

Dear Parent/Carer

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014**

As we enter the second half of this session, I trust this finds you well and you find the contents of this newsletter informative and encouraging.

**INAUGURAL S1 CEILIDH:** In the spirit of Curriculum for Excellence, on the afternoon of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, our first ever S1 Ceilidh took place in the Games Hall. The ceilidh was the culmination of cross curricular work by the English, Drama and PE Faculties, of a Scottish theme including Burns Poetry, the Tam O'Shanter Play and Scottish Country Dancing. The pupils wore a "touch of tartan" for the event, which was led by our School Ceilidh band and enjoyed by all.

**LEARNING VISIT:** On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, as part of Aberdeenshire's EL&L strategic planning for all schools, we will be undergoing a "Learning Visit" led by several members of EL&L staff. The aim of the visit is to support us, as a school, along our "Journey to Excellence" in confirming three questions for us: How are we doing? How do we know? and Where do we go now? I welcome this visit and support from Aberdeenshire and look forward to having our areas of good practice and development confirmed.



**AFTER SCHOOL REVISION SESSIONS:** As intimated in my previous newsletter we will again be offering a range of after school study classes for S4 to S6 pupils. These will begin following the February mid-term break through to the Easter Holidays and you will receive information about these sessions following completion of the current prelim exams. There is clear evidence that the pupils who attended last session's classes performed better than those who didn't and I ask for your assistance in encouraging your child to attend.

**DENIM FOR DYLAN:** On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, as a school we will be supporting "Denim for Dylan" to raise funds for this deserving local cause. Pupils will be allowed to wear blue denim

to school for a small donation and do their part in helping “Turn the Blue Toon Blue” for Dylan. This is instead of the normal dress down day at the end of term and as a result Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April will now be a normal school uniform day.



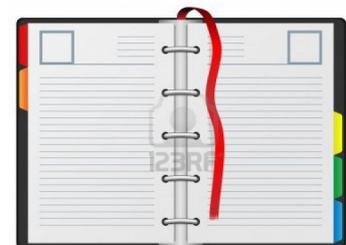
**ADVERSE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS:** As winter is still with us, I ask, if you have not already done so, to familiarise yourselves with our procedures and sources of pupils’ work, should there be any disruption to our school day due to adverse weather. Pupil materials include “Show my Homework” and “SCHOLAR” which are to be found in our website <http://www.peterheadacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>

**PE SWIMMING CLASSES:** Over the next couple of terms all pupils in S1 – 4 will be expected to participate in a block of swimming. Swimming is a crucial part of our curriculum and it is important that your son/daughter participates in these lessons so that he/she can develop a range of different skills. It is also compulsory that pupils who are not able to participate, for whatever reason, bring a note and PE kit. The reasons being, if the pupil is outside/poolside/helping out with classes it is hygienic to have a spare set of kit other than school clothes to wear (in case they get wet/perspire).



### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February: “Denim for Dylan” day
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Holiday
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February: Holiday
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February: In-Service Day
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February: In-Service Day
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup>: S4 Work Experience Week
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March : S4/5 Parents Information Evening



**More details of these events will be available in due course**

On behalf of all the staff at the Academy, thank you for your ongoing support, as we work alongside you, for your children to achieve their full potential during their time with us and in preparation for their lives ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Evan L Ritchie  
Head Teacher (Acting)