

Welcome to

Dyce Academy



## Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2022—2023

Issue 4

### Welcome from our new Headteacher Miss Arthur

I am delighted to be introducing myself as Headteacher of Dyce Academy. It is an honour and a privilege to have been appointed into this post, and what a time of year to join the Dyce Academy team. Everyone has made me feel very welcome and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first week in the school.

I am joining Dyce Academy having spent the last 7 years as a Depute Head within Aberdeenshire Council, starting at Inverurie Academy initially in an acting position, before moving to Kemnay Academy for a permanent position in August 2016. Previous to that, I held an Education Officer post as part of a joint project between NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council, focusing on pupil support provision.

I feel very proud to be the new Headteacher of Dyce Academy, and to be leading such a great school. We have a committed staff team and we work with fantastic young people. I firmly believe that positive relationships lie at the heart of everything we do, and that the relationship between parents, staff and pupils is crucial to the success of the school, so I look forward to working with the whole school community as we look to provide the best experience we can for our learners.

As we go into the last few days of this term we have lots to look forward to, with both the Expressive Arts Concert, and the Aberdeen City Music School Concert taking place this week, and of course we have our Christmas Jumper day on Thursday.



I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas when it comes, and I look forward to working with you as we go forward together.

### Dates for your diary

- Start of term Monday 9 January 2023
- S4 Parent's Evening (online) Wednesday 18 January

School Website: [dyceacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk](http://dyceacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk)

Follow us on twitter @DyceAcademy

**Journalism:** As part of the Research and Interview Skills unit, Eve Forbes recently visited STV in



Aberdeen. Eve was treated to a tour of the recording studio and interviewed both journalists and production staff.

### Library News

These past two terms in the library have been very busy indeed. In August we started with our new S1s learning all about the fiction section. We had interesting discussions about what they liked (and didn't like) to read and we also talked about why taking even a wee bit of time each day to do some reading is so important. The 26<sup>th</sup> of September was European Languages Day and all S1 classes took part in the Euroquiz that week. As the October holidays approached the S1s were back again to learn all about the non-fiction section and the Dewey Decimal system. It is important to get across the idea that the library is very much a cross-curricular resource. Our final S1 activity of the term has been part of the Social Subjects Ancient Civilisation unit. We had 10 replica artefacts, pupils and staff had great fun with this and there is nothing quite like watching a pupil as they start to realise what that Roman sponge on a stick was actually used for! As a result of successful application to The Big Scottish Storytelling Ripple we were delighted to have local storyteller Diana Peers in for an interactive session with a small group. We then paid this back to the local community when a group of our supported S4s went with some staff to Newmachar Primary and led a shared reading session with a group of their supported P7s.

### End of Term festivities



It has been a busy end of term with the successful Expressive Arts Concert on Tuesday night followed by the ACMS Christmas Concert on Wednesday. Both concerts showcased the talent and skill of our pupils. Very well



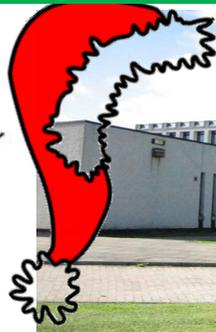
done to all who took part and huge thanks to all the staff and volunteers who made both evenings a success.

Contact us: [dyceacademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:dyceacademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Here to Help: <https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/here-to-help/home>

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## Dyce Academy



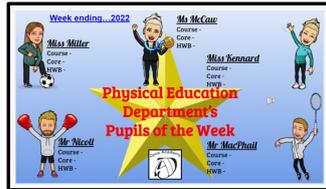
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### Faculty Focus: Health and Wellbeing

The Health & Wellbeing Faculty have a new Praise board, "Pupils of the Week." At the end of every week, the PE staff nominate a pupil from the national Courses, Core PE and their Health & Wellbeing classes. We look for improvements in their ability, outstanding work, pupils who have taken on leadership roles and opportunities, pupils who have shown commitment to their learning as well as those who have developed their teamwork and responsibility roles. Will you make it to our "Pupils of the Week" board?



Our competitor swimmers attended Aberdeen Aquatic Centre on Thursday 10th November 2022 to complete in the Scottish Schools Swimming Heats. All competitors swam in various stroke events and some managed to beat their times gaining personal bests! A great day was had by all.

Huge Congratulations to Rudy Da Silva who became the first junior to win all three Scottish, British and European championships in Muay Thai boxing. He won the three championships over the past 12 months making big waves in the sport. His stunning success has made him determined to become a professional by the age of 18. We wish him the best of luck in his training and upcoming fights.

This year has seen the biggest uptake in school Football for several years with S1, S2 and Senior Boy's Football teams being formed to play in the city leagues. The seniors started their league campaign with a narrow 3-1 defeat to Albyn whilst the S2's have had a



draw, two wins and a single defeat. The S1's are looking for their first win. Girls Football also returned earlier in the year, and after a successful run to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Scotland at the 7-a-side Spar Cup in May (The tournament was fantastic, with the teams narrowly losing out after some excellent football played. It's been great to see so many of our pupils representing the school and long may it continue!

### Faculty Focus: Pupil Support Guidance

Since summer we have been working with S2 pupils on understanding making healthy living choices. After the Christmas holidays our focus will change to career guidance where we will spend time supporting each pupil with their subject choice, which is coming up in February. At this time they will be making 5 subject choices to study alongside English and Maths for S3 and S4. Information will also be shared with home when we get closer to the time. Pupils will be using [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)

In S4 we have focused on Mental Health and Study Techniques to help support them as they approach completing their qualifications. Recently we have also been discussing their future planning and what their thoughts are beyond S4.

We are now working with the seniors that wish to apply for a full-time college course as applications opened for their course at the start of December. We also share any opportunity that comes into the school for jobs, apprenticeship, work experience or events to research potential post school destinations further.

For any of our S4/5/6 pupils who need further support on moving on from school, maybe with jobs, apprenticeships, training courses our SDS Careers Advisor, Louise Fowlie, is on hand to offer assistance to any of our pupils.

We want to celebrate any achievements of our pupils so please let us know about things going on outside of school. We recognise wider achievement and want to recognise and acknowledge what pupils do beyond their studies.

On top of the supports that the Guidance Team can offer we work alongside our ACIS Counsellor for any pupil that may feel they need this form of support. We also have two Youth Workers that help with aspects of pupils' confidence, resilience and managing relationships, alongside issues such as considering risk and anger management. If you feel your young person could benefit from these services, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Guidance Teacher to discuss further.

# Merry Christmas