

Welcome to



Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2022—2023

Issue 1

Welcome to the Dyce Academy Newsletter

As we introduce our new School Newsletter it is only correct that we give you an update on the Head Teacher position. As you will be aware Mrs Adam retired during the summer holidays and the responsibilities of this role have been filled by both Ms Strachan and Mr Hose in a joint acting role. Aberdeen City Council have now advertised the Headteacher position with a closing date of 25 September.

It has already been a busy term, not only in introducing our new S1's to the school but also in the fact that we have started to reintroduce parents back into the building after such a long time due to Covid. A school is stronger and has a greater sense of community when our parents are regular visitors to the school and already this session we have held a successful S1 Information evening as well as our first face to face Parents' Evening for our S3's.

Staff News

As we begin a new session we have been fortunate in being able to welcome a significant number of new staff to our school community. This is particularly pleasing as for the first time in several years our staffing levels, within most Faculties, are at their optimum level. The permanent members of staff who have joined us include,

Mr McCurdy	-	Languages
Miss James	-	Design & Technology
Mr McDonald	-	Science
Miss Skilling	-	PSA
Miss Smith	-	PSA
Mrs MacBeath	-	PSA

As well as these members of staff we have also been fortunate to secure the services of six Probationer teachers who will be with us, at least, for the whole of this session. Our probationer teachers are,

Miss Lyle	-	Home Economics
Mr Maughan	-	Design & Technology
Mr Beaser	-	Social Subjects
Miss Miller	-	PE
Miss Laidlaw	-	English
Miss MacDonald	-	ICT & Enterprise

Here to Help @ Dyce Academy

Here at Dyce Academy we have a number of initiatives to support our local community. Our "Here to Help" section of our website <https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/here-to-help/home> has information on free school meals, swap shop, school clothing grants, rag bag etc.



Over the years our Uniform Swap Shop has grown from strength to strength, if you have old uniform items that your child has grown out of, please consider donating to the school so that it can be used again by other families. Uniform items can be dropped off at the school office. To order uniform (free of charge) from the Swap Shop please use the link provided on the Here to Help webpage using the link above.

Senior Pupil Leadership Team

The Senior Pupil Leadership Team at Dyce Academy has been established to enhance pupil ownership and capture 'pupil voice'. We also want it to support our overall strategy to develop leadership at all levels. The SPLT provides S5/6 pupils within Dyce Academy with the opportunity to be involved in the life of the school and also have a positive impact on their own learning and overall school ethos. All S5 and S6 pupils were given the opportunity to apply to be a Senior Leader at the start of term and a number were interviewed with 19 being appointed. Each of the Senior Leaders have been matched with a whole school group such as Health and Wellbeing, Eco Schools and Pupil Support. Over the course of the year the Senior Leaders will be working with staff and pupils on various projects.

S1-S3 Activities Days 17-19 May 2023

Information regarding Activities Days for May 2023 will be issued to parents/carers this week. Returns are required from all pupils to state whether they wish to take part in local activities or residential trips. Further information regarding Local Activities will come out later in the year.

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Parent Council

Being part of a Parent Council gives our parents an opportunity to have a say in improving how Dyce Academy delivers education, shapes its policies and communicates its priorities to support children and families. Parent Councils are best placed to motivate and support parents to get actively involved in their child's learning; contribute to school life through volunteering their time, skills and knowledge as well helping the school to share information, advice and support for children and families. Parents can be members of the Parent Council for as long as they have a child at school.

What a Parent Council does:

- Reports and communicates with parents at least once a year at the AGM.
- Works alongside the school to provide good parental support that helps parents engage in their children learning.
- Makes sure parents get the information they need in an accessible way.
- Helps gather parent views and ensure the school receives their feedback
- Be involved in the recruitment of Headteachers and Deputy Head teachers.
- Be involved in school inspections with HMIE.
- Support social and fundraising activities

We look forward to a new chapter where parents take the opportunity to work with the school in improving outcomes for all our young people.

We aim to hold our first meeting on Thursday 29th September at 6pm in Dyce Academy.

Cyber First Aid Box for Families

The [Cyber First Aid Box](http://www.cbrfa.com) (www.cbrfa.com) is a new online resource for parents and carers to support their child's recovery after a negative online experience. This resource was developed in partnership with Decode Cyber Solutions and Education Scotland's Digital Skills team – it is a free resource available to everyone. The site will ask a series of questions to help you determine the best response to a harmful online incident, including how to approach the subject with children & young people, possible solutions, and the first steps to recovering from it.

School Bells

As part of the mitigations Covid placed on our school over the past 2 years we removed the use of the bell across the school day. This decision was taken to help reduce the number of young people moving around the school at specific times. As Covid mitigations have been relaxed we have taken the decision to reinstate the use of the school bells to indicate the change of lessons, the end of break and lunch as well as a final bell signifying the end of the day. One of the main reasons for this reintroduction is to help manage the flow of young people as they move around the school while following our one-way system. This reintroduction has been viewed as a priority as the number of young people attending Dyce Academy has significantly increased since the start of this session.

School Dress Code

Dyce Academy always encourages the wearing of school uniform by all pupils at all times. Uniform creates a feeling of belonging and provides pupils with an opportunity to identify with the Academy. It is smart and economical and creates a purposeful image that we endeavour to always encourage. The following dress code shall continue to be in operation for all in S1-S6 pupils:

- Black dress trousers/skirt – no tracksuit bottoms/joggers/ blue denim jeans
- Black shoes/ trainers
- Plain White/ Black T-shirt/ blouse/ shirt/ polo shirt
- Plain Black sweatshirt/ jumper/ V-Neck pullover/ cardigan (no logos)/ Black school 'Hoodie'
- School Tie

Please note the following for your diaries

- **Friday 23rd Sept** - September holiday
- **Monday 26th Sept** - September holiday
- **Friday 7th Oct** - S2 Reports issued to parents
- **Thursday 13th Oct** ACMS concert 7pm @ Dyce Academy
- **Friday 14th Oct** S4-6 Reports issued to parents
- **Monday 17th Oct** - October holiday begins
- **Monday 31st Oct** - Autumn term begins

[View school term and holiday dates | Aberdeen City Council](#)

School Website: dyceacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk

Contact us: dyceacademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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