



Kemnay Academy

March
2017

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent, Carer or Colleague

As we approach the Easter break, I reflect that this has been a busy term for the pupils and staff here at Kemnay Academy.

S1, S2 and S3 pupils have been busy in school with all aspects of curriculum work and activities.

Our senior phase pupils have been engaged in NQ course work including assignments and folios and pupils in S4/5/6 undertook prelim exam practice in January in all their subject areas.

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. The Parent Council met again for this term led by chair, Mr Bob Jones. Reports on its work will be included in each newsletter and on our website.

In January, the school welcomed new colleagues to our teaching compliment. Mrs P Webster was appointed PT Guidance and Dr M Shand was appointed to teacher of Chemistry.

The February In-Service allowed teaching colleagues to meet and discuss teaching and learning projects in school.

Senior Pupils studying the Science Baccalaureate with me to discuss their individual projects. This provided me with a fascinating insight into the work senior pupils have the opportunity to review and research to gain this award.

We have been fortunate not to experience poor weather.

Reminder:

SchoolClosureWebsite

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/>

Twitter: [@KemnayAcademy](https://twitter.com/KemnayAcademy)

I wish all our readers a safe and relaxing Easter holiday.

Mrs L Paul, Rector

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Staffing Changes

Since our last newsletter, the School has experienced a number of changes as colleagues leave to take up other posts.

Mr D Duthie, FH Technologies, leaves the Academy after 6 years. Mr Duthie will continue teaching in his new role as Class Teacher at Inverurie Academy. We wish him all the best and would like to thank him for his commitment to the young people of Kemnay Academy.

Mrs M Lucas, FH Maths – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, will be working on a cluster numeracy project next term. She will be based in School but out with the Maths Faculty. Mr Ewan Smeaton has been appointed as FH Maths after competitive interview. He will join the Maths Faculty after the Easter break.

The School would like to thank Mr P Gibson for his work as PT Faculty Head Acting (Monday & Friday) Mr Gibson returns to his substantive post as class teacher after Easter.

The School recently appointed Mrs P Webster to the position of PT Guidance. Mrs Webster is job share PT Guidance in Caskieben (Thursday & Friday). She is also undertaking significant work in DSYW (Developing Scotland's Young Workforce).

Mr C Smith, MFL, leaves the School at Easter to take up another position outside teaching. We would like to thank him for his hard work and commitment and wish him all the best for his future career.

Congratulations to Ms R Walker & Mrs V Cairns for their successful appointment as FH Technologies Acting (job share). With the departure of Mr Duthie this vacancy was available after Easter 2017.

Mr M Sellen, DHT, leaves the School to take up a new post at another School in Aberdeenshire. Mr Sellen joined the School in March 2016 and has supported pupils in Caskieben and the effective smooth running of SQA procedures.

As a School, we would like to wish Mr Sellen all the best for the future.

The departure of Mr Sellen has generated a vacancy in the Senior Leadership Team. This has been filled with the successful appointments of Mrs L Stage and Mrs J Hepburn.



Kemnay Academy Prom 2017

This year's Senior Prom takes place on Thursday 30th March at the Marcliffe Hotel in Aberdeen. With over 200 pupils and staff attending it promises to be a very good night all round. Following the short trip into Aberdeen, the night opens with the Tempest photography photo shoot, followed by what promises to be a delicious 3 course meal. The pupils will then spend the next few hours dancing the night away to the sounds of local Ceilidh band, Galik Bred. This year our pupils raised £398 towards the prom, through fundraising activities which included a leg wax for the senior boys, and what proved to be a very popular Chocolate Tombola. Well done to all those involved in the fundraising efforts, and we hope everyone enjoys the night when it comes!

Energise Your Future at Subsea Expo 2017

A group of S4 pupils joined a further 300 students from other schools in attending the OPITO (Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Board) "Energise Your Future" event at Subsea Expo organised by OPITO (Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Board). The event was designed to show pupils the career opportunities in the subsea industry and the relevance of their school subjects to those careers.

The event started with presentations from a range of young employees who outlined their path into the industry, be it via an apprenticeship or graduate scheme.

Afterwards the pupils were allowed to explore the Expo and visit a variety of stand that provided activities for the pupils to try out, including a remotely operated vessel simulator, trying on diving suits and virtual reality simulators. The pupils were also able to engage directly with employers and to find out about the opportunities available to them upon leaving education.

Music Department

The Ceilidh Band have been extremely busy this year, having provided music for the ceilidh at the Aberdeenshire Youth Awards Ceremony at Thainstone House Hotel in November 2016 they also played for school ceilidhs at Christmas time.

In the New Year, they played for a fund raising ceilidh for Euan Fraser's India expedition at the end of January and this was followed by playing for a Burn's lunch entertainment at Littlewood court. Fetternear Hall was the next venue for a fundraiser for the Team 2 India expedition where they provided music for dancing at a Burn's Supper. Finally this year, so far, they performed at Meldrum Academy to support Aberdeenshire's programme which allows teachers to live and work in Rwanda for a month. The programme leader from Rwanda, Emmanuel Murenzi came to the North East and to help him to experience North East hospitality, a ceilidh was put on at the end of February. The group played extremely well and did get the opportunity to join with musicians from Meldrum Academy.



Future Chef Competition

Abbie Thompson represented Kemnay Academy at the regional final of future chef held at Aberdeen college Gallowgate Campus on Tuesday 17th January 2107.

This is the first time we have managed to compete. Abbie had to make 1 2 course meal in 90 minutes that was healthy and used local ingredients and came to no more than £7.00 for two portions. She created roasted cod on a bed of root vegetables with puy lentils and new kalette vegetables. For her dessert she made a chocolate, self-saucing pudding with raspberries and a raspberry coulis.

Although she didn't win this stage, she had an amazing day out working with chefs in an industrial kitchen and was able to get feedback on how to improve for next time!
W.Macgregor H.E dept.



NASA in Aberdeen

On the 2nd March Kemnay Academy's 3rd year physics classes attended Robert Gordon's College for a presentation organised by Techfest. NASA astronaut Rick Hieb and NASA scientist Dr Sue Lederer broke down the movie 'Gravity' to reveal parts of the story in which the physics was accurate, over exaggerated or totally incorrect.

The students who attended left the presentation feeling inspired and fascinated by both the insight of life up in space and how such important people seemed so ordinary and 'down to Earth'. Overall, they enjoyed the experience of having a 'real life astronaut' and scientist encouraging them to continue with STEM subjects.

By Alice Aramoni and Rebekah Scott, S3 Physics

British Basketball League Trip



BBL Trophy Final:

On Sunday 19th March a group of 33 Kemnay pupils travelled down to the Emirates Arena, Glasgow for the British Basketball League Trophy Final. The day consisted of the first British Women's Professional Teams Final which saw an outstanding win and display of basketball by Sevenoaks Suns followed by some acrobatic dunkers and finally the Men's Trophy Final. The men's final was a great display of basketball with the Leicester Riders winning convincingly. We enjoyed a McDonalds meal and singing on the way back and pupils were great ambassadors for Kemnay Academy. We look forward to next year's final!

S1 Football

The S1 team faced a tricky Semi-final against a strong Peterhead Academy. Kemnay got into a commanding 4-1 lead at half time but

Peterhead came back strong in the 2nd half. Kemnay held their nerve and saw out the game 5-4. They will now face Ellon Academy in the final which will likely be played at a highland league ground after the Easter holidays.

We continue to have well over 30 S1's attending training each week which is led by two senior students Euan Winning and Callum Campbell.

On Thursday the 23rd March we sent two S1 to take part in the SFA cashback 7s Tournament held at Garioch Centre. Kemnay A finished top of their group winning three and drawing their final match. They put in a dominant display with everyone playing to their best. Kemnay B finished 2nd in their group and just missed out on the best runners up spot as they won two games and lost one. It was a great day out with everyone enjoying themselves. Kemnay A now look forward to the next regional round which if they win they will progress to the national finals in Glasgow.



S2 Football

The S2 team were drawn at home to Aboyne Academy for their semi-final. The boys were far from their best but were still dominant throughout the game although this was not reflected in the score line. The game ended 2-2 but the boys showed great composure for the penalty shootout by scoring with every kick and winning (3-0). Kemnay will now face Peterhead Academy in the final.

Senior Girls Football

The Senior Girls were up against Ellon Academy who have been dominant this year by strolling the league and reaching the North of Scotland final, so the girls knew they were up against it. Kemnay were 3-0 down inside the first 15 minutes conceding from three set pieces. The girls showed great character and never gave up and were able to make a remarkable comeback and win the game 6-4. This will give the girls great confidence as they look forward to playing Aboyne Academy in the final.

U15 Girls Football

The S1-3 girls also took part in the SFA Cashback 7s tournament, on the back of reaching the National finals last year we knew it was going to be tough with a lot of the girls from last year being too old to play this year. But a new look and very inexperienced

Kemnay team did brilliantly well and won 4 out of 6 games and also progress through to the next round in third place.



Senior Boys Football

The Senior Boys faced an away trip to Inverurie Academy in their semi-final. They unfortunately lost 2-1 in a closely contested match.

This has been another great year for football at Kemnay Academy with three teams reaching finals, participation levels continuing to rise and eight senior students gaining valuable coaching experience.

Good luck to all the teams in the final and enjoy the occasion.

Developing Scotland's Young Workforce at Kemnay Academy

Hello Everyone!

My name is Mrs Pamela Webster and I have recently been appointed as Principal Teacher of Guidance (Thurs/Fri) for Caskiben House with an additional remit for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce. I am an experienced teacher of 20 years, mainly in my subject Physical Education but more recently in Guidance. I am looking forward to my exciting new challenge at Kemnay Academy both the Guidance and teaching side getting to know pupils and their families, but also for the new challenges upon education with Developing the Young Workforce.

The background - The Scottish Government established the independent Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, led by Sir Ian Wood, in January 2013. Its remit was to explore how we might develop a modern, responsive and valued system for vocational training and emulate the labour markets of the best performing European countries. This strategy and implementation plan sets out how the Scottish Government will implement the Recommendations of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce to drive the creation of a world class vocational education system to reduce youth unemployment by 40% by 2021.

An ambition of Developing the Young Workforce is that education and employers work closely together to equip all young people with the skills and knowledge they will need to flourish in work, and to support diversity in the workforce. These partnerships should build on good practice and existing links with employers. They should bring mutual benefit and evolve to respond to local circumstances.

At Kemnay, we are looking to drive forward with DYW in school, building on existing and creating new partnership opportunities between Businesses and Kemnay Academy. With the support from DYW Scotland, we will aim to create real opportunities for and encourage our young people at Kemnay Academy to engage with alternative options into the workforce. These opportunities, for example, could be through Modern Apprenticeships in liaison with Businesses and Skills Development Scotland, promoting job opportunities and encouraging young people to build on their skills and qualities, supporting all pupils into a positive and sustained future destination. In order to keep pupils and parents informed, GLOW will be used to advertise opportunities, as well as assemblies, through PSE, career and employment noticeboards. If pupils or parents require specific information on opportunities, please contact myself, Mrs Webster, Principal Teacher of Guidance at Kemnay Academy.

LGBT Group ♀ ♂ ♀ ♂ ♀

The LGBT (Lesbian **G**ay **B**isexual **T**ransgender) group was set up this month. So far we have had three sessions, and have discussed a variety of topics, such as LGBT terminology; LGBT flags; experiences of 'coming out'; homophobia/biphobia/transphobia. The agenda is open, and up to members to set.

This group is open to all pupils, in all years, regardless of sexuality. There is no need to state your sexuality to join this group – all identities are welcome. We meet weekly for a chance to discuss, and support LGBT issues. This was initially advertised via PSE classes.

If any pupils are interested in joining, they can see me in the Guidance Office, or alternatively they can speak to their respective Principal Teacher of Guidance.

For more information and advice regarding LGBT issues, please visit 'LGBT Youth Scotland' at: <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/>

Ms Donaldson (Principal Teacher of Guidance, Bennachie)

International Women's Day



S3 girls recently marked International Women's Day with a workshop led by our Patron of Reading Laura Lam. Laura read from her new book about the influential women in her family, and the girls spoke about self-esteem and pressures from the media.

Jennifer Horan MCLIP BEd PgDip, Network Librarian (Kemnay/Kintore area)

Preparations for SQA Exams

This is an exciting time for our senior pupils at Kemnay Academy as they prepare for their final SQA exams, which commence on Tuesday 2nd May 2017. This will be a culmination of their study throughout session. For all of our youngsters it is an ideal opportunity for them to showcase their talents and to be recognised for their hard work and commitment.

To assist our young people in the preparation for these examinations, they have been granted study leave which begins on Tuesday 2nd May and ends on Friday 2nd June (both dates are inclusive).

Expectations – All of our pupils are aware of the expectations which have been placed upon them in the run up to their final exams and indeed during the prelim examination period. This message has been shared with senior year groups during assemblies and PSE time. Pupils have been issued with a booklet called Your Exams 2017 which covers all aspects of exam preparation and conduct. This information can be accessed online at:

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files/ccc/SQA Your Exams 2017.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files/ccc/SQA%20Your%20Exams%202017.pdf)

Important points to note for all parents/carers are:

- No portable electronic devices (smartphones/phones/i-Pods for example) allowed in exam rooms
- Clear pencil cases (a sandwich/freezer bag will do) only in exam rooms
- No programmable calculators in exam rooms
- All pupils must be in Academy uniform when they arrive for an exam or to study

Every pupil will get a personalised exam timetable. Please note that the Academy varies the start/finish times of many exams from the published ones on the SQA site. Pupils arriving late for an exam will not be granted any additional time so please check timetables carefully!

Should any pupil be too unwell to sit an exam, please contact the Academy as soon as possible and arrange for a Medical note or a letter from you to be passed to the Academy within 5 days of the exam.

The previous 'Appeals' system has been replaced by a new 'Results Services'. This change will not affect support for pupils who miss an exam due to exceptional circumstances. However, once results are published there is no facility to send additional evidence (e.g. Prelim papers) to SQA for review. Teaching colleagues at the Academy will look at the results to make decisions on whether any post-results service actions should be pursued. Please note that as a result of a marking review, a pupil's grade can go down as well as up.

Results will be issued on Tuesday 8 August 2017 and there will be SQA and school support during this period. Please contact the school should you have any concerns relating to the exam results and certificates.

We wish all our pupils well for the forthcoming exams!

Advice on Exam Preparation for Parents

All students in S4-6 have been issued with the following SQA student support materials.

MySQA 2017 – “Get your results by Text or Email” leaflet for candidates. This leaflet provides candidates with information on how to register with MySQL, how to receive exam results by text and email, and information on SQA’s online advice service, MySQA Sam.

Your Exams 2017 booklet which provides important advice to candidates on what to do before, during and after their exams. In addition, it sets out important guidelines on their conduct. This information can also be accessed online at:

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files/ccc/SQA Your Exams 2017.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files/ccc/SQA%20Your%20Exams%202017.pdf)

In addition, SQA advice for learners who will be sitting exams can be found online at the following web address:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41319.html>

Topics covered here include:

Creating a study plan
Taking notes
Past papers and specimen papers
Coping with stress
Developing study styles
Timetable and exam tools

Regular attendance throughout the year will help your child keeps up with course work and homework. If she/he does fall behind, through illness perhaps, contact your Guidance teacher to discuss any support that may help them catch up.

Talking to your child to reassure and encourage them and taking an interest in what they are doing will help them get through what can be a stressful time and will help them to do their best.

Managing their time

- Encourage a start to revision in good time to avoid cramming and panic.
- Help plan a realistic timetable of study for each subject. Subject teachers may offer advice on revision and a weekly revision planner is available on the Student Life BBC website.

Getting organised

- Discuss and decide on a fixed area at home for study with the least distractions. Make sure that the materials and equipment (pens, pencils, paper, notebooks and past papers) are at hand in this study area. (Past papers are available from the SQA website).
- Ensure that snacks and water are close by to prevent any unnecessary distractions and make sure the study area is warm and well lit.
- Speak to the rest of the family, particularly younger members, about respecting this study area and as far as possible trying to avoid interrupting.
- If it is difficult to study at home perhaps consider making use of the local library or the Academy. Study areas can always be made available if necessary and teachers may be contacted during study leave.

- Encourage your child to get their notes in order for each subject before starting. Having notes organised into topic areas for each subject may be helpful.
- Check the dates of each exam and keep a record of them somewhere you can see them easily. The Academy will issue a personalised exam timetable for each candidate. You can access the full exam timetable on the SQA website but remember that the times may be different from the Kemnay Academy times. Your child can also use the SQA Personal Timetable Builder facility to create their own timetable.

The mobile timetable builder is now available for most Java-based mobile phones along with those using Google Android and IOS (iPhone). Remember: sometimes an exam is on a public holiday. The exam will definitely take place on that day and there will be no opportunity to sit it on another day.

Tips to encourage studying

- Exam times can be stressful so encourage your child to take breaks. Hour long revision sessions with short regular breaks of 10 minutes are effective.
- They may prefer to complete each task and then build in a break rather than stick to definite time slots. It's the quality of study that is important.
- Young people often focus best earlier in the day or early evening so encouraging them to study at these times may be beneficial.
- Your child might find it useful for you to read through revision notes with them. Asking them about what they have learned in their revision may be useful.

Keeping well

- Encourage your child to get plenty of sleep. This is particularly important the night before an exam as it will help them perform better.
- Encourage your child to eat well. On the morning of an exam encourage them to have a breakfast, or lunch if the exam is in the afternoon.
- Help your child to avoid any unnecessary anxiety or panic by making sure they are in plenty of time for each exam and have everything they need for it.
- Encouraging regular exercise.

Academy teachers are available throughout study leave to help where necessary. If pupils need to see a teacher, they should check via the Academy office that the teacher is free then make an appointment.

We wish all our pupils every success in the forthcoming examinations.



Kemnay Academy within the Community

As a school we promote our responsibility and sustainability within the whole community. We work to reinforce our high expectations beyond the school to ensure positive relations with local residents and businesses. Over 2/3 of the pupils who attend our Academy live out-with Kemnay. Good relationships with local residents allows us to build respect for the contributions young people make. As a school we seek to reflect this in our work, we acknowledge the good relationships that exists with parents in supporting this.

At assembly the school reminds all pupils of the necessity to keep the environment tidy and litter free. This includes the route to and from the local shops frequented at lunchtimes by some pupils. Pupils have been reminded to refrain from wandering into local parks including “The Viewpoint”, the playpark next to Alehousewells School and areas near the Don river. Pupils have been reminded about this for their own safety as well as the comfort of local residents.

Members of staff are around at both break-time and lunchtimes to support and supervise pupils.

Pupils are not permitted to leave the school premises at **break-time** unless they have been given prior permission from school staff.

Senior pupils (S6) are permitted to leave the school premises **after 11.35am but are required to sign out**. These measures support learners and allow us to maintain accurate records of attendance for daily reference and if necessary emergency use.

Presently the school day supports an extended lunch from **12:55 to 13:55 (warning bell 13:50)**. The school is proposing to reduce the time to **12:55 – 13:45 (warning bell 13:40)**. This proposed change stills allows for pupils to have lunch either in school or from a village outlet. **The school day would change to reflect this time revision but would not impact on bus transport.**

Please see details below.

Current arrangements	Proposed arrangements
0825 – warning bell	0830 - warning bell
0830 – registration	0835 - 0845 registration
1255 – lunchtime	1300 - lunchtime
1350 – warning bell	1345 – warning bell
1355 - period 7/8	1350 - period 7/8
1515 – end of school day	1510 – end of school day

Structure of the school day

The school will be conducting a further consultation regarding the structure of the school day during session 2017/18. The aim will be to review the number of periods in the day/week.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME!

Finding yourself looking for adventures for your children in the holidays why not sign up for one of Adventure Aberdeen's activities. They range in ages from 5-8 years and 9-16 years. How about a day on the water, in the forest, at the beach or on a bike. Have a look at our holiday programme on Eventbrite by using the link below or you can access it through our website!

Eventbrite - <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/adventure-aberdeen-holiday-activity-programme-5591330241>

Website - www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/adventureaberdeen



Adventure
Aberdeen
Fairley Road
Kingswells
Aberdeen
AB15 8PZ
01224270990



TERM 4

18 April	Start of Term 4
1 May	May Day Holiday
2 May	Start of SQA Study Leave
5 May	S3 Reports issued
19 May	S1 Reports issued
5 June	Occasional Holiday
June	S6 Induction
6 June	Start of new Timetable
14 June	S2/ 3 Achievement Ceremony
15 June	Senior Achievement Ceremony
21 - 23 June	Link Days – new S1's
26 June	P7 Parents' Information Evening
30 June	End of Session

Details of term dates until 2020 are available on Aberdeenshire Council's website on:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/term_dates.asp.





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