



# Kemnay Academy

October 2016

# NEWSLETTER

**Dear Parent, Carer or Colleague**

Welcome to the first Newsletter for Academic session 2016-2017. Welcome is extended particularly to parents and carers of new S1 pupils. I hope that this regular newsletter gives you an insight into the life and work of Kemnay academy.

At the end of the summer holidays, our Senior pupils received their certificates from the SQA (Scottish Qualification Authority). Each of them deserves congratulations for his/her success. This year saw a significant success in the number of young people achieve N5 awards and higher awards. This success is due to the commitment and hard work from both pupils, parents and staff.

Our implementation of Curriculum for Excellence continues. The main focus for the school is on the consolidation of National Qualification courses. We will keep you up to date with progress and pupils in the Senior Phase will have additional assessment.

Our Parent Council continues to support the Academy in its work and aims to promote more effective engagement by parents in the work of the Academy. Reports on its work will be included in each newsletter and on our website.

This term usually brings with it the first episodes of adverse weather of the winter. It is vital that parents, carers and pupils have spoken together about arrangements and what to do in the event of disruption. It is very important that pupils travelling by bus only travel on the bus to which they are assigned and carry their passes. Please also discuss with your son/daughter how they will use Glow or other resources to maintain their studies in the event of not being able to get to the Academy and check that they have their log-in details at home.

Reminder:

**SchoolClosureWebsite**

**[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures/)**

**Telephone Information Line:**

**0870 054 4999**

**PIN: 021070**

**The school uses a variety of means to communicate with parents and carers. Where we can we will text information to advise and update parents. Please also use our Facebook page**

**<https://www.facebook.com/Kemnay-Academy>**

**The school website details are:**

**<http://kemnayacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>**

**Mrs L Paul,  
Rector**

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## **Staffing Changes**

This term we say farewell to Mr Scott Angus (Computing). Mr Angus has been teacher of computing since August 2010 and leaves us to take on new adventures.

Mrs Jill Johnston (Maths) – Best of luck to Mrs Johnston as she goes on maternity leave.

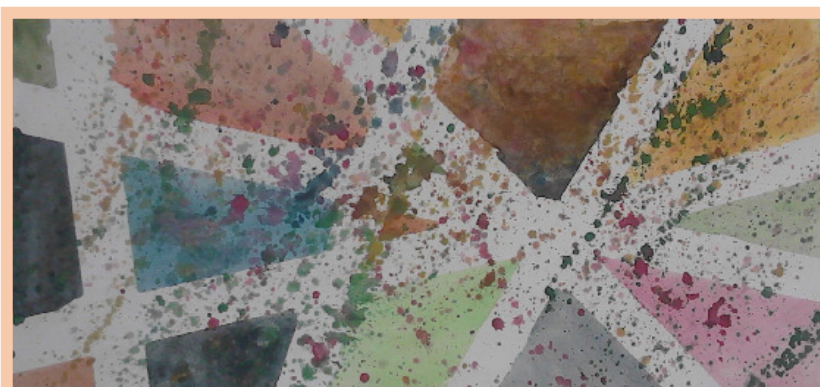
Mrs Tracey Phommavanh (Art) – We wish Mrs Phommavanh all the best with her personal projects.

Mrs Emma Watson (Nursing Assistant) – Mrs Watson was supporting the school with First Aid provision and leaves us to take up a post at Elrick Primary. Miss Anne Norquoy will be returning from Maternity leave as the newly married Mrs Dinnes around the November In Service break. Mrs Wendy Ramsay will also be joining us on a job share basis from 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Mrs Susan Taylor (Chemistry) – Mrs Taylor leaves us to take up a new post as Faculty Head at Westhill Academy. We wish her all the best for her new post.

Active Schools Co-ordinator – We have welcomed Lynsey Coutts to her new position here with the Kemany Cluster. The Active Schools programme is attached and comprehensive.

**S1**  
**Abstract Watercolour artwork**



## ***Battlefields Trip***

Every year the S4 history students are given an opportunity to visit the battlefields and graves of France and Belgium following learning about the topic of World War One the previous year. This year, Kemnay has joined forces with Aberdeen Grammar and Northfield Academy to continue the tradition and to offer the students an opportunity to make friends outside of the Academy walls.

On October the Eighth, at four in the morning, these Kemnay students will head out on an Epic Adventure to the past. They will be taking the bus down to Hull and will be getting on a ferry across the English Channel. That is where their adventure will begin, an eight day expedition across trenches and up towers, gaining memories to last a life time.

They are lucky enough to be able to go on the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, which was one of the most major battles World War One had to offer. They are even luckier to be visiting the site of this battle on the fourth day of our trip.

However, this is no happy-go-lucky trip with us dilly dallying like a bunch of fairy princesses, they will be learning about the millions of lives that died to make our world a more peaceful and better place.

They return home on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 16 days and two months earlier than the real troops stationed in the trenches of France returned to Britain, when they came home seven weeks after the war ended. By that time, our students will be greater people, more bonded together as a unit, holding onto things that will keep them as friends for a long time, experiences greater than anything they have encountered before.

Once returning home, a fuller recount of their experiences will be available to read, and they hope you enjoy their details on their venture.

Wishing the team a fantastic time

The History Battalion.



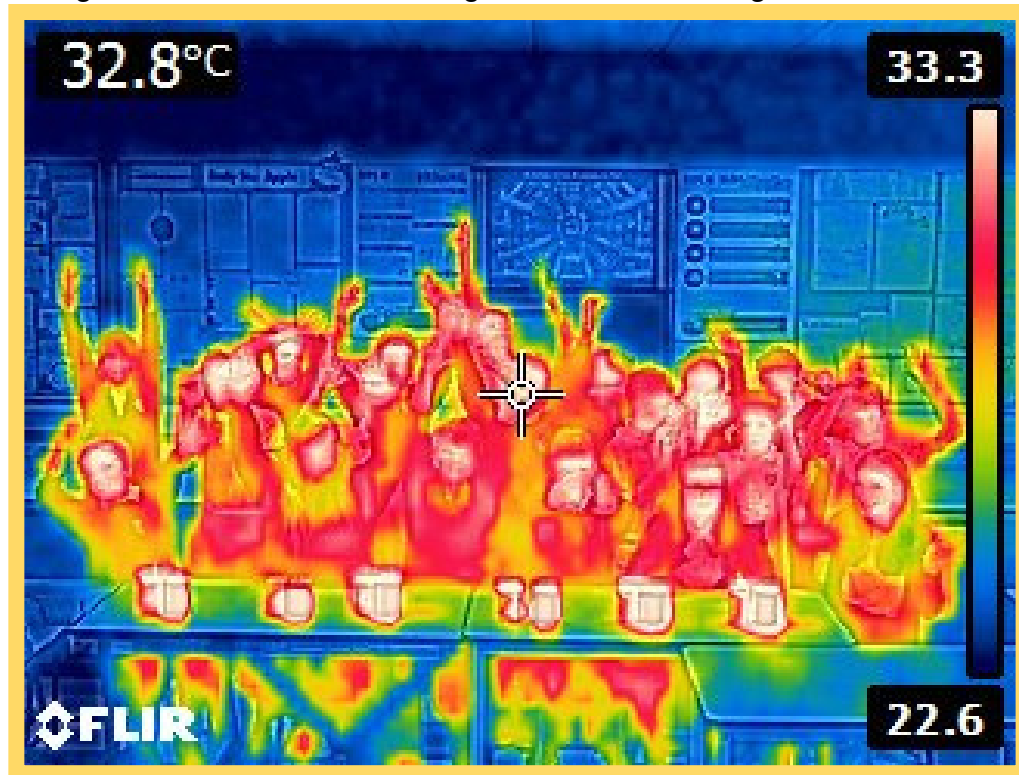


### ***First Year Science: Hot Stuff!***

This term in Science, 1B2 have carried out a variety of experiments to investigate the ways in which heat energy transfers through different states of matter. During these experiments, pupils have learned about conduction, convection and radiation as part of the wider 'Energy Sources and Sustainability' topic covered in S1 Science.

Learning has been enhanced through the use of a thermal image camera to investigate the way objects radiate heat energy differently – as shown by this class photo! The images taken by pupils on the thermal camera provided excellent discussion opportunities for further research and enquiry.

*Mr MacKenzie*



### **S4 Prince's Trust Achieve Group- MacMillan Coffee Morning**

Well done to the S4 Achieve Group who managed to raise over £220 for MacMillan Cancer Support by holding a coffee morning and raffle on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. There was a great selection of cakes and fine pieces made and donated by both staff and pupils and the Achieve group did a wonderful job of decorating the staff room and advertising the event. Thanks also to the many local businesses for their kind donations of prizes for the raffle. A great morning had by all, thank you very much for your support.

***Mrs Clark***  
***ASfL***



## SASSA

Kemnay Academy competed in the South Aberdeenshire Schools Sports Association cup on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. We brought over 50 pupils competing in a range of competitions. It was a great day for pupils and staff alike and everyone represented the school exceptionally. We had two teams who won their respective competitions, firstly the girls football team came out on top winning four and drawing one match. They carried on from their success last year and were deserved winners on the day.



Kemnay Academy also won the table tennis competition for the first time in the tournaments history. All 6 players contributed to the success as they all won considerably more games than they lost. This was a well-deserved victory as the boys give up considerable time during lunch times to come in and practice and there improvements were astounding.



### ***Northsound One Schools Energy Challenge Quiz***

On Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup> an intrepid band of students; Ella McKinnon (S3), Kim Taylor (S4), Luke Johnston (S5) and Niamh Bayliss (S6 and team captain); set off to Opito Headquarters in Portlethen to take part in the Northsound One Schools Energy Challenge Quiz. It was a tough local derby against Inverurie Academy. To find out how they got on please tune into Northsound 1 on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

*Artwork by Evie Gray S4*



### **S3 Geography Field Trip to Aberdeen City Centre, October 2016**

Our S3 Geographers recently ventured forth on a field trip to look at issues in Aberdeen city centre. Here are two varying accounts of the day...

Mr Robinson

#### ***The Official Report (at the front of the group)***

We arrived in Aberdeen and walked towards Ann Street where we started to map the shop and business names. About three quarters of the way down the street we stopped and drew a field sketch of the Broadford Works. We continued towards Rosemount and we had a little nosey into Rosemount Square. After that we stopped to do pedestrian and traffic counts. We then went and investigated the Denburn River which smelt really bad. We visited Union Terrace Gardens where there was some pretty fantastic graffiti. After lunch, we did further pedestrian and traffic counts. This time it was a lot more difficult because it was very busy. We stopped outside St Nicholas Centre and asked people a few questions (with mixed results). The last thing we did was walk down George Street doing more mapping. After all this, the bus was the best rest of all.

by Sam W

There was also an unofficial version of events detailing the exploits of S3 Geography. Watch this space....

### **Kemnay Academy Christmas Fayre 2016**

***11:30am – 3:00pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016***

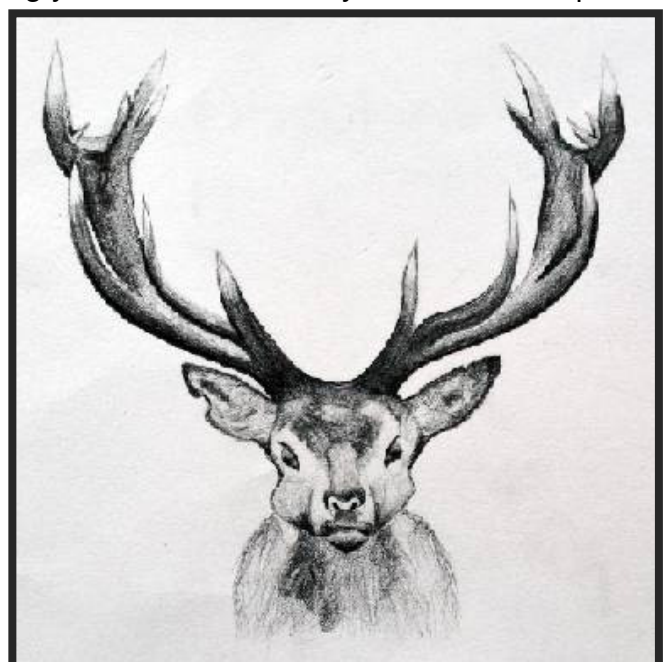
Plans are well under way for the 2016 Kemnay Academy Charities Group Christmas Fayre. This year the Fayre has a slightly later start and finish time as our dates clash with the Alehousewells Christmas Fayre in the morning – however, to encourage as many people as possible to attend both Fayres, if you have a ticket for one of the Fayres you will get **half price entry** to the other.

Tickets and further information will be available right after the October holidays (keep an eye on the school Facebook page for updates).

So far we have loads of stalls confirmed as well as face painting and henna tattoos.

Please save the date and we look forward to seeing you there – all money raised will be split between our four chosen charities for this year (see below for more info).

If you are interested in having a stall at the Fayre or donating a raffle prize please contact Alan Millar in the Additional Support for Learners Dept.



*Artwork by Bethany Davis S4*

## Roald Dahl's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

To commemorate Roald Dahl's one hundredth birthday first year English pupils enthusiastically entered the BFG's "Dream Jar" competition. Some of the prize winners Cara McDonald, Olivia Lumsden and Colm Bell from photograph A and Christine Meyer, Maryam Dawod and John Easton from photograph B proudly display their certificates in front of some of the excellent exhibits on display in the English corridor.



## Child Protection

All schools are required to carry out annual training and report any situation where we think a child could be at harm as a consequence of possible abuse. Where there is the possibility that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect, the school is required to refer the child to Social Work, the Police or the Reporter.

Further information regarding this can be found

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/favicon.ico>

## Communication for parents

Aberdeenshire council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through myaccount on the Aberdeenshire Council website – if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered. myaccount is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it. As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.



Artwork by Astrid Redford S4



The school undertook a review of Values, vision and aims during the course of last session. We consulted with pupils, staff and parents and launched the values poster at the end of last term.

### Values, Vision and Aims

Kemnay Academy aims to ensure the highest quality learning experience for all. Our vision is to promote and celebrate the following:

### Excellence and Aspiration

We have high expectations that every learner will aspire to be the “best you can be” at Kemnay Academy. Our school supports all learners in personalising an appropriate and ambitious curriculum to allow every young person to develop and achieve.

### Responsibility and Respect

As a school we promote both responsible citizenship within school and across our wider community. We are clear about our responsibilities as Kemnay Academy citizens. All our pupils are encouraged to support an outward looking culture. We aim to cultivate a mutual culture of respect, social justice and equality and reflect this in all our actions. At Kemnay Academy we encourage learning for a sustainable world. We are inclusive and respect the differences of others.

### Success and Determination

Success is achievable with hard work, commitment and determination. Throughout the learner journey, pupils at Kemnay Academy are developing resilience. We value achievement and celebrate it. As a school community we recognise and acknowledge success across all our curriculum areas and throughout the wider life of the school.



Artwork  
by KatieClark & BethWilson S3



## OPEN AFTERNOON 27 September

This term we opened our doors to our all parents. This was an opportunity to show case the work we have been doing in school that may not always be seen when you come to the school. The event ran from 2.30- 5.00pm and was designed to open up classrooms for parents. A steady group of parents came into the school over the course of the event. Senior pupils were on hand direct tours, as were a wide range of pupils. For some pupils it was a chance to show Mum and Dad their classrooms and teachers. Teas and coffees were served by pupils from the EXCEL group. If you weren't able to come here are some photos for you.



**DRAMA in action.** Pupils demonstrate the use of lights and music to dramatic effect.



**Modern Languages: Work displayed on the walls.** Pupils identified how they learn in MFL and what they enjoy about the subject.



**Design:**  
Graphic Communication displays on classroom walls.



### Parent comments-

Great idea. The school looks great now with the extension.

An opportunity to see the work of the school.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to see what is what my child is learning.

## **Additional Information**

We have been asked by Aberdeenshire Council to include information for parents on a number of different issues. These are as follows: Aberdeenshire Council updates its smoking policy – how this will affect your school Aberdeenshire Council has a new Smoking policy <http://arcadialite.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/?p=14537> that will take effect at all Aberdeenshire Council schools from the 15th August 2016. The policy means that smoking is not allowed anywhere or at any time over the entire school premises including outside grounds. The policy applies to school pupils, all staff working within the school and or community campus (Councillors, nurses, clerical support, janitors, bus drivers, etc.) parents/carers and visitors. These restrictions also apply to the use of electronic cigarettes. The policy will provide a strong message to school pupils, staff and parents that is consistent with our education programmes and with the fact that smoking is the largest preventable cause of disease and death in the UK today. We support a smoke free school policy because we are committed to improving the health of all our school pupils and staff, as well as that of other members of our school and community. We also recognise the important role that teachers, parents and other adults have in influencing the attitudes and smoking behaviour of children and young people.

For further information please contact:

Susan Forbes

Health Improvement Officer, Local Government

[susan.forbes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:susan.forbes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

## **Parent Council**

**Kemnay Academy Parent Council have requested that the following links are made available to parents.**

All voices and viewpoints are valuable, and all will help shape the future direction of Parental Involvement in education. The Scottish Government have asked us, the National Parent Forum of Scotland, to review the Act on the government's behalf and to make recommendations on what needs to change and how. This survey asks for your opinion on the impact, successes and shortfalls of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006. This includes looking at how well schools involve parents in what they do, and finding ideas to develop ways to better involve parents in the life and work of their schools. It is also hoped that it will inspire everyone to look at the most effective way of helping parents support children in Scottish schools

[http://www.npfs.org.uk/2016/09/06/parent\\_call/](http://www.npfs.org.uk/2016/09/06/parent_call/)

The above link will take you the NPFS page, where there is a more detailed explanation and a link to the survey monkey questions.

## **Governance review**

This governance review seeks your views on how education in Scotland is run, including who should take decisions in relation to the education of children and young people, and how funding can be made fairer. It also asks about the support teachers and practitioners need to do their jobs well and how this can be improved. We want to hear from as many people as possible – from those with a formal role in Scottish education and those with a stake in its success.

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/1251>

The above link will take you the NPFS page, where there is a more detailed explanation and the survey questions by clicking on the next page.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award – Bronze Level

Over the past year, a number of S5 students have been working hard to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Juggling homework, sports events, dance events and music lessons plus the magnetic pull of the Xbox, they found time to fit in at least three months of activities for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections of the award. In addition, they bravely battled midges and rain in the overnight camping expeditions.

I would like to congratulate the three expedition team members:

Euan Fraser  
Matthew Watson  
Calum Guild  
Luke Johnston

Xenoa Campbell-Ledgister  
Liam Clark  
Emily Christie  
Niamh Chalmers  
Matthew Cassidy  
Matthew Dailey

Elise Percival  
Ethan Gordon  
Erin Jones  
Caitlin Gray  
Sasha Ratnayeke  
Cameron Muirhead  
Lewis McDonald

Well done to all of the above students, and also our thanks to the many volunteers but especially Alex Guild, Mike Davidson and Jock Edwards who all freely gave their time to run the expeditions.

We hope to start the S4 on the road to their Bronze Awards shortly after the October break, and the school is keen to expand student participation. However, we need volunteers from the community, staff and parents. Our particular requirement is for folks with Hill Walking experience who could become qualified to lead the outdoor components. If you are interested, contact me, Adrian Jefferies, or the Head Teacher, Lizbeth Paul at the school. Thanks!





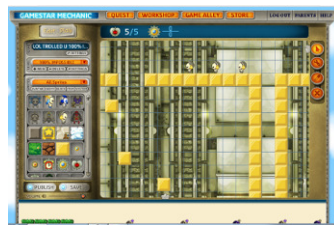


The new S1 intake has included a number of students who are very keen on computers, and particularly like playing computer games!

The S1 Gaming Elective class are all of the above, plus are really keen on computer games design. They have been avidly learning about designing computer games and then designing their own and then playing them.

We have been using a website called Gamestar Mechanic which teaches students the elements of computer game design through playing a series of quest games over a number levels. The system is a well thought out Educational tool, and is strictly monitored. As the levels are overcome, new tools and objects are available until the quest is complete and the users can design and publish games. The Gamestar Mechanic community play each other's games, and our games have been favourably received. In fact, Freddy Henderson won a prize from Gamestar Mechanic.

We have just evaluated our games and written about them. In no particular order, here are some images our games, and the comments from the students about their work:



- "I like this elective because it is really fun and I enjoy it."
- "...my Scholastic Award Game is called World War III. It's a story game based around 2064 when you enter the game there is a speech bubble showing you the information on all the enemies"
- "I enjoy I.T because it lets me express myself through the computer. Also its fun."
- "The game is where you have to escape the maze before the time runs out. You have a minute."
- "Pac-Man (YAY!) is a fan game that I made to commemorate Pac-Man's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary which was this year."
- "Gamestar Mechanic is great because it gives you a taste of programming without having to use code. It offers a simple and great approach to learning programming"

If you want to play our games, just go to <https://gamestarmechanic.com> !

*Adrian Jefferies, Computing*

## HEALTH CARE – FIRST AID/NURSING ASSISTANT

All parents/carers should be aware that specific school staff attend to first aid. First Aid provision in school is provided by a Nursing Assistant. The First Aid provision in school is designed to deal with routine medical and first aid matters. Should a young person be injured during the school day, every effort will be made to attend to this. If the injury is believed to be serious or requiring further treatment, arrangements will be made to have the child treated at the local Health Centre. Alternatively, an ambulance will be requested. Parents will be informed and consulted.

**If your child is ill in the morning, it is important that they are kept at home, as the school has few facilities to accommodate sick children.**

**Illness:** If a pupil becomes ill during the school day, a first aider will be called. A decision will then be taken to either keep the pupil in school or to arrange, after consultation with parents for the pupil to be sent home.

## SCHOOL NURSE:

First Aid is not one of the School Nurse's duties but she may attend to pupils who may become ill or are injured during the day if she is available.

Please tell us as soon as possible if your child has a specific medical condition. The school Health Team, (eg school Doctor, School nurse, Speech and language therapist etc) working in partnership with parents and teachers, carries out assessments to ensure the best level of health for all school children. The School Nurse Service within the Academy also provides vaccination clinics specific to vaccines required between the ages of 12-18 years.



Read Write Gold software is widely available in Kemnay Academy.

The software includes several functions that are of use to pupils of all ages and abilities – including research tools, referencing tools, mind mapping software, a thesaurus, advanced dictionary & spell checker as well as an excellent e-reader.

We are able to provide a free copy of this software (PC version) to any pupil at Kemnay Academy to support them with their studies at home (on request).

Keen to see what this software has to offer and how it may benefit your son or daughter?

We are running sessions from 7 – 8pm (directly after the Parents' Evenings) on the following dates – Wednesday 2nd November, Tuesday 22nd November and Thursday 12th January.

If you are interested in attending, would like a copy of the software or require any further information please contact Mr Millar at the school ([alan.millar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:alan.millar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk))

## TERM 2

24 October	Start of Term 2
2 November	S1 Parents Evening
4 November	S5/6 Reports Issued
9 November	Careers Fair
11 November	S4 Reports Issued
14 November	In Service Closure
15 November	In Service Closure
22 November	S2 Parents Evening
3 December	Christmas Fair
21 December	End of Term 2

## TERM 3

5 January 2017	Start of Term 3
9 January	S4/5/6 Prelims start
12 January	S3 Parents Evening
16 January	S2 into S3 Info Evening
20 January	S2 Reports Issued
2 February	S4/5/6 Info Evening
7 February	S5/6 Parents Evening
10 February	Occasional Holiday
13 February	Mid Term Holiday
14 February	In-Service Closure
15 February	In-Service Closure
23 February	S4 Parents Evening
8 March	Business Breakfast
31 March	End of Term 3

## TERM 4

18 April	Start of Term 4
1 May	May Day Holiday
5 May	S3 Reports Issued
12 May	S2 Interims Issued
19 May	S1 Reports Issued
5 June	Occasional Holiday
26 June	P7 into S1 Parents Info Evening
28 June	S1/2/3 Awards Ceremony
29 June	S4/5/6 Awards Ceremony
30 June	End of Term 4

Details of term dates until 2020 are available on Aberdeenshire Council's website on: [http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/term\\_dates.asp](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/term_dates.asp).



Artwork by Erin MacGill 3D2





Did you know Kemnay Academy has a Facebook page?

Like us at to be among the first to find out what is going on at Kemnay Academy.

- Pictures and updates from activities and trips.
- Reminders about Parents' Evenings
- Celebrating our pupils' successes both in and out of school.
- The easiest place to get the most up to date information.

Find us on 

[www.facebook.com/kemnayacademy](http://www.facebook.com/kemnayacademy)