



Welcome to

Dyce Academy



## Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2023—2024

Term 4

Welcome to the final edition of our newsletter for this school session. The summer holiday period has finally arrived and I know that everyone is looking forward to some time to relax, and hopefully see some sunshine.

I am sure you will agree that it has been an incredibly busy year for us as a school community, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, as without it, so much of what we achieve as a school would not be possible. I would also like to pay tribute to our staff team, who have worked tirelessly all year in their various roles, with a commitment to providing the best possible experiences for our young people. Working in partnership – parents, pupils and staff – I know we will continue to see Dyce Academy go from strength to strength and I look forward to working with you all again in the new session.

At this time of year we also have to say farewell to a few of our colleagues as they look to move on to pastures new. Miss Lyle from Home Economics will be leaving us today as she has taken up a new post teaching abroad. We will also be saying goodbye to Miss McCrimmon from the Art Department. Miss McCrimmon joined us in August last year as a Probationer, and will now be moving over to a permanent post at Bridge of Don Academy. I would like to say a special thank you to these two ladies as whilst they have only been with us a relatively short period of time, they have both fully immersed themselves in the wider life of the school, bringing opportunities and experiences to our young people beyond the classroom on a regular basis.

Earlier this week we also shed a few a tears as we said congratulations and farewell to Mrs Jamieson, Depute Head Teacher, who is off to enjoy her well earned retirement. Mrs Jamieson has been a member of staff here at Dyce Academy since 2003, starting off as Principal Teacher of Business Studies, before moving on to the role of Depute Head Teacher. I simply cannot thank Mrs Jamieson enough for all that she has done for our school, she has been a driving force of change, a pillar of support, and a huge champion of our young people. Her kindness and positivity has been unwavering and she will truly be missed by everyone. I know you will all join me in wishing her all the very best for her exciting new chapter.

Over the course of this term we have also extended a huge welcome to some new members of our team, with Ms Anderson joining our Technician team and Mr Gault joining us in the Music Department. We also look forward to welcoming more new colleagues at the start of the new session and we will be sure to introduce them all to you in due course.

With a very full newsletter for you to read ahead, I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable summer holiday.

K Arthur

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 20 August	Term begins
Friday 20 September	Holiday (school closed)
Monday 23 September	Holiday (school closed)
Friday 11 October	End of Term 1

Wishing you all

a wonderful summer

from all at Dyce Academy



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### SQA Appeals 2024

SQA Results Day is Tuesday 6 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 6 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 20 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 26 August**

### Celebrating Success Evening:



On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of June, Dyce Academy held its very first Celebration of Success evening in the Kings Hall, the old Aberdeen Exhibition Centre. After a great deal of planning the evening arrived and turned out to be a great success. During the event we recognised and celebrated the achievements of over 260 of our young people in a variety of categories. Interspersed within the prizes we were entertained by a number of our students including Tobechi Legunson, who sang "It Means Beautiful" from the musical Everyone is talking about Jamie; our ACMS Vocal Ensemble who performed their version of Coldplay's "Fix you" and a duet from two of our seniors, Eve Forbes and Arianna-Skye Hunter who performed "Wondering" from High School Musical. It was really special to see these talented young people perform so confidently in front of so many people.

Dyce Academy would like to thank the many hundreds of friends and family, indeed nearly 700 friends and family, who turned up to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful students, it was their contribution to the evening in helping to create such a positive and supportive atmosphere that made the evening such a success.

We hope to build upon this inaugural event next session and hopefully make it, not only bigger and better but a mainstay in the Dyce Academy School year.



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### Eco Group

In June, after a two year journey, the Eco Ambassadors and Eco Group secured a renewed Green Flag Award for Dyce Academy, from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

After organising a whole school audit, the pupils set about tackling relevant topic goals to action, measure and submit.

Pupils worked on making improvements under the headings of Health and Well Being, Climate Action and Energy, with a Sustainable Development Goal of Sustainable cities and communities.

A relevant Eco Code was developed to communicate their aims which they presented at assemblies. Over the two years they organised a school and community litter pick, set up a QR code for students as a direct link for pupils to help support mental health, collated energy audits and actions, and fundraised towards purchasing recycling bins to help create easier recycling systems within the school. They worked with staff and pupil groups, the local community, and contributed to the Aberdeen City Council, Youth Climate Change Action Group aims, suggesting a Hub on Google Classroom where pupils and staff could exchange ideas across the city and beyond.

We look forward to continuing the journey with our new Ambassadors and restarting the Eco Group after the summer holidays. Very well done to all involved.



### World Earth Day

This year's theme was : Planet vs Plastics

The Eco Group would especially like to thank everyone who signed up to or supported the Dyce Academy Spring Litter pick.

Everyone worked hard and made a big difference to our school grounds and surrounding area.



Please continue the good work by placing all your litter in the bins provided.

### Cycling Club

Massive congratulations to Teagan, Andrew, Kyle, James and Jesse , aka Mr Murray's Cycling Club. These pupils have been coming out on bikes this session on a ragtag collection of donations and cobbled together bikes after our old fleet of bikes were sadly stolen last summer. The pupils spent some of their own time applying, in their own words, to the ACC Youth Grants fund, and have been awarded £1500 to spend on new bikes. A huge well done to them! Mr Murray is looking forward to bike shopping over the comes weeks.

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### ACC Youth Ambassador's

One of our senior pupils, Tobechi Legunsen recently has the wonderful opportunity to attend a variety of events as part of the ACC Youth Ambassador student exchange programme in which a group of young people from Regensburg in Germany were hosted in Aberdeen. Congratulations Tobechi!

### Developing the Young Workforce (DYW):

**Did you Know...** If you go to <https://www.dyw.org.uk/> and then click on the **Jobs Portal**, you'll discover current job vacancies and opportunities for young people across the North East of Scotland



### DYW: Hair, Care or Dare.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 7 young ladies participated in an event called Hair, Care or Dare! The event was organised by Business Women Connections, which is a network of over 100 women, most of whom either run their own business or have a key role as an employee. The aim of getting pupils from Dyce, Aberdeen city and shire together was to hopefully enthuse and encourage pupils to think big and inspire them to be the next generation of businesswomen. For Nicole, Mukaddes, Maya, Rebecca, Libby, Brooke and Eve it was their first opportunity to network in a professional environment, allowing them to develop their communication and interpersonal skills. The venue – the Village Hotel, Kingswells, provided them with an authentic experience of a business event. Hearing a mixture of different career stories – and the message that there is no right or wrong path – was inspiring for pupils. Next stop, Dragons Den?

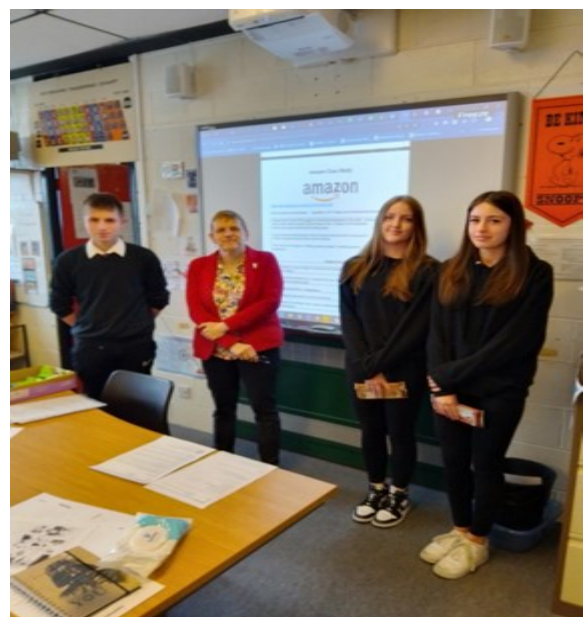
### S4 Business Management Artefacts Competition

On 16 April the S3 Business Management pupils visited the Library where Ms Yeoman presented them with Artefacts from the past. The pupils had to not only see if they could correctly identify the item, they also had to select one that they could bring back to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century using sustainable materials.

Fast forward to Tuesday 11 June where our now S4 Business Management pupils met with our Dyce Dragons, Ms Arthur and Ms Yeoman. Each group presented their business ideas and thoughts as to why they should receive the Dragon's investment.

Each of our groups rose to the challenge, they answered the questions well and demonstrated a sound knowledge and understanding of not only the business theory; but also the market they would bring the product back into. There can only be one winning group and that is Freya Barclay, Ross Gunn and Amy McAdam. Their idea of bringing back a medieval pomander and their investment offer earned them maximum points of 5/5.

Ms Yeoman presented their prize on Friday 14 June. Well done everyone, I am very proud of you.  
Mrs Jessamine





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### Rotary Photography Competition:

The theme this year was “rebuilding”. Congratulations to Charlie Haines (Senior winner) and Amber Milne (Intermediate winner)

Charlie’s comments on his photograph: My photograph

communicates Rebuilding through the lens of rebuilding our relationship with nature, as is seen with the swathe of budding trees contrasted with the AWPR cutting through. Notably, during the construction of the AWPR, 1.4 million trees and shrubs were planted - making this quite a powerful image in terms of representing our regrowth of Scottish flora.



Amber’s photograph connects to re-building because the building was rebuilt to look nicer but yet still looks run down and ruined.



### Sea Cadets

A number of our pupils take part in Sea Cadets each year. This year four of our young people



have been recognised for their achievements. Erin Wilkinson was selected from a number of senior cadets to attend a prestigious event in Stonehaven on Monday 13th May in which HRH Princess Anne attended. Erin has proved her dedication over the last few years at Aberdeen sea cadets by getting recognition for her hard work with badges and various promotions.. Thomas Milne was awarded Best Leadership Award, Rebecca Milne gained the Best Cadet Award and Zach Symon was promoted to Cadet First Class. Huge Congratulations to all those that attend Sea Cadets and for their hard work and dedication. If anyone is interested in joining Sea Cadets, they can contact the organisation through [co@seacadets-aberdeen.org](mailto:co@seacadets-aberdeen.org)

### Fairshare

These are our dazzling Fairshare champions who over the last two years have clocked up over 50 hours of community work collecting, sorting and delivering our donated stock. In recognition, yesterday, they were each presented with a Saltire Ascent award 50 ! A truly remarkable effort.



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### SfL News:

#### S3 Bennachie Challenge

The S3s started at the Bennachie Visitor Centre on Wednesday 3rd July and walked to the summit of Mither Tap. It was driving wind and rain at the top but the group worked through all of the elements. Great team effort and resilience from everyone. Well done!



#### Instant Neighbour

The S4 PDA Group had a mini campaign to collect food for Instant Neighbour. Their food bank is running low and they always need donations. They decided to practise independent travel to get there. We checked in 19kg of food. Well done everyone!



#### Shared Reading

The S3 PDA group have been sharing picture books with Dyce primary pupils on a Tuesday afternoon. The younger pupils look forward to it every week and the pupils from Dyce Academy are doing amazing work reading, explaining, discussing and playing.



#### School Garden

The S2 groups have been helping out in the school garden. Weeding, watering and planting.

We are very proud that the school now has it's Second Green Flag! Congratulations to the Eco Group for all their hard work.



### Aberdeen Reads



Every summer Aberdeen City Libraries run a summer challenge to encourage us all to keep reading over the summer with incentives available for 4-15 year olds. This year, the travelling-themed challenge sees Library Bear heading back

through time. How many different historical periods can Library Bear visit? Each year we have a small group of S3 pupils who take on the task of promoting the challenge to pupils at Dyce Primary.



To boost their confidence and teach them about projecting their voices and communicating with groups, pupils took part in a drama workshop with a visiting specialist. On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June we went across to the primary and our pupils presented to eight P1-P4 classes. A task made even more daunting by the fact that the library was still open to the public. We had props with us to illustrate some time periods that Library Bear might visit – will he get back as far as the Vikings, the Egyptians or even meet some dinosaurs? Each session ended with a class photo with Library Bear, who was definitely the most popular person in the room. It was a long day for our pupils and they all did very well. Hopefully Dyce Library will see lots of keen readers through their doors over the course of the summer.

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/aberdeen-reads>



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### Technologies Faculty

The term between Easter and Summer has been very busy here in Technologies. The Home Economics Department has seen our Senior phase learners through their National 'Practical Cookery' and 'Cake Craft' exams, said goodbye to some of our wonderful S2 pupils heading off into their new timetable, welcomed our new S3 Practical Cookery class aboard, and lastly, watched the S1 cohort come to the end of their first year at Dyce Academy. All the staff in the faculty have noticed the confident and creative learners that the S1's have grown into, and are extremely proud of the work they have completed so far.

#### S1 Textiles Project

This year, learners tackled the skills and patience needed to create a cushion cover from scratch. The department saw not only some very skilled hand and machine stitching, yet some truly incredible designs completed by hand!



#### S5/6 Cake Craft

A huge well done to our Cake Craft class who designed and delivered some beautiful final designs for the SQA. The attention to detail in their modelling and planning process is shown in the end results.





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**Science Faculty**

**Science Ambassador:**

Arran Prothero volunteered to be a Science Ambassador and came into Dyce Academy to teach S2 pupils and raise awareness of Climate change. The classes looked what causes climate change, the impact we have on climate change and solutions to help with the impact of climate change.



**NESCOL Visit**

On the 23rd of May, Freyja Bergman and Reece Bowers represented Dyce in the playoff of class winners for the Shell/NESCOL technology competition. During the day, the pupils competed in different science and technology challenges including using VR technology, making a pulley system, working with robots and solving logical puzzles. They had to work together as a pair to complete all 9 challenges in a set time. Freyja and Reece gained valuable skills and experience and came away with a prize of portable chargers.

BP – Dyce Academy’s S2 cohort welcomed a former Dyce pupil, Jenna Forrest and her fellow BP colleagues in to talk about how their pathways have led them to their current roles in the company. (feel free to re-word the sentence!)







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### Social Subjects Faculty

*It has been an action-packed end to the year for us up in Social Subjects & RMPS as we head toward the summer break ...*

As part of our recent S1/2 Democracy unit in Social Subjects, we had the pleasure of welcoming in members from the **Aberdeen Youth Movement** team to share with our new S2 classes about how they can use their voices right now to take part and have a say in our Scottish Democracy. The S2s did a fantastic job of engaging across their different sessions, and represented Dyce Academy brilliantly to our guest visitors. *We are thankful to Brian Webb and his team for organising the resources, and for all of the AYM and Scottish Youth Parliament members who gave up their own time to share with our young people.*



To finish off this Democracy unit, our S2 classes have been taking part in their very own **Dyce Academy election campaign!** They have worked in groups to create their own political parties and come up with a manifesto of policy ideas, campaign materials, and anything else that will sway votes in their favour - some of the ideas on show would give the big parties a run for their money! After the votes were counted, one party emerged as the winner from each of the five classes. *These five parties will go against each other in our grand election final on Wednesday 3rd July where they will present to the whole of our S2 cohort, and everyone will vote on our final overall winners.*

- Our election finalists are:  
*The Accessibility Party - Katie, Leah, Ava and Sophia*
- *National Workers Movement (NWM) - Jake, Victor, Jude and Ellis*
- *The Fellowship Party - Arran*
- *The HRC Party - Hope, Rosa and Caitlin*
- *Skibidi Slicers - Teagan, James, Sam and Reggie*

In RMPS, the new S3 elective class have been busy exploring the topic of **Animal Rights**, producing some social media-inspired campaigns and adverts. An exciting development this new academic year has been the added provision of **S5/6 Core RMPS** for our seniors, where students will have the opportunity to add another SQA award to their qualifications as they look to put their beliefs and values into practice.

Our new S3 History classes have started their course by taking a deep dive into the murky history of the **Titanic**. Students have studied what life was like in 1912, case studies of individual passengers, and the events of the fateful night of the sinking.



Social Subjects & RMPS were well represented during **Activities Week** this term, with those on our Edinburgh trip making a visit to the Scottish Parliament building and receiving a guided tour. We even got to hear from John Swinney at his first ever First Minister's Questions as he faced a grilling from opposition leaders and MSPs. We also had a group of students away to visit the Gordon Highlanders museum and engage in some local history, getting the chance to experience first-hand what life would have been like in the trenches!

*We hope that all of our Social Subjects, RMPS, History, Geography and Modern Studies students have really enjoyed the past year, and we can't wait to see you back after the summer holidays! Wishing you all the best from Mr Bonner, Mr Evans, Miss Young, Miss Hill, Mr Ranken, Mr Hamilton and Mr McGregor.*