

Winter 2013



UPDATE

Welcome

As ever, the winter term has been particularly busy. Staff have been working incredibly hard preparing our students for new national qualifications as well as continuing to implement the new curriculum changes. The challenges have not been easy but I would like to express sincere gratitude for their commitment to ensuring that our young people are successful and engaged in their learning.

We have faced difficulties in the recruitment of staff. No doubt you will have read press articles and watched T.V. highlighting the shortage of specialist staff in key areas of the curriculum. A particular area that has caused concern not only in the city but nationally has been in the sciences. We have been very fortunate to recruit Mr Ian Barber as Faculty Head Science. Ian comes to Dyce Academy with a specialism in Physics. Anne Stewart will be joining us in January as teacher of Biology. Samantha Pert starts after the holidays as teacher of Mathematics and Carol Jackson will join us mid January as teacher of English. We have two new PE teachers, Michael Manson and Kirsty McInnes in addition to our PE probationer, Sinead Hughes. I am sure we will welcome the new staff to the school.

My thanks to the parents who have responded to our brief questionnaire which was issued quite recently. There are many very positive comments about the school and some useful suggestions which we will take on board and respond to after the Christmas break. Our senior student team have also surveyed S1-S4 and will be discussing next steps to ensure we continuously improve what we offer at the academy.

Congratulations go to Michelle Riley for reaching the finals in Aberdeen City's European citizen writing competition. Michelle was awarded 'runner up' at a ceremony held in the Beach Ballroom early December and was presented with an i-pod shuffle.

We are absolutely thrilled to have been successful in a community bid for the construction of a full-sized 3G football/rugby pitch complete with floodlighting. The £300,000 has come from money seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act. This is a major investment in the school and the community, increasing opportunities for sport.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of 'Update'. My thanks to all of you for your continued support of the school throughout 2013. On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you and your family a restful and happy Christmas.

Lesley Adam

Health & Well-Being

Queen's Baton Relay Competition

We had several students take part in our competition, but unfortunately there could only be one winner. All entries were of an extremely high standard and it was very difficult to choose a winner.

Lewis's outstanding presentation on Physical Activity in the Commonwealth Countries exemplifies his character and personality. A talented Gymnast, he puts in tremendous effort, commitment and dedication to improve. Despite an intensive training schedule, Lewis attains excellent grades in school. He is always respectful to opponents/team-mates alike and his generous spirit is apparent when volunteering and coaching younger pupils, sharing his expertise. His voluntary contributions to the wider school community and curriculum life of the school is done in a very modest fashion and he is a natural leader and exemplary role model, being a friend to all who know him

Jordan was runner up in the school selection competition for the Baton Relay nomination, having produced an excellent and imaginative presentation. This highlighted her hardworking and dedicated attitude and desire to always do her best. Both in and out of school she demonstrates a very strong sense of responsibility and social conscience, involving herself with the School Charities committee and outside school, the Scouts. She shows everyone respect and is always helping her classmates and peers. She is also very active, attending dancing, school sports clubs and running to keep fit and she has an ambition to be a PE teacher.



Sports Council

This year at Dyce Academy we have our first ever Sports Council, which is led by our three Young Ambassadors: Toby Keech (Platinum Young Ambassador), Cait Cormack and Declan Coutts. Also on the panel are our S3 pupils who will be taking part in the LEAD 2014 programme early next year. These S3 pupils were chosen as they showed excellent leadership and organisational qualities as well as a love for sport and a desire to improve the opportunities for pupils to take part in extracurricular sport at Dyce Academy.

The Sports Council meets on a Friday lunchtime every two weeks to update each other on what is happening with their clubs and brainstorm new and exciting ways of delivering the different sports to the pupils of Dyce Academy.



At this moment we have a full timetable of activities for pupils. This includes; S1-6 Badminton, Trampolining, Insanity, Girls football, Ultimate Frisbee, Table Tennis, Martial Arts, Rugby and Dance. We are also looking at introducing a Netball club after Christmas.

Another first for Dyce Academy was its Sports fair that was organised by the Sports Council. Each council member was in charge of promoting an activity. They put in huge amounts of effort to produce posters, music and demonstrations that would capture the attention of the pupils in Dyce Academy, and they did a fantastic job! Well done guys!

Toby Keech, our Platinum Young Ambassador, has been chosen to sit on a panel within Aberdeen City Council, to help choose runners for the Queen's Baton Relay when it arrives in Aberdeen. This is a massive achievement for an S5 student, and I have no doubt that you will represent Dyce Academy extremely well!

Dyce Academy Sports Fair



MSP Visit to Dyce Academy

On the 28th June the Modern Languages and Social subjects departments had a visit from Christian Allard MSP. Christian is the first person to become an MSP who was not born and is not originally from Scotland though he has lived here for over 20 years.

He first visited some French classes and informed them about his role as an MSP (in French) and then students asked him questions in French about his job and about himself.



All students were keen to become involved in conversation with Christian and particularly enjoyed finding about his life both before coming to Scotland and his life in France. Christian then moved on to an S5 Modern Studies class where he explained (in English this time) the intricacies of the politics in the Scottish Parliament and his role as MSP.

DofE Update

Congratulations to the following pupils who have recently gained Awards:

Bronze: Chloe Morrison 4F, Hannah Proctor 4F, Ewan Reid 4G

Weekly training has now commenced for the new session. Current numbers are 40 Bronze, 12 Silver and 11 Gold. This is a record total for the school and shows the popularity of the scheme. Ambitions remain high.

The Gold Group have already decided to hold their Qualifying Expedition next August in the mountains of South West Norway while the Harry Potter contingent of the Silver Group seem to have got their way in beginning their Qualifying Expedition at the Glenfinnan Viaduct! This year we aim to mentor pupils to try and improve on the numbers who complete awards.

Our thanks, once again to Apache Corporation for their on-going support of the scheme that has allowed us to maintain and update our equipment store. Many thanks too, to those teachers and former teachers who give so generously of their time to support the pupil participants.

Tom Ferguson



MSP Visit to Dyce Academy

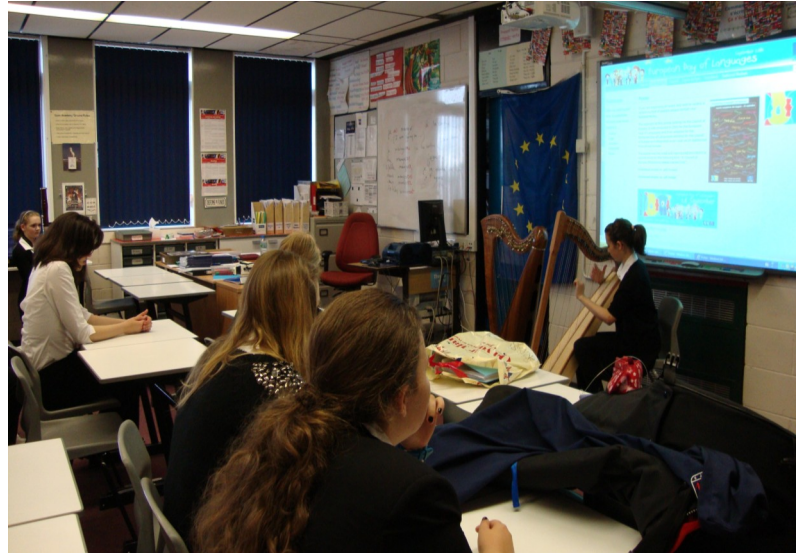


Modern Languages

European Day of Languages

To celebrate European Day of Languages on 26 September, the ML Faculty and the librarians organized different events during the week.

On Wednesday 25 September, a group of pupils met in room 211 to listen to Emma Kirk, Abigail Millar-Todd and Emma Simpson from ACMS who gave a mini “Euro Concert” including the theme tune of the French film “Amelie”. Lina Murray then recited a Russian poem.



On Thursday 26, pupils gathered in the library for a “Speed Lingua” session. Senior pupils who have a first or second language other than English along with other pupils and staff volunteers sat at tables with a sign indicating their chosen language: Spanish, Russian, Turkish, French, Norwegian and German. Every 4 minutes, at the blow of a whistle, the groups moved to the next table where they could practise a selection of greetings and new words. The session proved to be fun and “merci” to Camila Grisales, Natasha Mackie, Lina Murray and Jack Gillespie for their participation.

To conclude the week, all first year classes went to the library during a ML period to complete a European quiz. They worked in pairs researching facts on computers and books. Each winning team has been awarded a prize and a certificate.

French Film Festival at the Belmont Cinema

On Wednesday 20 November a group of 25 S3 and S4 pupils who study French went to the Belmont cinema to see the screening of the French film “Comme un Lion”. This is the story of a young boy from Senegal who has been selected to come to France to train as a professional footballer. However he encounters many difficulties when arriving at the French customs. Instead of training with PSG, he eventually manages to be selected for Sochaux thanks to a local coach who is won over by the boy’s talent and determination. The film was enjoyed by all those who attended and this was a good opportunity to experience the French language in a situation different from the classroom.



VSA Aberdeen Award for SVS Annual Appeal

Dyce Academy was awarded the VSA's Community Group for Charitable Fundraising Award. The award was presented by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen at the VSA Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10th October. Daniel Faulkner S5 and Mrs Patricia Bruce accepted the award on behalf of the school.

VSA wrote "...the school has been awarded for all your hard work for the past few year's food collections. It's been very well organised and it is always a very generous collection. Our older people services really appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness."



Enterprising Minds

KAFKAH Appeal 2013

This year the National 4/5 Administration & IT class took over the organising of the annual KAFKAH Shoebox appeal as part of their practical coursework which requires them to organise an event.

The class of 20 work as a team, taking responsibility for the task themselves. They handled the publicity and media, held assemblies for different year groups and coordinated the collection of shoe boxes via registration classes. Despite a tight deadline the class worked exceptionally well together, with every pupil making a valuable contribution, culminating in a fantastic response across the school. The class would like to thank everybody for their contributions and help.

Real Business Challenge

The S3 Business Enterprise class took part in the recent annual competition organised by Coca-Cola which invites groups of 6-8 pupils from the S3 age range across the UK to devise a solution to a business problem. This year's event was to identify a product that the company could use to fill a gap in their product portfolio for a healthy, sustainable soft drink. The three groups worked hard to meet the very demanding success criteria for the product as well as the tight deadline for submission. Success required pupils to use their business acumen, ethical awareness as well as communication, inter-personal and team-working abilities.

The group who devised the "Highlight" drink were judged to have best met the criteria set by Coca-Cola and their presentation, sustainability statement, and forecasted manufacturing and profit figures were uploaded for national judging.



S4 NATIONAL 5 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT – SMALL ENTERPRISE GROUP

Six girls from the N5 Business Management class - Becky Lawrie, Chloe Morrison, Arlene Forbes, Attika Ahmad, Eilidh Cosgrove and Courtney Shield - decided to make candles to raise money for charity.

Due to the fact it was a time-consuming process, they did this in their own time at home but in school prepared posters and packaged the candles.

A total of £55.50 was raised from the sale of the candles at the S1 Parents' Evening – a big thank you to everyone who bought a candle.

The girls are keen to start a new venture in 2014 – all the monies will then be donated to charity at the end of their National 5 course.

Mrs Keith



Aberdeen's Young European Citizen Essay Award

Being a European Citizen means being united, it means more than just British, more than just Scottish, it means being European. We can experience the delight of other countries helping us through things; it makes us look worthy of something. We can stand up for ourselves, defend ourselves and look after our people. I feel it is important to us as humans to work together and not to be so divided into tiny little sections. We should come together and create what we have already a union, to benefit European citizens and give everyone a fair chance in life.

It is good for our countries to work together to create a safe and fair environment. To me personally I feel it is important for people to feel part of something. Rather than just part of a country, as a group of countries to share ideas and feel protected against the threat of war. Being part of the EU makes me feel free and comfortable in other countries. With the opportunity we have to freely move between countries within the EU I think it gives people who may not feel the benefits of their own country get support and feel for other countries and help them to perhaps earn more money and live a better life.

It is helpful for us as we can easily ship goods from country to country without staggering costs. Our flights are much cheaper and it is generally much easier for us to make communication with other countries in the EU. I love learning languages in school, like French and Spanish and it really helps when visiting other countries.

There are currently 27 countries in the EU and visiting these other countries can show us what it's like for everyone else, rather than just seeing how we live in our own countries it's important for us to see how other people live, the way they live and share experiences with them.

Europe is unity and peace, our rights as humans are very important to European citizens like myself. Without our human rights we would not have freedom of speech; we would lose our ability to have a say on things we care about; we would lose our education systems, our healthcare and our governments. I feel thankful being a European citizen, for having the rights that I do and that I feel safe in my environment and can have faith in Europe.

Michelle Riley
Dyce Academy, S4



Room 306 News Term 2 2013

Football

On 14th November Miss Smith drove a minibus full of pupils along with Miss Weir and Mrs Taylor to Aberdeen Sports Village for a football tournament. We had 2 5x5 teams and we all worked very hard. Unfortunately, we didn't win the shield, but we all enjoyed the day.



VSA 2013

The S3 and S4 Personal Development classes have been very busy this term. The S3 has been organising a food collection for VSA (Voluntary Services Aberdeen). They have been working on communication skills via email, letter and telephone and they also presented to the school, very successfully, at year group assemblies.

The food which will be distributed to people who need it most in our community will be picked up by the charity on December 12th. The S4 have been involved in a variety of projects this term including: An ASN activity afternoon for pupils from Dyce Primary, 'Stevo's Head Shave' (Steven Hay) and the Staff v Pupils Sports Events which proved to be very popular and collectively also raised £315.00 for Children in Need. Well done to both classes hard work this term. They have made a really positive contribution to school life!

Staff Christmas Card

Every year there is an Alternative Christmas Card available in the Staff Room for staff to write their Festive Greetings on. This year the ASN base was asked to design the card. Many thanks to David Greig, Ryan Sim and William Watt who did a super job with it. The donations collected will be given to 'Mary's Meals' (a charity which encourages children into school by providing a school meal whilst they are there).



Swimming

On November 20th Steven Muir, Brogan Cassie, Rachael Greig and Kyle Alexander were selected to swim for Grampian at the SDS Junior Swimming Championships in Glasgow. Everyone involved had a chance to race against pupils from schools all over Scotland.

The pupils involved had been training hard under the supervision of Stuart Cosgrove, Natasha Macke and Robbie Mackenzie.

We were all very excited when we left Aberdeen on the 6.33am train and we were one of the first teams to arrive so we had plenty of time to prepare mentally and physically for the competition.



A great day was had by everyone especially since they all came home with a medal! Steven Muir won a bronze for 50m backstroke, Rachael Grieg won gold for 50m freestyle, Brogan Cassie won gold for 25m freestyle and Kyle Alexander for 25m freestyle. WOW!

We would all like to thank Lindsay Duffin, Emma Forbes, James McManus, Kenza Watson, Derry Barclay, Catherine Leslie, Beth Wallace, Stuart Cosgrove, Natasha Mackie and Robbie Mackenzie our S5 and S6 helpers who provide extra help and support for all pupils attending Room 306.

NEW SERVICE FOR THE ACCORD CARD: BALANCE ALERTS

You can now receive balance alerts for your child's Accord Card via text and/or email, so you know exactly when their Accord Card needs to be topped-up. This new and innovative service is available now and is provided entirely free of charge.

There are two types of balance alerts available and you can receive either or both of them:

1. When the balance on the Accord Card drops beneath £5;
2. Balance at the end of the school week (so you know how much to top-up at the weekend).

To sign up, please visit accordaberdeen.co.uk and click on the link for **Cashless Catering**.

The balance alert(s) you receive will contain a link to the on-line top-up facility. It's quick, easy and free to top-up the Accord Card on-online and this means you no longer need to give your child money to take to school. Furthermore, you know that this money can only be spent in the school's catering facility which provides a healthy and nutritious meal. Should you have any further questions regarding this new service, or any aspect of using the Accord Card, please contact the Accord Card team on 346834.

Faculty of Science

Energy Quiz

Dyce Academy sent a team to take part in the Energy quiz, James MacManus, Fraser Marcelline, Ruth-Anna Smith and Lee Riley. After making it through the first round of the Energy quiz. The team went into the quarter finals with high hopes at TAQA Westhill.

After going behind early they fought back to be 1 point behind going into the last round. After a great tussle Dyce lost out, well done to the team and all were eager to return next year.



Global Experiment

S3 Chemists took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's GLOBAL EXPERIMENT. Hundreds of schools from all over the world took part in experiments investigating the degradation of Vitamin C. The pupils really enjoyed the experience and worked super hard to do a fairly complex experiment in one period. Well done!



BBC Children in Need

Thanks to everyone for their generosity and support in our Children in Need fundraising. The school total was over £700.

Scottish students from Danscentre Aberdeen dance their way to Dance Proms at the Royal Albert Hall

Talented students from **Danscentre** in **Aberdeen** were chosen to take part in Dance Proms, a major international dance spectacular at the **Royal Albert Hall** in November. Patrons of the event include top dance names such as Darcey Bussell CBE, Arlene Phillips CBE and Len Goodman (Strictly Come Dancing)

Danscentre are the only school representing Scotland in 2013 Dance Proms. They have two dance acts performing, aged between 11 and 21, entitled *My Space* and *Hide and Seek*. They joined 23 other dance acts and celebrity dancers on stage at the third annual **Dance Proms at the Royal Albert Hall** on **3rd November**. Danscentre is one of the leading dance education centres in Scotland training pupils in RAD Ballet, ISTD Modern and Tap from Pre-school – Vocational level. Many students have gone on to performing careers including Angela Towler – now rehearsal director at Rambert Dance Company, Callum Nicol currently on tour with ‘Dirty Dancing’ and Harris Beattie – ‘Billy Elliot’ who has since returned and will be performing within ‘*Hide and Seek*’.

Dance Proms provides young dancers with a unique opportunity to perform at one of the world’s most prestigious venues. Danscentre were selected from hundreds of schools worldwide to share the stage with some of the best youth dance talent around.

Danscentre performed two dances, entitled *My Space* and *Hide and Seek*. *My Space*, a Ballet piece performed by dancers aged between nine and 11, is about the battle of the sexes, with the male and female dancers fighting for the ‘top spot’ on stage. *Hide and Seek*, a Contemporary dance performed by students aged 17-21, explores the feelings of total despair, anger and disbelief at the loss of something precious.

Karen Berry and Michelle Whyte, commented: “We are extremely excited and overjoyed to be part of Dance Proms again. For the pupils it is an experience unlike any other and a unique opportunity to represent the North East of Scotland on an internationally recognised dance platform. To be part of something so special is a privilege and will give us memories to treasure for a lifetime”.

Darcey Bussell CBE, Patron of Dance Proms and President of the Royal Academy of Dance, said: “It’s so important that young talent has a chance to see what other talented people are doing at this national event. I know from my own experience how important it is to see what your peers are up to while you’re training. For a student, performing at the Royal Albert Hall is out of this world. They learn so much and it will affect them for the rest of their lives.”

To qualify, dance teachers submitted a short dance piece featuring original choreography in any genre, and performed as a solo, couple, trio or group performance. This year, the genres ranged from more traditional Ballet and Greek Dance, to Rock, Street Dance, Cheerleading and many more.

Little Shop Of Horrors

So far, the rehearsals for our school show (Little Shop Of Horrors) have been going quite well. We have improved on all of our chorus numbers and the principles have mastered their lines. It has been a really enjoyable experience to participate in and since this is our (Jenna Forrest, Finley Jolly, Cameron Brown) first school show; it has been something quite different for us. We have developed a lot of new skills that will help us in Drama throughout our school years.

This show has taken a lot of will and work and we are happy with the progress we have made. It has been so much fun working with other people that share the same interests as us and we look forward to taking part in a second school show hopefully next year. Throughout our rehearsals, we were all super excited to see the arrival of the most important prop; the plant. It was amazing getting to use it for the first time and we hope that the audience will appreciate all the hard work and time we have put into making this show; the best show Dyce Academy has ever produced.

We must say that none of this could have been possible without Miss Rankin, Mrs Fennel, Mr Moir-Hall, Miss Johnston, Mrs Scaife and the music school for their amazingly talented band. Another special thank you to every crew member and not only on stage crew but behind the scenes too. We thank every sponsor we have received and ASDA for letting us raise £800 in our bag packing fund raiser.

Thank you to everyone who helped us bake for our school bake sale and also to the teachers who bought it all! We have enjoyed the whole experience and look forward to performing our show for you all!



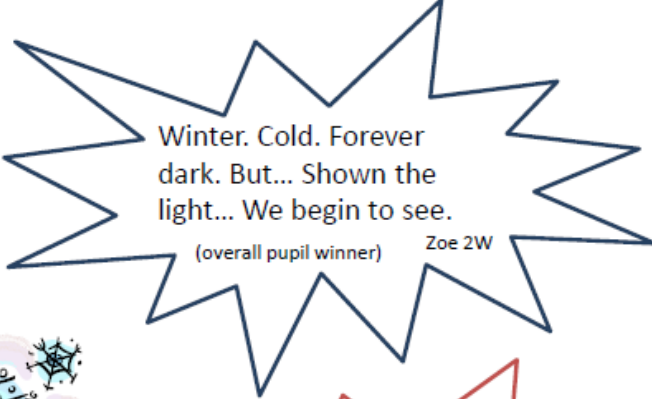
Thank you to everyone above and much more.

By Jenna Forrest, Cameron Brown and Finley Jolly (Cast Members)

12 Words of Winter

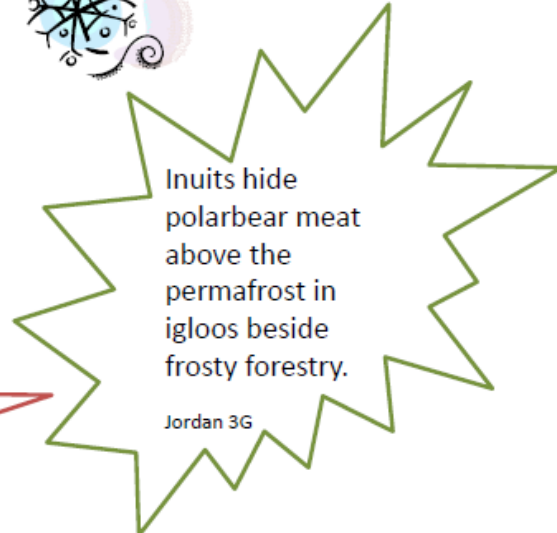
Pupils and staff were invited to write a 12 word Winter/Christmas/seasonal story

12 Words of Winter - Winners




Winter. Cold. Forever
dark. But... Shown the
light... We begin to see.

(overall pupil winner) Zoe 2W



Inuits hide
polarbear meat
above the
permafrost in
igloos beside
frosty forestry.

Jordan 3G



Walking in a winter
wonderland, all is
white. Where's my
Westie gone?

Mrs Fennell

The Best of the Rest - Staff

- ❖ Red sun rises over Lake Victoria, soft waves ripple, Christmas is here.
- ❖ No star, no kings, no crib or stable. No Santa. Happy holiday.
- ❖ Christmas is coming – unfortunately not only the goose will be getting fat.
- ❖ School snow closures – as exciting and special to children as Christmas itself
- ❖ I'm dreaming of a white Christmas! White chocolate! Meringue! Cream! Cake icing!
- ❖ Santa's sleigh slithered silently sideways so serenely somewhere South spreading seasonal "suspense".
- ❖ Gluttony and selfishness rampant. Real meaning lost. Nobody cares. An annual occurrence.
- ❖ Roaring wind, lashing rain, make welcoming school feel like heaven. (*oops someone can't count!*)
- ❖ Peace and goodwill – not just for Christmas, make it last all year.
- ❖ Winter at the equator: sunshine, warmth and families join together to celebrate.



12 Words of Winter

The Best of the Rest - S3 & 4

- ❖ It is Christmas in the heart that put Christmas in the air.
- ❖ Penguins eat turkey on the beach and dance with Frosty the Snowman.
- ❖ A wise man is a man with a slice of Granny's cake.
- ❖ Mandela dies, we sit in classroom finding 12 words of Christmas. Yolo.
- ❖ Glittering pavements and crisp mornings mark the start of Christ's eternal life.
- ❖ The tinsel shines, decorations bombard the floor, the finished tree glistens brightly.
- ❖ The greatest present is the happiness we share with our loved ones.
- ❖ Snow, whirling round the bright eyed girl, she's warm in the cold.
- ❖ Frosty bliss descends on caribou, the Christmas aurora dances in the sky.
- ❖ Though gifts may be exhilarating, friends and family are the message.
- ❖ On Christmas penguins left their igloos and were swallowed by an avalanche.



The Best of the Rest - S1 & 2

- ❖ Shimmering white snow untouched. The fat man steps out of his lair.
- ❖ After food, presents, family and fun, bring on the Boxing Day football.
- ❖ I wake up to see the chimney is broken, why Santa why?
- ❖ House warm, the warming fruity smell wafting through the house. Christmas cake!
- ❖ A small chimney for a big man in red on snowy roof.
- ❖ Underneath the Christmas tree, excited fire burning, wrapping paper being scattered everywhere.
- ❖ December 25th, houses lit up alive. No more leaves upon the trees.
- ❖ Snowballs flying everywhere, screaming and chasing as the shimmering white dust flies.
- ❖ Ho, Ho Ho! From the roof, let's go and have a look.
- ❖ Reindeer ready for the flight, off they go in the cool snow.



Dates For Your Diary

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 20 December | School closes for Holiday |
| Monday 6 January | School re-opens for new term |
| Monday 27 January | S4 Estimate exams begin |
| Thursday 30 January | P7 Open evening |
| Friday 31 January | S4 Estimate exams end |
| Monday 3 February | S5/6 Estimate exams begin |
| Friday 3 February | S3 Reports to parents |
| Thursday 13 February | S5/6 Estimate exams end |
| Friday 14 February | School In-service day |
| Monday 17 February | Holiday |
| Tuesday 18 February | School In-service day |
| Saturday 1 March | ACMS March concert |
| Wednesday 5 March | S3 Information Evening |
| Friday 7 March | S4-6 Estimate reports to parents |
| Tuesday 11 March | S4-6 Parent Evening 1 |
| Friday 14 March | S3 Choice forms returned |
| Wed 19 March | S4-6 Parent evening 2 |
| Friday 21 March | S2 Reports to parents |
| Thursday 27 March | S2 Information Evening |
| Thursday 3 April | S5/6 Information evening |
| Friday 4 April | S2 & S5/6 Choice forms returned School closes for holiday |

Stop Press!!

The school show has been absolutely fantastic! The cast and crew have worked so hard to create a professional and polished performance. Staff who have worked on the show have been so proud of all the pupils who have taken part, from cast members to plant operators to pupil who have given up their evenings to come and help sell teas and coffees. The commitment of the pupils to the show has been exceptional.

HAPPY NEW YEAR