

# Peterhead Academy Newsletter



1<sup>st</sup> July 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

We have come to the end of the session and the summer holidays are upon us. It has been a productive year where pupils have been encouraged to work as hard as they can in order to achieve to their highest level. Hopefully, this will be reflected in the exam results that are due out on August 4<sup>th</sup>. We were determined this year that pupils continued with their studies and didn't just drop a subject because they were finding it challenging. Instead, they were given pointers and advice on what they needed to do in order to get back on track. This will continue next year where pupils have committed to subjects and we expect to see them through. With perseverance being a school value, the notion of giving up does not fit with our philosophy. We have now also introduced exams for Maths and English in S3 to give pupils an experience of sitting in the Assembly Hall and tackling extended pieces of work. This should help prepare them better for January exams next year. It is also key that pupils do not increase their efforts after their January exams but that they work hard from the change of timetable in June. This has been fully addressed at Assembly

Although senior pupils have been busy this term with exams, there has been no shortage of wider achievements that have taken place across the school. Here are a few to highlight the commitment from both the pupils and the staff here at Peterhead Academy.

## Achievements/Events:

### Young Enterprise Thank You:



Last year's YE team, Matters Arising won Best Presentation at the finals and hosted a thank you lunch for their Business Advisors, Sheena Ross of Johnston Carmichael and Fiona Morrison of Total. They greatly appreciate the support that both Advisors gave them over the school year. The Matters Arising company has now dissolved and shareholders been paid their profitable dividend!! Watch this space for next year's company.....

### Let Them Eat Cake:



The Mrs Kelly's National 5 Cake Craft class session 2015-2016 was delighted to welcome Roslyn from " Let them Eat Cake " to judge their flip flop cake challenge. Pupils were given a design brief, had to create a mood board, sketch their detailed design before making and

decorating their flip flop cakes for Roslyn to judge and offer her professional tips. We look forward to seeing Roslyn again throughout the year offering her expertise in cake decorating.

### **N5 Business Management:**

The N5 Business Management pupils were involved in designing an item for use at a music festival. Mrs Sellers and Mrs Ramsay judged their final presentation and prototypes and the winners were Abbey Carter, Jordan Kearney and Kaytlynn Scott with their idea of a Soundproof tent.



### **A Fishy Catch:**

The pupils studying S2 Home Economics and National 4/5 hospitality classes were very fortunate to receive prime quality locally caught haddock donated by local fishermen from their boats, the "Harvest Hope" and "Ocean Endeavour" during their recent practical cookery lesson. Pupils agreed that preparing and cooking local fresh fish was not only straightforward but tasted "amazing". Thank you again for this fantastic donation, it was much appreciated.



### **Volunteering through Aberdeenshire Libraries "Cool Computing" Initiative:**



Senior Pupils were invited to volunteer as ICT tutors as part of Aberdeenshire Libraries "Cool Computing" initiative. Pupils have excellent skills in the use of technology and the Library Service offered pupils the opportunity to work with customers in public libraries to help them develop their ICT skills and help them with the use of new technologies. The pupils involved have been able to use this towards Saltire and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Certificates have been presented to Ashleigh Burton, Chloe Chalk, Eimante Juozaityte, Maria Kelly and Jay Miller.

## Active Schools Update:

Active Schools in partnership with Sky Sports for Living, Champions of Schools and Peterhead Academy held its first “Celebrating Leadership” event on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The Academy welcomed commonwealth medallist in Judo/ Wrestling, Fiona and Donna Robertson and Scotland’s first ever commonwealth gold medallist in Gymnastics, Steve Frew, who were in attendance and witnessed the talented young athletes demonstrate their sports. Twenty five lucky pupils from Peterhead Academy received coaching from Gymnastics, Judo and Karate which were delivered by the amazing coaches from Balmoor Gymnastics Club, Garioch Judo Club and Shi-Gaku-Kan Karate Dojos. Young athletes from these clubs put on a show stopping demonstration of talent, skill and hard work in an unforgettable example of what their sports entails. Sport helps people think, helps people listen, helps people to speak up and helps people 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 2016.



## Aberdeenshire Schools Pupil Voice Forum:

Pupil  
Voice



Well done to Kathryn Forman 6A and Chelsea Duncan 2B1 who were selected to represent Peterhead Academy at the Pupil Voice Forum at Thainstone House Hotel on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. Kathryn and Chelsea met and worked with pupils from the other Aberdeenshire Secondary schools. Kathryn and Chelsea were a credit to Peterhead Academy and will continue to represent the views of Peterhead Academy Pupils for the coming year. Next term, Chelsea and Kathryn will raise awareness of the Pupil Voice Forum through assemblies and present their experiences to the Senior Leadership Team. They will also inform our own Pupil Voice Working Groups in the coming session. Well done girls! You

## ROV Challenge:

At the end of last term, 10 of our budding engineers won the ROV Challenge in Aberdeen. They then worked hard to raise funds to attend the International event where they competed against 31 other teams from all over the world in St John’s, Canada last week. They worked incredibly well as a team and they did themselves proud. Unfortunately they had huge problems with their ROV and due to their outbound flight being re-directed to Halifax (and an overnight stay there) they lost the majority of their ‘free’ day and

therefore the time to ensure their ROV hadn't been damaged in transport. Some of the team were getting two or three hours sleep as they worked round the clock to try to get their ROV up and running again but without success. This impacted on their overall score but a highly impressive 5<sup>th</sup> place was achieved in their technical report. Considering our team was made of some of the youngest members there, this was an incredible achievement.

Please click on the link to a clip that shows Jamie Fenty being interviewed.

<http://ntv.ca/marine-institute-hosts-international-underwater-robotics-competition/>



### **Prefects:**

Our new prefects really have made a fantastic impression across the school in their first few weeks. They did an excellent job escorting our P7 pupils during their visit days and helping at the Parent Information Evening and this week, helping at the school show. This year, we have broken from the norm and elected S5 and S6 Prefects and they are working exceptionally well together!

We have a number of Committees this year including Fundraising, Social Events, Inter house Events, Peer Support and Primary Transition. All Committees have been busy planning their work for the coming year and some projects are already underway including visits to two local primaries following the visits days to evaluate pupil experiences.

Our Fundraising Committee are supporting Relay for Life this term and they have been very busy organising events and securing prizes from the local community for their Tree Tombola.

An amazing start – keep up the good work!



### **Pupil Council:**

A huge thank you to the Pupil Council Representatives for the last year. Together, they have restructured the way the Pupil Council will work for the coming year. From August, the Pupil Council will be known as Peterhead Pupil Voice and will consist of smaller working groups who will meet regularly to carry out projects throughout the course of the year. The working groups will come together once a term to report their progress and will inform pupils and staff through assemblies, notices, registration and PSE. Pupil

Voice Working Groups will be a driving force for change within the school and pupils will be encouraged to get involved and have their say. Look out for more information in August!



### Young Engineers – Greenpower Challenge:

Well done on winning the best presented team this year as well as clocking the fastest lap for the track with 39 seconds (Nathan Robertson at the wheel for that one). This enthusiastic group works incredibly hard throughout the year to prepare their car for the event and they tend then to use their skills gained for the ROV Challenge later in their school career. On seeing them display their car at various school events, you can clearly see their enthusiasm and passion for this wider curricular club.



### Wicked Young Writers' Award:

Chelsea Duncan S1, was selected in the 11-14 year old category as one of 20 finalists in the Wicked Young Writers' Award Competition. She flew down to London to the ceremony held at the Apollo Theatre on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. The whole cast of Wicked was there and some of the cast sang and some read out the winning pieces. Although an older girl won the category, it was a fantastic achievement for Chelsea and she had an amazing experience. While in London, Chelsea also packed in a trip to Wimbledon and our local MP arranged a personal tour of the Houses of Parliament culminating in a visit to its exclusive tearoom. Chelsea was also placed in the BBC 500 Words Competition earlier in the year. I'm sure we'll be hearing much more from this young lady as she progresses through school.



## Activities Days:

Pupils and staff enjoyed our two days of activities. There were positive reports about how well our youngsters behaved and it is a good opportunity to build positive relationships outwith the classroom setting. Staff have been asked about where we go with Activities Days next year and the overwhelming majority want to continue with the current format. After the pain of paintballing, however, Mrs Sellers is keen to try an alternative activity!



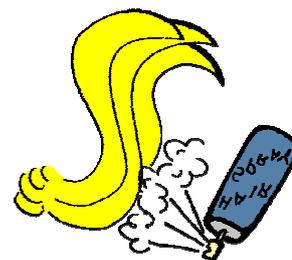
## Career Academies:

The Career Academy graduation took place in April. A number of our senior pupils have gained very valuable skills through working with businesses and mentors in order to prepare them for their future careers. Callum Christie was one of two Aberdeenshire participants to be nominated for Student of the Year and made a presentation at the STEM Ambassador's Event. Very well done!



## School Show:

Hairspray ran for three nights and every night, confidence grew and it got better and better. Thank you to the community for supporting the event and getting behind our young performers. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the show and the team spirit was palpable. A huge thanks to the staff who also gave up endless hours to support the cast but I am sure we would all agree that it was a big hit and well worth it!



## Information:

Uniform:

Uniform expectations are on the school website. Please check what is acceptable before buying any new attire. Shirts and blouses must be worn with a tie, leggings are not part of uniform and plain black footwear is required. The vast majority of pupils come to school looking so smart and it is important that we do not let this slip.

Head Boy/Girl

Congratulations to our Head Boy, Austin Cordiner, our Head Girl, Victoria Jack and to our Deputies, Calum Anderson and Hannah Baigrie. There was stiff competition and they had to earn their positions. Well done to them.

SQA Results:

Results will be out on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The SQA coordinator and the Head Teacher will be in school that day. If you have any queries regarding your son/daughter's results, then please contact the school. Remember, there are no appeals, we can only make a request for a remark of the exam paper.

If their results require a change to their timetable, then Mr Morrison will be in school on the Thursday and Friday (13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August) so pupils can attend to see if it is possible to make changes.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August:** Inset day – school open to staff only

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August:** School term begins for pupils

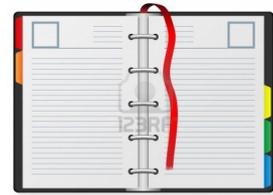
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August:** Deadline for course changes

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September :** School Photos

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September :** Interim reports issued (S1-6)

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October:** S1 Parents' Evening 4.30-7pm

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October:** end of term



Further information can be accessed: [www.peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)

On behalf of all Peterhead Academy staff, we wish you a sunny summer and look forward to working with you next session to develop our young community into the successes they deserve to be.

Yours faithfully

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