

# Welcome to



## Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2022—2023

Issue 3

### SLT Update

We are over halfway through another busy term. Our staff and pupils have been busy preparing for our Christmas Hampers. All S1-S6 pupils have now been issued with their own Chromebook. Please ensure that they have a suitable cover and schoolbag to protect the Chromebook from damage. We are seeing a small proportion of our young people vaping around the school and in the school toilets. Please be aware that if a young person is caught vaping, the vape will be confiscated and further sanctions may be issued. Your support would be appreciated.

### Creative Learning Child Friendly Cities

Well done to two of our S3 pupils, Tobeche and Dumebe, who took part in the Creative Learning Child Friendly City presentation at NESCOL this month as part of Aberdeen City's World Children Day. The event was attended by over 100 people including pupils from primary and secondary schools across the city, elected members and climate change officers.

### Expressive Arts Christmas Concert—Thursday 15 Dec 7pm

Dyce Academy will be hosting its annual Christmas concert highlighting the talent that Dyce Academy has to offer in the Expressive Arts Faculty. Groups such as Guitar & Ukulele group, Dyce Academy Choir, S3 Music class and the Dyce Academy Youth Theatre will be performing as well as a variety of other small groups and soloists. Before the concert there will be an assortment of stalls just outside the MPA offering teas, coffees, Christmas treats as well as various arts and crafts. We hope it will be festive filled night and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.

### ACMS Christmas Concert

For the first time we have our ACMS Christmas Concert on a Wednesday – the 21<sup>st</sup> December, 7pm in the MPA.



Come along and see our pupils perform some cheery Christmas music and other pieces they have been working on. Please contact Ms Donati if you wish to attend although there are no reserved seats at this concert. Finally, as it will be Mrs Scaife's last ACMS concert, it would be lovely to see lots of you there to say farewell.

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

Follow us on twitter @DyceAcademy

### Dates for your diary

- S3 Reports will be issued by 9 December
- S4-6 reports will be issued by 22 December
- Exp Arts Christmas Concert—15 Dec 7pm MPA
- ACMS Christmas Concert 21 December 7pm MPA
- End of term Thursday 22 December
- Start of term Monday 9 January 2023

### Faculty Focus

#### Faulty of Languages

**Journalism:** The Journalism class is currently studying feature writing with a focus on travel writing. As part of the unit, pupils must travel to a destination and write a feature about it - lucky things! The class applied for a grant from Aberdeen City Council's Youth Activities Small Grant Fund and were awarded £300 to allow them to travel to Stonehaven and enjoy all it had to offer. In October, pupils travelled from Dyce to Stonehaven by train (who knew you had to change trains in Aberdeen? Good thing we are such athletes and were able to make a run for it!). Pupils planned their own itineraries for the day and were able to enjoy a filling lunch at The Waterfront Cafe, followed by a bracing walk around the harbour. And of course it wouldn't be a trip to Stonehaven without a trip to Aunt Betty's. There were sunnaes all round and we even managed to avoid the seagulls. Back in Aberdeen, pupils set about writing some fantastic travel features about their adventures. Can you think of a better way to earn an SQA unit?



**National courses:** On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December the English department will welcome back Neil Walker (ex pupil) who will deliver a lesson to all S3 pupils on advertising and persuasive language. Neil has been keen to return to Dyce Academy to share his new passion and our pupils will really benefit from his expertise. He will also be involved in judging the pupils' final outcomes. This is a great opportunity for pupils to see how English and Language is used in the 'real' world. We are looking forward to getting our pupils involved in collaborative work, that has been missed for the last two years, and build on the expertise Neil will share with the classes.

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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**Advanced Higher:** Advanced Higher English pupils enjoyed a night at the theatre in October. Olivier award winning *Pride and Prejudice\** (\*sort of) was many pupils' first experience of HMT and it didn't disappoint! The Ironman cast played multiple roles to great comic effect. The clever use of props was the highlight of the performance - from Tunnocks Teacakes and the Meryton Ball to the life size horse Elizabeth rides through the storm, the visuals were welcomed by rousing applause. And of course, Mackie's ice-cream is an intermission must. The English Department looks forward to being able to bring more classes to the theatre in the future.

**Modern Languages:** French with Mr McCurdy and Spanish with Mr Lozano – is very busy. Pupils are really building their skills for each of the levels for BGE and most pupils have been involved in end of unit assessments. Please encourage your child to discuss their results – we were very impressed by the S1 pupils who were gaining nearly full marks. Well done to them.



Our National courses are beginning the revision of skills to prepare for upcoming assessments in January/February – remember your youngsters can come along at lunch times for extra support with Language revision. Please speak to your teacher who will identify a time that is convenient.



Mr McCurdy will also be renewing his connection with the Primary schools next week and attending Dyce Primary and Newmachar Primary alternate weeks. We look forward to rebuilding our links with both schools as it was crucial last year in ensuring our new S1s were ready and keen to continue learning languages with us.

### ESOL

This year the Languages department is overseeing two ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes. This has been a great opportunity for both staff and pupils to help us build up a new skill in our Faculty and also to support our young people in developing their English language skills. We are all learning together.



### **+** **×** Faculty of Mathematics and Numeracy

Session 2022-2023 has seen a busy start, with things seeming back to normal after the disruption of recent years. The new S1 cohort have settled in very well and have improved upon many of their numeracy skills that will be needed as they move through the school. S2 classes continue to build on these skills with a view to starting their National courses in S3. This will follow a revision period between the Christmas and Easter breaks that will help the Maths Department further gauge the pupils level of ability. S3 pupils have embarked upon their Certificate course at the appropriate level and the S4s are continuing to do the same, with at least one eye on the upcoming exam diet. S5 and S6 classes are moving on to ever more challenging maths, both in terms of challenge and breadth.

**Enthus Project:** Maths staff have been involved in a project that is aimed at improving the consistency and impact of maths teaching during the transition between Primary and Secondary schools. The project is a STEM project, supported by BP and involving Dyce Academy, Bucksburn Academy and all associated Primaries. Schools have been provided with several different types of materials (counters and blocks etc.) which can be used to introduce concepts in a practical and hands-on way. The pupils are then able to picture these materials without them being physically present. Staff have been given access to high quality learning resources and we are already seeing our S1 pupils from the feeder Primaries being familiar with these materials and how to use them.



**Competitions:** S1-3 pupils have been involved in National and local competitions on the e-learning site Sumdog. Classes compete to have the most correct answers out of a maximum 1000 questions. Pupils in S1-4 will be invited to take part in the UK Mathematics Trust challenges in February (Intermediate) and April (Junior). These are National challenges aimed at promoting mathematical problem solving.

**Staff Matters:** The maths department is delighted to welcome back Mrs Macleod.

**Staff Extras:** Mr Gibson runs chess club for junior pupils on a Wednesday lunchtime. Mr Murray runs cycling club for junior pupils on a Friday lunchtime.