

Welcome to



Dyce Academy Newsletter



Session 2022—2023

Issue 6

Headteacher Update

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. March has been a busy month for us all here at Dyce Academy but particularly for our Aberdeen City Music School (ACMS) pupils. They started the month with an extremely successful March Concert held at Aberdeen Music Hall. The pupils were delighted to have both Mrs Scaife, the previous ACMS Director, and Mr Kyle, the recently appointed Director who takes up post at the end of May, in attendance at this significant event. Both Mrs Scaife and Mr Kyle were delighted and overwhelmed with the performances put on by our young people which were met with rapturous applause by the whole audience.

Our pupils then participated in a community performance at Dyce Church where they were sharing their passion for music with Dyce Friendship Club, and we have a number of other community opportunities lined up for next term. Our pupils have rounded off the term with another rousing performance here in school at our Spring Concert and Tuesday evening saw the Aberdeen heat of the Scottish Young Musician competition, where youngsters were competing from across Aberdeen to secure a place in the national final. For Dyce Academy it was an exceptional evening with 7 of the 11 entrants hailing from our school. We are delighted to share that Julia (S6) and Katya (S2) took the two runners up places on the marimba and piano respectively, and Nadine (S5) was the winning performer on the Harp. Congratulations go to all of our competitors and I am sure you will join me in wishing Nadine all the very best in the finals in May.

We also had another fantastic evening of musical entertainment from our Expressive Arts Faculty in school on Wednesday evening. With performances from pupils at all stages, it was a feel-good evening which was a real end of term treat. The young people also provided the audience with a further teaser of what is in store at our Showcase event which will be taking place in June, more information on this will follow in due course.

Thursday 23rd March saw a very busy night for the school indeed as we showcased all that Dyce Academy has to offer to our new P7 cohort. All departments were opened up and pupils and parents were able to tour the school and engage in a number of exciting and interactive experiences. We had a number of pupils who came along to support staff with their endeavours on the evening, and they really were fantastic role models and ambassadors for the school. This term has also seen our pupils from S2, and S4-6 go through their subject choice process for next session and our S4-6 pupils have been completing assignments, portfolios and practical assessments for a range of different SQA courses. Going into the holidays we have the return of our Easter School, with a number of pupils taking up the opportunity for some supported revision put on by staff members during the first week. My thanks go to all of the staff who have supported us with this programme and I hope that the pupils find it a worthwhile contribution to their revision schedules.

Another important piece of work that has taken place this term has come from Mrs Bradley our Education Support Officer and a group of our Ukrainian pupils. Together they produced an assembly presentation that recognised the ongoing war in Ukraine which has been delivered to all of our young people this week. This was an incredible piece of work that looked to raise awareness and develop understanding of the situation faced by so many caught up in the conflict, and we are so very grateful for some of the very personal insights that have been shared.

As the last day of term is upon us, we will be saying farewell to Miss Bage from the Science department. Miss Bage will be a big loss for us here at Dyce Academy, but we wish her all the very best for her future endeavours. Looking into the holiday period, I want to thank all of the team here at Dyce Academy for their hard work this term, and I wish you all an enjoyable Easter break.

MCR Good News updates This term has been a busy term for you young people that are supported by MCR Pathways. Group-work with S1 and S2 has continued and Mentor meetings for our older pupils have continued to be very positive experiences for all involved. Our young people recently organised a Coffee Conversation to bring together all the mentors and pupils. This was a very successful afternoon,



Loch Eil Residential This term saw the return of our S4 Loch Eil



Residential trip. Despite the freezing temperatures, the pupils and staff had a great time and



supported each other to try new experiences including Ziplining, raft building, abseiling and a Leap of Faith. The pupils were also able to complete elements of their John Muir award by helping with local conservation activities.

Dates for your diary

- End of Term Friday 31 March 2023
- Easter School (S4-6) Monday 3 April—Wednesday 5 April
- Start of Term Monday 17 April
- Senior Study Leave starts Monday 24 April
- May Day Holiday Monday 1 May
- Inservice Day Tuesday 2 May
- Monday 8 May Holiday in recognition of the coronation of Kings Charles II

School Website: dyceacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk

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Faculty of Social Subjects

The Social Subjects department have had a busy term especially in the run up to the start of the SQA exams after the Easter Holidays. The Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils have handed in their dissertations and the senior pupils in other classes have been getting creative with their revision materials. Our Advanced Higher and Senior National Modern Studies pupils also had the chance to interview Lord Kitchin who is one of the UK Supreme Court Justices about his role in the justice system and the cases he has worked on- hopefully inspiring some future lawyers.

The S1s are currently completing their last history topic before S2 and have been working hard to find the historical mistakes in Braveheart within our Scottish Wars of Independence topic. While the S2s have created some excellent shanty towns from recycled materials as part of our Developing World topic in Geography. We look forward to seeing many of the S2s stay in the Social Subjects department as they move into their S3 classes at the change of timetable.



Following from Holocaust Memorial Day in January S2 RMPS pupils have been studying the Holocaust. Their focus has been on those who were most affected and remembering those whose stories may have been lost. S1 Parents can also look forward to the publishing of class newspapers on Google Classroom next term.

We were very excited to welcome up the P7s at our open evening last week and we were impressed with the knowledge many of them had. Our Natural Wonders and Ancient Civilisation topics were the topics everyone seemed most excited for and look forward to seeing the new S1s in August.

Our Speakeasy group, which is run on Monday lunchtimes, have been working hard to create materials and resources for pupils and staff to promote equality throughout the school and have shown a real enthusiasm in helping to create a more inclusive school environment.

Within the department we currently offer study support:

- Wednesday Lunchtime: History (All levels)
- Wednesday Lunchtime: N5 RMPS
- Wednesday After School: Modern Studies (All Levels)
- Wednesday + Thursday Lunchtime: Modern Studies (All Levels)
- Friday Lunchtime: Geography (All Levels)

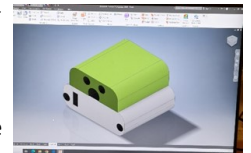
Throughout study leave pupils can also arrange with their class teacher to come in for additional support prior to the exams.

Faculty of Technologies

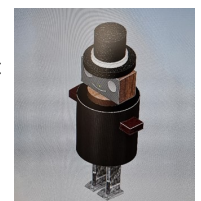
In the Home Economics department, we are busy preparing our pupils for their final Practical Cookery exam. SQA have given 3 recipes for them to prepare and cook within the allowed 2.5 hours. This is a stressful time for all concerned but we know our students are well prepared. Our National 5 Practical Cake Decoration class are also feeling the pressure with their final celebration cake to be finished this week. We have varied designs from a wedding cake to an Easter cake to several birthday cakes. Pupils have been showcasing their skills by modelling, texturing, crimping and embossing on their final cakes. Our S3 Practical Cookery class had a visit from Quality Meat Scotland. A representative from QMS came into class and after showing a short video on sustainability she worked with locally produced Scotch beef mince to produce a very appetising meatball dish, which everyone enjoyed tasting. Some students volunteered to help and were presented with aprons to take home. We had a very successful P7 open evening. In Home Economics we encouraged both pupils and parents to take the "taste test" could they tell the difference between full fat and low fat cheese? We also allowed pupils to try out our sewing machines. They programmed the machines and embroidered their names onto a book mark which they were delighted with.



The Technical Department had an extremely successful evening on Thursday the 23rd March welcoming some of the new P7's who will be joining Dyce Academy in the next school year. We had many P7's and even their parents trying out some fun activities and getting an introduction to some tools and machinery. We had many excited pupils and parents willing to drill holes using the pillar drill, cut and then bend acrylic on the strip heater, test their knowledge by matching tools to their correct names, as well as experiment with Computer Aided Graphics to create some amazing 3D objects. The Technical Department would like to thank Jessica and Catherine (S4 pupils) for their amazing contribution with setting up and helping out throughout the evening. S1's and S2's have spent some time this term learning and practicing some Computer Aided Design. S1's are creating some amazing robots using AutoCAD Inventor. We can't wait to see how their final robot designs turn out! S2's have been improving their CAD skills by creating a train and some other excited objects. The Nat 4 and 5 Practical Woodworkers have been busy working through their final projects. Nat 5 candidates are completing a mirror frame with a drawer which also has decorative wood turned pieces. Nat4 candidates have been working hard to complete their toolboxes, they have done so well to create beautifully turned handles.



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