

Peterhead Academy Newsletter



1st April 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a busy term for both staff and pupils and we are all looking forward to an Easter break. Senior pupils will only be back for a week and the SQA exam diet begins and so, for them, this holiday will involve some revision. Although this will be necessary, I encourage you to ensure that they have regular breaks and that they focus on their weaker areas. It's easy to study for the things you like but this is not always the most productive use of time.

This term, we have launched our Vision Statement:

'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'.

We have worked also with staff, pupils and parent council to produce our Peterhead Academy Standard where our learning is built upon:

- Positive relationships
- An engaging environment
- Clear aims and next steps
- Dialogue with feedback
- Challenge and support
- A variety of activities

Lessons need to include a number of these points to ensure that pupils are receiving the positive learning experience they deserve.

We have now recently launched our draft school values at assemblies. Again, pupils, all school staff and parent council have been consulted but you will have your opportunity to make comment in due course before finalising for next session. After consultation, the draft values are:

- Positivity
- Aspiration
- Perseverance
- Equality
- Responsibility
- Success

The values will become increasingly prevalent over next term and we are looking at altering many of our school policies to reflect the values in everything we do here at Peterhead Academy.

Achievements/Events:

Visit to St Fergus:



A selection of S4-S6 hospitality pupils were lucky enough to see hospitality in action at the Total E&P site at St. Fergus Gas Terminal. Pupils were welcomed by the Site Manager and Head of catering Liz Park of EES. Enthusiastic pupils were shown round the catering kitchen giving the pupils a rare insight to hospitality on such a large scale. A talk by Compass Group about career prospects in the hospitality industry was also included. The importance of looking after their staff with healthy menus linked to a healthy smoothie challenge was set up for our pupils. They had to pedal power the liquidizer to create a smoothie of their choice. The trip ended with the pupils receiving a packed lunch from the company and a huge thank you on behalf of the staff and pupils of Peterhead Academy was given by Amy Pyper in S6. Thanks again to Total E&P.

REHIS Certification



Well done to a number of pupils who received their Food Hygiene (REHIS) certificates through Hospitality. The photo shows a group of S4s collecting their certificates at assembly.

Public Speaking Competition:



Travis Williamson and Gregor McAuslin (S2) competed in the Procurator Fiscal's Public Speaking Event in February at Aberdeen Grammar School. This was their first attempt and were up against some very challenging teams. Mr Barber commented on how well they achieved and were a credit to the school, doing the school proud especially in front of high standing judges, Senior Procurator Fiscal, Alison Shaw and Depute Procurator Fiscal, David Hanson.

It is a national competition for S1-3 pupils and this year's motion was 'Society believes that everyone should be thin and beautiful'. Competitors had to deliver 5 minute, inter linked speeches on the motion to a panel of judges. They were then asked questions from the opposing teams and from the judges.

Swimming:



Briony Rollo, Caitlin Davies, Aidan Low and Lauren Thomson all gained a place in the Scottish Schools Finals on the 31st January. All pupils were placed in the top 20. This is a significant achievement. Congratulations to Both Caitlin and Aidan who have now made it to the Scottish National Age Groups being held next week. Well done to our swimmers.

Football:



Connor McLennan has yet again done Peterhead proud. He made it to the U16s UEFA Development Tournament in Croatia at the beginning of March. Making it to the Scotland squad is an incredible achievement. Well done to Connor.

The S1 football team have also been very successful this term. In the NASA event at the Aberdeen Sports Village, the players managed to get to the final without defeat. In the final they lost to a strong Inverurie team 3-1 but the pupils played very well. The pupils were praised by a member of the public on the bus home as being a credit to the school.

The S1 football team then entered two teams into the local round of the Cashback 7's event held at Inverurie. The event took place at the beginning of March. Both teams did very well on the day. One team consisting of Jordan Smith, Callum Buchan, Matthew Clacher, Ryan Ogston, Arran Gerrard, Andrew Malloy and Shaun Clark managed to remain undefeated in five games and won the section they were competing in. As a result, the boys have qualified for the regional finals which is a tremendous achievement. The other team also competed well; winning one game and drawing one game in a very difficult section. The location and date of the regional finals are still to be confirmed.

MP Visits the school:

Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP visited the school on the 13th March. She was interested to hear what progress was being made at the school and what she could do to support us further. We appreciate her taking the time to hear our views.



Career Academies:



Congratulations to Callum Christie who attended Perth for the Career Academies Scottish Interviews. He was the regional winner for Aberdeenshire. Callum is keen to take up the offer of an internship at Standard Life in Edinburgh/Glasgow for 10 weeks in the summer which is a fabulous opportunity. A senior member from Aberdeenshire Council attended the event with Callum. She commented on how he was such a credit to our school.

S2 Poetry Competition Winners:

Mr Barber ran an S2 poetry competition and the winners received a certificate and a token. Congratulations to our winners, Matthew Lemon and Gregor McAuslin and to our runners up, Rachel Wemyss and Morgan Henderson. Their poems are available on our school website.



Young Enterprise:



Young Enterprise Team Matters Arising have reached the Grampian YE finals. 37 schools started trading under YE this year and 6 schools will compete for the winning place at Ardoe House on Tuesday 21 April. This involves a presentation by the team and interviews by various business experts.

We had a group of German students over on an exchange and the team delivered a presentation to them in German last month.

They presented their business report at an event on the 30th March and are strong contenders.

We look forward to hearing the outcome of the final next term.

Studio 15 Dance Show:



Pupils on our dance courses performed together in front of family and friends on the 11th March. There was an excellent turnout and pupils gave it their all and performed to an extremely high standard. Well done to our pupils and thank you to the public for supporting this successful evening.

NE Schools Cross Country:

Congratulations to Elle Robertson, Sophie Willox, Ailsa Hood and Emily McGee who were winners at the recent NE cross country series. In addition to winning the secondary girls academy shield, Elle Robertson also achieved overall 2nd place for the secondary girls. The girls are all members of Peterhead Athletics Club which meets at Catto Park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The club is open to all age groups and abilities.



Sports Visitors:

Our PE department has been working with the Active Schools coordinator to inspire young people in sport: Steve Frew Visit: Peterhead Academy welcomed Commonwealth gold medalist Steve Frew, through the Sky sports for Living Initiative. Competing in his 4th Commonwealth Games in Manchester in July 2002, Steve Frew made history for Scotland when he won the men's rings event, Scotland's first-ever gymnastics Commonwealth Games gold medalist. The initiative is free to secondary schools and uses sport stars and sport skills to:

- Boost confidence
- Change behaviours
- Increase attainment
- Improve life skills

Champions in School Visit: Commonwealth multiple medallists Fiona and Donna Robertson (Judo & Wrestling) also visited Peterhead Academy. This was the first of three contact visits that Fiona and Donna will make in conjunction with the 'Champions in Schools' programme. 'Champions in Schools' is a role model programme delivered by Winning Scotland Foundation, facilitated by Active Schools and working closely with PE staff within the school. It places Scotland's high performing athletics in Schools across the country to inspire and encourage young people to fulfil their potential. A 3rd Year Class was chosen to benefit from this programme where Fiona and Donna explained their Judo pathway from grassroots level to Commonwealth and international competitions, to their cross over to wrestling. They then gave a practical session on the mats, in which all pupils work incredibly hard and thoroughly enjoyed. Fiona and Donna have returned to the school and delivered a second session where there was more emphasis on judo techniques.

Thanks to the PE department for organising these inspiring events

Comic Relief Bake Sale:

The baking club with the support of the parent council raised an amazing £234.66 through the sale of homebakes to pupils and staff.

Thanks must go to Helen Brown, chair of the parent council along with some of our baking club members and their teacher Mrs Hood.



National 5 Practical Cake Craft:

This is the first year our S5 pupils have been put forward for this award. The course consists of an intensive 2 units. A cake baking unit giving the pupils an insight to the properties of ingredients along with making a huge range of cake types. The cake finishing unit concentrated on finishing application techniques and finishing decoration techniques. The final assignment, Celebration Cakes were on display for all the staff to see at the end of term. This involved pupils designing, implementing, coating, decorating and evaluating their cakes. Very favourable results were received as to the standards and comments such as “how can I buy one?” was overheard. We must thank Roslyn Mutch of “Let them eat Cake” who came into see the pupils occasionally to share her expertise with them. Well done the cake craft pupils.



The Dortmund/Peterhead Exchange Sun 8TH- Sat 14TH March:



Erasmus+

Earlier this month Peterhead Academy and 13 families played host to 16 German students and 2 teachers. During the week pupils from both schools travelled around the North-East looking at how local industries have adapted to embrace both Tourism and the Oil Industry. The Peterhead Port Authority and SCORE

both welcomed the students and gave them a flavour of what kinds of employability opportunities were available in our town. Erasmus+ sponsors the exchanges and 'Employability and Entrepreneurship within Europe' has to be the focus of the visit. They did, however, also manage to fit in visits to Forvie Nature Reserve, Aberdeen's Union Square, Fraserburgh College and Beach and the Speyside Dolphin Centre. The group walked the 5 miles from the Dolphin Centre to Baxter's where the students sampled the famous Baxter's pancakes and also stopped at Cullen for one of their famous ice-creams!

The German students came into school and at the end of the day went home with our students to sample some Scottish hospitality. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit and we enjoyed having them. Peterhead students (now up to 16 in number) will visit Dortmund in May where they will launch their Scottish/German cookbook as part of our Entrepreneurship project.



Petrochallenge International Final:



Three of our senior boys were the sole representatives for the UK at this prestigious event in London, having won the Aberdeen regional heats and having the highest score of all the UK competition winners. They were up against teams from Canada, Norway, Denmark, Greenland, Iceland and the USA. Norway won the event but the boys did exceptionally well, especially as they were youngest team.

Miss Loudon attended London with the team and during the weekend, they were also able to visit some of the main tourist sites.

Miss Loudon said that, despite their age, they were the most mature and respectful of all the groups. Well done to them – this was a fantastic achievement.

Information:

School Transport:

The school transport team asked us to inform parents that if they cancel school transport during the year, then refunds or credit invoices cannot be returned unless pupil bus passes are handed back. Please be aware of this.

English Faculty:

English have a website and twitter to help pupils studying for exams, provide parental information, gives useful resources and links and to also celebrate the successes of our pupils. The twitter is @phaenglish and the website is www.phaenglish.co.uk. Since launch, there has been over 265 visitors (from over 9 countries, 151 from the UK) to the site with 1115 individual page hits.

S6 Prefects:

On Tuesday the 28th of March, 7 of our prefects; Anne Marie Wilson, Kourtney Stephen, Benjamin Young, Abbie Turnbull, Emily Mitchell, Megan Morgan and Marcin Grabowski visited Meethill Primary School to meet the P6 and P7 pupils. They spoke to pupils about the roles and responsibilities of a Prefect and the importance of respect and team work. This year the Prefects have been excellent role models within the school and have set a high standard for next year. For next session, we are opening up the opportunity for pupils to become prefects in S5. We have had a very positive response and want to look at further ways of offering leadership opportunities to our young people from all year groups.

SQA Exam Diet:

Pupils will start exam leave on April 27th and will start school again at the change of timetable which is Tuesday 2nd June. For pupils that have one exam or less, then we expect them to attend classes as usual for the first three weeks of study leave or until they have completed all outstanding course work, whichever is achieved first. During the last two weeks of term, there will be a presentation on Prince's Trust and Skills Development Scotland will also be providing advice on obtaining a positive destination. Pupils will be informed of the dates and times during the first week back next term

Time Out:

The use of a Time Out room will be removed from 20th April. Instead, if a pupil is removed from class, they will be placed in another class within the faculty. Pupils cannot refuse to adhere to this and it has been made very clear to pupils at assembly that this is the new system. If pupils refuse to move to another class for the teacher and a Principal Teacher, then the pupil will receive a Warning of Exclusion for failure to follow instructions. If a pupil then refuses to move for a Depute Head Teacher, then they are likely to be excluded. Keeping pupils within the faculty will allow for work to be issued so they can continue with the subject even if they have been removed from class.

System for Recording Pupils who are Late:

With the closure of Time Out, we need to have a new system for recording lates. Pupils should be in school for the first bell at 8.25am and be sitting in their register classes before the second bell at 8.30am. If pupils arrive in school after 8.30am but before the end of registration, then they should go to their registration class where they will be marked as Late. If they arrive after 8.40am, they will be marked as missing from registration. Persistent lateness will be monitored and addressed. It is vital that pupils arrive in good time for school so they are well prepared for their day ahead.

School Uniform:

As mentioned before, leggings are not part of school uniform unless worn with a skirt. Pupils are required to wear black school trousers, not leggings or track suit bottoms. There are an increasing number of pupils who are not wearing black footwear. Please ensure that footwear bought for school is plain black. It is key to the ethos of the school that school uniform is adhered to and we want every pupil in the school to be proud to wear the school colours.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 27th April: Start of S4/5/6 Study Leave

Monday 4th May: May Day holiday

Tuesday 26th-Wednesday 27th May: Activities Days

Friday 29th May : S1 Reports issued

Monday 1st June : Local Holiday

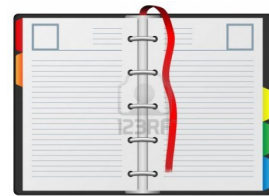
Tuesday 2nd June: Change of timetable

Thursday 4th June: Junior Prizegiving

Wednesday 17th- Friday 19th June: P7 induction days

Wednesday 24th June: Senior Prizegiving

Friday 3rd July: end of term



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

On behalf of all Peterhead Academy staff, we wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to working with you in order to deliver the best possible learning experiences for our young people in our community.

Yours faithfully

Shona Sellers
Head Teacher