



Welcome to

Dyce Academy



Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2023—2024

Term 3

Welcome to the Spring edition of our school newsletter. The Easter break is just around the corner and I am sure will be welcomed by all after another busy term here at Dyce. For our senior pupils this term has very much been focusing on course completion and preparation for the SQA exam diet in May. They started the term off with their estimate exams and then moved on to complete SQA assignments and folios. Our S4 learners had a visit from the team at LiveNLearn who took them through a session which focused on positive mindsets and exam preparation, while our S3 learners experienced a session on entrepreneurial and ambitious attitudes. Planning for our S1-3 Activities Week has been ongoing this term with pupils finding out this week which activity they have been assigned if they are in school or on day trips. It has been great that we have been able to offer such a mix of experiences again this year and I am very grateful to the staff team who have taken on the organisation of this. We will be sure to provide an update on our week through our Activities Week newsletter next term.



This term we have continued to focus through our assembly inserts on our school expectations of Ready, Respectful, Safe and our school values of Fairness, Ambition, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility. Just this week, we have had assemblies focusing on Equalities and Diversity which were delivered by Ms Strachan. As an inclusive school, we want to ensure that all learners feel a sense of belonging and identity with Dyce Academy. We want to celebrate the diversity that we are so lucky to have, and we are encouraging all of our learners to consider the part they play in positively contributing to the ethos and culture of our school community. We all have a responsibility to treat others the way we would want to be treated ourselves, and we should all be looking to be the best versions of ourselves that we can be.

As a staff team we have been focusing on our learning and teaching routines and we have engaged in moderation work with other secondary schools to validate our approach to planning and our assessment judgements in the BGE.

EXCELERATE

We have also completed a baseline activity with our partners at The Wood Foundation in connection to our involvement in the Excelerate initiative. This has allowed us to identify some clear starting and development points which will be considered as part of our work to create the School Improvement plan for session 2024-25. The co-creation of this document will be a focus in our next Parent Council meeting in April.

As we go off into the holiday period, I would like to wish you all a very safe and happy Easter.

Dates for the diary

Monday 22 April	SQA Exams begin
Monday 29 April	House Swimming Gala
Monday 8 May	Holiday
Tuesday 9 May	Inservice Day—school closed to pupils expect those with SQA Exams
Wednesday 8 May—Friday 10 May	S1-S3 Activities Days
Monday 27 May	House Athletics Event
Monday 3 June	Provisional start of new timetable and end of Study Leave
Saturday 15 June	ACMS Summer Concert
Friday 5 July	End of Term
Tuesday 20 August	Start of Term



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SQA Exams

Study leave for all **S4-S6** students will begin at **2.45 pm on Friday 19 April 2024**. Students will be issued with a personal copy of their SQA examination timetable after the Easter holidays. It is important that they check this timetable and the notices in school regarding timings and examination rooms to **ensure they know exactly where and when their exams take place**. Please note that timings of exams on the school timetable do differ from the timetable on the SQA website and SQA App. **Students must ensure that they are reading the times of the exams from their personal timetable issued by the school.**



During Study Leave school transport and the Bucksburn shuttle services will run as normal. In addition, alternative arrangements will have to be made by pupils/parents for any exams that finish beyond the normal school day as we are unable to modify school transport during the exam diet.

It is your son/daughter's responsibility to ensure that they bring the appropriate equipment to their examinations. There is a strict SQA Code of Practice forbidding mobile phones and electronic devices eg earpods, iPods, tablets, Smartwatches or any device that can be web-enabled or stores information, to be taken into the examination room.

Celebrating Success at Dyce Academy

As part of our drive to recognise the ongoing achievements and attainment of our many outstanding young people at Dyce Academy we are going to hold our first whole school Celebration of Success event in June. This evening event will be held in The Kings Hall (the old Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre, King's Way, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen) on the **11th of June 7pm – 9pm**. Young people from all year groups will be recognised and awarded prizes and certificates for their achievements in a number of categories and it is hoped that you as parents will attend this evening event to help support and celebrate the outstanding work of all our nominated young people.

Further details of the event will go out to parents and nominated young people during next term.

Update from PSE : This term in Personal & Social Education (PSE) we have been busy with subject choice with S2's and S4/5's. Pupils try to identify their strengths, skills & qualities along with what they enjoy. They do this by speaking with their Guidance Teacher and also Louise from Skills Development Scotland. When speaking to individuals we are trying to encourage them to challenge themselves and look at the appropriate levels of course that we feel they will be successful in. We also encouraged them to use www.mywordofwork.co.uk, www.planitplus.net and www.nescol.ac.uk.

All year groups have had assemblies this term on school expectations and values. In PSE we discussed these and worked on 'what the values mean to them'.

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This also led into our Equality and Diversity Unit which covers Actions & Consequences, Equality Act 2010, Racism, Disability & Gender. Identity & Characteristics, Prejudice & Stereotypes and Hate Crime Awareness.

Scottish Government Vaping Addiction Campaign

In Scotland, it's illegal to sell vapes or e-cigarettes to anyone under 18, or to buy them for someone who's under 18. But this doesn't stop young people from getting hold of them. Young people are particularly vulnerable to nicotine addiction and are more likely to take health risks and discount the future consequences of this behaviour. Nicotine addiction can impact mental health, resulting in being tired, stressed and anxious and it can affect concentration and impact the ability to learn and study. E-cigarettes contain some potentially harmful chemicals, similar to those found in cigarette smoke, although at a much lower level. While the long-term effects of vaping are still being researched, it's thought they could have negative effects on the health of the heart but there is currently insufficient evidence to assess this. Getting help and support if you are concerned about vaping, you don't have to cope with the situation on your own. You can talk to your GP or call Quit Your Way Scotland on 0800 84 84 84 for advice and support. For more information visit nhsinform.scot/vaping



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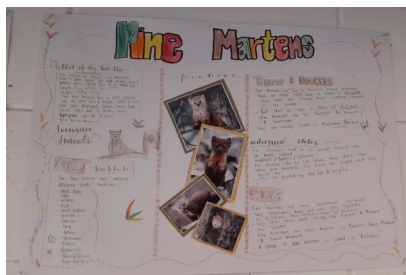
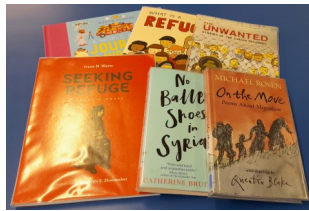

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Library News

The year started with S1 pupils in Social Subjects coming to do a “Reading About Refugees” activity. Pupils looked at a range of books about refugees which included fiction, poetry, graphic novels, picture books, non-fiction and graphic non-fiction. They had to consider such elements as front covers, blurbs and ease of reading and think about which books they preferred.



Hot on the heels of this S1s in English started their Animals unit. They researched different animals ranging in size from water voles to blue whales. Their re-

search then led on to the production of some wonderfully eye-catching and informative posters which in turn were used as a basis for a talk to the class.

Holocaust Memorial Day was on January 27th as part of this I spoke to all S2 RMPS classes about my grandmother’s Swedish cousin Kerstin Cruickshank who helped rescue hundreds of Czech Jews during the Nazi period.

Once mid-term was past the S2s came to research a number of famous mathematicians including Katherine Johnson, Alan Turing and John Napier. Pupils had to find out about their lives and the times they lived in as well as their mathematical achievements. Their research was then summarised in a slide presentation which they used to illustrate a talk.

Finally, we are rounding off the term with S2s in Social Subjects where they have been learning about Mary Queen of Scots. They came to the library to undertake a carousel task where they read witness statements from a variety of historical figures and tried to work out who was responsible for the murder of Lord Darnley in 1567.

ACMS

This has been a very busy term here at ACMS. In school we have had exams, assessments and three Specialist Weekends, two of which included jazz and guitar masterclasses run by our tutors. As usual we invited young musicians from the City and Shire to join us. ACMS has also been very involved in the community. In January we entertained residents at two sheltered housing complexes in Dyce, and performed at two Burns Suppers.

Pianist Petra was honoured to have been asked to play a part in the Holocaust Memorial Commemorations at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. Back on the concert trail we returned to the lunchtime concerts in the Cowdray Hall, participated in the Cathedral at Noon sessions, and joined the choral group from St.



Andrews Cathedral for evensong. This all led up to our annual March Concert in the Music Hall, we were joined by an audience of over 1000. Our programme included jazz, Scottish traditional, classical and pop before culminating in Caledonia and Highland Cathedral which everyone seemed to love. Finally, this term we joined the Aber-



deen City Music Service for two concerts at the Beach Ballroom, and will end the term with our own Pop concert in school.



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Maths Faculty Update The term from January until the Easter break is always a busy one within the Maths Faculty. Our S1s have almost completed their first year at Dyce Academy and all staff have been in agreement this year that the pupils have settled really well and had an excellent year. Our Senior classes have been very busy completing their respective courses and getting all the necessary assessments done. The final push is after the Easter break and they will only have one week before going on study leave for their SQA exams. Remember, study sessions are available for all Senior year groups on Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes in room 213

Pi Day Activities Thursday, the 14th of March (3.14) marks a big day in the maths calendar at Dyce Academy and across the world; Pi-Day! Junior pupils were involved in Maths activities about our favourite irrational number, π . Some S1 classes completed 'π-Day' posters, while some S2 and S3 classes got extremely competitive during a 'π-Day Maths Relay.' Well done to all groups who took part and especially to those who won one of the mathematical prizes on offer. Wooden logic puzzles were provided as prizes, but Maths staff withheld the solutions! A double win for all involved!



Vitruvian Man Investigation One of our S2 groups has been investigating the Vitruvian Man. The pupils started off with measuring heights and arm spans to see how square they were and then they created several statistical diagrams and analysed the data further to determine how 'square' the class actually were.

Famous Mathematician Research project As part of the 'Mathematics in the Real World' section of our BGE course, our S2 groups have been finding out about famous mathematicians, past and present. Each group had two periods in the library using their resource packs to investigate and find out about the life and contributions of a famous mathematician. Pupils then had to prepare a presentation for their class. All pupils engaged really well with this task. There were some excellent talks with some really interesting information...Who knew that female mathematicians often had to pose as men in order to have their ideas accepted? Or that, after WWII, the British Government sold on captured German Enigma machines to other countries? Without letting on that they could break the codes!?

Numeracy and Literacy Across the curriculum; Which number is the only one that, when spelled out in English, has all its letters in alphabetical order? Answer in the next Newsletter!



FASCINATING FACTS

1. After suffering a near-fatal fever in 1735, Euler became nearly blind in his right eye. Soon after his return to Russia in 1766, he became almost completely blind in his left eye. Despite his horrible eyesight, Euler continued his prolific research.
2. Leonhard Euler is known as the king of maths.
3. He was only 13 years old when he started university.





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Health and Wellbeing—PE Update

Schools Cross Country : Huge Well Done to all our Runners who took part in the Albyn & RGC Schools Cross Country Championship at Balgownie playing fields on 15th March 2024. This is a highlight of the sporting year for our athletes, and today was a perfect day for our Cross Country Runners! Finlay Robinson finished in the top 4 in what was a very muddy competition.



More Cross Country News: Nathan Morgan's latest comp saw him enduring the Newburgh Beach Bash 10K with a personal best of 48.17 minutes.



Nathan also competed in the Hoptoun House 6K and he was pleased with his result given the muddy and hilly conditions - Well done Nathan!!...Keep on running!

Pupils of the Week: Our Faculty "Pupil of the Week" board is filling up nicely. Pupils win this award weekly from their PE teacher for improved efforts, developing ability and celebrating performance in practical as well as theory elements of their core and course lessons. Pupils are then celebrated on our board within the department and are given merits for making it to our board. All pupils whose names make our board are then put forward for the Physical Education Award at the end of the year. Well done to those already on our wall. We have 8 weeks left of this academic year before change of timetable, will your name be up in lights in our Faculty?

House Events: This week was the turn of Volleyball Our Senior pupils put up a great fight with some epic serves, blocks, digs and spikes...the atmosphere was electric...Huge Congratulations to Brimmond who's S4 pupils did them proud, winning both games played. Kirkhill was 2nd and Ramsay came 3rd. Roll on the BGE event on Tuesday...all will be highlighted and celebrated via our PE Instagram page (@dyce.pe).



Congratulations Cole

We are just delighted for Cole in S3 who has signed for Inverness Caledonian Thistle! A great achievement and we wish you every success at the club.



More Football News: Another busy term for School Football with most of the tournaments reaching their conclusions.

Our Girls Football Team took part in a tournament with a number of local schools and won 1 of their matches, and our Seniors finished 3rd in their league, beating Bucksburn 3-1. Meanwhile our S2 team are still looking for their first league win of the season but have shown improvements!

Our S1 Boys Team had a game away to Cults, they won and secured 2nd place in the league. They also have a Green Final Trophy semi final against Bucksburn on Wednesday 17th April; the winner will then play against Aberdeen Grammar School in the Final.

We are delighted to have Summer S, Emma L, and Ashley M represent the Aberdeen City Schools Senior Girls Select team this year. They have been working very hard in training and playing for their individual clubs. In this select team they beat Aberdeenshire 7-3 and Fife 3-1 before being beaten in the Semi Finals by Dundee 3-2. Well done girls on some cracking games and giving your best every time you play.

Over the season our Senior Boys team have played in a number of matches and finished 3rd in the league, with one of their highlights being a 3-1 win against Bucksburn!

Huge thanks to Mr Rankin, Mr MacPhail, Mr Hamilton and Miss Fraser for volunteering with all the teams this year! It has definitely been our busiest year for school Football, with the number of pupils involved in playing or refereeing increasing massively.

Sport & Rec Pupils: Our Sport & Recreation pupils were given a great opportunity to visit CrossFitAberdeen to meet the trainers and workout there. They were able to see how a gym is run and try out their varied equipment. Thank you to Rob and the coaches for giving us the great opportunity and experience.



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Health and Wellbeing—PE cont.



Netball News:

We have a fantastic number of Netballers in S1-3 Club, all of whom train every week without fail on Wednesdays. They have played a number of school matches and their form is developing really well alongside their determination, confidence and resilience. They smile from the minute they enter the Games Hall to the time they leave. We are very pleased that one of our senior pupils Sameera Angus comes along to help Miss Kennard train the group. Keep up the great work and good luck for next season!



Well done to all of our pupils, we are super proud of you for your commitment and dedication to your sport!

In other news:

S4/5 Transition Trip to Loch Eil

8 pupils left Dyce Academy on 4th March to travel to Fort William to the Outward-Bound Centre for a week of personal and team challenge and adventure in order to prepare them for their next



steps in their journey. They jumped into the Loch in the dark, took part in a zip wire experience, organised and completed an overnight expedition in the wild, did orienteering in the dark, completed a canoe expedition in Glenfinnan, ab-seiled in Glen Nevis and built a Tynrolean Bridge with ropes.

S3 John Muir Group Haddo House

On 21st March the S3 John Muir Group set off for Haddo House to practise survival skills in the wild. We learned how to set up a shelter from the wind and how to make and put out a fire safely. We finished off the day with an ice cream! Even though it was freezing!



S1 Lifestars Group Gram-pian Curling Festival

The S1 Lifestars Group went to Aberdeen Curl on 22nd March. They were split into two teams and had to complete 6 challenges. I think we have some future curling stars in our midst!

Happy Holidays, we hope you all have a relaxing break and we look forward to seeing you all next term. Seniors—remember to study!