



Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2024—2025

Term 3

Welcome to the Easter edition of our school Newsletter. In this edition we will be sharing some of the highlights of what has been another extremely busy term across the school. As you will see, we have been delighted to have pupils heading off on a number of external visits enhancing the curriculum across a range of different year groups. We have also been lucky enough to have a number of guest speakers and presenters bringing their expertise into the educational experiences of our young people here in school. Our school community is certainly expanding as we build connections with partners from further afield and this is something we are excited to be prioritising as we go forward into the new session.

Early in the term, I was pleased to be able to share with you the outcome of our Inspection re-visit which took place at the end of Term 1. It was great to see our work on learning, teaching and assessment and tracking and monitoring being recognised for the positive impact it has had on the experiences and outcomes for our learners. Our work in these areas has continued throughout the session with a particular focus on differentiation, learning conversations and improving consistency in the use of interventions to support positive progress for all. Whilst we have also made progress with our raising attainment agenda, particularly with our S4 cohort, it is recognised that it takes time to achieve trends over time and so this remains a key priority for us all as we move forward towards the next SQA diet. Looking ahead to next term, we will be gathering our evidence and evaluating our progress this year as a whole, before setting out our ongoing and new improvement priorities for next session. Once again, we will be working closely with our Parent Council to outline the focus areas we have identified and seeking their views on what else we need to consider for inclusion.

This term we also faced a significant challenge as we looked to recover from the fire in our building. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local community and parent/carer body once again, for all the support that has been shown during this difficult time. I would also like to offer special thanks to the wider team at Aberdeen City Council who worked tirelessly with us to get our school back up and running as quickly as possible, lessening the impact on our young people.

I am also incredibly proud of the young people in our school who have, throughout this period, shown patience, understanding and resilience, and have adapted so well to our new circumstances. Going forward, we will continue with the temporary arrangements we have in place, while the restoration work gets underway, and I will be sure to keep everyone informed about our progress.

As the term comes to a close and the holiday period begins, we will open our doors for Easter School. It has been great to see so many of our learners look to take up this opportunity for further input and support from staff members as they look to prepare for their SQA exam diet. I wish all of our seniors well with their studies during this time, and to all of our learners and their families, I hope you can enjoy a restful and relaxing break over the next two weeks.

Police Scotland Updates: In a departure from the normal content for the monthly Crime Alert, Police Scotland take a look at how AI is shaping our engagement with the online world and how we stay safe in 2025. [Crime-Alert-AI-special-1.pdf](#)



Over the upcoming weeks, there will be a higher Police presence in and around Aberdeen city centre to help mitigate any occurrences of youth anti-social behaviour, but to also provide reassurance to all city centre users and residents. Police Scotland's commitment to reducing levels of anti-social behaviour throughout Aberdeen is of high priority and while young people have the right to meet with their friends and enjoy themselves, the tendency towards disorder is unacceptable. There are a range of activities scheduled across the city which we would like to highlight such as the City Centre Youth Partnerships [Youth Horizons 2025](#) programme and [Denis Law Legacy Trust Streetsport sessions](#).

S4 Lifestars trip

Supported by Dyce Lifestars charity our targeted support S4 Leavers got the chance to take part in a series of confidence and resilience building outdoor activities such as Coasteering, Rock Climbing and Gorge Walking. The day was a huge success for all involved and a perfect way to end the term!





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Health and Wellbeing 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 14th March 2025. This is a highlight of the sporting year for our athletes, and it was a perfect day for our Cross Country Runners! Some of our pupils also took the opportunity to use the competitive event to run as part of their National Qualifications Course Assessment. As you can see from our photos all pupils had a great time and can't wait for next year!



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 academic year.



Well done to those already on our wall. Will your name be up in lights in our Faculty?

Our House events continue throughout the year. This term we have hosted Badminton & Volleyball.

Our pupils put up a great competition with some epic skills...the atmosphere was electric.

Huge Congratulations to all pupils who entered. All news is highlighted and celebrated via our PE Instagram page (@dyce.pe).

We have also included Ms Washington's house and are collating points ready to add the Athletics scores in the Summer Term - Which house will win this year's trophy? You've got to be in it to win it!



Staff v Senior Football Event

Thank you to all staff and pupils who played, supported & organised the Staff v S6 pupils Football this term. A 3-2 win for the S6s, but the staff definitely didn't disappoint or give up the fight! MVP Summer Simson with some fantastic saves & great refereeing from Zac Symon.

Videos on Instagram @DycePE





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Aberdeen City Music School: A Term to Celebrate

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term at Aberdeen City Music School

(ACMS), it's a great opportunity to share some of the fantastic experiences and achievements of our pupils over the past few months. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and love for music have been evident in everything they have done, from rehearsals and lessons to concerts and community performances.

One of the biggest highlights of the term was our March Concert, which took place on Friday 21st March in a packed Aberdeen Music Hall. Months of hard work and preparation went into this performance, and our pupils rose to the occasion beautifully. The programme featured music spanning 700 years, concluding with an energetic and crowd-pleasing rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody. A huge thank you goes to our pupils, staff, tutors, parents, and everyone involved in making the evening such a success.

Beyond the concert hall, ACMS has been busy engaging with the wider community. Our Come and Play sessions welcomed young musicians from across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, giving them a chance to experience life at ACMS, take part in rehearsals, and perform for family and friends. These sessions also allowed our own pupils to develop valuable leadership skills by leading smaller ensemble rehearsals. They complemented our first Open Morning, which saw around 90 visitors tour the school and find out more about what we do.



This term has also seen an exciting new development in music literacy teaching. Many of our pupils have taken on the role of mentors, helping younger bursary pupils in P5, P6, and P7 develop their musical skills. Not only has this been a fantastic opportunity for our young learners, but it has also deepened our own pupils' understanding of music theory and teaching.

Our commitment to performing in the community remains strong, with ACMS pupils sharing their music at Robert Gordon's University, local schools, and sheltered accommodation. It's always special and important to bring live music to those who may not be able to attend concerts themselves.

Competition season has also been in full swing, with ACMS pupils taking part in the Scottish Young Musician Aberdeen heats and various other music festivals and competitions. We've also been privileged to welcome outstanding guest musicians who have delivered inspiring masterclasses, offering our pupils valuable new insights into their craft.

Looking ahead, there is much to be excited about. In June, we will be heading to Stirling for a day of performances, including concerts at Stirling Castle, the Church of the Holy Rude, and a jazz performance at Stirling University. The following week, we will present our Summer Concert at Fountainhall Church at the Cross, before rounding off the year with a large collaborative event at King's Church alongside pupils from Dyce Primary and Newmachar School.

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of our tutors, ACMS staff, boarding staff, parents, and, of course, the ongoing support of Katie Arthur and the whole Dyce Academy team. A huge thank you to everyone who makes ACMS such a special place to learn and grow as musicians—we look forward to another exciting term ahead!



Find out more about the goings on at ACMS :

[The ACMS Shout](#)



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Working with our partners

Earlier this term a group of pupils visited SSE's Seagreen Wind Turbine Facility in Montrose. It was a steep learning curve for staff and pupils alike and an amazing insight into this new industry. A lot of the discussion was about accessing this industry and what they want from school leavers – inspirational stuff for our young people. Many thanks to Jennifer our colleague from Enable for making this experience possible.



S4 Mock Court Workshops

The S4s did themselves credit and engaged really well with our law student visitors from the University of Aberdeen as part of the Aberdeen Law Project. They received further insight into the Scottish criminal justice system which they have covered in class, and all had the opportunity to take part in a live mock court scenario, with students taking on the roles of judge, jury, witnesses, advocates, etc. *A big shout out to Mukaddes who attempted to pervert the course of justice as judge by overruling the verdict of the jury!*



S2 Build Your Future Final—Go Team Dyce!

The S2 team were an absolute credit to Dyce Academy and worked superbly well as a team in tackling the challenges throughout the day. They took on early feedback to improve their performance and really powered through the challenges together. It was a full-on day, with 5 x 20 minute tasks in the morning, a 30 min lunch, and 4 x 20 min tasks in the afternoon. After we finished our tasks, we had a chance to be interviewed by the organisers which the team jumped at. So watch this space for video clips of our pupils excitedly describing their day at Pittodrie. Alas, our team didn't manage to place in the top 3 (Congratulations go to Ellon - 1st, Inverurie - 2nd & Cults - 3rd) but the experience in itself was far more valuable and enjoyable than the prizes. The team came away with a real sense of the variety of careers within the construction industry. There were certainly a few aspiring architects, contractors & project managers when asked!

The neighbourhood of the future:



Dam Building and testing:

Designing a school:





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S4s getting exam ready!

S4 pupils completed a 2 hour exam skills workshop hosted by Live N' Learn. This inspirational study skills workshops offered a variety of practical study tools required to achieve success. The session was highly motivating and encouraged our young people to think about their goals and how a growth mindset would help them achieve these. Moreover, pupils were encouraged to take responsibility for their own revision and engaged in tasks that helped them to manage their time and prioritise tasks. Finally, they were able to look at the 4 steps of the revision process: understanding, condensing, memorising and reviewing, to help them develop ideas of what tasks they can be doing to prepare for upcoming exams and assessments. Feedback from pupils was really positive and most of them identified that they felt more positive about the upcoming exams!



S2 IDL Seed bomb initiative

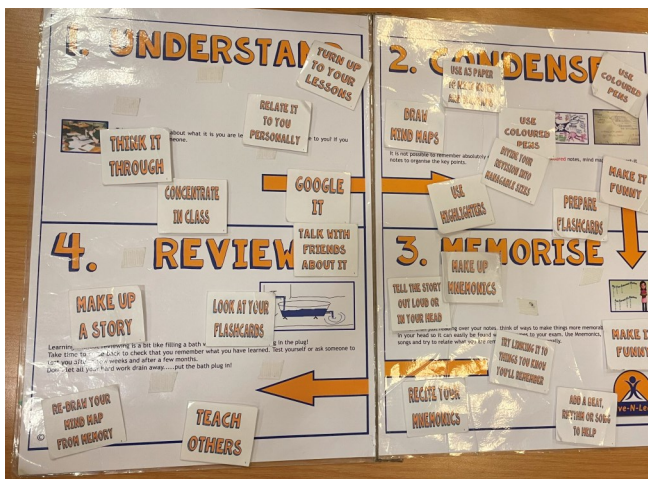
Art and Design, Business Education and the Eco Schools Group have been working on a collaborative lesson plan relating to producing and marketing seed bombs for sale. In Art and Design, the pupils have been working to a given Design Brief and through the Design Process have developed Logo designs for the school based product. In Business Education pupils have learned about what seed bombs are and how to make them. They have then used their knowledge of spreadsheets to work out how much it will cost to make a seed bomb and then scale up. Pupils will, by the end of the project have undertaken market research and developed ideas for an in-house and out of school marketing campaign.

The Eco Group have sourced and dried suitable indigenous wild seed and herbaceous border seed for the bombs and are currently working on creating a balance of seed/compost and clay that will allow the seeds to be dispersed when soaked and 'thrown' into a chosen location. They are also working towards solving eco-friendly and sustainable packaging and user-friendly instructions.

This project works as part of the school's journey towards a third green flag and directly relates to the topic of School Grounds-Biodiversity and Climate Action.

This too relates to the school's drive towards Learning for Sustainability where next term S1-3 are going to be looking at ways to improve the school grounds.

This project allows pupils to use the transferable skills that they learn in their curricular and extracurricular activities and allows for a deepening connection and commitment to our school and our local communities.





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Career Ready Graduation

Ellie Hancock and Walter Andrews-Ajawin were presented with their Career Ready Certificates by Northfield Academy Head Teacher Craig McDermott at the Town House earlier this term. Career Ready is an 18 month programme whereby pupils apply to be on the course, and if successful they are allocated a mentor and attend a series of masterclasses. In the summer of the first year, they have a 4-week paid internship at their mentors place of work. Ellie went to BP and Walter went to Aberdeen City Council. Alex McIntosh, was also part of the CR programme and who's internship was also at BP, was unable to attend the graduation. 870 graduations took place across Scotland this term.



Dyce Academy Community Litter Pick

Well Done! What a difference you made! Thank you to all pupils, staff and local community who gave up 1 hour of their time at the end of term for the Dyce Academy litter pick. The difference you made is clear to see.



Despite the odd drop of rain and having to battle bin bags in the wind, you filled and gathered 17 of them from the school grounds and local green area.

A big thank goes to Aberdeen city council for supplying pickers, hi vis vests and the pickup of the bags.

Another big thank you goes to Asda for advertising our event and supplying a range of snacks and drinks as refreshments to those who put in such a great effort.

We are so lucky to have such diverse green space and nature all around us to use and enjoy. Please let others in our local community enjoy using these spaces and ensure you always put your litter into a bin.

The Eco Group

Term 4 Dates for your Diary

Monday 14 April	Start of term
Friday 18 April 2025	Good Friday—School Closed
Wednesday 23 April 2025	Last day in school for S4/5/6
Friday 25 April 2025	SQA Exams Start
Monday 5 May 2025	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 6 May 2025	Inservice Day—school closed to pupils
Wednesday 7—Friday 9 May 2025	S1-S3 Activities Days
Thursday 8 May 2025	S1 Reports Issued
Thursday 29 May 2025	ACMS Leavers Concert
Friday 30 May 2025	S3 Reports Issued
Monday 16 June 2025	ACMS Summer Concert
Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 June	P7 Visit days to Dyce Academy
Wednesday 18 June 2025	Dyce Academy Celebrating Success Evening
Friday 4 July 2025	End of Term