

Peterhead Academy Newsletter



30th March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have enjoyed Easter and you are looking forward to the Spring break. As you will know, the school went through an inspection this term and so staff and pupils alike are ready for a holiday. Many positives were identified and the inspectors recognise that the school is moving in the right direction. There is still much work to be done and their findings will be published next term. From there, we will start planning for continued improvement and, with your help, our pupils will be given every opportunity to realise their full potential. For some of our senior pupils, they will be leaving school in the next couple of months and heading off to their positive destinations. For others, they will be looking forward to completing their exams and starting their new courses in June. Our junior pupils also enjoy next term where the school is quieter due to our seniors having study leave and they anticipate the change of timetable with new challenges ahead.

This last week of term shows no sign of slowing up with Senior Prize Giving and our first Business Breakfast where we have invited our partners to celebrate the successes of our youngsters and to further build opportunities to enhance our curriculum. Many of those successes have been detailed for you to see too:

Achievements/Events:

Young Enterprise:



This year's Young Enterprise have done the school proud again by reaching the Young Enterprise finals for the third year in a row. Their business report went down a treat and they have made it to the last 6 out of over 30 teams.

Their jigsaws and photo frames were hot sellers over Christmas and we are hoping the team have made a healthy profit for their shareholders.

Well done to them. The group have also taken part in a Business exam through Strathclyde University and they are awaiting their results.

Girls Into Energy:



Our S3 Girls into Energy class had a tour of the Score Glenugie and Wellbank sites as part of their course. The course is run by NESCol and funded by Shell to encourage females to pursue a career in engineering. The trip allowed the girls to see first hand what it is like to work in the energy sector. Thanks to both Score Group plc and Shell for providing this valuable experience.

School Elections:



Peterhead Academy took part in the Aberdeenshire Council Scottish Schools Election. This was to run in line with the Scottish Parliamentary Elections taking place in May. The main purpose of this process was to raise the awareness of how elections work in Scotland for their parliament. Whilst many of our pupils may not be able to vote yet, there is a large number of pupils in S4-6 who will be voting for the very first time this May, and this gave them the opportunity to learn about that process before casting their vote for real.

Congratulations to Lauren Davidson who won the constituency vote for the Green Party. This was a valuable experience for all who took part.

S2 Peterhead Technology Challenge:



S2 pupils at Peterhead Academy competed in a local heat of the prestigious Technology Schools Challenge run by North East Scotland College (NESCol) and sponsored by Score Group plc and Shell UK. This year, pupils were challenged to build electrical circuits. Winners and runners up are depicted. The winners will attend the finals of the competition at Fraserburgh's campus in June where they will compete against 7 other Aberdeenshire schools. We wish them all the very best.

Road Safety Project:



DAB Plus Driver Training, a Social Enterprise company based in Maud, with a strong ethos of driver safety and training, delivered the DAB Plus Driving Ambition road safety project to our 6th year students. The young people took part in various sessions to reinforce the need for safety and common sense when driving. They attended different sessions during the day, all targeting information or skills which will stand them in good stead to be safe drivers into the future. Each group spent time learning about the dangers of drink and drug driving and were reminded of how far it really takes to stop a car at various speeds. Using the DAB Plus Brake Reaction Timer, each student had the chance to react to a simulated vehicle stopping in front of them. This event was a huge success and made our senior pupils think carefully about the hazards on our roads.

Rock Challenge:

The Rock Challenge team have been busy fundraising for this year. In January, there was a quiz night where they raised £388 with a £200 donation given to Brain Tumour Charity.

In February, the team held a Soup & Sweet event. Although many of the team put in long hours, an amazing £1214 was raised and an Asda bag pack last week added £932 to the account. A huge well done.

Tickets for Rock Challenge in Aberdeen on Saturday 23rd April are available from the Ticketmaster website. We hope you can make the show.



StampART Competition:



Congratulations to Meda Kondratcikoute, S1, who won the top prize in the Secondary category of the StampART competition which was run by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. She had to choose a nature themed stamp and create a piece of artwork inspired by it and produced this colour pencil study of a Lynx. There were a total of 290 entries into the category so a big well done for Meda's effort and hard work. She won lots of different goodies from the Edinburgh Zoo gift shop including a cuddly Lynx to match her artwork!

Maths Masterclass:

5 S2 pupils attended Maths Masterclasses at Aberdeen University and RGU. There were six sessions taking place on a Saturday morning where the pupils attended intense lectures of an extremely high level. Lectures were delivered by Maths teachers, University lecturers, a policeman and oil industry maths enthusiasts.

Parents attended the final class to witness their children being presented with certificates. The commitment of these youngsters should be commended.



National 5 Cake Craft:



This is the time of year when the final cakes for National 5 Practical Cake Craft are produced. As you can see from the photo, the standard is extremely high. We are looking for good SQA results from these creations.

Active Schools:



Active Schools in partnership with Sky sports for Living held its second year of the “Celebrating Leadership” event. The Academy welcomed Scotland’s first ever commonwealth gold medallist in Gymnastics, Steve Frew, and 50 lucky pupils received coaching in Sanshou, Boxing and Karate. The amazing coaches were Ryan Donald, Sanshou, the GB Sanda team, the Peterhead Boxing Club and Shi-Gaku-Kan Karate Dojos. Athletes from these clubs put on a show stopping demonstration of talent, skill and hard work in an unforgettable example of what their sports entail.

Sport helps people think, listen, speak up and work together. Different sports inspire different people but one thing is true: there’s a sport for everyone and it can change your life.

A huge thanks to everyone who helped make this event so memorable and we are looking forward to another event in 2017.

Debating Society:



Mrs Tapping has started a Debating Society Club. They meet every Thursday lunchtime in Room A13. All are welcome to attend.

Take me Out:



Our prefects arranged a teachers' 'Take me Out' in aid of the CLIC Sargent charity. Students happily paid to see their teachers play the game show which was a huge success. The three staff who crazily volunteered to take part were Mr Turnbull, Mr Duncan and Mr Baird and thanks to them and to the pupils who were well and truly entertained, a massive £600 was raised. Well done to all involved.

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative:



S5 pupils take part in YPI every year. They research a local charity and present to their peers and to judges who decide the winning team. The team's charity is then awarded £3000 which is sponsored by the Wood Group Family Trust. Joseph's Storehouse Charity received their cheque last week for £3000, with £200 being awarded to the Archie Foundation, Dial-a-Bus, the Fisherman's Mission, RNLI and Sands. Many pupils continue to support their chosen charity whilst also developing their teamworking, communication and presenting skills. This year's YPI has been a resounding success.

Careers Fair:

On March 1st, the school held its annual Careers Fair. This year, we had it running into early evening to allow parents to attend. There were close to 30 companies or businesses that took part and pupils appreciated the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of employment opportunities in Aberdeenshire.



Information:

SQA Exam Diet:

Pupils will start exam leave on Thursday 5th May and will start school again at the change of timetable which is Tuesday 7th June. This applies to pupils who are sitting two or more National 5 exams. All other S4 pupils will be expected to attend school at specific times throughout the exam period to complete outstanding units for National 3 and 4 courses as well as attending activities to prepare them for life, learning and work. Details will be issued at the start of next term.

If there are any issues that crop up with your child sitting their exam, then this must be reported as quickly as possible. If the SQA are not notified of problems or concerns within 10 calendar days, then exceptional circumstances will not be considered. Any queries, then please contact Mr Berstan, DHT who is the school's SQA coordinator.

School Uniform:

A minority of pupils are still avoiding wearing school uniform. For the new term, I would appreciate if you ensure that your child has plain black shoes and black trousers. If they wear a shirt, then they should also be wearing a tie. All S4 to S6 pupils are expected to be in a shirt and tie. We are seeing increasing numbers of white trainers, brown UGG style boots and leggings that are often no thicker than a pair of tights. Pupils that wear uniform look incredibly smart and have a sense of pride in the school and in themselves. I ask for your support in ensuring that all youngsters wear school uniform. Any top that has a hood has to be removed in class as this is deemed outerwear. Any pupil that refuses to follow this rule will be dealt with for refusing to follow instructions. Please reinforce this message from home.

School Show:

This year's school show is Alice in Wonderland. Pupils are rehearsing hard for our June show which will be presented on the 21st to the 23rd June. Place those dates in your diary as your support is greatly appreciated.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 2nd May: May Day holiday

Thursday 5th May: Start of S4/5/6 Study Leave

Tuesday 24th-Wednesday 25th May: Activities Days

Thursday 26th May : S1 Reports issued

Friday 27th May : Murder Mystery Night

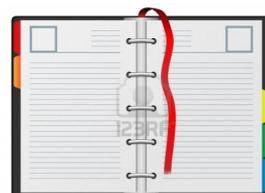
Thursday 2nd June: Junior Prizegiving

Monday 6th June: Local Holiday

Tuesday 7th June: Change of timetable

Wednesday 15th- Friday 17th June: P7 induction days

Friday 1st 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 relaxing Spring Break.

Yours faithfully

**Shona Sellers
Head Teacher**