

Welcome to



Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2022—2023

Issue 5

Headteacher Update

Welcome to the mid-term edition of our newsletter, it certainly has been a busy start to the new year and in this edition we are delighted to be bringing you updates from the Support for Learning and Science faculties.

We started things off in January with our visit from Education Scotland's HM Inspection team. Over the course of their visit we were delighted to be able to have so many of our young people and parents meet with the Inspectors, in addition to our staff and partners. Along with our questionnaire returns, this allowed for a very holistic approach with views from all stakeholders being shared. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their engagement with this process. The inspection findings are currently going through the quality assurance process but we will look to share these with you as soon as we can.

January also saw Mr Hose and I embark on our P7 roadshow. We were delighted to have the opportunity to meet with some of the pupils and parents from Newmachar and Dyce primary schools and provide an introduction to what life will be like at Dyce Academy. We also invited all S2 parents/carers in for a Subject Choice Information

Evening on Thursday 16th February where we had information stalls from each of our Faculties as well as an overview of the process as a whole. It was great to see such a great turn out at this event and we look forward to welcoming more parents/carers in at our S1 Parents' Evening and our S5-6 Subject Choice Information Evening on the 8th and 9th March respectively.

This term we have seen a few changes with staffing here in school. We are delighted to announce that Ms Forno and Miss James have now been appointed into the job share Faculty Head Technology role. Mrs Scaife, the Director of Aberdeen City Music School, retired at the end of January. We have now completed the recruitment process for a new Director and have selected our preferred candidate who will start with us at the end of May. In the interim period, I will be taking on responsibility for the leadership of ACMS and will be working closely with the tutors and staff members in the team. To support with this, Mr Bonner, will be moving into a full time acting DHT role between now and the summer break with Miss Clements-Paton taking on the full time acting Faculty Head Social Subjects role during this period.

For our staff, the February In-service days provided the opportunity for collaborative working with colleagues across the authority as we focused on moderation work across our Senior Phase stages. Here in school we were reflecting on our work with the S1-3 cohorts, and we also completed a review of our school expectations. This was the start of an ongoing piece of work, and at a subsequent Parent Council meeting we were able to bring in the views of some of our parent body. Going forward we will also look to gather the views of our pupils through pupil focus groups. This will allow us to generate a renewed set of expectations that have been co-created with a range of stakeholders of Dyce Academy.

Going forward, I will look to keep you all regularly updated with developments here in school via our various communication methods, and I very much look forward to meeting more of you in person at our upcoming in school events.

Cycle Friendly Secondary School

Dyce Academy Cycling Club

Dyce Academy's status as a Cycle Friendly School has just been renewed by Cycling Scotland. We are currently the only Secondary school in Aberdeen City to have this status and it will remain valid until 2026. We first achieved this Award in 2018, which seems like a lifetime ago, and much of the work that has gone into the renewal of the certificate was initiated in the couple of years after this, but before Covid etc. Our cycling club regularly had 12-15 pupils on a Friday lunchtime and we had to apply for a Youth Grant from ACC to get more bikes. This level of participation has been difficult to rekindle since Covid, but the finer weather is just around the corner, so hopefully the numbers will pick up again.

- Level 2 Cycle Maintenance Awards have been completed by a small number of our Senior pupils.
- Cycling is included in our Activities Week offering.
- Some of our Ukrainian cohort have been out and about on the bikes getting to know the local environs
- Girls Club used the bikes for a trip along the river
- Extra toastrack bike storage installed

Random Acts of Kindness Day:

S1 and S2 pupils had the opportunity to write a 'Random Acts of Kindness Note' to their friends, other pupils and teachers. The 'Random Acts of Kindness Note' postbox was extremely popular and lots of pupils and teachers received a note which brightened their day. This amount of kindness was fantastic to witness across the school.



Dates for your diary

- ACMS March Concert @ Music Hall Sat 4 March 5pm
 - S1 Parents' Evening Wednesday 8 March (in person)
 - S5/6 Information Evening (in-person) Thursday 9 March
 - S4-6 Reports issued Friday 10 March
 - S5/6 Parent's Evening (online) Thursday 16 March
 - S5/6 Course Choice return Friday 17 March
 - ACMS End of Term Concert (MPA) Thursday 30 March
 - End of Term Friday 31 March
- We would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the additional holiday that has been announced for **Monday 8th May** in recognition of the Coronation.

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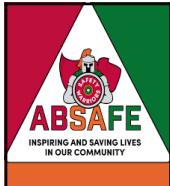


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Support For Learning



The SFL Department took our S2 and S3 pupils to Absafe in February. The purpose of the visit was to take part in small group



work to consolidate health and safety learning and apply this understanding to different contexts. The group gained critical life knowledge and they had the opportunity to work in small groups through various challenging scenarios. The experiences were run by specialist staff at Absafe and through practical work our young people gained a level of confidence in navigating difficult and dangerous situations.

Returning favourites: Lifestars has made a welcome return to Junior lunchtime and has provided excellent opportunities for pupils to get together and take part in activities with Mrs Taylor. Breakfast Club has recently resumed, providing a warm welcoming space to start the day for some of our pupils. Our link with ASDA and Fairshare has resumed, which has allowed us to support local families at school and within the Dyce Community.



ACMS was invited to perform for a Concert at the Cowdray Hall on Thursday 9 February and 17 of our pupils attended. Nadine, Evangelina & Kian performed solo pieces, along with 3 separate ensemble pieces from Finn, Freya, Lewis, Jodie, Kian, & Yasmine. Our Vocal Ensemble group, Jodie, Siobhan, Amelia, Chloe, Annorah, Petra, Douglas, Olivia & Cole completed the line up with 'Song of the Stars', with all ensembles to be performed again in the Annual Concert on



4 March. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experience and their surroundings, remarking that the Cowdray Hall had "great acoustics & visuals and was very appealing" and are all very much looking forward to more experiences like this. **Join us at our March Concert Saturday 4 March, 5pm at the Music Hall**

Faculty of Science

After the disruption of recent years, it has been great to see our learners being able to get back to a more varied hands on approach to the practical side of Science. In S1, classes have been getting to grips with basic laboratory skills and then using these to investigate Cells & Micro-organisms, Elements & The Periodic Table and the effects of Forces in everyday experiences. S2 classes have been continuing to build upon their Science Numeracy and Literacy skills through topics such as Body Systems & Technologies, Light & Space, Chemical Reactions and Heat Transfer & Renewable Energy while investigating STEM Careers. S3 have built upon their Level 3 & 4 experiences in preparation for National 4/5 work and are now embarking on their certificate courses. S4-6 classes have been reflecting on their Estimates and finishing off the final Key Areas of the courses. To aid and support the seniors in their preparations for the final exams Science are offering the following study support sessions in addition to our open door policy:

Biology: National 4/5 - Monday lunchtime, Higher - Wednesday lunchtime & Adv Higher - Thursday lunchtime

Chemistry: National 4/5 Friday Lunchtime

Physics: Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes, Wednesday after school.

STEM: S2 BP Careers and Pathways Presentations

BP representatives took time out of their busy schedules to visit all the S2s in

Science and discuss their pathways from school to their current

posts. The talks were



highly informative and well received by the pupils. This gave pupils an insight into BP as well as career journeys. Jobs and pathways discussed were: Process Engineer, Wells Engineer, Petroleum Engineer, Reservoir Engineer & Drilling Engineer.

Contact with School

When e-mailing please provide your child's name and registration class and a note of the nature of the concern so it can be forwarded appropriately.

Pastoral	Yearhead
Brimmond: Mrs Sim	S1-S2 Mr Hose
Kirkhill: Miss Hosie	S3—S4 Ms Strachan
Ramsay: Mrs Rodland	S5—S6 Mrs Jamieson