a privilege it is to have been selected for this course.



## Bake Off:

November saw the pupils v teachers Bake Off competition organised by Mrs Hood and the Parent Council. Well done to the pupils who won 3-2. An enjoyable evening was had by all and we look forward to repeating it next year



## Panto – The Snow Queen:



Although not a school event, the Peterhead Panto ran from the 6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> December and a large proportion of the cast and choir were Peterhead Academy pupils. Rehearsals began back in the summer and those involved have put in endless hours in order to entertain the community. Another huge success and well done to all involved.



## Film Club:

Mrs McCluskey, Mr Barber and Mr Meikle have introduced a school Film Club which has been well received. The theme for this term was "Unlikely Friendships" and so centred on family-friendly films that had this theme at their heart. Pupils have watched *How to train your Dragon*, *Lost and Found*, *E.T.*, and are now watching the environmentally friendly hit *The Lorax*. Pupils write short reviews and the club is now a firm favourite amongst our pupils.



## Information:

Vision Statement:

The school has been working this term to create a vision statement that clearly indicates what we want and expect from our youngsters. We have consulted staff, senior pupils and the Parent Council and we now have a statement that fits well with the Academy and the community. We realise that we have a significant number of school leavers who go straight to employment and so it is important for us as a school to prepare them for whatever positive destination they move onto next. We will be displaying our vision across the school from next term and will build on it to produce the aims and values that we will all work from:

**'The vision of Peterhead Academy is to provide a quality learning environment where all pupils develop into responsible and successful individuals with the skills for learning, life and work'.**

## SQA Website

As we are fast approaching the January exams, I would like to highlight that past paper and exemplar questions are available on the SQA website. It is important that pupils try as many practice questions as possible in order to prepare thoroughly. Many think that passing a unit assessment indicates how well they are doing in the course. Questions in these assessments are minimum competence only and so trying past papers will give a more accurate picture of the grade they are likely to get in the final exam.

## Fizzy Drinks

Pupils bringing in 2 litre bottles of fizzy juice was causing a problem this term and so we have restricted this to taking bottles no larger than one litre to school. Pupils can only drink plain water in class and we have discouraged pupils from having energy drinks. Pupils that do bring in bottles greater than one litre will have them confiscated. I ask that you support the school by encouraging your child to cut out energy drinks and bring water to school.

## Station Road Entrance

A problem has been highlighted this term where taxis and mini buses that drop off pupils at the Station Rd entrance have been prevented from doing so due to cars parking and dropping students off for school. Please follow the road signs that ask you not to go beyond a certain point. This way, the zoned area will be kept free for those who have a genuine need.

## Review of Prize Giving Arrangements

In view of the changes that have occurred in Scottish Education, both in terms of new qualifications and of now having a combined Senior Phase from S4-6, it has been decided to review our Prize Giving arrangements. Representatives from the Pupil Council have already been consulted and the Parent Council will also be invited to comment. Our intention is to ensure that our Prize Giving event both motivates students to work hard and then recognises those efforts and achievements.

Any parent/guardian wishing to comment directly on what they would like to see in our Prize Giving should contact Mr West at the Academy.

## Dates for your Diary:

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January:** S2 Information Evening

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January:** S4/5/6 Exam diet

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January :** S3 Parents' Evening

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February:** S2 reports issued

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February:** Mid Term Break

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February:** S4 Parents' Evening

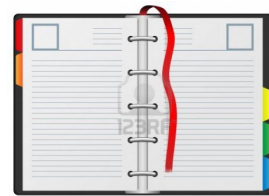
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** S4/5/6 progress reports issued

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** S5/6 Parents' Evening

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March:** S4/5 Information Evening

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March:** S3 reports issued

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April:** start of Easter break



Our school media team have been working hard to improve our school website. Further information can be accessed: [www.peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)

On behalf of the Peterhead Academy staff, I wish to thank you for your continued support of the school and hope that you have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Shona Sellers'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Shona Sellers**  
**Head Teacher**