

Session 2024-2025

Term 4

End of year update from Miss Arthur

Welcome to our summer edition of the newsletter, our final one of the session. It has once again been another busy term here at Dyce, with lots going on from SQA exams to Activities Days and Sports Day. We have appointed our new House Captains and Senior Ambassadors and of course we had the roll out of our new timetable.

Our P7 pupils have been up for their visit to the school in preparation for an August start, and we have had our annual Awards Ceremony and our final musical showcases from both the Expressive Arts Faculty and ACMS to enjoy over the past few weeks.

As the term draws to a close we will be saying a fond farewell to a few of our staff members. Our Cook, Alison Watson, will be retiring after 10 years here at Dyce Academy. Miss Rhiannan Young in the Social Subjects team will be heading back home to Glasgow to take up a new RMPS teacher post, and Miss Cara James from the Technologies team is also leaving us as she looks to head off to new adventures beyond teaching. We also said good bye to Mr Paul Shellam who was covering a maternity leave for us in PE, Mr Shellam heads off to Peterhead Academy where he is taking up a permanent PE teaching post

As August arrives we will be looking to welcome in quite a few new faces with 5 new probationers joining us in English, History, RMPS, PE and Chemistry, and we will also have Ms Aileen Dixon joining us full time in the Social Subjects Faculty as well. Full introductions will be shared in our next newsletter.

With so much to share below, all that leaves for me to say is that I wish you all a fantastic summer holiday period. I hope that the weather is kind to us all and thank you for another year of your engagement and support. Dyce Academy looks forward to opening its doors to our community once again in August.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19 August	Term begins for all pupils
Friday 19 September	Holiday (school closed)
Monday 22 September	Holiday (school closed)
Friday 10 October	End of Term for all





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Activities Week 2025—What a week!

Alton Towers

Our group of thrill-seekers travelled through the night to Alton Towers, with our journey starting at midnight. We then spent two fun-filled days at Alton Towers Theme Park, and a day at the Water Park. Pupils had the opportunity to gain confidence and independence, as well as getting outside their comfort zones and facing their fears – with the 14 loops on The Smiler proving to be a firm favourite!! Pupils were all extremely caring and supportive of one another throughout, and made sure that everyone had a trip to remember. A brilliant experience was had by all, and every single pupil was a credit to Dyce Academy and their parents/carers.





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Blackpool Activities trip 2025

The group had an action packed 3 days exploring the Blackpool Promenade!

Day 1 - We arrived around 1pm and headed straight to the Sealife centre with perfect timing to see the sharks get fed! After this the group had free time to explore the Piers, the sandy beaches and the shops.

Day 2 started with Ripleys Believe it or Not! and then on to the Blackpool Pleasure Beach. The place was really quiet so everyone had plenty of time



for revisiting the top attractions such as Icon, Valhalla and the Big One!

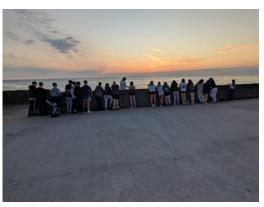
Day 3 (the last leg) had a visit up the Tower where you

could see for miles due to the sunny day. The trip ended with a visit around the dark depths of the Blackpool Dungeons where they experienced history scenes from the last 1000 years including a jaw dropping end...



Overall the group had a great time and were a credit to the school!

Sunset at the beach next to the hotel:





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Dalguise

In the search of some fun and adventure 22 S1 & 2 pupils headed to Dalguise Outdoor Activity Centre. It was a fun packed few days where the pupils were challenged to try new things and learn new skills or develop ones like teamwork, all along growing in confidence and resilience. They took part in lots of different activities from Wednesday afternoon through to Friday lunchtime. The pupils were all up for the challenge! They were given the experience of Archery, Giant Swing, Survivor, Raft Building (some pupils got a bit wet!), Abseiling, Zip Line, Axe Throwing, Laser Tag and evening games. Pupils also enjoyed spending time in the lodges and sharing rooms with their peers.

Friday brought about our departure and a fond farewell. We had a fantastic trip and fun was had by all, enjoying memorable activities and learning lots of new things along the way.





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Barcaple

When we got to Barcaple we got straight into the Challenge Course.

In the Challenge Course we had to do an obstacle course with a bucket of water, an egg and a pipe. The activity was fun and was team building, requiring us to work together.

The following morning we did bush craft (making campfires and building dens with sticks and stones) and archery.

In the afternoon we did Climbing indoors and ori-

enteering. (using maps) . I liked building campfires in bush craft, the climbing was great and orienteering was tiring because of all the running we had to do. The last morning we did canoeing. We all enjoyed canoeing and we played a tag game and also got to go into the water. The canoeing was great fun but the water was very cold. By Jamie Irvine

Cormack Park

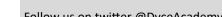
On the Wednesday of activities week a group visited Cormack Park in Westhill, the Aberdeen FC training facility. The pupils enjoyed a full day of training in the environment of a professional footballer under the guidance of Aberdeen FC community coaches. They were put through their paces with a range of training activities designed to develop their skills before testing what they had learned in a final series of games.

Quiz

Lots of quizzing fun was had with rounds themed on TV, film, music and history. We also had a round of anagrams and a picture round themed on the flags of Eurovision.

There were some very inventive team names, such as Team Harribo and Team Tropical. Then after a closely contested final round, Team Haribo emerged the winners! Well done to everyone who took part.







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Activities – Cooking

The Home Economics department offered an all-day cookery experience for pupils. We started by making scones which pupils enjoyed for break with a good coating of butter and strawberry jam.

After break we made pizza for our lunch. We went for the authentic Italian experience with a bread base, tomato wet layer and of course plenty of pepperoni on top.

In the afternoon we made our "critter cakes" – a Victoria sandwich coated in a water icing. We then worked with sugar paste and created lots of bugs and beasties to decorate our cakes with.

Pupils had an enjoyable day although it did get a little hot in the kitchen at times!







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Lochter

'Pupils enjoyed two exhilarating days at Lochter where they took part in a range of activities. Activities included: Gokarts, kayaking, water rollers, archery and even a climbing challenge. The challenges allowed pupils to learn new skills and push themselves to do things that they would otherwise not have done before. The staff at Lochter praised the pupils on their resilience, enthusiastic attitude, politeness and supportiveness of others group members





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Wild Shore Dundee 7th & 8th May 2025

Over 2 days pupils had a great adventure at Wild Shore on the water on a giant floating playground. The sun shone over the Quay while pupils raced up climbing walls, bounced on trampolines, made their way along the monkey bars, slid down gigantic slides and jumped off the higher inflatables individually and in pairs.

It was wonderful to see the bravery of our pupils throughout their time on the obstacle courses. Pupils also showed great leadership skills when supporting others to follow them onto the harder parts of the course. They also displayed great encouragement when working together - well done!

As you can see for the photos, pupils were delighted to be wild on the water for their activity experience.

<u>Nature Walk</u>

We had two fantastic days, a time for quiet reflection and reconnection with nature. We strolled along the banks of the River Don towards Stoneywood and back. The gentle flow of the water created a soothing soundtrack that relaxed the body and mind. We paused and spent time watching a family of ducks and a family of swans with newly hatched signets. At the end, I think we all had a renewed appreciation for the simple beauty of the natural world and enjoyed the peaceful escape.













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<u>Landmark</u>

We had a fantastic trip to Landmark again this year. The Wild Water

Coasters were popu-

lar as al-



ways. Many were testing their courage and agility on the epic climbing attrac-



RopeworX high ropes to the Skydive and adven-

turous Tree Top Trail. There was lots of jumping and falling on the new heights of the giant net adventure NetworX. Some enjoyed the curious indoor world of illusion in the Bamboozeleum and others enjoyed the more peaceful Butterfly House and Red Squirrel Trail.

<u>Codonas</u>

'Pupils had a fantastic trip to Codona's. Activities included ten-pin bowling, mini golf, laser tag, a round on the dodgems and even trying to race Mr Gartland on the Go-Karts! The sun was shining and a

brilliant day was had by all





Ceramics

Three busy mornings of creativity as pupils and staff learned how to roll out clay slab in preparation for a decorative tile.

Pupils used templates and original drawings to help them to prepare their designs.

After being shown how to transfer designs and details using tracing paper, and to add detail using applied and incised clay the pupils completed their unique tiles.

Thanks to the local community centre the work will be fired and pupils can collect as a matt terracotta tile or use acrylic paints to apply colour.

Well done to everyone who helped prepare for the days, support the days, and to the pupils for being such great company





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What have Science been up to this year?

NESCoL and Shell – Science Technology Challenge

The S2 Science cohort competed in various knockout rounds that included building circuits and wind turbines. The winners went on to represent Dyce Academy at the NESCOL STEM city final on Thurs-



day the 29th of May. The pupils at the final competed in various science and technology challenges including working with robotics, virtual reality and simulation as well as more practical engineering tasks like replacing a tyre. The pairs excellent communication and problem-solving skills meant they claimed third place in all of the schools in Aberdeen city and were gifted with a portable charger.

S2 Careers and Pathways talks by 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 in preparation of their own course choices and pathways moving into S3.



Chemistry festivals Discovery day at the Aberdeen University

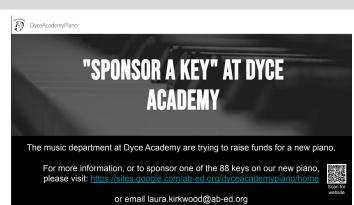
Dyce Academy were lucky enough to be selected by Salters' Institute to take 10 S4 pupils on a Chemistry Festivals Discovery Day at the Aberdeen University Science Teaching hub. The pupils got to know more about what the University is researching to combat climate change and used the new laboratories to synthesis aspirin and then analyse their products to test the purity.





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Dyce Academy Music Department is currently undertaking a fundraising initiative to raise £4500 to purchase a new digital grand piano for our main teaching classroom, replacing our current model which has served us well for 25 years.

The department have launched a "sponsor a key" programme designed for local businesses, families, and friends within the Dyce community. This programme offers the opportunity to **sponsor each of the 88 keys on our new piano**, contributing directly to our fundraising efforts. As a token of our appreciation, **sponsors will be recognised on a mural in the department and receive tickets to an exclusive performance evening featuring our talented students** and showcasing the diverse educational benefits of our new piano across the school.

For more information, or if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please go to our "sponsor a key" website at:

https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/dyceacademypiano/ home,

or email laura.kirkwood@ab-ed.org.



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Technologies Faculty round up

It has been another busy year in Technologies, Students have been working hard all year and have produced some excellent work!

Practical Cookery

Our S4 & senior classes sat their final practical Exam in March and produced some mouth watering dishes. A particular favourite this year was the Chocolate orange cake. Every pupil found the 2.5 hour exam stressful, but they were well prepared and worked hard to achieve results they were proud of.

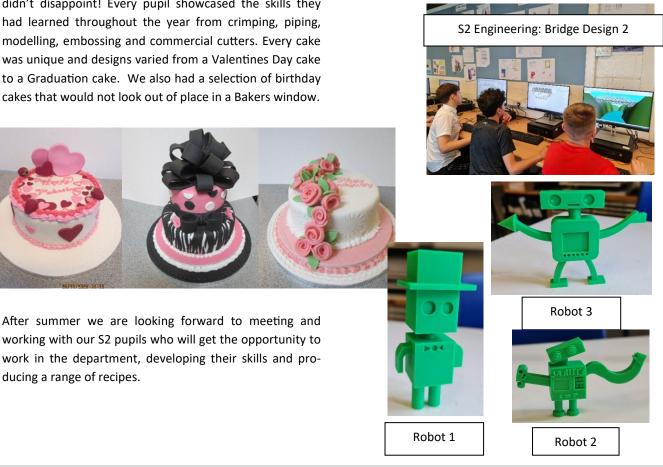
Practical Cake Craft

A celebration cake was the brief for Cake Craft – and they didn't disappoint! Every pupil showcased the skills they had learned throughout the year from crimping, piping, modelling, embossing and commercial cutters. Every cake was unique and designs varied from a Valentines Day cake to a Graduation cake. We also had a selection of birthday

TECHNICAL-BGE

At the end of last term, some S2 classes were introduced to some fundamentals of Engineering and given an insight into real world applications of Engineering. They experimented and explored with bridge designing where they could test their digital designs through animation.

Our new 3D printers have already been put to very good use over the past month. Every S1's robot design has been 3D printed and has made its way home or is waiting for collection. The S1's designed on paper and then made their robots using Autodesk Inventor which is a professional 3D modelling software. They have all done a fantastic job with their robot designs and it has been amazing to see them come to life with the use of our 3D printers.



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World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on 20 June and honours the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. On Friday 20th June our S3 pupils took part in an assembly for World Refugee Day. Edward from the charity Diversity Bridge was invited into school to share some stories of refugees who have arrived in Scotland. Many pupils were involved in the assembly taking part in activities like considering which items in our home we would grab if we had to flee and a few even enjoyed playing the djembe (drum) with Edward! Thank you to Edward for your input and for answering the thoughtful questions put forward by our pupils.



Duke of Edinburgh

The Predictions were for Sunshine and High winds during the Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice expedition. The sunshine made suncream and headgear a top priority and the high winds kept the midges at bay. The route took the group through the beautiful forest of Glen Feshie to the finish at the Linn of Dee. After some initial issues with keeping on route the group made great progress towards their goal. This experience will be important in preparation for the Qualifying expedition in August.



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Rotary Club Photography Competition

Each year our very talented photography students take part in the Rotary Photography Competition, the theme for this year was Wonderful Water. As in previous years, the standard was extremely high. Our winners are:

Senior winner Fraser Douglas



Intermediate winner Oliwa Pietrasiewicz





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Senior Pupil Leadership

This term, senior pupils have taken on the opportunity to apply for various leadership positions in school. This year, we introduce new senior pupil leadership positions of House Captains and School Prefects, alongside the already established roles of Ambassadors. Through the application process, pupils have demonstrated their skills in teamwork, communication, creativity, leadership, and time management.

After completing an initial application form, pupils engaged in a group interview activity where they were tasked to share their ideas and then present these to school staff and some of our school partners. We are grateful to our partners from DWY North East, Jodie Niddrie, and Diversity Bridge, Edward Obi, for supporting this event.

Through this process, pupils have worked well together to generate and present their ideas. It is clear from their engagement that their creativity and enthusiasm will support them in the leadership positions that they are about to step into. Look out for updates on their work and progress in future newsletters! Well done to all involved!



Dyce Academy	Senior Pupil Leadership		
	Prefects House Captains	Ambassadors Pupil Support Health & Wellbeing	
Fairness Ambition Integrity Respect Responsibility		Equalities Communities Eco	

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Building on the success of our inaugural Celebration of Success Prize Giving Evening, held in June last year, the school decided that

this should become an annual event. As a result, and after a great deal of planning by our Celebration of Success working group, we held our Prize Giving evening on the 18th of June. As with last year, we were hosted by our friends at Kings Hall and used the evening to recognise and celebrate the huge variety of achievements and activities our young people have involved themselves in across this academic year. We were delighted to welcome over 500 parents, carers, friends and family to the event and recognised the achievements with 280 awards being presented to our young people. The evening did more than just recognise the Academic achievements of our students, we also celebrated students consistently high levels of Engagement, Endeavour and Application. The awarding of Special Recognition Certificates and prizes was a particular highlight of the evening as these awards highlighted the work and opportunities many of our young people take outside the classroom while representing the Academy. We celebrated individuals who have become Scottish Champions, Musicians who have performed at the highest levels in the country to students who have used the opportunities the school has offered them to pursue work based career options. The Inter-House shield was awarded to Brimmond, for the second year in a row and the University of Aberdeen's prize for overall Academic achievement was presented to Freya Ross from class 5R2.

The evening was supported by a number of musical interludes with the highlight being a rendition of Queen's Bohemian Rapsody, by our ACMS students, a performance that received a standing ovation and was a fitting end to our night of celebration. We will be back at Kings next year to, celebrate the achievements of our young people.

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<u>Another busy term for our Support for Learning faculty</u> Arnold Clark Interactive Van

Three of our S4 pupils who are budding mechanics were given the opportunity by DYW to visit the Arnold Clark interactive van at Aberdeen Grammar School. Their knowledge about engine parts was tested and the steadiness of their hands checked and they were given



information about how to apply for apprenticeships.

ACC Aberdeen Reads Promotion



Five of our pupils from the S3 PDA group took on the challenge of presenting to nine primary school classes at Dyce Community Library. The reading challenge for 2025 has the Tall Ships as

it's theme and the idea is to encourage as many young people to keep reading over the Summer holidays. Last year 2800 young people in Aberdeen City took part and we hope to get that over 3000 this year. Anyone from 4-15 can sign up at any ACC Library. Link below if you would like to take part online.

LibraryEvents@aberdeencity.gov.uk

John Muir Bennachie Challenge

Five of our S3 PDA group set out on the last week of term to conquer Mither Tap - the highest point on the Bennachie Range. The weather was kind to us and we had a wonderful day of walking with a little bit of challenge. There was a lot learned along the way about plants, trees, insects, birds of prey and a bit of Pictish History too!

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Fundraising Community Coffee Morning

In September the S4 PDA group will be going on an Outward Bound Trip to Loch Eil for a week of adventure and challenge. All f the group worked very hard to organise this community event and we thank everyone in the school and wider community who helped us. We have been extremely lucky to receive a grant from Lifestars (https://lifestars.co.uk) for our deposit and then to receive the balance as a grant from ACC Youth Activities Grants. Our coffee morning has raised funds for our travel costs to get to and from Loch Eil.







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On Tuesday 24th June we welcomed colleagues from both the Scottish Fire Service & Police

Scotland to deliver an assembly to our S2 students on the topic of Wilful Fire Setting, hoax calling Emergency Services and the dangers surrounding deliberate setting of Wildfires. This input, being presented to all Aberdeen City Secondary schools in the lead up to the summer holidays, allowed our S2 students the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts from the professionals who are involved in the tackling of instances of deliberate fire raising. Fire officers described the dangers they face on a daily basis and the costs both in personal terms and monetary, these acts of anti-social behaviours can result in.

The opportunity for a QA session was included and the school has been encouraged to allow other year groups have access to the presentation the Fire Service have gifted us. We are hopeful the hard hitting message the Fire Service and Police presented to our students is heeded and that all our students, in future, make the right decisions and stay safe, especially over the Summer holidays.

Did You Know?

Scottish firefighters attend around 13,000 deliberately set fires a year.



New House Launch And Re-introduction of House Captains

This term has been very exciting, as we have seen the launch of our 4th House - Corby. S1 - S3 pupils who were sorted into the new house in January 2025, undertook a house Identity project where they researched the local area for inspiration for house names. By February, 17 names emerged and then the senior pupils helped to whittle this down to 8 and then we had our final 3 names. Alongside the house names, pupils came up with suggestions for the house colour as well.

Following the Easter holidays, all pupils in the new house took part in voting for the house name and house colour. A lot of fun was had turning our PSE room into a polling station and pupils acting as polling clerks, ensuring the process was completed properly. After a very close vote, the results were in and Corby and Purple were the winners.

Well done to all pupils who took part in the research, discussions and the voting for Corby. It was really important to us that pupils had a say in creating in the house and we look forward to working on house Identity next year.

As well as launching Corby, this term has seen the reintroduction of senior pupils as House Captains for all of our houses - Brimmond, Corby, Kirkhill and Ramsay. As Guidance Teachers, we are excited to work alongside our new House Captains, as they promote house identity and complete their roles and responsibilities.

Finally, we would like to thank our pupils for all of their hard work this year and say how proud we are of their achievements. We would like to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable Summer Holidays. We look forward to seeing you in August for another successful year.

The Guidance Team.



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Our final House Event of the year took place at the end of May and what a fabulous day it was with the sun shining on all our participants. Heats were undertaken in pupils' lessons for 5 weeks, where pupils learned various Athletics track and field events such as 100m Sprints, Shot Put, High Jump, 4x 100m Relay, 1500m distance running and many more.

Pupils gave their best efforts! The winning house was Corby on the day, but other houses were very close in points.





It has been another fantastic year for sporting achievements outside of school. We have had excellent performances in Golf, Canoeing, Swimming, Football and many more. We are so proud of all our young people, their effort and commitment to their chosen sports is amazing to see and we wish them all the best of luck as we break for summer. We can't wait to hear what everyone has been up to over the summer and into next session. Well done Team Dyce!



On Wednesday 25 June we welcomed parents, family and friends to attend our 3rd Dyce Academy Youth Theatre Musical Showcase.

This year was special as we welcomed a collaboration with Aberdeen City Musical School and the Dyce Academy School Choir. The audience were entertained with musical numbers from Sunshine on Leith, Mama Mia, Wicked, Moulin Rouge, Back to the 80's, We Will Rock You, &Juliet, Chicago, High School Musical and many more. Each performance showcased the talent of our group members in the form of solo's, duets, trio's and group number's.

The Dyce Academy Youth Theatre was created to give pupils an opportunity to explore and develop skills in musical theatre. They take on the responsibility themselves to organise the event from choosing the performance pieces, the choreography and the organisation of rehearsals over the year. We have seen a tremendous difference in the confidence of each pupil involved in our Showcase and how much enjoyment they get from being part of the group.

As we look to the 2025/26 school year we are ready and looking forward to take on our next challenge – School Show 2026. This will be a big step for us and an opportunity to expand the group. More details will follow in August but I'm sure with your support we will make this a success also.



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ACMS - End of Year Reflections

It has been a fantastic, fun-packed year at Aberdeen City Music School. From the very start, our pupils have embraced every opportunity to perform, collaborate and grow as musicians.

A highlight of the summer term was our music tour to Stirling, where pupils performed in a range of stunning venues including Stirling Castle, the Church of the Holy Rude, and the University of Stirling. These concerts showcased the hard work and versatility of our young musicians and were warmly received by enthusiastic audiences.

Many of our pupils achieved success in the NESPA (North East of Scotland Performing Arts) Music Competition, and we were delighted to see so many of them recognised for their dedication and musical excellence.

The term began with our Leavers' Concert, where we said a fond farewell to six pupils, many of whom are now preparing to take their next steps at music college. We're ending the year on a high with our first ever pop concert at King's Church - a brilliant venue for an exciting evening of music-making.

One of the most exciting new developments this term was our collaboration with Dyce Academy Youth Theatre and the Dyce Academy Choir for their recent musical theatre showcase. It was a joy to work together in such a creative and supportive setting, and our pupils relished the opportunity to make new friends and explore a different performance style. The success of the project has led to the youth theatre and choir being invited to join us at our endof-term Summer Prom concert – a partnership we hope to continue in future.

Looking ahead, ACMS will be performing at the Tall Ships event in Aberdeen on 19 July, and plans are already underway for a very special year in 2026 as



we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Aberdeen City Music School.

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None of this would be possible without the indefatigable efforts of the ACMS staff, tremendous support we receive from our parents, the dedication of our outstanding tutors, the care and commitment of the boarding staff, and the unwavering support from Katie Arthur and the wider Dyce Academy team. We are deeply grateful for everything they do to make ACMS such a vibrant and inspiring place to learn.





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SQA Exam Results

Our senior pupils will be patiently waiting for the Postie or the SQA Text message on **Tuesday 5th August**. It is recommended that they sign up to MySQA to get their results via text or email just in case they are not home for the post coming through the door. Pupils can do this via the <u>MyS-QA webpage</u>

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 5 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. All subject changes must be submitted by end of day Monday 25 August

Next Steps after school

For those who have left school or are considering leaving school, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) have created a guide of support that is available to help plan the <u>next steps</u>

Transition Days—Welcome aboard S1s!

On Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 June we welcomed our new S1 pupils to Dyce Academy. Over the two days they were able to experience a range of subjects from English, Maths to PE and Science. They met their Guidance Teachers and we were welcomed into their new House group. The S1 pupils also had a chance to get to know some of our S2 pupils who were their Buddies for the two days and will be on hand in the first week back as guides to ensure the S1s get to know the building and their timetable.

Some highlights from the two days were burning magnesium in Science—please do not try this at home! The buzz of the canteen at break and lunch and last but not least the mass football games at lunchtime expertly refereed by Mr Hose their yearhead.

On Tuesday 19 August, the S1 pupils should gather a the front of the school as they did for the visit days, we will then test their memory of which Register class they are in and line them up before taking them into the MPA to meet their Registration Teacher and their Buddies.

We look forward to welcoming the S1s back to Dyce Academy in August.

