

Welcome to



Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2022—2023

Issue 8

Welcome to the final edition of our School Newsletter for this session. This has been another busy term for the staff and pupils of Dyce Academy and before we all head off for a well-earned break, we are delighted to be bringing to you just some of the highlights from the past few weeks.

Staff Changes:

This summer marks a number of staff changes for us here at Dyce Academy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues for their contributions to the work of the school. Whether retiring or moving on to new schools we wish you all well for your future endeavours.

- Mr Beaser History Probationer
- Miss Miller PE Probationer
- Miss Alexander Geography Teacher
- Ms Robertson School Administrator
- Mrs Bradley Education Support Officer

We are also looking forward to welcoming some new staff to the team in August, with five new probationers joining us and a new colleague coming into the Science department. We look forward to introducing you to our new colleagues in our next edition.

Uniform

As pupils are preparing for the return to school in August, I would just like to take this opportunity to remind them about the uniform expectations here at Dyce Academy

- Black trousers/skirt/tailored shorts – (no jeans/tracksuit bottoms/joggers/leggings).
- Plain Black jumper/cardigan or sweatshirt with the school logo.
- Plain Black/ White shirt
- Dark smart shoes/ dark trainers.
- School tie.

I would also like to remind everyone of our **Swap Shop** initiative where we gladly accept any items of school uniform that remain in good condition but that have been out grown. If you do have anything you would like to donate, please do hand this in at the school office and we can incorporate it into our offer. If you would like to make use of the Swap Shop to access any items of uniform for yourselves, then please just contact your Guidance Teacher or the school office.

On behalf of all the staff and pupils of Dyce Academy, I wish you a very restful summer and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in August.

Welcome from the new Director of Aberdeen City Music School, Mr Kevin Kyle

I am delighted to have started in my role as the new Director of ACMS and I am extremely grateful to all the staff, pupils, and parents who have made me feel so welcome. I am thrilled that this month's busy concert schedule has been such a success; please see the attached photo of some of our highlights. We finished off a packed and exciting term with our annual Summer Concert and highly anticipated Performer of the Year competition: look out for us on Twitter for information about the winners.



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SQA Appeals 2023

SQA Results Day is Tuesday 8 August. Young people will receive their results by post but also by text or email if they have signed up for this service through MySQA.



If results are not as expected, there is an opportunity for a young person to appeal to the SQA. Appeals can be made by young people directly to the SQA, or the school can do this on their behalf.

Appeals will be prioritised for any young person who has a conditional place at university or college.

An appeal does not allow for any alternative evidence to be looked at by the SQA. An appeal against a grade means that a senior marker will carry out a marking review of SQA-marked assessments. A marking review checks that:

- ✦ all parts of the SQA assessments have been marked;
 - ✦ the marking is in line with national standards;
 - ✦ the marks given for each answer have been totalled correctly; and
- the correct result has been entered on the SQA system.

Please note that after being reviewed, results could stay the same, go up or go down.

On 8 August, information about the Appeals process will be posted on the SQA website, the school website and in the relevant year group Google Classrooms.

S5/6 Change of subjects

If, after receiving their results, pupils in S5 and S6 require to change their subject choices they should make an appointment to see their Guidance teacher during the first week of term. Appointment sheets will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office on Tuesday 22 August. When the subject change has been made, pupil will be issued with a new timetable. Further information on subjects can be found on the school website: [S3-6 Course Choice – Dyce Academy](#)

All subject changes must be submitted by end of day Monday 28 August

Senior Pupil Ambassadors:

On the 5th June, when our senior pupils came back from study leave, they were given the opportunity of being part of the Dyce Academy Senior Pupil Leadership Team and to be an Ambassador within 5 groups. The five groups on offer are: Eco, Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Enterprise, Pupil Support, Primary to Secondary Transitions

Representatives from Emerson, Robert Gordons University, the University of Aberdeen and Mr Duns Barbershop encouraged pupils to apply for a position within the groups.

In addition, there was an underlying message woven throughout the presentations; ***“Qualifications can get you into a job but it’s your skills that’ll keep you there”***. 39 pupils applied to be an Ambassador and last week on the 28th June, those pupils attended a group interview where they were assessed on their skills of communication, organisation, collaboration, initiative, and leadership. On the 5th July, the successful candidates received their Ambassador Badges and were set the task of putting together an assembly informing the school who they are and what they plan to do within their respective groups. Watch this space.

Service to the School:

Next session we are going to see the introduction of Service to the School roles for all of our S6 pupils. These roles provide a leadership opportunity for all of our S6 pupils, and will support with the development of key transferable skills that they can take with them into the world of work. Each of our pupils have chosen to take on one of the following roles: Being a School Ambassador, being a Peer Mentor, being a Book Buddy, being an MVP leader or taking on the SQA Leadership Award and carrying out a leadership project in an area of their choosing. Our pupils will carry out these roles for a minimum of a period a week and all will receive accreditation for their efforts. We look forward to sharing an update with you from the pupils as we go forward.

Community and Enterprise

Events:

June saw the return of our summer charity events including the eagerly anticipated Sponge the Teacher. We also had Guess the sweets in the jar and a raffle. These events were part of the Northsound 1 schools challenge where we fundraise to support in school initiatives but also some money does go towards Cash for Kids. **We raised a total of £657.70 and because we came in 3rd place for raising the most money Northsound 1 matched our total, so we actually came away with £1315.40.** The Community and Enterprise Ambassadors did a fantastic job



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P7 Transition Events

June saw the arrival of the Cullen Day trips as part of the P7 to S1 transition where the pupils got to meet their Guidance Teacher and Register Teacher as well



as other pupils in their class. After a walk along the old railway line from Cullen to Portknockie, a visit to Bow Fiddle Rock and then lunch near the rock pools, we walked back along the beach to end the day in the renowned

Cullen Ice Cream Shop, a highlight for all involved. The day trip allows them to mingle with their class in preparation for their 2 day visit to Dyce Academy and start to make new connections before starting secondary school.



Two day visit

On Monday & Tuesday the 26th & 27th of July we had the pleasure of welcoming our new S1 cohort to the Academy for the final part of our P7 Transition programme. These two days followed on from our successful transition trips up to Cullen, the previous week, where for the first time our new cohort got to see and meet all the other young people who will be sharing a class with them in August while boosting the local Cullen economy when we descended into Cullen's famous Ice Cream shop. What our young people were really looking forward to was getting, for the first time, a "real" timetable and what it was like to experience full days in the school with all the hustle and bustle of our busy school. The feedback from our P7's was that they really enjoyed being part of our school for these two days and that they are both excited and a little nervous about starting with us full time after the holidays. We, as a school, are also looking forward to welcoming our next new S1 cohort into our school family in August.

Book Marketing Competition

Once again the pupils of S1 (new S2) have worked incredibly hard on our Book Marketing project. All pupils are allocated a team and they work independently through skills such as: Creative Writing, Planning, Reading, Collaboration, Budgeting, Creating Marketing Materials and Presentation. At the end of the unit pupils deliver their pitch to their classes and the winners go forward to the final in MPA in front of the whole year group. Imagine that – presenting to over 100 pupils! It can be daunting but every year the pupils make us proud of them. This year we would like to thank all of the English teachers for their hard work in supporting the youngsters; the PSAs who have really helped young people to focus and give their best perfor-



mance; the librarians, who for years have monitored and tallied marks and of course listened to the pupils practice their presentations; and finally to the current Advanced Higher pupils who worked with the finalists to help guide and support them in presenting confidently. Our final was judged by Katie Arthur (HT), Kevin Kyle (Director of ACMS) and Annette Smith (Librarian) and we thank them for their consideration and for giving up their time. Each team delivered their ideas clearly, enthusiastically and with a great sense of purpose – you should all feel very proud of your achievements and I hope you enjoy reading your book prizes.

Bennachie Trip



Rounding off another busy year for our Support for Learning faculty saw a group of pupils tackle Bennachie. We asked the pupils to tell us their thoughts on the day: *"In July 2023 the Personal Development Award group when up Bennachie we all loved it and would do it again if we had the option. It was really good fun we had so much fun going up and back down we walked 16k"*. Our thanks also to Mrs Taylor for her countless hours of mini-bus driving this year as well and the walking mileage and to Mrs McGarrity for supporting the pupils on this trip.



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NUART:

This year we had 2 groups of pupils involved in different aspects of the Internationally renowned NUART festival. 30 pupils participated in a workshop hosted by Iranian artist Aida Wilde who was looking to bring the voices of young people to the fore in her design. Collectively they created over twenty pieces of artwork which were then incorporated into the final design which can be found on the back of the Nickel and Dime store on Crooked Lane. We then had a further 10 pupils involved in the creation of the 'Chalk Don't Chalk' piece in the courtyard of Marischal College. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experience and were really excited by the opportunity to be part of something so famous both nationally and internationally. In order to recognise their input 2 of our pupils joined me in going



along to the Civic Reception event to mark the opening of the NUART Festival.

Dyce Bowling Club

This term pupils of Dyce Academy were invited to take on the challenge of creating a design for some wall art for Dyce Bowling Club. The Club were looking for something to brighten up their outdoor space and leave a lasting impression on locals and visitors alike. The S3 pupils got to work and created a variety of designs which were then shared with the Club and a selection chosen. The design has drawn a lot of attention and had even made onto the Bowls Scotland website. The Club are absolutely delighted with the final product and feel it has made their Club a bit of a focal point in the local community.



School Website: dyceacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk

Follow us on twitter @DyceAcademy



June 21 and 22 saw the first Dyce Academy Youth Theatre Showcase perform to audiences with a variety of different musical theatre numbers

from soloists to group performances.

Dyce Academy Youth Theatre was created to give pupils the opportunity to explore various aspects of performance theatre. From choosing their own performance pieces to planning and organisation of all the rehearsals, pupils led each other every step of the way. It gives pupils the opportunity to develop skills in leadership, communication, performance and most of all it has helped develop confidence.

This is just the start of something that we plan to build. a vision Dyce Academy Youth Theatre group from to strength grow. We



the start thing that continue We have that our emy The-will go strength as we want to

make this a regular event at numerous times in the year and focusing on different themes as well as working towards a full-scale school show.

The group will be looking for new members from S1-6 to join us in September so please watch out for further details and we will look forward to welcoming you to be part of the team.

Happy Holidays

Key Dates:

- Start of term (pupils) Tuesday 22 August 2023
- September Holiday: Friday 22 September and Monday 25 September.
- End of term: Friday 13 October 2023

For the full list of ACC Holiday dates please use this link: [View school term and holiday dates | Aberdeen City Council](#)

Contact us: dyceacademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk