



Christmas Bulletin 2016

Head Teacher Message

As we come to the end of another year full of so many successes for our school community I am delighted to once again be sending home a bulletin packed with successes and achievements of our young people.

Congratulations to all the pupils who have been successful in so many different ways this year and thank you to all the staff who continue to go the extra mile to support them.

I am pleased to inform you of two new appointments to the staff. Mr John Turley is returning to Northfield Academy to join the Targeted Support team and we look forward to welcoming Mr Turley back. Mr Jibin John is also joining the Maths department in January. During this term we have welcomed to our staff Miss Ashleigh Smart in the English department and Miss Sarah Ferguson to Art and Design. We are very sorry to say goodbye to Miss Rachel O'Connor who is moving to Edinburgh and Miss Nadia Harrypaul who is taking up a post in Aberdeenshire. We wish both every success in their new role.

On Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th we once again hosted the Northfield ASG Christmas Concert which showcased so many of our talented young people. The evening was enjoyed by all those who joined the audience.

On Tuesday 20th December we held a firework display to mark the end of our 60th anniversary.

Members of the public were invited to join us on the Astroturf pitch for a display which will live long in the memory of our community.

As 2017 approaches it is with sadness that this will be my last end of term bulletin to you. My last day at Northfield will be Friday 17th February. I would like to thank parents and the wider community for their continued support. The focus must continue to be "aspire to be outstanding" as the school increases opportunity and continues to work hard to improve exam results.

Finally, on behalf of myself and all the staff at Northfield Academy, I wish our extended community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am sure 2017 will be another year full of successes as Northfield Academy goes from strength to strength.



60th Anniversary Photograph

To celebrate Northfield Academy's 60th anniversary we took on the mammoth task of organising a whole school photograph to include over 600 pupils and more than 80 members of staff. No mean feat! This unique, celebration photograph was captured from the skies above by a drone.

Aspire to be outstanding



Poetry Slam

On the 27th of October 2016, a group of S3 pupils from Northfield Academy attended the Scottish youth poetry slam final in Aberdeen. Northfield Academy competed against four other schools, aiming to deliver strong messages through the art of spoken word. Steffy DeSouza, came joint first place in the individual class.

Steffy, who had never been involved in a poetry slam competition before, expressed her thoughts and feelings about moving to a new school and how kind people had been to her, through her performance. After being asked about how long it took her to learn her poem, Steffy said: "it took one day. To me it wasn't just a poem, it was my life". Poetry is about expressing certain feelings and experiences, and Steffy definitely managed to do this.

A huge congratulation is in order for Steffy,

Open Morning

The Northfield Academy 60th Anniversary Open Morning for former pupils, staff and friends of the school, happened on Saturday 5th November. The morning include tours of the school and the opportunity to purchase some of the 60th Anniversary products. Those who came along had a great time reminiscing about their school days and looking back at the school archives

Aberdeen City Leadership Academy

Nine of our S3 pupils travelled to Loch Eil to take part in the first Aberdeen City Leadership Academy. It was a tough week full of outdoor activities such as raft building, scrambling, abseiling and team building activities. The hardest part of the course was a 2 day expedition which involved a 5-7k hike each day and overnight camping. The pupils had to carry all their own equipment, build tents and cook their own food at night and in the morning. The group did tremendously well and all deserve a pat on back as it certainly was a tough week in the cold and wet weather. The pupils who were involved were – Hayley Gorman, Hannah Milne, Jasmine Dolan, Rhiann Sadler, Erin Stephen, Jordan Winton, Ross Kennedy, Woody Gardiner and AJ Adams.





Alchemy Project

Northfield Academy has been given a unique and exciting opportunity to borrow a Peter Chang bracelet from Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums Collection for one term. The bracelet will be used to inspire teaching and learning across all year groups within the Art and Design department. We have to develop pupil's understanding of social and cultural influence, knowledge of combining science and art to form an 'Alchemy' project, develop creative imaginations and build upon craft skills. Our Higher pupils will base their SQA design folio around this theme, and using new and recycled materials they will design and make their own piece of Alchemy influenced jewellery.



Futurechef Competition

Seven S3 pupils (Megan Ridgeway, Sophie McKessick, Shannan Foster-Morris, Lauren McQueen, Shaun Milne, Alicia Beattie and Jordan Rait) took part in the school heat of the Futurechef competition where they had to cook a surprise dish; turkey stir fry. The dishes were judged by Mr Hendry, Mr MacKenzie and guest judge Ann Campbell (Chef at Summerhill Hotel). Megan Ridgeway was the winner and will now be mentored by Ann for the Aberdeen final to be held at the college in January.

Go Compose Workshop

The National 5 music class took part in a Go Compose workshop with three musicians from Red Note Ensemble. Pupils worked on composition using graphic scores and notation. Each pupil composed a short piece for flute, clarinet and cello which was then played to the class by the musicians. It was a great opportunity to be creative and hear these instruments being played live by professional musicians.

Duke of Edinburgh Update

On the 21st September, a group of eight senior pupils set off on their practice expedition as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Accompanied by Mr Lawrence and Miss Barrie, the pupils covered around 28 kilometres over two days, crossing all types of terrain in North Fetteresso and camping at Knockburn Loch. The teamwork demonstrated throughout the expedition was phenomenal. The qualifying expedition is planned to take place in April 2017. In the meantime, the group will continue to participate in the physical, skill and volunteering sections of Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Girls in Engineering Conference

To encourage girls to consider engineering as a career an event was held at St. Margaret's School for Girls in partnership with the University of Aberdeen. Amy Campbell, Meghan Clark, Kelsey Henderson and Reiley Morrison heard presentations, saw the University of Aberdeen racing car and participated in some practical challenges. You may have even seen them on the BBC Scotland news that night.



S1—Loch Eil

This year our Outward Bound course at Loch Eil near Fort William for S1 pupils was for the complete week. This meant that our pupils were able to get more opportunity to develop their resilience, can do attitude and team working. The pupils all were on the Loch in canoes, rock climbing at the base of Ben Nevis and a day expedition on one of the surrounding hills. The weather was superb although a bit chilly and a highlight appears to be the Hot Chocolate and biscuits before bed. This week was a success and we have already got our reservation in for next year.

RGU Northern Lights

A new group of S1 pupils were introduced to the Northern Lights programme in October. They have had a in-school workshop and have visited the RGU Garthdee Campus where they participated in a number of activities including learning about stop animation and digital painting.

The S2 group have also had an in school workshop where they worked with former pupil and student at Gray's school of art, Jade Gilbert, to design a new logo for the Northern Lights programme.

Access To'

RGU run 'Access To' programmes which aims to give S5 and S6 pupils the opportunity to engage in subject focused activities and experience university life. Starting in September pupils attended weekly lessons on a subject of their choice with final showcase events being held at the end of November. Congratulations to the pupils who completed a variety of courses including Nursing and Midwifery, Engineering, Computing, Media and Communication and Business Management Northern Lights programme.

St Nicholas Rotary Christmas Boxes

This year we worked in partnership with the St Nicholas Rotary to collect Christmas Boxes to be distributed to young people in Africa who will not have much at Christmas. Between Bramble Brae, Quarryhill, West Park, Holy Family and Northfield Academy we collected almost 200 boxes which are now on their way to their destination. It was a team effort with our senior prefects leading the charge in school and we hope to better the total next year.



Former Pupil Success

Congratulations to former pupil and captain of school football team, PC Russell Masson, who was honoured with a 'Scottish Police Federation Police Bravery Award' for his outstanding acts of bravery during the Ballater floods alongside two colleagues.

Well done Russell!

#oneofourown



Red and White Day

On Friday 25th November, Northfield along with a number of other schools across Aberdeen city and shire took part in a 'Red & White Day' ahead of Aberdeen FC's appearance in the Betfred Cup Final on Sunday 27th November.

The day was a huge success and fun was had by all as well as raising some funds for our chosen charity the STV Appeal and AFCCT. Mr Hendry explained: **"Our partnership with both the Trust and the Football Club goes back a number of years and we really liked the idea of marking the club's appearance in the Betfred Cup Final by doing something a little different. Pupils will be given the chance to add a touch of red and white into their school uniform on the day."**



Staff v Pupils Charity Football Match

During achievement periods S5 pupils have been participating in a number of activities to achieve level 5 units of the SQA Personal Development Award. One group organised a Staff v Pupils football match. The 30 minute 7-a-side game was played in great spirit with the Staff winning 3-1, £58 was raised for the Charities Committee by spectators donating to watch. Other activities have included a movie evening, Christmas crafts and growing plants from seeds and bulbs before selling them to staff.

YPI

The S5 pupils have taken part in YPI (Youth Philanthropy Initiative) this term. The project asks the pupils to research local charities and choose one to champion in a school based final in front of the rest of their year. The final was excellently arranged by the Higher Leadership class and included live music, fantastic hosts and an unusual advert break provided by the 118 118 team... All the groups involved did brilliantly but Zoe Constable, Amy Rayne and Kayleigh Stephen from 5M were crowned as Northfield champions and they won their chosen charity, 'Hamish Dear's Warm Hugs', £3000. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!

BP Visits

On the 25th November and 2nd December all our S2 pupils visited the BP headquarters in Dyce. The pupils were involved in activities to develop their knowledge of the workplace in general and also the Oil and Gas industry which also includes the renewable energy sector. The pupils participated well and were a credit to the school and were commented on by the staff at BP.



Go4Set Launch

Go4SET was successfully launched on Thursday 10th November with pupils developing their team and learning what it means to be an engineer. Although the balloon chair failed spectacularly and the ball got stuck on the rollercoaster the team did win a box of chocolates for the best coaster name. The team have now begun the hard work of researching and designing a sustainable school on an island the size of Northfield Academy and will meet on Tuesday lunchtimes.



Summer Fair

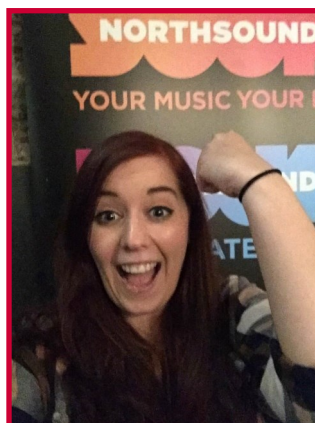
On Saturday 11th June, we once again hosted our Summer Fair which was the best yet. With so much on offer from Beat the Goalie to home baking, there was something for everyone. We were delighted that a number of local clubs and primary schools supported the event. Thanks must also go to the St Nicholas Rotary for their support. It would not have been possible without their help.

Senior Football

The Senior team have ended the year on a high by making their way to the Quarter Final of the JM Low Cup. This cup combines both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Schools and is always very competitive with over 22 schools taking part. They look forward, with confidence, to facing Mearns Academy in the Quarter Final after the Christmas Break.



Granite City Gets Ghoulish



The 31st October is said to be the scariest time of the year but for Northfield's very own Miss Craig, this year it was the 29th. On that very date, nine of Aberdeen's most fearless teachers experienced something much

worse than a class full of excited pupils. They would be locked in Aberdeen's most haunted building, The Tolbooth. So what venue would be better to house a spooky game show? The teachers competed to see who could stay in the Tolbooth the longest. They had to complete tasks and challenges like find and speak to ghosts or just walk about the haunted building. The entire event was live streamed on YouTube for people all over the world to watch. Well done Miss Craig you are certainly braver than most!



Northfield Meets Everest

Writer and Everest expert Matt Dickenson was with us again in December and spent the day working with S1-6 classes in the English department. Matt is a film-maker and writer who is best known for his award winning novels and his documentary work for National Geographic Television, Discovery Channel and the BBC. He has been a friend of Northfield Academy for many years now, but on this visit we wanted him to work with smaller groups of pupils in their own classroom environment, to try to unlock their creative imagination and hone their writing skills: skills they need to produce a folio of writing at National 5 and Higher levels. Matt encouraged teachers and pupils alike to write freely and with ambition and led them through a series of writing activities to help them put their thoughts on the page.

AFCCT Update

Brandon Alexander was chosen to be a member of a group of young people representing Aberdeen FC Community Trust at a European Football Community Convention in Holland. Brandon was chosen because of his involvement with the school football team, outstanding attitude in school and his volunteering. Groups of young people from a number of European clubs took part in the week and shared experiences and ideas that they could each take back to their own clubs and community! Well Done Brandon.

Young Enterprise

A group of senior pupils are taking part in the Young Enterprise Scheme and created their very own business called "BUNDL." Their idea is themed gift sets and the team have developed a range of 3 products, an "Xmas Eve Bundl" a "Movie Night In Bundl" and a "Pamper Bundl". They have competed in two Young Enterprise Trade Fayres and won awards for "Best Sales and Marketing", "Best Stall" The Mystery Shopper Award" and the "Overall Winner". The team are continuing to sell their products at events in the local community.





Curling

Northfield Academy have established a link with Curl Aberdeen, with the aim of promoting Curling with our youngsters as a new and different sport to try. 7 pupils attended two free after school sessions where they learned about the history of Curling, the rules of the sport and, most importantly, how to play it! Great fun was had by all and, surprisingly, no one slipped on the ice! If any pupil would like to find out more about Curling, please speak to Mr McKinnie in the PE Dept.

Kieran Henderson - Young Coach of the Year

It has been a remarkable year for our former pupil Kieran who left school in May this year. He has so far completed over 500 hours of volunteering through Aberdeen FC Community Trust (AFCCT) and his development, commitment, and desire to help others through football is nothing short of inspirational.

The 17-year-old picked up the Young Coach of the Year award at the UK Sports Awards, which were hosted in London by Princess Anne.

It completed a remarkable hat-trick for Keiran as he also won Junior Coach of the year at the Aberdeen's Sports Awards in October.

Keiran was also named Young Coach of the Year at the Sport Scotland Awards in Glasgow last year.

The triple accolade is a reward for the many hours he spends helping others through football.

New Year Resolution

Like so many people moving into the new year, we are going to work on a New Year resolution. Sugary drinks have once again been reappearing in school and classes which is very concerning. From the beginning of next term, pupils will not be allowed to bring in sugary drinks. Sugary drinks will also not be allowed in the social area/corridor during morning break and lunch. We urge you to ask what your child is having for lunch every day some of you may be shocked!

Dates for Next Term	
Monday 9th January	Start of term
Wednesday 18th January	S4/5/6 Consultation Evening
Friday 20th January	P6/7 Open Morning
Monday 30th January - Friday 3rd February	P6/7 Parents Open Morning
Friday 10th February	S1-3 report Issued
Monday 13th February	Mid term holiday
Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th February	In-service days (pupils off)
Monday 20th—Friday 24th February	S1 Consultation week
Wednesday 22nd March	SQA Information evening
Friday 31st March	Last Day of Term