Dyce Academy Newsletter

2026-2027 Term 1

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Upcoming Dates

Monday 26 October	Beginning of Term 2
Friday 30 October	S1 Reports Issued
Monday 02 November	School Photographs
Monday 02 November	S4 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 04 November	School Show (Annie)
Thursday 05 November	School Show (Annie)
Friday 06 November	School Show (Annie)
Wednesday 11 November	Dyce Academy Careers Fair
Friday 13 November	Inservice Day
Thursday 19 November	S5/6 Parents' Evening
Friday 20 November	S2 Reports Issued
Monday 23 November	S4 Prelims Begin
Friday 04 December	S4 Prelims End
Thursday 10 December	School Christmas Concert
Thursday 10 December	School Christmas Fair
Wednesday 16 December	ACMS Christmas Concert
Monday 21 December	Start of Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 05 January 2027	Beginning of Term 3

Welcome from Miss Arthur

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for session 2026-27!

As we opened the school doors for the new session on Monday 17th August, it was great to be welcoming our pupils back in and to hear what everyone had been getting up to during the summer break. Our S2 Buddies were poised and ready to support our new S1 pupils as they looked to kick start their Dyce Academy career, and as is always the case, in no time at all, our new cohort had settled well into school life. With immaculate uniform, positive attitudes and bags of enthusiasm, it has been lovely to see our S1 pupils grow in confidence over the course of the term and really embrace their learning experiences as they have taken their places as the newest members of team Dyce.

We also welcomed in some new faces to the teaching team this session with Ms Tierney joining us in Drama, Miss McIntosh in English and Mr McIver in Science. Within our pupil support team we have also welcomed two new pupil support assistants, Ms Carnan and Ms Gordon.

As this term draws to a close, we will be saying a very fond farewell to Mrs Richardson, our School Support Services Manager. Mrs Richardson has been a part of the Dyce team for 13 years and we are delighted to celebrate with her, her early retirement, and wish her all the very best for her next adventure.

Continued:

Welcome from Miss Arthur, continued

During the summer break the school had a full lighting refresh and what a significant difference it has made. We have come back to light, bright corridor spaces and increased functionality in classroom and presentation spaces which has really supported our various endeavours. Work has also been underway on repairing the fire damaged part of our building, and I am delighted to share that we will be opening the classroom doors once again in that area at the start of next term.

As you are about to read, we have, as always, had a busy start to the year for staff and pupils alike. We started the term celebrating the exam successes of our senior pupils and were delighted to see that so many of our leavers were successful in securing their places in their chosen College and University courses, as well as the various apprenticeship and job opportunities that have been taken up.



Through our assembly programme we set out our ambitions and expectations for the year with all pupils, before taking them through some essential reminders on wellbeing and child protection. We had our first input from the Rights Respecting Schools club who were setting out their aspirations to achieve a Gold award for Dyce Academy this session, and we were introduced to our new team of Senior Pupil Ambassadors who set out their ambitious plans for the year ahead, as they look to drive forward initiatives that will support and benefit the whole school community. This week, we have had our first House Assembly presentations for the year where pupils were taken through themes by their Guidance Teachers and House Captains, which included 'You get back what you give out', which focused on the importance of kindness, support, effort and engagement, and the importance of embracing and participating in everything that the school has to offer. It has been fantastic to see so many of our assembly presentations being led by our pupils this term, and to hear all of the exciting plans our various pupil groups have for the year ahead, demonstrating the commitment and capacity our pupil body has to, not only give their voice to improvements and developments across the school, but to be right at the forefront of driving and leading that change at all levels.

We have a lot to be proud of from this term already with pupil achievements building up steadily, and lots to look forward to as we progress through the year. As we look to go off into the October holiday period, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the course of this term, it has been an exciting and inspiring start to the year and I very much look forward to sharing with you the next steps in our journey as we progress through the session. I wish you all a fantastic October holiday!

Miss Arthur

S3 Art and Design: Landscapes



Varvara



Alexander



Dariya



Wren

Introducing Our 2026-2027 House Captains

At the start of this session, each Guidance House appointed two senior pupils as House Captains.

Through this role, pupils will work together to organise house events, work with Guidance Teachers on end of term House Assemblies, update House Boards and share progress in the Termly Newsletters.



Across the year, House Captains will share an update through our whole school Termly Newsletter.

House Captain Update: Corby House

In this Newsletter, we bring you an update from our Corby House Captains.

Congratulations to **Evie** and **Annorah** in their new roles.

Below, Evie outlines the work that the Corby House Captains will be undertaking this year:

This term as House Captains, Annorah and I have met with the other House Captains to discuss house event ideas for the year ahead. This term we will be speaking to Corby at our house assembly to encourage all our Corby class mates to join in and participate in all our future house events.

We have also been working hard to plan the Corby event for term two, which is going to be a Christmas themed event – look out for an update on this event in the next Newsletter! Also next term we will be involved in decorating the house boards which will help to support our Corby house identity.

Annorah and I have really enjoyed our time as House Captains so far, we are having a lot of fun planning these events for our house and doing things that will make a difference for Corby.

Evie
Corby House Captain

Fright Night

As the Community Ambassadors, we are planning to host the Dyce Academy annual 'Fright Night' on Thursday 29 October.

During this event, pupils will be guided through various themed rooms and experiences within the theme of 'The Last Screening'. This event is open to S1 to S3 pupils and tickets can be bought from our stall in the Canteen at Lunchtime each day before the event. Further information can be found on our poster, below:



Community Ambassadors

Prefects Update

In Dyce Academy, our Prefects act as role models and support key aspects of our school day and after school activities.

This term, our S4 Prefects are joined by S5/6 Prefects that have recently been appointed. We are delighted to share our Prefects for the 2026-2027 session and wish them well in their roles.


S4 Prefects

As a team, these pupils demonstrate responsibility, and develop their skills of leadership and communication through supporting the following initiatives and events:

- Daily Snack Box at break time
- Canteen Queues at lunch time
- Parents' Evenings and school events






S5/6 Prefects

Introducing Our Newsletter Team

Through our aim to include more pupil contributions to our Termly Newsletters, three keen S6 pupils have taken on additional responsibilities to contribute to our termly publications.

Working together, **Ellie**, **Kennedie**, and **Marika** will work on increasing the number of pupil aticles and quotes, bring creativity, and quality assure our Newsletters before they are shared across our school community each term.

Marika shares an update on their work this term:

We are a small team of three senior pupils who have volunteered to help develop the Dyce Academy Termly Newsletter.

Our goal is to give a wide range of updates and information to inform our readers about what has been happening within our school.
Our team will contribute to the newsletter by expanding pupil voice within the newsletter, sharing significant personal achievements from our pupils, sharing school/class achievements, a range of class activities and workshops and more!

Marika

Celebrating Success

At Dyce Academy, we love to hear about the success and achievements of our pupils that are beyond school curricular and extra-curricular activities.

If you wish to share information on the success or achievement for one or more of our pupils, please complete use the link or QR code below:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/wmRYrnrFBW

Dyce Academy Careers Fair

Save The Date!

Wednesday 11 November 2026

DYW NORTH EAST Developing the Young Workforce

Pupils and families are warmly invited to the Dyce Academy Careers Fair to meet and network with a wide range of employers, organisations, and places of further education.

From **17:00** to **19:00** at Dyce Academy.
Further information to parents to follow.

School Show: Annie

Save The Date!

Wednesday 4 November 2026
Thursday 5 November 2026
Friday 6 November 2026

Tickets, £8.00, available from the School Office.
Dyce Academy, **19:00**

Annie

Dyce Academy Youth Theatre: Preparations Underway for Annie

We are delighted to invite parents, families and friends to come along and experience Dyce Academy Youth Theatre's production of Annie, running from the 4th-6th of November! This much-loved musical is packed with memorable songs, hilarious moments and a heart-warming story that is sure to entertain audiences of all ages.

DYCE ACADEMY YOUTH THEATRE

From the energetic group numbers like "NYC", to the unforgettable songs such as "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard-Knock Life", our talented pupils have been working incredibly hard to bring this wonderful story to life on stage. There is something for everyone to enjoy, whether you already know and love Annie or are discovering the story for the first time. Our performers have been rehearsing their lines, learning songs and dances, developing their characters and working together as a team, and we cannot wait for them to share all of their hard work with you.

So, why not come along to support our fantastic cast! Your applause, encouragement and enthusiasm can make such a difference to our young performers and will help create the special atmosphere that makes a school production so memorable.







Whether you are coming to see your child perform, supporting a friend or simply looking for a fun night with family, we would love to see you there. Bring your family, bring your friends and get ready to have fun, laugh, cheer and perhaps even shed a tear! Most importantly, come and celebrate the incredible effort and enthusiasm of our pupils. We promise an entertaining evening full of music, laughter and plenty of Annie magic - we hope you will join us, but don't think for too long, tickets are selling fast!

Expressive Arts Faculty

Aberdeen City Music School: The 25th Anniversary Year Begins

It has been an exciting start to the new session for Aberdeen City Music School. This year marks our 25th anniversary, and we are celebrating with a programme of 25 special concerts and events.

Our pupils have already enjoyed opportunities to perform in remarkable settings, work alongside fellow young musicians and share their music with new audiences.

Evensong at Westminster Abbey



This term, three of our pupils sang at Westminster Abbey as part of a service of Evensong.

It was a memorable experience for them and a wonderful way to begin a year.

Douglas also took part in a recorded service for the Rudolphus Choral Course, which was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 23 September. This provided another valuable opportunity for him to share his music with a wider audience.

Performing at Crathie Kirk

Our anniversary programme continued at Crathie Kirk, where ACMS pupils provided music for a service attended by Their Majesties The King and Queen.

Singing in such a setting, with the King and Queen among the congregation, was an extraordinary experience for our young musicians. Later that afternoon, pupils travelled to St Margaret's, Braemar, to present a concert of their own. Together, the two performances made a fitting start to our 25 Anniversary year celebrations.



Visit To City of Edinburgh Music School

Another highlight was our visit to the City of Edinburgh Music School.

Our string players took part in a workshop and masterclass with Professor Christopher Hoyle, Head of Strings at the Royal Northern College of Music. At the same time, pupils from Aberdeen and Edinburgh joined forces for a choral workshop. The day ended with a concert featuring the work they had developed together.

It was a valuable chance for pupils from two specialist music schools to learn from one another, make friends and enjoy performing as a larger group. We are grateful to our Edinburgh hosts for their generous welcome.



English Language Concert

Back at Dyce Academy, our English Language Song Concert gave pupils an opportunity to explore music from a wide range of composers and styles.

Events like this allow young performers to develop their confidence, listen to one another and experience the pleasure of sharing work they have prepared with care.



Term 1 Performances

On Saturday 26 September, our Junior and Senior Performers of the Year, harpist Heather and pianist Petra, gave a 15-minute recital as part of the Recital at Noon series at St Andrew's Cathedral.

The following day, we welcomed prospective pupils and families to our Open Morning and that evening, ACMS singers returned to the cathedral to take part in Choral Evensong.



Preparing For the Festive Season

The festive season will bring two particularly exciting performances.

On Thursday 19 November, ACMS will perform at **Fyvie Castle**, presenting Britten's A Ceremony of Carols before inviting the audience to join in a Christmas singalong. It promises to be a wonderful evening of music in a beautiful setting.

We are also looking forward to our Christmas Concert at **King's Church** on Wednesday 16 December. Items from Britten's A Ceremony of Carols will again feature, alongside familiar carols and other seasonal music. We hope families, friends and members of the wider Dyce Academy community will join us for this special anniversary concert.



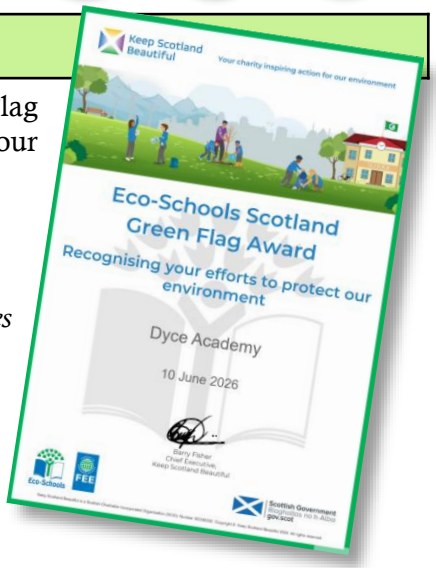
Wednesday 16 December (King's Church)

Thank You

Twenty-five years after ACMS opened its doors, it is a pleasure to see our pupils continuing to approach new challenges with such enthusiasm and commitment. We would like to thank our staff, tutors, parents and carers, and everyone who supports these opportunities. Above all, thank you to our pupils, whose hard work and generosity of spirit have made the start of this anniversary year so memorable.

Mr Kyle

Dyce Academy Achieves Third Eco Schools Green Flag



We are delighted to share that we have achieved our third Green Flag through the Eco-Schools Scotland Awards. In achieving this award, our assessment feedback highlights that:

> *"Work on school grounds and biodiversity is particularly strong. Outdoor learning spaces are now being used across several subjects, with improvements including planting, orchard development, bulb schemes and seed bomb activities helping to increase biodiversity and embed outdoor learning more fully.*
>
> *Strong community partnerships, including Dyce Men's Shed and local garden organisations, have added value, especially through the creation of house planters, which pupils have helped finish and integrate into the outdoor space."*

We are pleased that our continued hard work in this area is recognised through this award and we are now working together on our environmental review to gather the thoughts of staff and pupils to help them shape our next action plan.

Eco Group
Eco Ambassadors

Loch Eil Trip

This term, a small group of pupils and staff headed West for a week of activities, challenges, and skills development at Loch Eil Outward Bound. Situated in the heart of Lochaber, the team had great access to a wide range of outdoor pursuits including; hillwalking, canoeing, camping, scrambling, orienteering, high ropes, amongst others! Throughout the week, pupils took on new challenges and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones; well done to all that took part!

Daniel shares his reflections on this experience below:

> *The week was amazing! I really enjoyed the gorge walking at the forest next to the Outward Bound centre and we made our way downriver from there. We also did some wild swimming and coasteering along the coast. We developed our team work skills through helping each other get up during the gorge walking. We even did some overnight camping where I heard the stags in the distance in the early hours of the morning. I got to know other people in my group too from different year groups and we came together as a good team during the week.*

SFL Department







Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Thursday 17th September the S3 PDA Group opened the doors of Room 101 to parents, staff and Dyce in Bloom members for hot beverages and home bakes.

Tasty treats included apple tarts which the group made with apples they picked themselves at the Community Orchard and bramble jam for the scones and pancakes which they had made from brambles picked at the community orchard.

They invited staff to take part in a baking competition, and the Biscoff Triple Layer Cake was the winner.

All monies raised will be donated to Macmillan where every £41 raised could fund another invaluable hour of medical, practical and emotional support for someone living with cancer.



Well done to all involved!

SFL Department

European Languages Day

This term, pupils celebrated **European Day of Languages** through an event hosted by the Languages faculty.

During this event, pupils took part in quizzes that highlighted the importance of different languages and the cultures of different countries.

Pupils also had the opportunity to learn more about different aspects of European cultures including food and music from different countries.

Pupils had the opportunity to try a range of European food such as; French and Spanish cheese, Italian ham, and Spanish chorizo.

Thank you to everyone that supported this event.

Languages Faculty

'Pandemonium' In The Library For S1s!

Since the start of term our S1s have been learning all about the Library and how to find the books they would like to read.

This has included work on non-fiction, delivered during S1 Skills lessons by myself and Social Subjects teachers. The pupils are divided up into groups and the scenario for the lessons is as follows:

Each group of pupils is a team of agents working for the British Library. The arch-enemy of all libraries is Professor Pandemonium (who is loosely based on Rotwang, the mad scientist in Fritz Lang's film "Metropolis".) The professor has kidnapped the extra member of each team and has them locked in a cellar. He has opened a tap and the water level is rising!



Professor 'Pandemonium'

Pupils are awarded points for the various completed tasks, as well as for behaviour and teamwork. These then translate into points. These points cause the water level to rise, fall or stay the same for each potential victim. The group in each class which has the lowest water level by the end of the third lesson wins a prize.

Mrs Yeoman

Rights Respecting School Award

This term we have begun a new initiative called 'Rights Around the World' where each month we investigate a global issue and look into what UNICEF has been doing to promote and protect children and young people's rights to help children flourish.

We started the term looking at the issue of vaccines in Mongolia and how UNICEF was working hard to ensure every child has access to these vital medical supplies. The Articles we promoted were 3 Rights of the Child, 6 Life, Survival and Development and 24 Health, water, food and environment. Now we are beginning to look at girls' education in Afghanistan.

As the **Rights Respecting School Club** we feel this initiative is important, as it helps everyone to understand the UNCRC articles and how Rights apply not only to them, but to every young person around the world.

We led an assembly to all year groups in September highlighting this issue and sharing what we had learnt, this was important to us as it helped to increase everyone's understanding of rights and our respect for each others' rights.

Next term we look forward to celebrating International Human Rights Day in December.

Eilidh, Mark, Matilda, Julia, and Alice.

Geography Trip To Aberdeen



On Tuesday 15th September, Geography pupils swapped the classroom for the outdoors as they took part in a field trip to investigate urban environments across Aberdeen.

The trip gave pupils the opportunity to put their geographical fieldwork skills into practice and collect primary data that they can use in their assignments.

Throughout the day, pupils compared different parts of the city, investigating how land use, environmental quality, traffic and pedestrian numbers change between locations.

They also had the opportunity to see first-hand the regeneration taking place across the city and consider how these changes are shaping Aberdeen.
A busy and productive day, with around 12,000 steps completed too!

Mrs LeRay

START School Entrepreneurship Programme



This term, S6 Business Management pupils had the opportunity to take part in the START School Entrepreneurship Programme at the University of Aberdeen. We completed a range of activities that helped us develop our entrepreneurial skills, including creating our own business idea.

Our idea was 'Future Found', an employment app designed to help young people gain experience, create CVs, prepare for interviews and find and apply for jobs that suit their skills and interests. We have been paired up with Caroline Laurenson from TL Tech who will be our mentor to support us in further developing our business idea as we continue in the process. We will pitch our ideas to a panel of experts in March 2027.

Aimee

Rock and Soul Variety Night

This term, we were delighted to host a 'Rock and Soul' Variety Night where pupils did a fantastic job entertaining the audience and showcasing their talent, creativity and hard work

The evening provided an opportunity for pupils not only to perform but also to develop their skills in planning and organising an appropriate musical set for an audience. We were thrilled to feature Melodam who performed their own original material (which is available to stream on Spotify).

Money raised from this event will support our upcoming school show.





Expressive Arts Faculty

GB Energy Competition

On Monday 7th September, the GB Energy Challenge Dyce Academy winners, Fayha, Abbie, Osayu, Aleina and Ayomikun, attended Aberdeen Science Centre to take part in the Great British Energy Challenge final against five other schools in Aberdeen. We were the winning team who took part in the challenge before the Summer Holidays against other S4 Physicists.

During this, we had to use our prototypes and projects to design and power a green energy solution for a fictional town that we designed in school, and further cost and develop our plan to pitch to a panel of 'investors' who were a tough crowd who asked us lots of questions.

We had to take into account the cost of different wind turbines, how much energy the town needed, and also the overall happiness of the community and how long it could take to make a profit. I really enjoyed the chance to apply physics to a real life problem, and it was fun meeting the girls in the other teams too as they were all really lovely.

Unfortunately, we didn't win overall, but it was a great experience, with a chance to have a go at the fun activities in the Science Centre, represent Dyce Academy as our school winners!

Ayomikun

Bennachie Challenge



The weather was perfect when we set out from the Bennachie Centre. Not too warm and not wet!

In these conditions, we made our way up the Gordon Trail to Oxen Craig where we sat and enjoyed the view while eating our lunch.

Just to add to the excitement as we were eating, the heavens opened and soaked us all. Even with waterproofs we managed to get a bit wet! This didn't stop us. We walked from Oxen Craig over to Mither Tap where every single one of the pupils scrambled to the summit.

Everyone used lots of resilience to get themselves and their friends through the challenges as they made their way to the top!

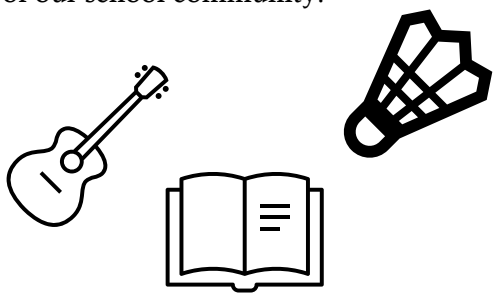
SFL Department

Extra-Curricular Clubs at Dyce Academy

DAY	CLUB	WHO	TIME	LEADER	WHERE
MONDAY	LIFE STARS	SFL	1.00 - 1.40PM	MRS TAYLOR	GAMES HALL
	ATHLETICS	S1-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	S6 PUPILS	ASTRO / GAMES HALL
	WIND BAND	S1-6	1.15 - 1.45PM	MS BRIAN	M2
TUESDAY	RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS CLUB	S1-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	MISS WASHINGTON & MS MACKAY	308 R
	SU CLUB	S1-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	MR MCGREGOR & MR SMITH	304
	BADMINTON	S1-4	1.00 - 1.40PM	MS McCAW	GAMES HALL
	ECO GROUP	S1-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	MS REID & ECO AMBASSADORS	314
	FOOTBALL	S2	1.00 - 1.40PM	MR NICOLL & MISS SWAN	ASTRO OR AWAY
	UKULELE + GUITAR GROUP	S1-6	1.15 - 1.45PM	MRS DAWSON	M1
WEDNESDAY	VOLLEYBALL	S4	1.00 - 1.40PM	MR FITZGERALD	GAMES HALL
	CHOIR	S1-6	1.15 - 1.45PM	MRS KIRKWOOD	M1
THURSDAY	TRAD BAND	S1-6	1.15 - 1.45PM	MRS DAWSON	M1
	BASKETBALL	S1-3	1.00 - 1.40PM	MS McCAW & MR MCIVER	GAMES HALL
	NETBALL	S1-3	2.50 - 3.45 PM	MISS FRASER	GAMES HALL
	ROBOTICS	S4-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	MR. OPOKU	303
	GIRLS FOOTBALL	S1-3	1.00 - 1.40PM	MISS FRASER	ASTRO
FRIDAY	DANCE CLUB (from November)	S1-6	1.15 - 1.45PM	MRS KIRKWOOD	DRAMA 2
	JAPAESE CLUB	S1-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	MR LOZANO	211
	CYCLING CLUB	S1-3	1.10 - 1.40PM	MR MURRAY	MEET MAIN SCHOOL OFFICE
	STUDY CLUB	S4-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	MR McCURDY	210
	RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS CLUB	S1-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	MISS WASHINGTON & MS MCKAY	308R
	FOOTBALL & FPL DISCUSSION CLUB	S1-6	1.00 - 1.40PM	Mr MCGREGOR & S6 PUPILS	304
CHANGEABLE	FOOTBALL	S4-6	AFTER SCHOOL	MR RANKEN & MR PATERSON	ASTRO HOME OR AWAY

At Dyce Academy, we have a wide range of Extra Curricular Clubs on offer.

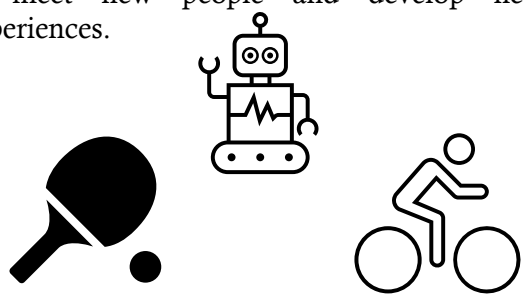
Through these, pupils have opportunities to take part in activities with like minded peers, develop new skills, and contribute to the wider life of our school community.



This term, our Extra Curricular Club timetable was shared through year group assemblies and we hosted an Extra Curricular Club Fair.

During this, pupils came along to see what was on offer from the different clubs that are available. Pupils were able to sign up to activities, speak to the teacher or Ambassadors in charge of the clubs and ask any questions to find out more about what happens during the clubs at lunchtime & after school.

We encourage all pupils to consider joining an Extra Curricular Club as these are a great way to meet new people and develop new experiences.



Our Extra Curricular Club timetable is shared on pupil Google Classrooms, on posters around the school, and shared here for all to see. Pupils can come along any time to the clubs that they are interested in throughout the year.

Ms McCaw