



Northfield Academy Newsletter

Summer 2017

HEAD TEACHER'S COMMENTS

Dear pupils, parents, carers, staff, partners and friends of Northfield Academy – the Northfield Academy family,

As we approach the end of another school year, I am pleased to write to you with some highlights of this term and to pay tribute to those within our school community for their continued enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to ensuring the highest quality of opportunities for our pupils.

As you will read in this newsletter, it has been an incredibly busy term with significant changes in the school's senior leadership team, change of timetable, SQA examinations, school sports day, school fair, school awards ceremony, school prom, primary 7 visits, end of term assemblies and much, much more! As we bring this academic session to an end, we are already planning for the new session that starts on 22 August 2017 for pupils.

On behalf of the senior leadership team in school, I am immensely proud of the entire Northfield Academy family who have collaborated well this session to empower the young people of Northfield Academy. To each and every one of you, I hope that you have a wonderful and refreshing summer holiday and I simply say 'thank you and continue to aspire to be outstanding!'

Yours sincerely

Michael G A Will
Acting Head Teacher

CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS AWARDS CEREMONY 2017



An excited Northfield Academy family of pupils, parents/carers, staff and school partners gathered in the splendour of the Beach Ballroom to celebrate our 12th annual awards ceremony on Tuesday 13th June 2017.

The ceremony celebrated the attainment, achievement and success of over 250 pupils and showcased everything that was excellent about the school. Awards were presented to celebrate a wide variety of achievements including school work, voluntary work, music and sport. During the evening, guests were entertained by our talented school musicians and a special guest choir from Muirfield Primary School who were excellent. The ceremony also featured speeches from Gayle Gorman (Director of Education & Children's Services) and Kerry Reilly (Chief Executive, YMCA Scotland).

The four final awards of the evening to be presented were:

RGU Prize - Developing School Ethos:
Robyn Connell

University of Aberdeen, School of Education Excellence Award:
Rianne Gorman

Lord Provost's Cup for Academic Attainment:
Dean Wilkinson

AFC House Championship Trophy:
Macbeth House

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 22 August 2017

- Pupils return to school

Tuesday 5 September 2017

- Parent Council at 6.30pm

Thursday 21 September 2017

- School Sponsored Walk

Friday 22 September 2017

& Monday 25 September 2017

- September Holiday Weekend

Thursday 12 October 2017

- School photographer in school

Monday 16 October 2017

to Friday 27 October 2017

- October Holidays

Tuesday 31 October 2017

- Parent Council at 6.30pm

Friday 17 November 2017

- In-service Training Day

Monday 20 November 2017

- S4/S5/S6 Parent's Evening

Tuesday 5 December 2017

- S3 Parent's Evening

Monday 25 December 2017

to Friday 5 January 2018

- Christmas Holidays

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Aspire to be outstanding

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Top Left to Right: Mr Dow, Mr Will & Mr Hose
Bottom Left to Right: Mrs Hunter & Dr Campbell

Since March 2017, the senior leadership team leading the school has undergone some significant changes. Depute Head Teacher, Mr Will, has been seconded to act as Head Teacher of the school. Principal Teacher of Guidance, Mr Hose, has been appointed as Acting Depute Head Teacher. The senior leadership team, completed by Dr Campbell, Mr Dow and Mrs Hunter, together have over 80 years experience working in Northfield Academy and are committed to providing strong leadership that enables the school and wider community to develop, promote and sustain an aspirational vision which underpins our continuous improvement.

STAFF CHANGES

We bid farewell to a number of staff at the end of this session. Miss Gibb (Business Education) will leave to continue her career in China. Mr Turley (Targeted Support) has been appointed to a similar post in his home village of Aboyne. Mrs McNulty (PSA) is leaving to join the NHS. Probationary Teachers, Miss Harris (Biology), Miss Middleton (Mathematics) and Mr Stroud (Computing) will commence their careers as fully registered teachers in other schools now that they

have completed their first year probation as qualified teachers. We are grateful for the service of all five teachers and trust that they are successful in the next chapter of their careers.

Looking ahead to next session we are delighted to welcome onto our permanent staff from August 2017, Ms Blatherwick (RME), Mr Hunter (Biology), Miss Smart (English), Mrs Stefan (Modern Languages) and Mrs Wallace (Targeted Support). We will also welcome four new probationer teachers to the school next session: Mr Brown (Music), Miss Murchison (English), Miss Skilling (Business Education) and Miss Venuat (French).

Finally, we will say goodbye temporarily to Mrs MacLeod (RME/RMPS) who will commence maternity leave at the end of the term to become a mother by giving birth to her first child. We wish Mrs MacLeod and her husband well as they start their own journey as parents.

SENIOR PREFECTS 2017-18



After a competitive interview process, Calvin Dunbar and Shannon McNulty were appointed as school captains for 2017-18. With their appointment, Calvin and Shannon will have the responsibility of leading our prefect team of 46 prefects in

school in addition to representing the school at events locally and nationally. Supporting our school captains will be our 6 House Captains who also have a responsibility for leading their respective House Council meetings, ensuring that young people have a voice in how the school improves. Our six House Captains will be recruited on the last week of term. Congratulations to Calvin and Shannon on their appointments and we trust that they will be outstanding in their new roles.

CHARITIES COMMITTEE



This year's Charities Committee has been bigger and better than ever, with a committed group of 16 senior pupils organising events throughout the year. 2017 saw the return of the 12 days of Christmas and the second annual Lip Sync Battle, but a real highlight was the first ever Burn's Day Staff Lunch. The committee members shone as they 'addressed the haggis', 'toasted the lassies' and even showcased some traditional highland dancing. The overall total raised this year is £2229.96 which will be divided between the STV Children's Appeal and Red International.



KILTWALK FOR STV CHILDREN'S APPEAL



After the Senior Management Team threw down the gauntlet last year by taking on the Aberdeen Kiltwalk, a group of senior Charities Committee pupils and staff had to step up to this year's challenge! The weather was very kind during the 8 mile 'Wee Wander' and a great day was had by all. Donations from supportive friends and family raised £350, which the Vodafone Foundation doubled to bring the overall total to an incredible £700. Thank you to Vodafone, all the staff and pupils who took part and those who donated.

LIFE SAVING TEEN HONOURED



Congratulations to senior student, Stephen Worrall, who was honoured by Robert Gordon University recently for saving the life of a woman whilst delivering newspapers after school! With the woman collapsing in front of him, Stephen performed CPR until the ambulance arrived. His quick-thinking and actions saved the

woman's life and were hailed in the press at the time. Stephen, who aspires to study a healthcare degree at university next year, has recently completed RGU's Access to Nursing & Midwifery course and, following his heroism, was invited back to RGU's School of Nursing and Midwifery to meet the teaching staff he hopes to learn from soon. Stephen was presented with a signed copy of one of the course's recommended textbooks, several chapters of which were worked on by members of the RGU team.

LIP SYNC BATTLE



Earlier in the term, the Northfield Academy Charities Committee, led by RMPS teachers Charlotte Macleod and Paul Rorie and including an array of senior pupils, held an incredibly successful Lip Sync Battle in order to raise money for the STV Children's Appeal. The night included six Lip Sync videos, performed by both teachers and pupils all competing to win the notorious Lip Sync Battle trophy. The audience was amazed by the astonishing amount of time and effort that was put in to make the night such a success and led to an incredible atmosphere, for everyone to enjoy. STV cameras were also present and recorded most of the night to show the phenomenal effort that the Charities committee had put in to raise money for those who are in need. Overall, the night raised a

whopping £620 from tickets, popcorn and sweet sales, and even had a raffle with an array of prizes up for grabs. The winners, performed by the PE teachers, feel a sense of victory after performing their 'Fresh Prince of Bel-air' video. It had the audience laughing and smiling until the very end of the night.

SCHOOL FAIR



On Saturday 10th June the school once again had a successful Summer Fair in partnership with St Nicholas Rotary Club. Although the weather took a turn for the worse, there was still a large turnout and £2500 was raised for school funds and the charities St Nicholas Rotary support. A number of associated primary schools also had stalls at the fair to raise funds for their individual schools. This year we had a 'Segway Circuit' which proved popular as did our human fruit machine. Pupils also enjoyed the soak the teacher stall with the English teaching staff getting a real soaking! We hope that everyone enjoyed the morning and thank you to all involved in organising the fair and for those who came and supported the school.



CLIMBING ROOM OPENS



Our new climbing wall facility was opened by former pupil, George Stevenson, on Monday 19th June. Built by Scott Muir at Dream Climbing Walls Ltd, the state of the art facility is a first for a school in the city. Moreover the new climbing wall facility is considered one of the best in any school in Scotland. The climbing wall facility was built in an unused classroom and has 30 set climbing routes. The bouldering wall has 20 set problems to challenge young people. The climbing wall will be used during PE lessons and during lunchtime and after-school clubs. The project was funded entirely through grants, donations and a highly successful rock concert at the Beach Ballroom featuring Ricky Warwick of the Black Star Riders, as organised by Steve Petrie of Balfour Beattie. Significant donations by former pupils and supporters of the school were also encouraged by Mr Stevenson. Undoubtedly our climbing room is a fantastic resource for our pupils to be inspired and challenged and represents a significant investment in the health and wellbeing of young people in the Northfield community. We are grateful for the support of our generous donors and supporters who have transformed this project vision into a reality for our pupils to aspire to be outstanding.

ASPIRE NORTH



Aspire North continue to work with young people in S3- S6. This term the S3 pupils were taken to Transition Extreme where they were encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and try a range of difficult tasks. The group also participated in a team building exercise to create the sturdiest, comfiest chair out of balloons. S4 – S6 pupils have been supported in developing study skills and planning for their future after leaving school. Parents of all S5 and S6 pupils were given the opportunity to meet the team to discuss finance and the application process for college or university. Parents of S3 pupils were invited to learn more about the Aspire North Programme and what the young people had been doing.

Parents of all S4-S6 pupils will be invited to attend a workshop in supporting pupils with their studies on Tuesday 12th September.

PRAYER SPACE

Prayer space has once again visited Northfield Academy. This year there was a focus on using natural materials to reflect on our lives and express our thoughts. The “Fear Zone” allowed us to write and display notes about what makes us worry and the “Letting Go Zone” gave us the opportunity to drop stones into water to demonstrate letting these concerns go. We used working with wood and sand to

think about where we are in life, where we hope to be and what is important to us. The school chaplains also gave the opportunity to post personal concerns in a box for others to pray for and we could write messages on the prayer wall about our hopes for our future, our friends and our families. Once again it was great to think about RME topics and our health and wellbeing, while also being creative and thinking about these issues in a new and active way.



The Northern Lights Programme 2016/17 concluded with a celebration event at RGU. Pupils, parents and staff were invited to hear about the activities the pupils had been involved in and see examples of the finished projects. Former pupil Jade Gilbert launched a new Northern Lights logo which she had helped the S2 pupils to design. S1 pupils received a bespoke RGU and Northfield Academy hoodie whilst the S2 group were given certificates in scrolls and a commemorative pen to mark their completion of the programme.



SALTIRE AWARDS SMASHES RECORDS



After a year of hard work and sacrifice, the amazing achievements of young people, who volunteer their own time to support the school and fellow students, were recognised at our annual awards ceremony. Thirty young people were awarded Saltire Awards constituting 3600 hours of volunteering. Reflecting on last year's total of around 2500 hours, which was considered an incredible total, the young people have well and truly smashed that record. The majority of the volunteering was undertaken by Senior Phase students who have taken on the mantle and responsibility of being Prefects and given their time to make sure that school is a fun place to be by performing duties in the hall at break and lunch times; planning, organising and delivering charity events; providing supportive opportunities for young pupils; giving time to Police Scotland Young Volunteers (PSYV); and organising their own Leavers' Prom to name but a few of the things they do to contribute to the life of Northfield Academy and the wellbeing of the Northfield Family.

None of this work happens in isolation however and thanks go to the school staff that also give their time to develop opportunities for our young volunteers. Thank you also to PC Minty, the Youth Development Team, Mike Melvin at ACVO and finally to the outstanding young people of Northfield who give so much of their time.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Congratulations go out to Travis Houghton who was presented with an award from Scott Stevens (Team Leader) of Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team. Travis undertook his Volunteer section for his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award with Aberdeen MRT. The team wanted to recognise the contribution Travis made to the ongoing work and duties throughout the six months he spent with them. As part of Travis' placement he carried out a sponsored event and also participated in the team's annual sponsored walk. Altogether Travis raised over £1000 for the rescue team. Fabulous effort Travis and well done!

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD



This session we have begun our journey towards becoming a Rights Respecting School by registering with UNICEF. While the rights of the child have always been important to us, this is an initiative by UNICEF to raise pupils awareness of their rights and how to respect the rights of others. As

part of this work a letter has been sent out to families, pupils have participated in assemblies and our staff participated in discussions. To help us understand where we are and what steps we need to take next, all staff and pupils have completed surveys. By the end of this term we will have our 'Recognition of Achievement' which is the first step on the journey. We have also formed a steering group of pupils and staff to take this initiative forward and develop our plan to achieve Level 1 next session. Our ultimate goal is that within 2 years we will have achieved level 2 and been recognised as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Keep an eye on social media to find out how we are doing.

ACTIVE GIRLS COMMITTEE



Congratulations to Rhiann Sadler and Hayley Gorman who have been elected on to Aberdeen's Active Girls Committee. This committee is a pioneering Aberdeen initiative, empowering young girls to increase participation in sport. The Active Girls Committee, comprises of 15 pupils from nine different schools in Aberdeen and is one of the first of its kind in Scotland. The girls have pledged to work together to get more girls active across the city and signed the Book of Agreement which they created for the Committee to follow in this pursuit. The initiative has been facilitated by Active Schools Aberdeen and we are proud of Rhiann and Hayley's commitment to the committee.

SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Our Under-13 team had a good second half to the season and were within one game of winning the 2nd Division title. Three good home wins and a draw set us up for a final must win game with Robert Gordon's - sadly it was not to be! Reflecting on the season, we were encouraged by feedback from our opponents about the positive attitude and determination of our players in every game. Looking ahead, it is onwards and upwards for the Under-14 League next season.

SPORTS DAY



On Wednesday the 31st of May the 5th annual Northfield Academy Sports Day took place. This was again a huge success with 163 of our pupils taking part in track and field events across the day. The initial qualifying heats were held during PE class time and the top athletes in S1, 2 and 3 were invited to compete on the day for medals and for house points towards the overall house cup. There were some fantastic competitions on the day and there was a tremendous spirit shown by the competitors this year. Well done to all competitors and congratulations to Wallace House who were the overall winners.

YPI



In June, Northfield Academy's winning YPI group, Zoe Constable, Amy Rayne and Kayleigh Stephen, were invited down to the National Celebration Event in Perth to thank them for the £3000 they raised for their chosen charity, Hamish Dear's Warm Hugs. The day was an inspirational mixture of musical acts, speeches and showcases from school based YPI groups from around Scotland.

BUNDL



Our 2016-17 Higher Business Management class, called 'Bundl', participated in the Young Enterprise Scotland competition and by-passed all other schools in Aberdeen City to get to the final. The Bundl team won 'Best Presentation' and 'Overall Runner Up' for the Grampian region. Following on from the finals event, Nexen invited our pupils to attend a working lunch to showcase their presentation skills to staff in Nexen. Throughout the year, Bundl designed, crafted, marketed and sold their own range of products and made a profit of £750. Congratulations to the Bundl team!

ENTERPRISING MATHS



The Enterprise Maths competition 2017 was held at The Altens Thistle Hotel on Friday 16th June 2017 and Northfield Academy was represented by four pupils, Hayley, Nathan, Charley and Ethan. The pupils, accompanied by Mr John, competed in a variety of events which tested their mathematical skills in different ways. The Enterprise Maths day was designed to be an exciting and enjoyable day that was promoting the image of mathematics and provided a stimulating challenge for pupils in schools from Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. All four pupils were fantastic and gave an energetic performance.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

As part of an ongoing authority wide initiative all schools, including Northfield Academy, are reviewing their Anti-Bullying Policy. The school has drafted a more user friendly working document that has currently been discussed with pupils and staff. The new policy will very soon be placed on the school's website for parents to view. The school will evaluate the impact of the new policy by the end of next session and opportunities will be provided for parents, staff and our young people, throughout the session, to provide feedback as to the effectiveness of the policy and how it can be improved and embedded into the everyday workings of the school.

CHANGES TO SQA QUALIFICATIONS IN 2017/18

Last September, Scottish Government announced changes were to be made to National Qualifications over a period of three years: Session 2017- 2018 – National 5 Qualifications; Session 2018 – 2019 – Higher Qualifications; Session 2019 – 2020 – Advanced Higher Qualifications. At present we have only been given information about how the National 5 qualification will be affected.

The fundamental change to all National 5 qualifications is the removal of all assessments from course awards to allow more time for learning and teaching. The removal of the unit assessments means that the course assessments have been strengthened with each National 5 course either having an:

- extension of the existing examination paper
- extension or modification of the existing item of coursework
- addition of a new examination paper
- addition of a new item of coursework

This means that there will now be an examination in subjects which up to now had none, for example:

- Administration & IT
- Hospitality – Practical Cookery
- Practical Metalworking
- Practical Woodworking

A further change announced by SQA is the grade boundary for a Grade D which will be awarded to a candidate who achieves a notional 40% - 49% in the examination. Previously, Grade D was given only to those with 45% or above.

How will these changes affect your child?

Pupils will only be entered for the National 5 award if the school is confident that they will succeed in getting at least 40% in the course. If pupils are not ready for presentation at National 5 they will be presented at National 4 in S4 and may also be able to cover some elements of the National 5 course.

In 2017-2018 the SQA have indicated that a small number of candidates may have the opportunity to achieve a National 4 Award by using Recognising Positive Achievement arrangements (RPA). Candidates who are thought to be on the borderline of achieving/not achieving National 5 can complete all the unit assessments for National 5 **and** the Added Value Award for the corresponding National 4 Award. Candidates will then be awarded the National 4 qualification if they gain less than 40% in the National 5 course. Candidates must attempt the examination to be eligible for RPA. This is a considerable amount of extra assessment, given the increased assessment demands in the National 5 coursework and examination.

All the above information has also been shared with pupils so that they are aware of the changes and the implications of them. More information is available on the SQA website:
www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges

INSPECTION OF YOUTH WORK IN SCHOOLS

The Community Learning and Development service of Aberdeen City Council was inspected recently and one of the areas

inspected was the Youth Work in School provision at Northfield Academy. The inspection report stated that:

Young people in Northfield Academy who would benefit from one to one or small group work support are being identified sooner as a result of strong partnership working. Learners are well supported with activities tailored to their needs and delivered at an appropriate pace. Learners recognise their progress and a few would like to develop their leadership skills further. The structure of one to one work now needs improved work to ensure learners are clear about their learning goals. The establishment of a Looked After and Accommodated group at Northfield Academy is having positive impacts. A few young people are now engaging better with school, progressing to other learning and attendance is improving. The group have developed a helpful guide to the Children's Hearing system based on their experiences. Achievements are recognised as part of an annual celebration of success event. Youth workers and prefects are helping vulnerable young people develop their interpersonal skills. Prefects are well-supported and gaining awards for their volunteering. (Education Scotland, 22/6/17)

Congratulations to Colin Lemmon, Youth Work in Schools Development Officer, and to all those involved in the hard work of planning, organising and delivering high quality Youth Work in school.

HEAD TEACHER DROP-IN SESSIONS

Mike Will (our Acting Head Teacher) offers an open drop-in session for parents on a Monday after school (16:00 - 17:00). You are free just to drop in, but to save you hanging around why don't you contact him by email via the school office. This invite is extended to any other member of the school community who would just like to pop in for a chat, request an up-date, raise a concern, offer support to the school, share an idea, praise a member of staff or simply introduce themselves.



PARENT COUNCIL

Parents are crucial partners in the learning process and we are pleased to have an active Parent Council in school. The success of the Parent Council to support school improvement always requires new parents to volunteer and join the Parent Council. The Parent Council meets six times during the school year on a Tuesday evening from 6.30pm – 8.00pm. If you are interested in being involved with the Parent Council then please contact the school office and we will forward your contact details directly to the chairperson of the Parent Council.

REMINDERS

Appointments

The staff of Northfield Academy work incredibly well and incredible hard. Unfortunately it is not possible to meet visitors in school without an appointment. If you would like to meet with a member of school staff then please contact the school office to arrange a time that is mutually convenient to meet.

Attendance Line – 01224 717589

Northfield Academy expects pupils to attend at all times and where possible to make appointments outwith school hours. Inevitably, there will be occasions where this is not possible and pupils require time out of school for medical reasons or appointments. It is the parent / carer's responsibility to inform the school if your pupil is unable to attend. It is greatly appreciated when parents or carers call the Attendance Line and leave a message clearly stating the pupil's name and class along with the reason for their absence.

Lateness

The school day starts at 8.35am with a bell signalling to pupils that it is time to make their way to their tutor class for the second bell at 8.40am. Registers are taken during tutor time and it is expected that all pupils attend their tutor class. Anyone arriving after this time should sign the late register at D Block door. This information is passed to Guidance on a daily basis and lateness is recorded on a pupil's file which is not good.

Uniform Sales

School uniform can be purchased directly from the school. During the summer holiday period, the school office will be open on **Monday 17th** and **Tuesday 18th July** during the hours of 10am – 1pm. School Uniform can also be purchased during the in-service day on Monday 21 August 2017 during the hours of 10am-2pm. Uniform costs are: black sweatshirt (£10), polo shirts (£5), school tie (£5) and school badges (£3.50). Parents / carers are reminded that clothing with sporting logos, tracksuits and hooded tops are not acceptable items of clothing to wear in school as items of non-uniform compromise the security and safety of everybody in school.

Celebration of Success Awards Ceremony photographs

All photographs from our 2017 Celebration of Success Annual Awards Ceremony, held in the Beach Ballroom, are available to download via Google Photos by visiting <https://goo.gl/photos/3et57oN5VzqT89zy9>

Session 2017/18 commences

The new academic session for pupils commences at **0835** on **Tuesday 22 August 2017**.

Aspire to be outstanding
