



UPDATE



Summer 2014

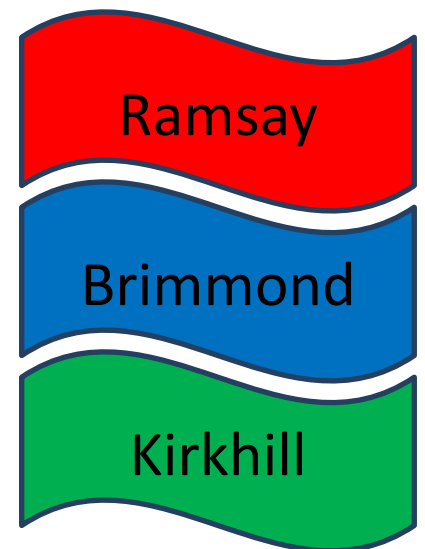


Welcome

This has been a very busy term as ever, with a lot of activities going on in and around the school. As the end of term fast approaches I would like to thank all the staff, pupils and parents for their continued hard work and commitment in supporting the work of the school. We have received confirmation that this is a good school providing many opportunities for our pupils to achieve success and take responsibility.

Staff have been commended for their professionalism and motivation providing high quality learning experiences for our young people. Pupils spoke very highly of the staff and particularly highlighted the approachable and supportive manner of all staff within the school. Parents particularly valued the support that is provided through our bases. We will continue to ensure that we have high expectations for our young people and maintain the unique ethos of a warm and welcoming school.

With great excitement we launched our house system and revealed the house names selected by pupils, staff and parents. At house assemblies the names and colours were revealed. We now have Kirkhill (green), Ramsay (red) and Brimmond (Blue). The noise in the MPA was deafening as pupils cheered their house group. The excitement continued with a school sports day. Twitter went mad with competitive bantering - and that was the staff! This is the first time that we have had the whole school out together and the event was a fantastic success. Kirkhill are the first recipients of the trophy, so well done to them.



Senior pupils wanting to take on leadership responsibilities in the school have been interviewed, I have to say that the quality of their applications for the Senior student team were most impressive. From the 10 that will make up the team, 4 will be given the Student Team Leader position. The successful pupils will be revealed at a lunch with myself this week.

My congratulations go to the LEAD team for their very successful organisation of a tournament for our P7 pupils. A tremendous amount of work went into this. Aply supported by the sport ambassadors, the P7's had an energetic experience of many sports on offer at the academy.



At long last our pupils completed their World Challenge expedition to Nepal. They took part in a project to improve a school and trekked from Pokhara through forests, villages and enjoyed fantastic scenery. They returned safely, tired but exhilarated.

Our congratulations go to Lewis Cowie who was nominated to carry the Queen's baton. We bussed out 61 pupils to cheer him on and had a memorable moment.

At this time of the year we often have to say goodbyes to staff who are moving on to pastures new and we thank them for their contribution to the work of the school. I am delighted to welcome some new members of staff who will be joining us after the summer:

Delphine Barral	Modern Languages
David Finnie -	English
Francesca Seargent	English
Keri Taylor	English
Lucy Green	Design & Technology
Shaun Netherway	PE
Paul Tobin	Physics

I am sure that from reading this edition of 'Update' you will agree that there are many activities taking place throughout the school. Please remember to follow us on twitter and keep an eye on our website.

My best wishes to all waiting on that envelope coming through the door in August. Have a wonderful and relaxing break.

Lesley Adam



MBA Donation to Room 306

We were very lucky in June this year as Lisa Barnard and Audra Greig from Maggie Braid Associates (MBA) came into Room 306 to donate an iPad mini for us to use in our lessons.

We are really looking forward to getting started using it properly after the summer holidays.



Thank you.

By David Greig



Air Training Corp—102 (Aberdeen Airport) Squadron

!! Your local Squadron of the Air Training Corps is currently recruiting!!

The Air Training Corps is a youth organisation for 13-17 year olds. It offers a wide range of activities such as flying, gliding, shooting, adventure training, radios, camps, leadership training, sports, first aid and many more.

The A.T.C. aims to promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation, provide training which will be useful both in the Service and in civilian life and to foster the spirit of adventure and to develop the qualities of leadership and good citizenship.



Joining Air Training Corps provides teenagers with opportunities to meet new people and experience many new things. Over the last few months local cadets have attended activities such as flying, shooting, sports, leadership courses, radio courses and gliding. Your local Squadron, 102 (Aberdeen Airport) Squadron, is situated on Pitmedden Road, Dyce and is recruiting now!

The Squadron meets on Monday and Wednesday at 7.20pm until 9.30pm. Contact the Squadron email at 102@aircadets.org.

The Science and Engineering Club

The Science and Engineering club took a trip to Murrayfield to take part in the Celebration of Engineering and Science.

The club attended the regional competition at BP back in March and were invited to take part in the National competition on the 5th of June.

The boys have worked extremely hard on the Carbon Capture and Storage project as well as preparing for The Ping Pong Pentathlon - a 5 part competition where they had to make various objects to carry/shoot/guide ping pong balls around different courses and obstacles.

During the day they got to do lots of different STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) challenges - including getting offshore PPE on before completing a 'buzz wire' task, all in 3 minutes!

They had a great time. Unfortunately they didn't take any prizes home this time, but they did get lots of ideas for further projects from more established clubs. Next year's project is a computerised, sensorised hovercraft - we look forward to seeing the results!

The Science and Engineering Club will be launching a new and exciting project in the autumn.

We plan to build a computerised, sensor and manual, two-seater hovercraft capable of navigating narrow or choked waterways to locate and support flood victims, which also may include a sonar and infrared camera system. We plan to enter the finished craft in a National competition in June 2015 along with a weather station project that will be running in tandem.

Our resources 'wish list' includes:

- Heavyweight plastic sheeting, large single piece for the skirt of the hovercraft
- Garden chair, or similar that can be screwed onto the hovercraft floor
- High power petrol or battery-powered leaf blower (with adjustable power control if possible!)
- A Raspberry Pi
- Sensors (proximity/light)
- Financial support/sponsorship.

Our support 'wish list' includes (both in person on Tuesday/Friday lunchtimes or via Skype/email):

- Engineering/construction expertise.
- Raspberry Pi programming expertise.
- CAD expertise(in Freecad)
- Project Management Expertise. (We are using Open Workbench)
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This will be a challenging and exciting project that will provide invaluable learning opportunities in curriculum areas such as IT, Physics, Maths, Geography and Marketing. Throughout the process, adherence to appropriate Health and Safety considerations will be of paramount importance, and the vehicle will be used responsibly and under supervision at all times with protective clothing provided.

The pupils involved are an extremely enthusiastic and hard-working group, and any assistance that parents or friends of Dyce Academy could offer in resourcing the project would mean a lot to them. We would like to add an extremely special thank you to the parent of one of the club members who has offered to donate a motor/fan assembly as the hovercraft propulsion unit.

Thank you, Academy Science and Engineering Club



Dyce Academy visits BP



52 pupils were lucky enough to visit BP North Sea Headquarters. We were shown all the varied departments which are required to operate offshore and onshore operations.



We held a video conference with BP employees offshore and were able to ask questions about their working life and experiences. We also experienced the 3D H.I.V.E. on how oil is located offshore. The picture above shows the pupils who got to dress as oil workers. In a practical task, pupils competed to build their strongest and most cost efficient oil rig jacket.

ACMS

A huge congratulations to the ACMS pupils who won their classes at the music festival in Aberdeen recently

Wins were:

- Scottish Traditional Group won the Open Class
- Bethan Taylor - Flute solo Under 15
- Lina Murray - 18 and under composition, Piano solo Open (then invited to compete for the Challenge trophy)
- Patrick Shand - open composition (then invited to perform his composition at the Challenge concert)
- Moray Jones - Double Bass 14 and 16 and under
- Anna Geddes - Bach Solo 14 and under
- Veronika Ilevcuka - 14 and under repertoire class
- William Gray - Chopin Solo 18 and under and Open
- William Gray and Graeme Waterhouse - 18 and under Piano duet
- Zoe Hodi - Violin Solo 13 and under
- Elise Smith 18 and under and Open classical guitar solo
- Nathan Fenwick - 16 and under Violin solo.



This is a great achievement, well done!

Expressive Arts Showcase

On the 25th June the Expressive Arts faculty had a showcase of the best that art, music and drama at Dyce Academy has to offer.

More than 100 people packed themselves into the MPA on Wednesday evening to witness the event, which showcased a selection of the talent from across all year groups. The audience enjoyed dramatic performances written by students as part of their curriculum and a variety of vocal performances, including chart hits and musical favourites, which had been arranged by the students themselves.



Before and after the performances, the attendees were able to appreciate the superb art-work created by students of the school while they enjoyed refreshments supplied by the Eco Committee. The hall was packed with proud parents, cheering chums and supportive siblings and staff, all there to celebrate the success of Dyce's talented teenagers.

The feedback from those in attendance was incredibly positive and already plans are being made for next year's event, which promises to be even bigger and better.



S2 Bird Project



More pictures from the Expressive Arts Showcase



Inspire-Aspire National Awards 2014

From early February in Room 306 a small group of us worked on a project call Inspire-Aspire. We had to think about our own strengths and weaknesses, talk about our hopes for the future and research our inspirational figure. I chose to research Paralympic swimmer Ellie Symonds because I think she is an inspirational example of how you can achieve great things no matter what difficulties you face.

My poster was chosen as a Bronze National finalist and on Monday 16th June myself, Mr Millar and my mum and step-dad travelled to Glasgow University for the National Awards Ceremony 2014.

Only 120 people from schools across Scotland were invited out of 36,000 pupils who had taken part in the project.

The awards were presented by adventurer and BBC broadcaster Mark Beaumont. He spoke to us about his World Record breaking trip cycling around the world and encouraged us to follow our dreams and ambitions.

Although it was really scary going up onto the stage to collect my award, I really enjoyed the awards ceremony and seeing everyone else's posters from all over the country.

By Kate McKay and Alan Millar



Lead 2014



This year has seen Dyce Academy's first LEAD 2014 Festival. The aim of the Festival was to raise awareness of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and welcome the incoming S1 pupils into Dyce Academy. The festival was organised and run by LEAD 2014 pupils : Kim Moir, Aaron Odentz, Conor Ross, Lewis Cowie, Jake Shade, Ethan Wilson, Cameron Brown and Andrew Frank.



Our Leaders were also helped by our Sports Leaders: Lauren McLean, Julia McAllan, Lucy Mack, Lee Riley, Leah Riley, Grace Carter, Duncan Forsyth, Luke Burnett, Abbie Milne, Lewis Craib, Jessica Oyovwevotu, Eilidh McKinnon, Jeanine Massie and Ewan Carter., All P7 pupils had a thoroughly enjoyable experience! Well Done :) The 22 Leaders showed exceptional leadership, communication, and organisation skills in the lead up to and on the day of the festival. 80 Primary 7 pupils took part in four activities from 9:30 - 2pm. One pupil described the day as "Epic" and another said "The Leaders did a great job". This was only exemplified through one teacher saying " I feel that you have really done yourself proud and you have been fantastic!" The PE department are extremely proud of all the hard work and dedication our S4 pupils have shown and are excited to see what they achieve as they move through the Senior Phase here at Dyce Academy! Well done everyone!



"Rencontres Theatrales 2014"

On Monday 31 March 2014, Dyce Academy hosted the French Drama competition for the North East of Scotland organised by the French Institute in Edinburgh.

Three Primary schools, Westpark, Tipperty and St Joseph entered alongside Bucksburn and Dyce Academies in the secondary category.

11 S1 pupils, all volunteers from Dyce, performed well using the French language in a play called "Tintin et le Mystère du Loch Ness". The cartoon detective was brought to life to solve a mystery along the shores of Loch Ness. Three S3 ACMS pupils entertained us with French musical pieces during the interludes. The event was enjoyed by all as well as the French snack provided by the Institute.



A Message of Thanks

Many thanks to all pupils and staff who made George Ayiro and Martin Lagu so welcome. They wished me to convey their gratitude for the warm welcome you gave them.

George and Martin had a busy week in classes helping with the Biographies project and with Geography, History and Modern Studies classes in S3. They went to many different departments to see how we work here and were impressed by the motivation of our pupils.

DofE Practice Expeditions



Congratulations to Linsey Duffin (S6 2013-2014) in gaining her DofE Silver Award.

All three groups have recently undertaken practice expeditions that are a requirement for the qualifying venture later this year. The Bronze Group made up of thirty six S3 (now S4) pupils made use of the excellent facilities in the Balmoral Estate and had a very successful introduction to DofE Expeditions over two weekends in May.

On the second expedition, one of the Groups was walking near the Gelder Bothy and were overtaken by a Range Rover driven by the Queen. It was a jaw-dropping moment! The views of Lochnagar and the Cairngorms, both with plenty snow, on both weekends were amazing. All groups are now preparing for the Qualifying expeditions soon after the Summer Holidays in the Glenlivet and Glen Tanar Estates.

The Silver Groups held their practice expedition in the Ben Alder Estate, near Dalwhinnie, between 31st May and 2nd June. The weather was good and the breeze kept the midges at bay. The views of Ben Alder were also enhanced by the unseasonal amount of snow cover. Most of the group "bagged" their first Munro in climbing Carn Dearg behind their excellent camp site. Over the September holiday weekend, they head west to Glenfinnan which they chose as the location for their Qualifying Expedition.

The Gold Group of eleven S6 pupils now prepare for their Qualifying Expedition in Sirdal, Norway early in August while the Silver Group of eleven S5 pupils plan to walk around Glen Finnan over the Aberdeen Holiday weekend in late September.

The School has built up a good stock of expedition equipment over the years. Our thanks go to Laura Walker, Milly Holroyd and Olawatoobarin Faleye who have been excellent Quartermasters over the session, maintaining and organising the equipment.

Unfortunately a few items go missing from time to time usually as a result of people forgetting to return them. I would be grateful if anyone who found such equipment lying at home would return it so that we can keep our inventory up to date. Many thanks.

Tom Ferguson

School DofE Co-ordinator



S4 NATIONAL 5 BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

"IDEAL IDEAS ENTERPRISE GROUP"

After studying the work of co-operatives as part of their "Understanding Business" topic, the pupils decided to form one!

Their idea was to wash staff cars for £3.50 during their last Business Management period of the session.

A total of 14 staff cars were washed, hopefully to a satisfactory standard, with £49.00 being raised - a big "thank you" to everyone who allowed the pupils to wash their car.

The Group seem keen to do further enterprise ventures next session - perhaps even a disco with a 'live' band playing for the new S1 pupils!! Watch this space





Dates For Your Diary

Summer Holiday: Monday 7 July - Friday 15 August

In-Service

Monday 18 August

Pupils Return

Tuesday 19 August

Sponsored Walk

Wednesday 17 September

In-Service

Thursday 18 September

Friday Holiday

Friday 19 September

Monday Holiday

Monday 22 September

October Break Begins

Monday 13 October

New Term Begins

Monday 27 October

In-Service

Monday 10 November

Last Day of Term

Friday 19 December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January

New Term Begins

Monday 5 January