



# Kemnay Academy

June  
2017

# NEWSLETTER

**Dear Parent, Carer or Colleague**

As we approach the summer holidays, I reflect that I will have been at Kemnay Academy for 2 years. In that time I have seen pupils grow and blossom into young people ready to move onto the next stage of their journey.

This term has been busy as usual. The SQA exams in May were well organised and managed by Chief Invigilator Mrs Pauline Morrison. Our senior pupils wait expectantly on the results in August.

Our new timetables started in June, and S1-S3 pupils have had the opportunity to engage in new interdisciplinary learning programmes focussed on Health & Wellbeing, Numeracy and Literacy. This is an exciting refresh of our curriculum here at Kemnay Academy.

This term we also seized the opportunity to be out in the community; S1&S2 pupils experienced a wider delivery of the normal school curriculum through engagement with the John Muir Trust programme and sustainability awards.

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/>**

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

**I wish all our readers a safe and relaxing Summer holiday.**

**Mrs L Paul, Rector**

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## **Staffing Changes**

Thanks to all staff for their hard work and commitment this session.

This term we have seen a number of staffing changes.

In May 2017 John Leishman, Technician, retired. John had been a valuable member of staff here at the Academy. All the best for your retirement.

Mr Martin Bayliss, teach of Psychology and RMPS left the Academy in June 2017. Mr Bayliss joined the Academy in August 2005.

Best wishes are extended to Mrs Sarah Coles, teacher of English who will be on Maternity Leave from August 2017.

Mrs Mary Lucas, FH Maths, is retiring at the end of June 2017. Mrs Lucas is planning to spend time working with the Voluntary Service. The school wishes her all the best for her retirement.

Mrs Amanda Phillipson, teacher of SFL takes up a new promoted post as PT SFL at Aboyne Academy. Again, the school wishes her very success in this new position.

Ms Lindsay Bray, teacher of Music changed posts during the term and has joined the Music Department at Westhill Academy.

Mrs Kirsty Laird, teacher of English is leaving the Academy to take up a new post in Aberdeen City

Welcome back to Mrs J Meynet who returns from Maternity Leave. Mrs Meynet will be back on timetable from mid-June.

Mrs Alison Pirie leaves her part-time post as teacher of HE in the summer to take up a new post in Banchory Academy.

Ms Beatrix Herdman leaves the Academy to take up a post at Banff Academy.

Welcome to Ms Wendy Finlayson who will join the school on a permanent basis.

Thanks are extended to Mrs Jenny Hepburn and Mrs Lesley Stage for undertaking additional responsibilities as Acting DHT.

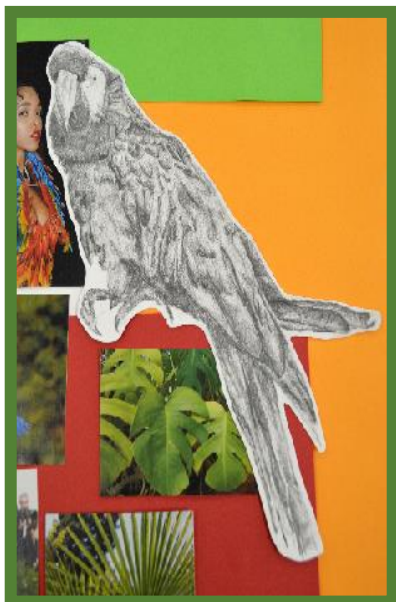
Mr Ian Wright has been appointed to the post of DHT after a competitive set of interviews. He will take up post in August 2017.

Lastly the school welcomes a number of new staff:-

Lorena Bechelli – English  
Nicola Hardingham – Maths  
Hannah Williamson – Art & Design  
Rachel Bennett - HE  
Sally Mennie – Business & ICT  
Judith Farquhar – Technician

Gillian Anderson – PE  
Robbie Patterson - PE  
Ross Brown – Modern Studies  
Dawn Mills – Modern Languages  
Hazel Allan - PSA  
Jenny Reid - PSA

*S5 Artwork*



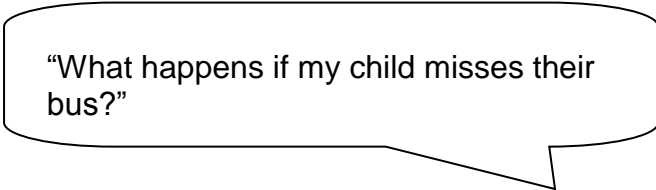
## School Transport

School transport is provided through the Public Transport Unit (PTU) within Aberdeenshire Council.

Individual bus contractors are responsible for pupil routes and safety. Where any concerns arise over bus travel, please advise the school or contact the transport unit. The details are as follows:-

The Public Transport Unit, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen AB16 5GB  
School.transport@aberdeenshire .gov.uk

Where parents/carers do contact the school regarding transport issues these are followed up. The bus contractors are required to wait 5 minutes at the end of the school day to ensure all pupils have successfully embarked on the the bus.



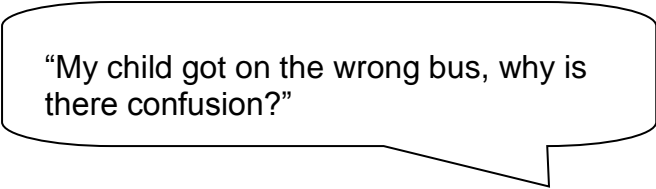
“What happens if my child misses their bus?”

## Travelling to School

If your child is left waiting at the bus stop please contact the school. Pupils should not wait more than 15 mins for their bus.

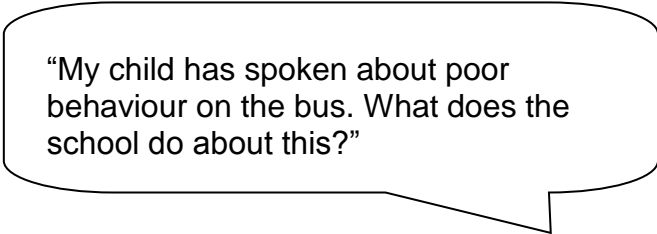
If your child misses the bus **from** school:-

The school will make contact with you to advise you that your child has not been collected. Your child would then wait in school with staff to ensure their safety, until a designated adult can collect them.



“My child got on the wrong bus, why is there confusion?”

When pupils are dropped off in the morning the buses arrive at different times. At the close of day all pupil buses are waiting outside on Bremner Way. Pupils are familiar with the bus orders, but to avoid confusion all buses now display letters.



“My child has spoken about poor behaviour on the bus. What does the school do about this?”

The school encourages all pupils to pass on any ‘bus related’ issues. These are followed up and investigated by the school staff. Where appropriate parents are contacted. The bus company will also pass on details of poor behaviour.

This term the school has dealt with, and resolved a broken window on the bus to Kintore, pupil behaviour on the bus to Blackburn and queries about bus passes.

## FROM THE DESK OF MRS PAUL

### **John Muir Trust**

#### **Castle Fraser**

Ms Buchan approached me to participate in the John Muir Trust Programme . I was given the opportunity to act as guide in Castle Fraser. As a History teacher I relished the opportunity. The weather was warm outside the castle and it was a welcome respite to be inside! The S1 pupil groups who toured the castle with me were well mannered, polite and behaved. They listened attentively to the life of the Frasers and the quirks hidden into the castle. The 'Priest Hole' was a highlight as was the 'deluxe toilet!'. A great day out and thanks to the National Trust staff for their warm welcome.

#### **Changes in School**

From next term morning assembly will be held in the small gym. The school roll is continuing to grow and accommodating every year group in the 'Performance Area' is increasingly pressured. All pupil year groups will be given the opportunity to walk through the arrangements in advance of the next assemblies.

The school is also revising arrangements for fire muster points. This revision is shared with all pupils and staff. Every term we have a 'fire drill' to ensure we are compliant with the regulations.

#### **Awards Ceremony**

Our Award Ceremony was held at an earlier time this year to allow senior pupils who are participating in the 'Outlook Expedition' to India to attend.

This year we recognised a wide number of achievements across the year groups. The Commendation awards were nominated by class teachers for effort and attitude, and our Merit awards were issued to top performers. This year we awarded certificates to pupils studying N4 qualifications.

Our guest speaker was Mr Jim Wood. Mr Wood has been a familiar face in school this session, supporting and encouraging pupils with Duke of Edinburgh awards. Mr Wood spoke about the need to encourage young people to have a dream and ambition.

The services were led by the Rev Neil Meyer. As Master of Ceremonies, Rev Meyer was complimentary of the music played by the Ceilidh Band and Concert Band.

As the S6 leavers approached the podium there was an immense pride to hear of their final destinations.



S5 Artwork

## South India Expedition: Team 1

On return of a successful training weekend at Crieff, Scotland. Team 1 took part in a series of preparation tasks to develop our skills that would be required in India. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at the camp, lasting 3 days. Over the weekend we were able to engage with our leader and also spend time with our teammates. As a team we worked together and created a plan for the day and we also tackled a 15km hike across old railways, past waterfalls and through a small village. We became familiar with the kit that was required for our expedition and began to practise the roles we would contribute towards the team; such as the water boys, team leaders, motivators and cooks. We worked well together on all our tasks assigned – tent construction, camping, cooking, trekking and first aid scenarios. Overall it provided very positive feedback for our upcoming expedition!

As the departure day closes, all of the participants are increasingly becoming excited for our busy expedition ahead. To begin with, we will be volunteering to help the less fortunate in India through a Slum Project in Chennai. This will include working and teaching children in a poverty struck area. We will also commence on an intense trek through the Western Ghats where we will experience the true cultural India – travelling through tree plantations and native forests. Furthermore we are visiting a national park in Mudumalai, where we will be able to observe the wildlife and animals living in the reserve. To finish off, the last few days will be spent on a riverboat where we will visit the backwaters of Kochi as a rest and recovery.

Cameron Muirhead



S4 Artwork



## 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](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/adventureaberdeen)



Adventure  
Aberdeen  
Fairley Road  
Kingswells  
Aberdeen  
AB15 8PZ  
01224270990



## Fly Fishing Coaching - Kemnay Academy

Eighteen junior phase pupils opted to experience fly fishing coaching at Kemnay Academy as a follow up to our Learning for Sustainability and John Muir Trust days. Aberdeen & District Angling Association's angling development coach Mr Paul Adderton, expertly guided budding fly fisher men and women through an introduction to fly fishing on the banks of the River Don in May.

Academy staff; Mr Gibson, Mr Ahmed and Mr Brunton were on hand to supply encouragement, wool (for 'flies') and help untangling lines.

Glorious weather was the order of the day with light winds and sunshine throughout. Brown trout were spotted feeding in several river locations and pupils practised the art of fly casting to them, using kits kindly supplied by ADAA.

Mr Adderton's coaching included engaging talks on entymology, history of fishing and sustaining and respecting the natural environment.

Over the course of the day the pupils learned how to assemble tackle, false cast, shoot line and one group even watched an osprey gliding high above the Don.

Mr Adderton commented how impressed he was with the pupils and indicated that there were excellent fly fishers in the making at the school.

Michaela and Keigan said: "We had such a great afternoon at the river and it would be great to try with a real hook to catch and release a trout".

All in all a grand day out and one which we hope to develop over the months ahead. All interested pupils should keep an eye on bulletin news in Glow.

Tight lines!



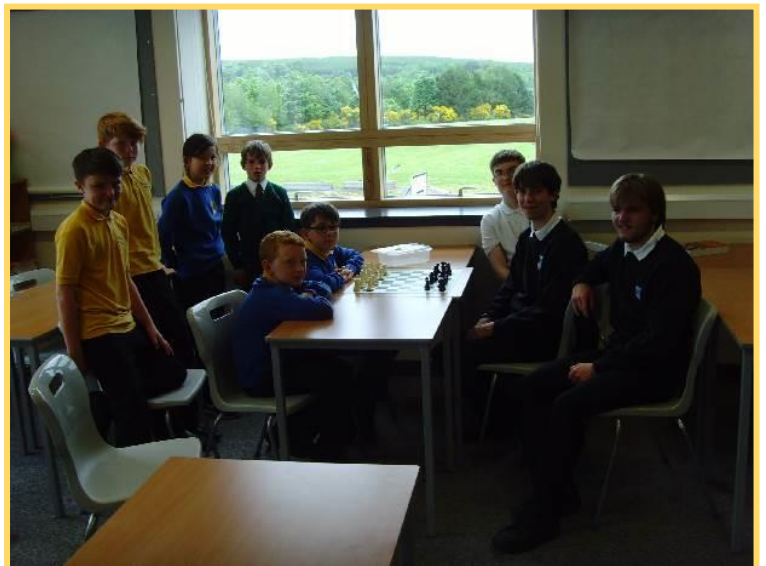
## Chess Club - Kemnay Academy

Since the spring of 2016, a small but very dedicated group of pupils at Kemnay Academy have been mentored by Dr Gerald Lobley (Chess Grand Master).

The club meet weekly for lunchtime training and organise informal games to hone their skills. Senior pupils have been mastering various opening, open play and end game strategies and are now encouraging younger pupils to learn about this globally recognised game. Players report increased problem solving skills and a growing self confidence from the coaching and they are keen to pass on this experience.

Recently, several primary pupils visited the academy on competitive business with national grading opportunities at stake. Dr Lobley reported, '... the academy pupils managed to hold off a spirited attack by their primary counterparts (8.5-3.5) and Jack took overall top score with 7/7 and won a book on chess endgames'.

Senior pupils are currently planning chess events for Primary 7 Link Week. It is hoped that the club can continue to grow next year and interested pupils (*no experience necessary nor expected!*) should keep an eye open for pupil bulletin news in Glow. Pupils and staff wish to take this opportunity to thank Dr Lobley for his continued support and the time and expertise he has dedicated to developing these players. Without his support, pupils could not have progressed as they have done and it is wonderful to see.



## NAVY INPUT DAY

The Royal Navy Youth Engagement team visited Kemnay Academy on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. The team, based in Rosyth, Provided workshops for the S3/4 students.

The first session consisted of a presentation from Engineering, ICT and the Catering disciplines of the Service. This was then followed by workshops in Practical Leadership Skills, S.T.E.M. and Physical Training. The last session was taken by the Royal Marines and they really put our pupils through their paces. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experiences that the Engagement team provided. It was a very positive day for all involved.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze Expeditions June 2017

If you happened to be near Bennachie or Glen Muick in June, you might have spotted teams from Kemnay Academy who successfully completed the Expedition component of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The teams had to carry all their equipment, cook their own food and camp overnight, bravely dodging midges as they navigated from their way across the countryside.



Congratulations to Daniel Andersen, Neil Fraser, Malek Kouadria, Evie Gray, Emma Henderson, Roisin Kelly, Lewis Lindsay, John Macgill, Ross Thomson, Thomas Reid, Niamh Milton, Kim Taylor and Zoe Till for their fantastic effort.

Dr Jefferies, Kemnay DofE  
Co-ordinator



## **Football - Aberdeenshire finals**

Kemnay Academy capped another successful football year with three teams making it through to their respective finals. The senior girls faced Aboyne Academy with the game being played at Alford Academy. Kemnay had key player Ruth Caney missing for the final along with several others and therefore we had to do some last minute recruiting. The final was played in horrendous weather conditions but the girls did brilliantly to get on with the game. The match started very evenly as both players got used to each other as well as the weather conditions. Kemnay took the lead when Niamh Chalmers coolly slotted home from a corner. Aboyne equalised to make it 1-1 but Kemnay retook the lead with Bayley Hutchison beat a few defenders before beating the keeper from close range. Kemnay came out strong again in the second half and one of our late call ups, Erin Jones, powered a shot passed the keeper to make it 3-1. As the game looked like it was going to be a comfortable win Aboyne scored with about 5 minutes to go to make it a nervy last few minutes. The girls held on to win the Aberdeenshire cup 3-2. Well done to all those involved especially to Caitlin Robbie for coaching the team all year and having a superb performance in the final.

The S1 team faced Ellon Academy who beat Kemnay in a 7aside tournament a few weeks back. The game, along with the S2, was held at Peterhead's Balmoor stadium. There was a big crowd down to watch both games with 70 pupils coming on the bus to support the teams along with family, friends and teachers. Ellon started the brighter and

## **Rugby**

The S1/2 rugby team have had a number of fixtures since Easter playing in a couple of 7's tournaments and a number of 15's fixtures against Cults and Westhill. The boys have made real progress this year and there have been a number of standout performers in the squad. The under 16's squad is taking shape nicely and hopefully they will be joining a league next year to get regular fixtures.

took an early lead before Kemnay started to grow in confidence. Chris Old scored a screamer which left the keeper with no chance to level the tie at half time. After the words of wisdom from the coaches Euan Winning and Callum Campbell, Kemnay started to create a few chances and were able to take the lead when Corey Gerrard's low free kick was turned in by James Whyte. Going into the last 15 minutes it was tense for all those supporting Kemnay as Ellon pressed for an equaliser, the defence stood strong and were able to hold on for the win. Kemnay are only the second team to retain the U13 Aberdeenshire final in its recent history so well done to the boys and all involved.

The S2 were up against free scoring Peterhead in their final looking to make it three wins from three for Kemnay. The first half was evenly contested with both teams having chances, three of which fell to Kemnay but they failed to convert any. Peterhead took the lead through a counter attack down the right. Into the second half the game was evenly balanced without either team really creating any decent chances. With about 10 minutes to go Ben Anderson shot crashed off the bar and caused panic in the Peterhead defence, but within a minute they went up the other end and scored to make it 2-0. With minutes remaining Kemnay pushed for a goal and left space at the back which led to them conceding a third. A disappointing end to the day and on another day they could have won, but this was a great learning experience for the boys.

## **Congratulations also go to pupils:**

Alasdair Stephen, Callum Stephen, Kyle Brown and Harris Ferrol who have been selected for the SRU's Performance Pathway Programme for Caledonia.

## The 70273 Project

Between 1940-1941, 70,273 disabled people were murdered by the Nazis. Without ever laying eyes on the person they were evaluating, the assessing doctors read the medical files and if from the words on the page, the person was deemed to be a burden on society, a red X was placed at the bottom of the form. Three doctors read each medical file, and when two of them made a red X on the page, the person's fate was sealed.

To remember the people that died and to celebrate those who live with special needs today a quilting project has been set up. Each quilt block is to be made from white fabric (to represent innocence and the paper the doctors read) and contain two red crosses (to represent the death sentence). These blocks have been gathered from all over the world and will be stitched together to make quilts. The S2 elective textiles group have made a selection of blocks to be added to this quilt.



## DYW @ KEMNAY ACADEMY

It has been a busy term for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce at Kemnay Academy. With the on going development of DYW Careers Noticeboards within Faculties to raise awareness of jobs available to young people when choosing particular subjects. This is linked with the Skills for life, learning and work posters which are also displayed in Faculties. We have also had two meetings with Aberdeen Northern Marts at Thainstone Centre and look forward to welcoming them on a return visit to Kemnay Academy in the autumn term. We also hope to link up with ANM group to engage in some mutual projects next session. I will be engaging help from our new DYW Ambassadors on taking some projects forward along with a working group of staff.

We have had two graduates in the Career Ready programme and they are moving on from school into new courses. We have three current pupils about to start their internships – two at Aberdeenshire Council headquarters and one at Aberdeen Asset Management. All students are looking forward to their placements, have mentors in place and attended masterclasses to help them prepare for the internship. We are currently in the recruitment process for new students.

Some of our S6 students received a talk on stress management in preparation for exam leave. There will be more sessions organised to help all students facing exams next session.

We are also planning on having more employer engagement within courses in order to highlight employability skills and skills for work. DYW North East are on board, as well as building links with community businesses, but if any parents feel they would like to offer their services and business support, please contact myself at the school.

Mrs P Webster  
PT Guidance & Developing Scotland's Young Workforce.



S5 Artwork

## “Kenny the Kemnay McCoo”

S2 pupils Ellie McCarthy and Isla Sutherland MacDonald have been busy over the past two terms working on some fantastic artwork during their Art periods in The Support for Learning department. One piece which deserves a special mention is “Kenny the Kemnay McCoo” which is inspired by the Scottish artist Steven Brown’s Highland “McCoo” paintings. Both Ellie and Isla researched Brown and his work and wanted to make a giant highland cow of their own. Along with pupils, Isla McLeod (S2), Imogen Freeman (S2), Jasmine Parks (S2), Billy Duncan (S3), Shannon Hepburn (S4) and Emma Foreman (S5), the girls created an A1 size “McCoo” collage using the Kemnay Academy badge colours. The finished outcome looks fantastic and was shared on Steven Brown’s Facebook page. The girls have had enquiries to see if they would do commissions!

Well done to Isla, Ellie and all involved in creating “Kenny”! We love him!

Mrs Clark, ASfL



## Maths News

Congratulations to Kemnay Academy young mathematicians team for winning the third place in the regional heats of the Scottish Enterprising Maths challenge and in the process qualifying for the finals which are to be held in November in Glasgow where they will have the opportunity to compete against teams from all over Scotland.

Our team comprising of two S3 and two S4 pupils competed against eighteen other teams from schools across Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. The teams competed in a variety of challenges to apply their mathematical knowledge and problem solving skills. In addition, teams also competed in a poster designing challenge on the theme of ‘Music and Maths’ where pupils had the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and creative skills to link music and maths.

Achieving third place and securing a place in the finals is a testament to the ability, hard work and dedication of our pupils. Well done to all!

## The Prince's Trust S4 Achieve Group – Kemnay Primary Memorial Garden Project

The S4 Achieve group have been hard at work this term, along with pupils and staff at Kemnay Primary, helping them to clear space to create a memorial garden. The group chose this as their project for their Community and Supporting Others in the Community National 4 units. The garden will be dedicated to the memory of one of the Kemnay Primary nursery pupils who very sadly died last year and this is something the group felt they really wanted to be involved in. The staff and pupils have been putting lots of plans into place for the garden but needed help clearing dead trees and fixtures from the space. The group worked really hard every week to get this done, as well as helping some of the P7 pupils build some willow huts, and we hope to continue this project into next year with our new Achieve group.

Well done to Craig Needham, Megan Beattie, Ronin Whyte and Neil Ross!  
Mrs Clark, ASfL



## Learning for Sustainability

### S1 John Muir Award

S1 took part in activities which let them Discover, Explore, Conserve and Communicate about the local environment at Kemnay Academy and Castle Fraser.

Pupils looked at the life of John Muir and found out about his philosophy about the environment and how everyone has a responsibility to conserve our local environment as well as the global environment.

We spent a day at Castle Fraser where pupils walked around the grounds and took part in workshops about Outdoor Maths, Biodiversity at the Flight Pond, Castle Fraser tour and Reflecting on Nature. The weather was sunny and pupils enjoyed the opportunity to spend time outdoors with their class and to learn about a local attraction and its environment.

Pupils worked hard at the school to make improvements to the school grounds. They did some gardening, collected litter, surveyed the trees at the school and the



biodiversity in the River Don and learned about the importance of pollinators and make seed bombs to disperse wildflower seeds. At the end of the activities the pupils made house displays to show what they had learned during the different activities. It was a busy week but pupils and staff enjoyed the range of activities and to appreciate and look more closely at our local environment.

As part of the John Muir programme, all of the first year classes learned about the effects of waste and litter, and then contributed to a litter pick around Kemnay Village and on the school campus. We learned that Scottish household generates more than a tonne of waste every year, but much of it could be reduced, reused or recycled to help create a cleaner and greener Scotland. Littering is a problem too, if everyone in Scotland picked up one piece of litter today, our environment would be 5.2 million items cleaner.

The students counted the amount of litter collected, and decided if each item was recyclable or not. We did this as a survey for the Clean Up Scotland Charity who are gathering data on litter.

Across the two days, the classes picked up an amazing 2013 pieces of litter, of which 1602 pieces were recyclable. At first glance, it would seem that Kemnay Village and the school don't have too much litter, but when you look closely with the keen eyesight of the S1 students, a lot more rubbish (including very small items) is revealed. The classes were armed with exciting "Clean Up Scotland" tabards in a very fetching yellow, bin bags and litter pickers & went out bravely into the very hot sun to make our collective environment better. All the students worked very hard and I'd like to thank them for their work. Well done! Dr Jefferies



## **S2 Learning for Sustainability event**

All S2 pupils took part in the annual Learning for Sustainability event when a variety of organisations and presenters came to Kemnay Academy and delivered workshops about aspects of sustainability.

Workshops included Waste Management, Kemnay Beekeepers, Countryside Learning (gamekeepers), Eco Schools Food and the Environment and Sustainable Development Goals, River Don Biodiversity, SRUC Craibstone Soil Analysis and Animal Tracking, Kemnay Angling Club, Forestry and Orienteering.

## **S3 pupils organised buddies for the event and assisted with the event on the day.**

Pupils enjoyed the variety of activities and many of the presenters commented on the interest and enthusiasm shown by pupils. Next year will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Learning for Sustainability event held at Kemnay Academy and planning has already begun to invite back the many organisations who have supported the event over the years.

## What some of the pupils thought.....

I have learned how to measure trees

I learned how to tell the trees age

I learned that Castle Fraser has secrets to it

I learnt about nature and how we can conserve it

I would like to do more outside activities

I learnt how to look after bees and the queen bee

I learnt how much milk a cow can produce a day

I learnt about the nitrogen cycle

I learnt how to fly fish

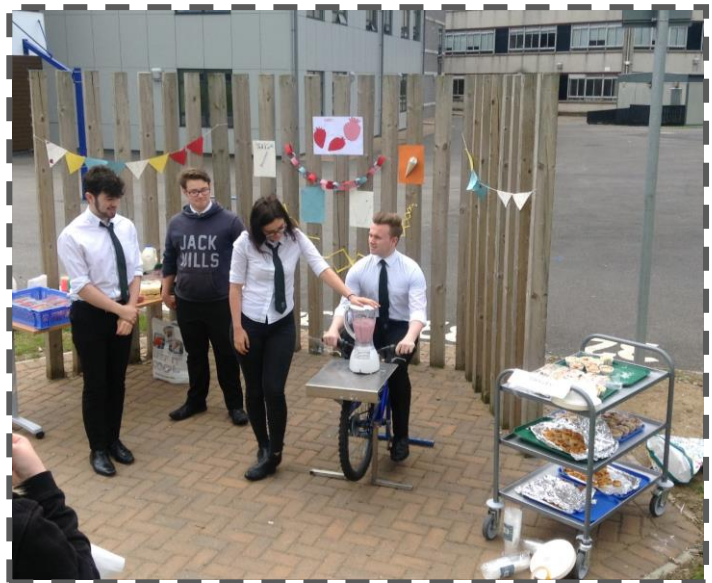
I learnt how to check for good soil

I learnt how to make an open fire

## One World Picnic

Pupils in the S2 Inter-Disciplinary Food and the Environment class held a picnic to celebrate local food as part of the Eco Schools One World Picnic.

Pupils prepared raspberry and white chocolate muffins and cheese and tomato puffs in Home Economics. The Smoothie Bike was borrowed from ANM Thainstone and was used to make smoothies using Mackies Icecream and Barra Berries raspberries and strawberries. Pupils played Toss the Wellie and Capture the Flag. This was a great opportunity for the classes to work together and to begin work for their project.



## Sustainability Leaders

A group of 4 S6 pupils have volunteered to act as Sustainability Leaders. They will be responsible for work towards applying for the Eco Schools Flag and for liaising with our twin school in Oulu, Finland.

The focus for next year is School Grounds and Biodiversity. Specific projects will be Bee-friendly Kemnay and Gardening. The school will also continue its KemNae Waste work led by the N4 Environmental Science class.

## Chemistry Competition

Luke Johnston, Emma Jackson and Euan Fraser in Advanced Higher Chemistry won the North East Scotland heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst Competition. They travelled to Brighton with Dr Shand to the University of Sussex for the UK final along with 19 other schools. Although they did not win the national final, they enjoyed the experience, worked well together and learned new skills which will be of use in the practical aspects of the Advanced Higher course. They won £200 for use by the Science Faculty.

## SPONSORED WALK – 27th September 2017

The annual Sponsored Walk, involving all pupils, has been arranged for the afternoon of Friday 27th September. The walk will follow a route round the Fetternear Estate (8 km) and pupils will be accompanied by School Staff. Trained First Aid Staff will also be stationed on the route. Last year we asked pupils to wear the House colours of their own House group: Bennachie – purple, Caskieben – orange, Don – blue, Tuach – yellow.

Money raised from sponsorship will be added to the School Fund and used to benefit pupils in a variety of ways. This includes subsidising a wide range of trips and paying for bus transport. This is a very successful event and with your continued support we can raise funds to support pupils in school. Last year we raised £6200

## Royal Highland Show visit

A group of pupils interested in farming and some pupils from the Higher Environmental Science class set off at 6am to travel to the Royal Highland Show near Edinburgh. A busy day was spent looking at the wide range of machinery and livestock, watching forestry displays of pole-climbing, seeing competitive sheep-shearing, visiting the Aberdeenshire section, and generally enjoying the variety of activities and events.

The group attended workshops about Forestry and Seafood where they had the opportunity to try out skills for training to work in forestry, virtual reality forestry scenarios, watching the dissection of a salmon and learning about fish biology and trying out salmon recipes.

A good time was had by all and the farming group will continue to meet next term and will begin to plan a series of local visits and then another visit to the Highland Show next June.



## SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE.

An exciting new service, Groupcall, is now available to us - making communication between the school and yourselves easier and more effective.



A free App – **Groupcall Xpressions** is available for you to download to your mobile phone or tablet. **Using the App will save the school the cost of a text by sending free messages. The more parents who sign up – the more the school will save when sending messages!** (We will continue to send texts to those who prefer this method)

We will also have the facility to send **emails direct to your inbox**, saving time locating the document on the school website – so **please ensure we have your current email address** (you will require an email address in order to register for the App – see para below re updating your records).

This free App will be used across all schools in Aberdeenshire (in time) and means that if you have children in various schools, all messages come to the same App.

Some of the benefits of the new Groupcall system to you are:

- The Xpressions App (info overleaf) allows you to receive messages on your tablet or mobile phone
- You can text in with notifications of absence before the school day starts
- When we send Absence Texts these can be responded to with the reason for your child's absence
- We can send Timed Messages later in the evening, meaning they will appear on your phone when you are with your child later in the day
- At the moment we can only send messages to the parent who is known as 'first contact', but in the near future, you can choose to have messages sent to additional contacts

### Some of the benefits for the School are:

- Text messages delivered via the App are **free** – potentially saving the school hundreds of pounds each year.
- Emails can be sent to individuals/groups
- Survey responses can be collated quickly and easily

Note that in order to authenticate you when setting up the App, the contact details held by the school must match those that you register with - **if you get an error message when registering your details**, please contact the school via **Kemnay.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk** with the new details and we will update your child's records.



**We have our own text number (07860 029087)** – When you receive your first text from us, save the number in your phonebook so you will know who the text is from in the future. You may also need to check that the first email we send is not in your ‘junk’ folder.

We can send three different types of text messages:

**Broadcast** – with no reply option; **Open** – with the option to reply and **Closed** – you will have a specific reply option (e.g. for a school survey).

**Getting in touch with us** – We would advise that immediate or time-sensitive information should never be sent via the app or email. Please call the school on the usual number (01467 643535).

### **Groupcall Xpressions App**

#### **What happens if I haven't got the app?**

Nothing will change. Sending messages via the app saves the school time and money but we will continue to send texts to those who prefer this method.



#### **Will my personal details be safe?**

Aberdeenshire Council is the Data Controller of the personal data being processed and GroupCall are our Data Processor. If you sign up, your data will be used to:

- Safely and securely log you into the Groupcall products;
- Correctly identify and display information about your children from their school(s);
- Provide assistance when requested by yourself or your school;
- Analyse and improve the services offered by Groupcall and provide you with the most user-friendly experience (There is an opt-out option available for this purpose on signing-up to GroupCall)

#### **Can I have a say in what messages I receive and how I get them?**

We definitely want to know your views on what communications you would like to receive from the school, how often and at what time of day

#### **Once installed and set up, the app offers a range of benefits including:**

- Messages from the school delivered directly to the app
- Urgent text messages duplicated into the app
- Even if your children attend schools in different authorities, all messages can be received through the app
- Ability to reply to selected messages and complete satisfaction surveys via the app
  - From late 2017 (date TBA) messages can be sent to more than one contact if required

#### **To start receiving messages via the app:**

- Visit your phone/tablet's apps store to download the Groupcall Xpressions app and follow set up guidance at <http://parents.groupcall.com/setup/>

**TERM 1**

21 Aug Inservice Closure  
22 Aug Start of Term 1  
13 Sep UCAS Info evening  
27 Sep Sponsored Walk  
28 Sep P7 Tours  
29 Sep S4/5/6 Iterim Reports  
11 Oct Open Afternoon  
11 Oct S1 Parents' Evening  
11 Oct S3 Reports issued  
13 Oct Last Day of Term

**TERM 2**

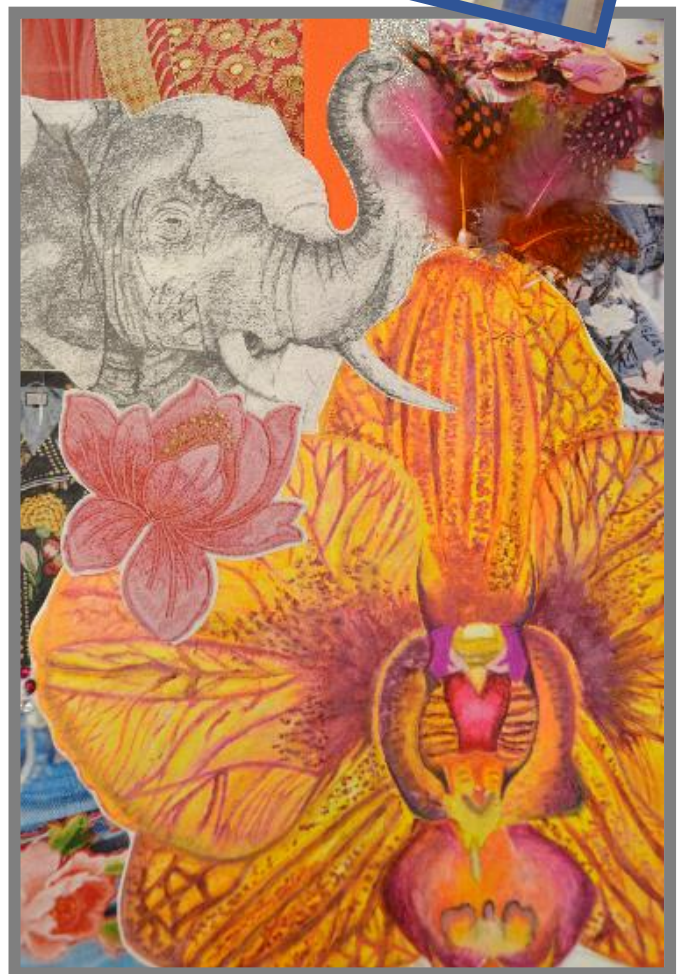
30 Oct Start of Term 2  
13 Nov In Service Closure  
14 Nov In Service Closure  
22 Nov S4 Reports issued  
2 Dec School Christmas Fayre  
5 Dec S5/6 Reports issued  
19 Dec S1 Iterim reports issued  
22 Dec School Ceildh  
22 Dec Last Day of Term

**TERM 3**

8 Jan Start of Term 3  
11 Jan S2 into S3 Course  
Parents Meeting  
16 Jan S2 Parents' Evening  
18 Jan Prelims start  
25 Jan S3 Parents' Evening  
26 Jan Prelims End  
5 Feb S3 Info Evening  
5-10 Feb S2 Ski Trip  
9 Feb Occasional Day  
12 Feb Mid Term Holiday  
13 Feb In Service Closure  
14 Feb In Service Closure  
15 Feb S4/5/6 Info Evening  
22 Feb S4 Parents' Evening  
28 Feb S5/6 Parents' Evening  
29 March Last Day of Term  
30 March Holiday

**TERM 4**

16 April Start of Term 4





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)