



Dyce Academy

Newsletter

2025-2026 Term 1

Welcome from Miss Arthur

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for session 2025-26. Term 1 has certainly flown past for us all, and as you will see from this issue it has been a very busy term indeed.

We started the term by welcoming some new probationary staff members into team Dyce. In English we welcomed Miss Fancett, in Chemistry Mr Paterson, in History Miss McKay, in RMPS Miss Swan and in PE Mr Fitzgerald. We then had some further change at the end of weeks 3 and 4 when Miss Strachan, Depute Head Teacher, and Mr Evans in Geography, moved on to take up new posts beyond our local authority. Following successful recruitment cycles, we have appointed to both positions. In Geography we appointed Mrs LeRay, who took up her post with us at the start of this week and has been very busy getting to know the school and pupils as quickly as possible. We have also appointed a new Depute Head Teacher, and I am delighted to share that Mrs Stuart will be joining us from Bridge of Don Academy, after the October break.

At a whole school level, we have focused on a number of key areas through our assembly presentations this term. We started the year as we mean to go on with a focus on school expectations and raising aspirations. Mr Hose then delivered presentations on Child Protection and GIRFEC, encouraging our pupils to not only look out for themselves but also those around them. Ms Washington then took the floor to introduce our Silver Rights Respecting Schools journey to all pupils, whilst pupil led groups then shared the extra-curricular programme that we have on offer, and the senior Ambassadors outlined the work they want to carry out over the course of the session. This week our Guidance staff held the first House Assemblies of the year where the new House Mascots were being revealed following a week of House voting.

As we go off into the holiday period, we have encouraged all of our young people to make sure they take some time to rest and recharge, spend time with friends and family, and most importantly make the right, and safe, decisions over the next two weeks, looking after themselves and those around them.

We wish you all the best for the holiday period and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in to school in two weeks' time.

Miss Arthur

In This Issue:



ACMS Updates:
Page 5



Loch Eil Trip:
Page 6



Fire Skills Course:
Page 7



Uniform Reminders:
Page 11



Pupil Leadership

This term, our senior pupil leaders have taken on new duties through their roles of House Captains, Prefects, and Ambassadors. As role models for our school community, they play a key part in aspects of the wider life of our school as pupil leaders.



House Captains are working with Principal Teachers of Guidance on further developing the house identity of our four Guidance houses: Brimmond, Corby, Kirkhill, and Ramsay.

PREFECT

Prefects are supporting key aspects of the school day such as break and lunchtime duty, as well as afterschool events such as Parents' Evenings.

AMBASSADOR

Ambassadors are working with each other and teacher leaders on various themes across our school. So far, all Ambassador groups have presented their progress to the whole school through year group assemblies.

In addition to the contributions that our senior pupil leaders make to the wider life of our school, senior pupil leaders are receiving leadership training opportunities to support them in developing their leadership skills for the roles they currently hold in school and for roles they will hold in the future. Further information about opportunities date are outlined below:

Visit to Albyn

Our team of House Captains visited Albyn School for a leadership development experience.

The workshops in this event were designed and facilitated by School Captains at Albyn school and was a great opportunity for our House Captains to network with pupil leaders from other schools across Aberdeen.

Visit from the Army

This term, the Army visited Dyce Academy to put our senior pupil leaders through their paces as they worked together to solve puzzles and complete physical and mental challenges against the clock.

Through a range of activities, pupils learned the importance of effective communication in a team and how to identify the strengths of individual team members in order for the team to succeed. The skills that pupils developed will support them in their roles as senior pupils leaders at Dyce Academy.

Corby House Captain Update

In our first term as House Captains, we have been planning our first ever house event. We have planned to host a quiz the week beginning 27th October. We will be doing one for S1-3 and another one for S4-6. This quiz will be open for everyone to attend, however, since it's our house hosting this event, everyone in Corby that attends will get double points! There will be a prize for each quiz winner.

In addition to this, we would like to update you that it has been an exciting time for Corby and all the other houses, as voting has taken place in PSE classes to decide on our house mascot. S1s worked hard to come up with ideas, and all pupils have had a say. The final result will be revealed in the house assembly in the final week of term.

Ashley Milne and Olivia Rydlewicz





Offshore Europe

A group of our pupils learned about the latest developments and future opportunities in the Energy Sector through a visit to 'Offshore Europe 2025'. Hosted at P&J Live Aberdeen, and supported through our partnership working with DWY North-East, pupils had hands on experiences with experiments from Glasgow Science Centre, problem solving activities from NESCOL, and 'speed date' networking with colleagues from the Energy sector to discuss career opportunities.

In addition to this, our pupils heard from Durham University's Solar Car racing team and the achievements that they have had in racing a solar powered car across Australia. Pupils had the opportunity to discuss in detail the how the team worked together to overcome the challenges that they faced. From this event, pupil feedback highlighted that they now had a better understanding of the Energy sector and the local, national, and international opportunities that are available. One example being one pupil now set to pursue Mechanical Engineering having learned more about the role and skills required through this event.



Work Experience

Working with Robertson's Construction and our colleague from Enable, Jennifer, S4 pupils helped to refit the old Santander Banking building on George Street as part of their Personal Development Award (PDA). Once complete, our local charity Home Start will have a new home to move into.

All pupils that were involved got stuck in and not only was this a great introduction to industry for our pupils, but it was also a great opportunity to support out local community.



Rights Respecting Schools

After achieving the Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award last session, this term has seen us begin our journey towards the Silver Award.

We have launched this to all pupils through our Rights Assemblies in September, where we reminded all pupils of their rights and how they can participate in achieving the Silver Award. We have also held the first meeting of the Rights Respecting Schools pupils' group and next term this group and the Equalities Ambassadors will be working on promoting Rights around the school.



Outdoor Classroom

We are excited to share a new outdoor learning area, located directly opposite the school campus, on the Donside of Riverview Drive (a 3-minute walk from the school).

Working closely with Aberdeen City Council's Forestry Team, a single giant beech tree (a casualty from last year's storms) was shaped to create this wonderful space.

There is seating for more than 20 pupils, with a 'chipped' central area for learning activities. Initially we will be using this space to run a Forest School project for our targeted support S1/2s, but the space is for everyone.

The team also created a pathway to make the site more accessible (although this may be a wee bit steep for some) - however, there are 3 alternative routes of varying length, to access this space.

With thanks to the hard work of Ms Byres and Aberdeen City Council's Forestry team for without this, this would not have been possible.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



In September, the S3 Personal Development Award (PDA) group held a Macmillan Coffee Event. The pupils involved share a summary of the event below:

For this event, we decided to invite not only members of staff in school, but also family members and some people from Dyce in Bloom who we garden with on a Friday. A good time was had by all!

The current total raised is **£740.62** which is over our target of £700. Thank you to all that donated!

Aberdeen Select Trials Success

We are delighted to announce that four of our S5 pupils, Evita, Lily, Evie & Kelsey have been nominated for the Aberdeen City Senior Select Girls Team trials on Wednesday 24th of September.

In addition to this, we are equally delighted to share that three of our pupils, Samuel, Zack and Hamilton, were nominated for the Aberdeen City Senior Select Boys Team trials. These took place on Tuesday the 30th of September and Tuesday 7th October.

We are eagerly awaiting results of their trials and we look forward to supporting all pupils in their endeavours and hearing how they get on.



Term 1 Updates from Aberdeen City Music School

It's been another inspiring term at Aberdeen City Music School, with pupils and staff busier than ever both in and out of the classroom. From jazz clubs and cathedral recitals to Scottish Opera workshops and fundraising concerts, our young musicians continue to represent ACMS and Dyce Academy with enthusiasm, professionalism, and flair.

'Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon'

This term, our ACMS jazz quartet and vocalists were honoured to perform at the Blue Lamp Jazz Club as part of the 100th "Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon" celebration. The event was a resounding success, featuring fantastic solo performances, a vibrant ensemble set, and even a raffle win for one of our pupils! Huge thanks go to Dr Milne and Mr Birse for preparing the students so thoroughly and helping them shine on such a special occasion.



Scottish Opera Schools Project

Meanwhile, a group of our singers travelled to Glasgow to take part in the Scottish Opera Schools Project, a year-long collaboration that will culminate in a large-scale operatic performance later this academic year. The pupils enjoyed a full day of workshops, vocal warm-ups, and behind-the-scenes tours, including a look at the costume and set-building departments. They even had the bonus of meeting ACMS alumna Freya, now studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, who stopped by to say hello at breakfast!

Community Performances

Back in Aberdeen, pupils have taken part in a range of community performances, from recitals at St Machar's Cathedral and the Springfield Seniors' Club to our own "Play It Forward" Piano Fundraiser concert at Dyce Academy. These events not only raise valuable funds and spirits but also provide wonderful performance experience for pupils preparing for auditions, exams, and future studies in music.

Term 1 Summary

As we approach our End-of-Term Concert, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our ACMS staff, Dyce Academy staff, boarding carers, tutors, parents, and supporters for everything they do for us throughout the year. The dedication and commitment of our community play a vital role in the continued success of ACMS, and we are deeply grateful for that support. Our final concert of the term will be a fitting celebration of what has been a busy, inspiring, and rewarding term at Aberdeen City Music School.

Mr Kyle



Loch Eil Trip



As part of their Personal Development Award (PDA), a group of S4 pupils took part in an residential experience on the shores of Loch Eil, near Fort William.

Through this, pupils worked well together in teams to overcome various challenges that were designed to develop their skills. Pupils took part in everything that was on offer and demonstrated great positive attitude and work ethics.

Pupil Reflections

The activity that I enjoyed the most was coasteering. I was pleased with myself when I jumped into choppy waters from high rocks and climbing up the rocks.

The most challenging activity for me was canoeing as we had to row the paddles continuously.

I found that I am good with ideas, leading and resilience, as I helped others in my team by giving ideas and a bit of advice. I will continue to make use of these skills at home and in school.



Trip Itinerary

Day 1

Led by Alex, all pupils jumped into the Loch at least once. Some going back for a second and third time.

Nighttime walk to Glenfinnan Viaduct. It was exciting to be out in the dark with head torches and learn more about the viaduct.

Day 2

Started with a canoeing expedition on Loch Morar, with lunch on an island.

Afterwards, John Muir activities focused on 'Discovery' and 'Explore' at Camusdarach. This involved lots of sand, sea, rock pools, shells, sand dunes. The day concluded with a leap of Faith from a high tower in the dark!

Day 3

Working together to complete the 'Crate Stack'. Then onto 'Coast Steering' which included scrambling, jumping and swimming in the sea.

Then onto John Muir Scavenge Hunt and beach cook out. Pupils used digital cameras to document their environment.

Day 4

The final day included a very challenging activity where pupils crossed the Tyrolean Bridge in Glen Nevis in torrential rain.

Well done to all involved in this trip!



Fire Skills Course

In the final week of this term, a group of pupils from Dyce Academy have embraced new challenges through the Fire Skills course at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Station on North Anderson Drive. Through this course, pupils have stepped outside their comfort zone whilst taking on various activities.

During their time, pupils have developed a wide variety of skills through teamwork and communication. These skills will be used through other aspects of pupil experiences in school, as well as roles they will hold in the future. We are grateful to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for hosting this course and supporting our pupils with extensive first-hand experiences in the world of work.



Refurbished Picnic Tables

We are delighted to be able to share these images of the newly refurbished outdoor seating area at the front of the school.

During the summer holiday period the team at Highland Heritage Woodworks Ltd had been working on replicating our table tops and benches using sustainable materials.

We are delighted with the final outcome and it has provided an invaluable social space for our young people to enjoy during break and lunch time. We are incredibly grateful to the team for all their hard work, and to the Dyce Academy Parent Council who supported us with a financial contribution towards this.



Women and Girls in Sport

In the Health and Wellbeing Faculty, we always encourage all pupils to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. As part of this, we have recently had a focus on encouraging all girls to take part in PE and extra-curricular clubs during Women and Girls in Sport Week. This took place between 6th and 12th of October 2025.

In the Faculty, look at our main noticeboard to see the successes of women and girls who we have chosen to represent in our faculty this year. Consider your role models in Sport, are they someone famous, your teacher, your parent or family member or your teammate?



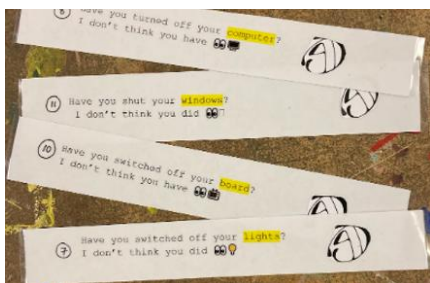
Eco Group Updates

This term has been a very busy and exciting time for our Eco Group and Eco Ambassadors. The Eco group has been joined by six Senior Ambassadors for 2025-2026 to help address the chosen topics of:

- Climate Action: Energy,
- School Grounds and Biodiversity,
- Litter and Waste,
- Sustainability Development Goal of Responsible Consumption and Production.

Energy Monitoring

So far this term, the younger members of the group have continued with their energy monitoring and are currently working towards a classroom code of good energy saving practice, and a staff questionnaire.



Green Flag

The Eco Group are currently working towards, and are hoping to achieve, a third green flag for Dyce Academy. This is from the Keep Scotland Beautiful initiative Eco Schools.

The Green Flag journey is completed across two years and we are currently in our second year of our journey towards our third green flag. We are aiming for this to be completed in May 2026. The Green Flag journey contains seven separate elements:



- ★ Environmental Review
- ★ Measuring
- ★ Action Plan
- ★ Eco Code
- ★ Eco Committee
- ★ Community
- ★ Linking to the Curriculum

Parkhill Garden Centre Donation



Earlier in the year we responded to an offer from Parkhill Garden Centre and a few weeks ago we were able to collect an Apple tree, various shrubs and perennials, bedding plants, indoor plants and compost, free of charge.

This was a fantastic opportunity for us to add to the fruit orchard, have plants to sell for fundraising, use established plants in planters and to immediately brighten up the entrance to the school, thanks to our technician and fellow Eco Group member, who refreshed all containers.

Fundraising

Pupils are focusing on creating an Eco fundraising stall for the Dyce Academy Christmas concert.

In addition to this, continuing with the seed bomb initiative in collaboration with Business and a spring bulb gift set.





Eco Group Updates

Eco Ambassadors

Recycling

Senior Ambassadors are working on creating a rota and working with the janitorial staff, which will allow all classes and pupils to actively participate in recycling by using the previously purpose bought recycling bins.

In addition to this, they are planning to work with canteen staff to encourage pupil participation in collection of food waste.

Dyce In Bloom

In partnership with Dyce in Bloom, plans are underway to create an information and recruitment leaflet which will be distributed to households and businesses in and around the Dyce Community.

The pupils are hoping to gain some valuable advice in helping with the continued improvements to the school grounds. This includes a purpose-built area to be used as an outdoor classroom.



Men's Shed

Pupils are also hoping to work with the local Men's Shed and have asked for a quote for new planters to be built which could then be painted and labelled by pupils so that each of the four house groups could take ownership of planting.

This is aimed at improving the aesthetics and biodiversity of the school grounds.





Visiting Speaker, Adele Luta



NASA Mission Control Centre Flight Controller, Astronaut instructor, and TEDx speaker, Adele Luta, visited Dyce Academy this term to share her experiences in training for, working in, and supporting others, in extreme environments such as underwater, or outer space.

Speaking to over one hundred of our senior Science pupils, Adele shared her experiences in supporting over ninety space walks whilst working for NASA and the transferrable skills that she uses across the various roles in her career. Throughout her presentation, Adele encouraged pupils to pursue their interests and gave examples of how her hobbies, such as scuba diving, had led to her expertise being crucial to the training for weightlessness that astronauts experience whilst on space walks, through underwater exercises. Adele also shared some of the scientific and engineering challenges to living and exploring in extreme environments and the challenges that she overcomes.

Now at Oceaneering International Inc, Adele travelled from Huston Texas to speak with our pupils and alongside her colleague Jim McNab, based at Oceaneering International Inc in Dyce, outlined the relevance and the opportunities available for our pupils here in the North-East of Scotland.

This unique opportunity for pupils at Dyce Academy was made possible through collaboration with Techfest and Oceaneering, thank you!

Extra-Curricular Clubs

In Dyce Academy, a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs are available for pupils to join. For example, there are Drama and Music based clubs, sports clubs, relaxing and calming clubs such as Scripture Union club, or more specific clubs such as Dr. Who Club! Please see timetable below:

Extra-Curricular Club Fair

The Music & Drama Pupil Committee hosted Assemblies to inform pupils of extra-curricular activities on offer and hosted a lunchtime fair that allowed pupils to take a quick but informative look at different stalls and sign up for any that interested them.

	Day	Activity	Time	Place	Leader	
	Monday	Guitar & Ukulele	13:10 - 13:45	M1	Mrs Dawson	
	Tuesday	Doctor Who S1-S3 SU Club Volleyball S1-S3	13:00 - 13:45 13:00 - 13:45 13:10 - 13:45	207 304 Games hall	Mr Farquhar Mr McGregor Mr Fitzgerald	
	Wednesday	Badminton Choir S1 boys football DAYT Active girls	13:10 - 13:45 13:10 - 13:45 13:10 - 13:45 14:45 - 16:00 14:45 - 15:45	Games hall M1 Astro Drama Games hall	Mrs McCaw Mrs Kirkwood Mr Nicoll Music/Drama teachers Miss Fraser	
	Thursday	Trad Band ECO Group S1 girls football	13:10 - 13:45 13:10 - 13:45 13:10 - 13:45	M1 314 Astro	Mrs Kirkwood Mrs Reed Miss Fraser	
	Friday	Cycling	13:05 - 13:45	School Entrance	Mr Murray	



School Uniform

At Dyce Academy we believe that school uniform promotes a sense of equality, fosters school pride and belonging, enhances safety and security by making students identifiable, and creates a more focused and disciplined learning environment by reducing distractions.

It also helps to prepare students for the professionalism of the workplace. As the weather has been turning colder, we have seen a rise in pupils wearing branded hoodies and sweatshirts to school, so we would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our young people of our uniform expectations.



S1-S6 Uniform

- Black trousers/skirt
(No jeans/tracksuit bottoms/joggers)
- Plain black jumper/cardigan or sweatshirt with school logo
- Plain black/white shirt or polo shirt
- School tie
- Dark smart shoes/dark trainers



Uniform Swap Shop

Our swap shop is available for pupils to access uniform items if they require this. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school if you would like any further information on this.

P. E. and Swimming Kit

A reminder that all pupils (in Core P. E. and National Qualification classes) are expected to wear the correct PE kit.

Wearing the correct PE kit supports us to empower all our pupils to be Ready, Respectful and Safe and for them to "Be the best they can be". In addition to this, wearing the correct PE kit supports teamwork, team etiquette, and leading by example.



P. E. Kit

- Red T-Shirt
- Black shorts, Leggings/ Tracksuit bottoms
- Hair Tied Back
- No Jewellery
- Spare Socks
- Black Jacket or Jumper
(wet weather appropriate)

Swimming Kit

- Towel
- Sliders
- Swimwear
- Goggles

For those unable to take part in swimming, PE kit should be worn.



School Uniform can be purchased at: <https://www.arlooriginal.com/dyceacademy>



Football Results

S1 Boys' Football (Mr Nicoll)

30/09/25: Dyce 6 - 1 Portlethen

S3 Boys' Football (Mr Rankin)

11/09/25: Dyce 3 - 5 Cults

24/09/25: Dyce 4 - 0 Northfield

Thank you to Zack Symon in S6 for refereeing our home games.

SportScotland Young Ambassador 2025

We are excited to appoint Fraser and Daniel in S4 to be our Sport Scotland Young Ambassadors 2025.

Both boys attended an online training school conference on Thursday 2nd October with other pupils from around Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

We are very excited to see their plans come to fruition this year and wish the boys well in their endeavours!

Upcoming Dates

Monday 27 October	Beginning of Term 2
Monday 03 November	School Photographs
Friday 14 November	November In-service
Monday 24 November	S4 Estimate Fortnight Begins
Monday 08 December	Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 09 December	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 11 December	Christmas Concert
Wednesday 17 December	ACMS Christmas Concert
Thursday 18 December	ACMS Christmas Concert
Monday 22 December	Beginning of Christmas Holiday
Monday 05 January 2026	Beginning of Term 3

**Dyce Academy
Christmas Concert:
Thursday 11 December
Dyce Academy**

**ACMS
Christmas Concerts:
Wednesday 17 December and
Thursday 18 December
Dyce Academy**