



October 2017

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent, Carer or Colleague

Welcome to our 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 and staff.

58% of S4 pupils this session achieved 5 or more National Qualifications at Nat 5. This is a considerable achievement. Other curriculum changes have included SQA revisions to Nat 5 courses. A letter was issued regarding the changes and a parent

information session was supported by the Senior Leadership Team.

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. The next meeting is 30th October.

Term 2 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.

Mrs L Paul, Rector

Reminder:

School Closure Website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures/

Telephone Information Line:

0870 054 4999

PIN: 021070

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/>

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OUR SCHOOL VISION

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.

Updates

Staffing Changes:

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

The school welcomes a number of new staff: -

Mr Ian Wright to post of Depute Head Teacher.

Ms Nicola Tannar will be starting with us in November as our new Faculty Head of Technologies.

We have successfully recruited the following staff to a range of different posts here in the Academy.

Lorena Bechelli – English

Nicola Hardingham – Maths

Hannah Williamson – Art & Design

Rachel Bennett - HE

Lizzie Turner - Maths

Hazel Allan – PSA

Gillian Anderson – PE

Robbie Patterson - PE

Ross Brown – Mod Studies

Sally Mennie – Business & ICT

Judith Farquhar – Technician Jenny Reid – PSA

Although there continues to be vacancies in a few subjects these are advertised and solutions regarding the vacancies are **always** sought. The school waved “bon voyage” to Mr Craig Watson.

Mr Watson has left the Academy to move with his family to Australia.

Mrs D Mills, teacher of Modern Foreign Languages has also left Kemnay Academy.

An Introduction to Ian Wright (Depute Rector)

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I have lived in the area for the majority of my life, schooling in Westhill. My wife is also in teaching; working at Ellon Academy as a Home Economics Teacher. Outside of my working life I enjoy watching and playing a range of sports, watching films or box sets, walking my dog Bailey and I am also a fan of new technologies.

Previously I have worked at Alford Academy and then Meldrum Academy as a Teacher of Mathematics. I then moved on to Ellon Academy as Faculty Head of Mathematics/ Numeracy and more recently in session 2016-2017 I was Acting Depute Rector. My remit included SQA; Learning, Teaching & Assessment and Tracking, Monitoring & Reporting.

I am very proud and excited to have started here at Kemnay Academy as Depute Rector. My current remit areas include SQA Coordinator; Learning, Teaching & Assessment and Digital Learning Strategy. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term here working with staff, parents and the pupils of Kemnay Academy. I have been made to feel very welcome and I am impressed with the school and the direction it is headed. The attainment last session was excellent and this is something that we can build upon, ensuring the best possible outcomes and life opportunities for all our young people.



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.

Lunchtime

The return in August presents a challenge for the local community here in Kemnay. Local businesses are supported by young people who choose to go off site for lunch and this in turn brings more litter. Where pupils are off site they are unsupervised and responsible for their own behaviour. A code of conduct for pupils is set out below.

- Respect our Environment.
- Place litter in rubbish bins.
- Stay safe

Pupils are discouraged from going to the zip slide and playpark adjacent to Alehousewells school.

All our pupils are encouraged to respect the local community and reminded of this at our assemblies and through the school daily news bulletin.

School uniform

The school is looking to engage parents in a discussion regarding school uniform. This “conversation” will be held over the next few months in a bid to gather your opinion.

In recent months we have encouraged all our pupils to wear full school uniform. The impact of this has been considerable improvement in uniform in all year groups.

To comment on school uniform please email

Kemnay.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Literacy Support



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 should offer and how it may benefit your son or daughter? We will be running info sessions throughout the school year to showcase the many useful functions and give parents the opportunity to see for themselves what a difference this software can make to the learning experience of all pupils.

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, would like a copy of the software or require any further information please contact Mr Millar, PT ASN, at the school

alan.millar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Senior Pupil Leadership Team

As the new term started back in August it was with great pleasure that we were able to announce the new Senior Pupil Leadership Team for the 2017-2018 school session. The School Captain team is headed up by Amy Emslie and Matthew Dailey, with Sasha Ratnayeke, Ronan Swanson, Erin Jones and Caitlin Gray taking on the roles of Depute School Captains. Already this term the team have been very busy, helping out with events within the school such as the Pupils Photo sessions, the School Tours and the upcoming S1 Parents' Evening. They have also prepared and delivered their first School Captains Assembly on Anti-Bullying which was a great success. They are a very enthusiastic and proactive team who are keen to ensure they make their mark at Kemnay Academy and have made a very impressive start to their duties.

The House Captain team is made up of two pupils for each House Group. For Bennachie House we have Hannah Barclay and Amy Prentice, for Caskieben House, Lewis McDonald and Georgia Sharp, for Don House the positions went to Jai Dasgupta and Chloe Milne and for Tuach House to Joe Reid and Ailie Keddie. The House Captains have already been busy putting together teams for the Inter-House competitions that have taken place this term and they will be involved in their first House Assembly during the last week of term. Another important role that they have is to head up the Prefect teams, ensuring that the rotas are in place and that each of their Prefects turn up to deliver their duty. Following an initial training session at the start of the session our school Prefects have been working hard to ensure the good order of the canteen and social areas during interval and lunch time and they have been on hand to offer help and advice to any pupil who needs it. We have 75 Prefects in total this session and we are very grateful for the valuable contribution they make. Both our Prefects and our House Captains have made a great start to their roles and we wish them all well as they continue to compete to get their House group to the top of the House Points board.

The Peer Support Captain team is a new team this year and these positions have been taken on by Fiona Sweeney, Amy Stewart, Katie Paterson, Alice Hepburn, Abigail Paterson and Beth Thomson. The group have met a few times already this term to establish what they want to try and achieve this session and how they can ensure they are offering a sustainable approach to peer support within the school. The initiative they are putting together is very much being kept under wraps at the moment but they will be looking to launch during term two with further information to follow for pupil's staff and parents. So, watch this space!



An Introduction to our School Captains

Hello, we are Matthew Dailey and Amy Emslie and we are Head Boy and Head Girl at Kemnay Academy for session 2017/18. We are very excited to be making a start in our new roles and we hope you will notice the difference we make both in Kemnay Academy and the wider community.

I [Amy] have really enjoyed my five years at Kemnay Academy and I am glad I've now got the opportunity to have an impact on our school and its young people. At school, I have always enjoyed Mathematics and Physics and I hope to study these at University when I leave school next year. Outside of school, I enjoy exercising and I am currently working towards running the 2018 Edinburgh Half-Marathon, in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

I [Matthew] have had a great and thoroughly enjoyable experience over the past five years at Kemnay Academy. I am thrilled to have this chance to make a difference and give back to the young people of our school. Like Amy, I have a passion for Mathematics and Physics and I hope to study Mathematics at University. Outside of school, I have a great interest in golf, competing in Scottish Championship Events. I also enjoy running in my spare time.

We have a great team of Vice School Captains – Caitlin Gray, Erin Jones, Ronan Swanson and Sasha Ratnayeke – who you will all get to know more as the year goes by.



Our first project has been focused on Anti-bullying. We carried out a fun and interactive presentation with all year groups and strengthened this knowledge through a series of activities and class discussions within register classes. We hope that our fellow pupils enjoyed and learned from this work.



Kemnay Academy Extra-Curricular Activities

Here at Kemnay Academy we have a whole range of different clubs and activities on offer during lunch time and after school to allow our pupils to get involved and feel included beyond the classroom door. These provide an excellent opportunity for our pupils to get to know new people, develop different skills, and indulge their interests and passions whilst perhaps pursuing something new. We would encourage every student to consider getting actively involved in our programme of activities which includes a number of sporting activities which are good for health and fitness as well as social skills and teamwork, Pupil Council which allows our pupils to take on a position of responsibility and add to the pupil voice within the school, and a variety of music and languages opportunities which allow pupils to develop their skills further. Some of our activities are being supervised by our Sports Leaders who are being trained in partnership with Active Schools and the PE department and we currently have around 300 pupils registered with at least one club. For the full list, which spans ever day of the week, please see the school website. If any pupil has any suggestions for further clubs they would like to see set up, please see Miss Arthur in the first instance.

Monday				
Club	Year Group	Time	Location	Staff Member
Strength and Conditioning	S2 – 6 Boys	1310 - 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Badminton	S1 – 6	1310 - 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
LGBTQ Group	S1 – S6	1315 – 13.50	Rm 110	Ms Donaldson Mr Brown
Science Study Support	S1 – 3	1315 - 1345	Rm 205	
Chemistry Study Support	S3 – 6	1315 - 1345	Rm 207	
Italian Class	S1 – 6	1320 – 1350	Rm 112	Mrs Bleasdale
French & German Drop In	S4 – 6	1320 – 1350	Rm 115	Mrs Gafney
S1 Drop In	S1	Lunchtime	CLD Rm	Mrs Smith
Football	S1 – 2 Boys	1530 - 1630	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Girls' Fitness	S4 – 6 Girls	1530 - 1630	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Image Hip Hop	S1 – 6	1830 - 2000	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Tuesday				
Club	Year Group	Time	Location	Staff Member
Jazz Band	Mixed	1320	Music 1	Mrs Cormack
Chess Club	S4 – 6	Lunchtime	Library ICT Rm	Mr Gibson
Farming & Countryside Group	S1 – 6	1315 - 1345	Rm 206	Mrs Buchan
Environmental Science Study Support	S4 – 6	1315 - 1345	Rm 205	
Transition Drop In	S1	1255 – 1355 (until October hols)	Hut 304	Community Learning Staff
Table Tennis	S1 – 6	1310 - 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Football	S4 – 6 Boys	1310 - 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Girls' Fitness	S1 – 3 Girls	1310 - 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Mock Trials	S3 – 6	1320 (till October)	Rm 307	Ms Washington
Rock Challenge – Costumes and Set	S2 - 6	1530 - 1630		Mrs Salvona Mrs White
Netball	S3 – 6	1530 - 1700	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)

Wednesday

Club	Year Group	Time	Location	Staff Member
Ceilidh Band	Mixed	1320	Music 2	Mrs Cormack
Brass Ensemble	Mixed	1320	Music 1	Mrs Cormack
Ornithology	S1 - 6	1320	Rm 101	Mrs Findlayson Ms Bechelli
Volleyball	S1 – 6	1310 - 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
French & German Drop-In/Homework Club	S1 – 3	1320 - 1350	Rm 113	Mrs Mowat
Directors Group (Animation)	S1 – 6	Lunchtime	Design 2	Ms Williamson
Concert Band	Mixed	1515	Music 1	Mrs Cormack
Basketball	S1 – 6	1530 - 1630	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Hockey	S1 – 6	1530 - 1630	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Golf	S1 – 6	After School	PE Dept.	PE Dept.
Girls' Football	S1 – 6 Girls	1530 - 1630	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)

Thursday

Club	Year Group	Time	Location	Staff Member
Girls' Group	Mixed	Lunchtime	ASFL	Mrs Marsh
Senior Choir	S3 – 6	1320	Music 1	Mrs Cormack
Chess Club	S1 – 3	Lunchtime	Library ICT Room	Mr Gibson
Senior Free Time	S4 – 6	1310 – 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Cross Country	S1 – 3	1310 – 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Physics Study Support	S3 – 6	1315 - 1345	Rm 201	
Senior Drop In	S2 – 6	Lunchtime	CLD Rm	Mrs Smith
Rock Challenge - Dancing	S2 – 6	1530 - 1630		Mrs Salvage Mrs White
Netball	S1 – 2	1530 – 1700	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Rugby	S1 – 6	1530 - 1630	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)

Friday

Club	Year Group	Time	Location	Staff Member
Interact Club	S1 & 2	1300	ASFL1	Mr Millar
Kemnay Cakes & Bakes	Mixed	1315	HE 1	Mrs Bennett
Biology Study Support	S3 – 6	1315 - 1345	Rm 208	
1:1 French & German	S4 – 6 (Sign up required)	1320 - 1350	Rm 115	Mrs Gafney
Duke of Edinburgh	S4	1515 (fortnightly)	Rm 214	Dr Jefferies
Senior Free Time	S4 – 6	1310 - 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)
Football	S3 Boys	1310 - 1340	PE Dept.	Ms Coutts (Active Schools)

Highlights from Term 1

Wellbeing Assemblies

As many of you will be aware each morning at Kemnay Academy starts with a year group assembly, with the switch over to a House Group assembly once every term. These assemblies are designed to allow pupils to engage directly with members of staff around the school and in particular with members of the Senior Leadership Team who host each assembly. They allow staff and pupil groups the opportunity to share with the pupils' initiatives and programmes of work that are being carried out across the school, and for us to remind the pupils of some of the important messages we want to promote as a school as we furnish them with opportunities to get involved in a range of activities to promote their overall growth and development as individuals.

This term we have had a number of different speakers involved in our wellbeing assembly schedule. We started the term with a warm welcome back from Mrs Paul, and we followed this up with some introductions to our Senior Pupil Leadership Team and to our Chaplaincy team. Over the weeks we have enjoyed presentations from some of our pupil groups including the S1/2 Rotary Interact Group, the S6 Leadership groups, and the Rock Challenge Team, all of whom actively sought to engage our pupils in the various opportunities they are to be presenting over the course of the session. Miss Arthur led a week of assemblies which focused on how we all work together to 'Get it Right' for every pupil in Kemnay Academy which included a focus on Child Protection and a reminder of the support networks that are in place in school for our pupils. Mrs Paul headed up an assembly which focused on the school's values with a particular focus on aspiration and determination, which encouraged our pupils to think about what mattered to them, what they wanted to aim for and achieve during their time in school and the importance of hard work and resilience as they strive to be the best version of themselves that they can be.

Our School Captain team put together a week-long programme to mark our Kemnay Academy Anti-Bullying Week. This included a daily programme of activities to be completed in Registration classes to encourage pupils to consider the different types of bullying, the repercussions of acts of bullying, the role they can play in preventing this type of behaviour, and the importance of standing up to bullies and supporting our friends to speak up and seek help if they are experiencing difficulties with their peers. They also delivered an excellent assembly which really highlighted to pupils the impact of bullying and the need to think about the way we treat others, and some very powerful messages about 'not letting the bullies get you down', the importance of talking to someone if things are getting to you, and the importance of being yourself and being proud of it. This week will see our first House Assemblies for the session as our House Captains look to round off the term.

Celebrating Success and Achievement at Kemnay Academy

At Kemnay Academy we are very proud of our young people and we are always keen to congratulate and celebrate their achievements both in and out of school. Throughout our PSE curriculum pupils are actively encouraged to share with their Guidance teachers their accomplishments, and they have the opportunity to record this information in their Pupil Profile along with examples of their latest and best achievements in each of their curricular areas. In addition to this, we like to highlight achievements throughout the session via our 'Kemnay in the News' noticeboards in reception and our sporting 'Wall of Fame' within the PE department. Some of our additions this session have been that of Abigail Topp in S5 and her highly impressive achievements in the world of Rowing. Abigail was a Silver medallist in the British Junior Championships and also took team GB to victory against

France in their annual competition. Daisy Waddington in S1 has been recognised for her success in the Blackburn Bake Off Competition where she has won the title for two years in a row. Lucy Crow in S3 successfully raised £540 for Cash for Kids via the Northsound's 500 faces competition by climbing Lochnagar. Taylor Munro in S3 participated in the Inspiring Purpose competition. Her entry went all the way to the final and her saw her article published in the National Inspiring Purpose Magazine. We had a group of students in both S2 and S6 who received the Anne Frank award, namely, Christine Meyer, Katie Doig, Sasha Ratnayeke, Fiona Sweeney, Amy Emslie and Beth Elkin. Amy Smith in S1 achieved gold medals in both the Scottish and British Double Mini Trampolining competitions.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind pupils and parents/carers that we want to know about the successes and achievements in the lives of our students so that we can all join together to congratulate them on their endeavours and to encourage all of our young people to be proud of their achievements and to be the best that they can be. Next term we are going to be working on a mechanism which will make sharing this information with us even easier and information on this will follow to both pupils and parents/carers. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school email address to let us know of any achievements so that we can look to celebrate them here in school as well. Well done to all of our pupils who have appeared this term and also to all those pupils who have kept their achievements to themselves, or who prefer to be the unsung heroes in their fields! You should all be very proud of yourselves!

Pupil Participation Forum

We appointed our Pupil Participation Forum pupils: Joseph Reid, Sasha Brydon, Katelyn Power and Lewis Mackland. They represent the views of pupils at Kemnay Academy on the Aberdeenshire forum for secondary schools. They view current matters that affect young people which is fed back to the council. The Forum are currently planning for the Aberdeen shire Youth Volunteer Awards which is being held at Thainstone House on 24th November. Voting is now open. Please see the DYW Facebook page for details or pick up a leaflet from the school reception.



Aberdeenshire Mock Trials Competition

Kemnay Academy will be once again entering a team for the Aberdeenshire Mock Trials Competition, which will take place on Saturday 7th October in Aberdeen Sheriff Court. Kemnay Academy have a long and proud tradition in the Mock Trials Competition and all the pupils have been working really hard this term in preparation for the event. The Mock Trials Competition is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to learn more about the legal system in Scotland and about potential career ideas in Law. It also enables the pupils to develop their skills in literacy and public speaking, which will no doubt help boost their confidence. Furthermore, this is an exciting year for our team as we have welcomed many new team members, from Modern Studies and beyond. This includes new S3 pupils, who are working really well alongside our Senior Pupils in the team. It has been wonderful to see pupils from across the year groups S3-S6 pulling together and working to build such a strong team. The teachers involved in organising and running the team, Mrs Meynet and Mrs Washington are very proud of all the effort the pupils have put in and wish them every success in the competition.

S4 Prince's Trust Achieve Group- MacMillan Coffee Morning

The staff Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 29th of September was a huge success. The S4 pupils from the Prince's Trust Achieve group hosted the event again this year and, along with the generous contributions from school staff, provided a wonderful (and delicious) spread of cakes and other goodies.



The group collected in over £430 of donations which will go to Macmillan Cancer Support which we think you'll agree is a fantastic total and the pupils are delighted with the support they've had from the school.

Thank you so much to all staff for their amazing support; the pupils could not have done it without you and a massive well done to Dana Sim, Scott Shepherd, Shannon Hepburn and Kieran Stephen for all their hard work in organising the event along with Declan Barker and Neil Ross for helping set up on the day. Here's looking forward to next year's coffee morning!

Mrs Clark & Mrs Marsh Achieve advisors

Live n Learn Workshop



For the third year in a row Live-N-Learn delivered a motivational study skills workshop to our S4 pupils. The purpose of the workshop was to help raise aspirations & achievement with our young adults, as well as building confidence by encouraging students to take personal responsibility, to consider and foster a 'growth mindset' and to help develop their resilience. More information can be found on the following website. <https://live-n-learn.co.uk/>

Guide Dogs

S1T had a visit from Rachel Anderson and her guide dog in training.

Rachel explained her role and what she does to train the puppy.

The puppy was very well behaved and was happy to be in the class with the pupils.

The pupils were given work books and information on guide dogs.

A huge thanks to Rachel for bringing the puppy in to show us. I am sure you will agree she is very cute!!



Duke of Edinburgh Award – Kemnay Autumn Term



We have 23 keen S4 students who have signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, and we have about a dozen S5 students who will compete their award in the coming weeks. I'd like to thank the S5 teams for their hard work, and wish the new S4 group the very best of luck.

We meet every two weeks or so after school, usually on a Friday to do training in a number of outdoor skills. When the training is complete, the students can then participate in the practice and actual expeditions. The cohorts are managed entirely by volunteers and there is no charge, but we are stretched to find enough qualified Leaders to manage the expeditions – we can always use folk who have hill walking experience! If you have the experience and would like to help, please let us know.

Below is the S4 DofE timetable, and I would encourage the students to participate in all the sessions as non-attendance may prevent them from going on the expeditions.

Dr A Jefferies, Computing, DofE co-ordinator

Week	Topic	Date
1	Sign up, eDofE	7 th September (Thursday lunchtime in school)
2	The basics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details of training and expedition• Expedition aims• Personal equipment required• Fitness	15 th September

3	Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and avoiding hazards Weather 	29 th September
	October holiday	16 th -> 27 th Oct
4	The Scottish Outdoor Access Code and leave no trace	3 rd November
5	Practical map skills	17 th November
6	Use of the compass	1 st December
7	Map/compass consolidation	15 th December
	Christmas holiday	25 th -> 5 th Jan
8	Route Planning2	12 th January
	Prelims	18 th Jan -> 26 th Jan
9	emergency procedures	2 nd February
10	Outdoor map day (Saturday)	17 th February
11	First aid	23 rd February
12	Food and cooking, use of stoves	2nd March
13	Camp craft, equipment and hygiene	16 th March
14	Tents practice & Talk	23 rd March
	Easter Holiday (Good Friday: 30 th March)	2 nd April -> 14 th April
	Exams	30 th April -> 4 th June
15	Bronze Practice – Bennachie 1	9 th /10 th June
16	Bronze Practice – Bennachie 2	16 th / 17 th June
17	Bronze Expedition - Glen Muick 1	23 rd / 24 th June
18	Bronze Expedition - Glen Muick 2	29 th / 30 th June

Inter-House Sports Activities

The Sports Ambassadors have started delivering their series of Inter-House Sports Competitions which have been hugely popular, particularly with S1 and S2. So far, the S1 football tournament was won by Don, the S2 tournament by Bennachie, the S1 volleyball tournament was won by Don and the S3 volleyball tournament by Bennachie. The S2 and S4-6 volleyball tournaments will be decided in the last week of term with badminton as the next planned competition after the holidays.

Advanced Higher Physics at Aberdeen University

This term the Advanced Higher Physics class spent a day at the Physics department in Aberdeen University. The day started with a talk from one of the Physics lecturers at the university before time was spent practical lab sessions.

Matthew Dailey and Amy Emslie commented on the experience:

‘The day at the Physics department was very interesting and insightful. We were given a short lecture to begin with by one of the Physics lecturers at the university before carrying out University Style Physics experiments on polarisation and interference’.



‘It was great to have the opportunity to work in the University Physics labs using the scientific equipment only available at the university. The experiments we carried out on the day allowed us to gather data that we will be able to use in our Advanced Higher Physics projects.’

‘Thanks to the University of Aberdeen for making this experience available’.

Mr MacKenzie

Internet Safety Day

On Wednesday 4th October we welcomed Paul Hay to the school to support us with our 'Internet Safety' day. Paul is an expert in the field of internet safety and has delivered to schools the length and breadth of Scotland and England. Paul came very highly recommended by our colleagues across Aberdeenshire and he did not disappoint.



Throughout the school day he delivered a presentation to each year group within the school. Each session took a slightly different approach, ensuring it was geared to the current trends of young people within that age group. He covered everything from popular online resources, to 'digital footprints' and had a particular focus on how to keep yourself safe when online. Each session was very thought provoking, with pupils encouraged to think about their own actions online, and to think about the consequences of what they post on social media. All pupils were then encouraged to go home and look at their own privacy settings and to review their online content. The pupils told us they really enjoyed these sessions and it had really made them think about their involvement in the online world. In addition to the pupil sessions,



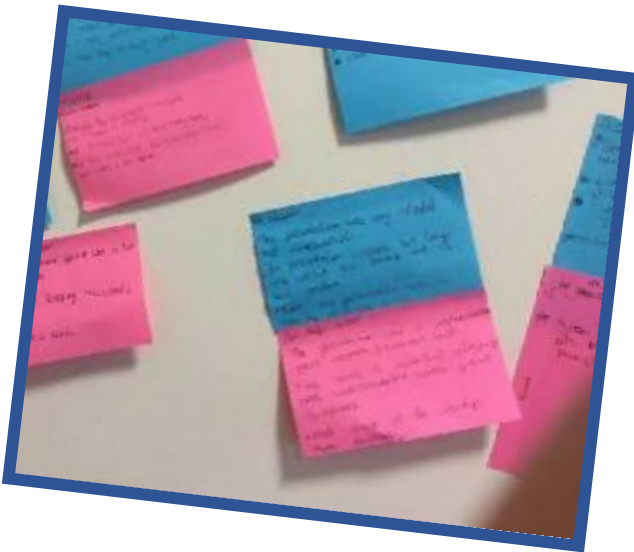
Paul also delivered two staff training sessions and a Parents' Information Evening. These provided an excellent opportunity for specific questions to be raised and to remind everyone of the part they have to play in supporting our young people to keep themselves safe online. **For any parents who may have missed this session, a copy of the presentation delivered can be found on the school website.** This includes the web address for Paul's homepage where he then has links to many other useful resources which parents/carers may find of interest.



Maths Department @ Kemnay Academy Celebrated Maths Week Scotland



As part of the Maths week Scotland, we welcomed a variety of STEM companies and organisations into the Maths Department. The aim of the event was for pupils to experience the benefits and beauty of Maths in new and exciting ways as well as raising the profile of Maths and its importance in all aspects of our lives.



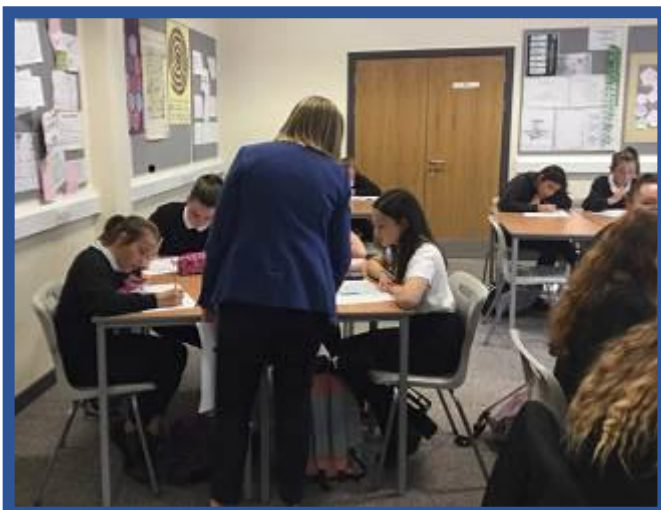
Pupils for S1 to S4 participated in a number of hands on and informative workshops delivered by our engineers that visited. Pupils learned about the Maths involved in the various companies and the opportunities they have to use the skills that they are learning in their Maths classes. Some of the workshops that pupils were involved in allowed them to look at budgeting their wages as well as calculating employee wages, the Maths and accuracy involved in transporting freight around the world, the Maths involved in making different building components needed on boats and rigs offshore along many more interesting and inspiring workshops.

Pupils found the workshops interesting and engaging with many of them asking excellent questions. As a department we have enjoyed being able to offer this opportunity to your children and we are looking forward to developing this partnership. Thank you to all the companies that took part in our Maths Week event and if you would like to get involved then please get in touch!

Pupils found the workshops interesting and



We also took part in Mangahigh Maths competition that took place across all of Scotland and came 25th overall. Well done to all the students who took part in the competition.



Developing Scotland's Young Workforce (DYW) - UPDATES

It's been a busy term for our DYW agenda as we move forward raising the profile of Skills for Learning, Life and Work within the school. We have our new noticeboard located beside the main office in the social area where all DYW news will be posted. We have also created some staff career profiles which outline the interesting journey some of our staff have taken on their route into teaching, which makes for very interesting reading indeed! I attended the DYW Market place launch where the DYW team have constructed a website for businesses and schools to find each other and request assistance with different projects. I have also been out and about in the community with our School Captains introducing myself and the team to our local businesses. It has gone really well with the businesses we have been round so far and we will be looking to go further afield next term. We are also in the early stages of developing a formal business link with one of our local businesses, which will be of mutual benefit to both organisations, allowing for further exciting opportunities all round. More information will follow on this in the next newsletter.



Career Ready

We also have 5 pupils involved in the Career Ready programme. This is a two-year programme where pupils undertake 6 Master classes, do a four-week paid internship in the summer between years 1&2, and have a business mentor all the way through to oversee their work, keep the pupils focussed, teach them about the skills for life, learning and work and how these can be transferred between

workplace, life and school. The pupils attend a formal graduation ceremony at the end of the two-year programme where they receive formal recognition and their graduation certificate.



The S6 Career Ready students, Eilidh Morrison, Carly Cairns and Kyle MacRitchie have undertaken Masterclass 4 reviewing their four-week Internship from the summer holidays looking at the skills they learned and their next steps. All pupils completed a presentation in their last week of their internship where they spoke about what they had done and learned in their time with the company.



We have recruited two new S5 Career Ready students, Dylan Cunningham and Niamh Milton. They attended the Career Ready launch on 5 October where they met their mentors and had a chance to do a few team tasks together. They have also attended Masterclass1 and are looking forward to getting underway in the programme.

S5 Mock Interview Scheme

As the term drew to a close our S5 pupils have been busy participating in the Kemnay Academy Mock Interview Scheme. As part of our commitment to preparing our young people for the world of work, we felt it was important that our S5 pupils had the opportunity to engage in a mock interview experience. This aims to build on the skills and experience

they gathered during their S3 Profiling interview back in 2015. In this programme the pupils were encouraged to prepare for an interview for a role as a customer service assistant.

They had to think about the requirements of this role, and to gather together information on their skills, qualities and experience to date from across their school life and their personal lives, as they prepared to complete a 10-minute interview experience. We invited our parent body and our school partners to become involved in this programme as interviewers, and the support we received has been excellent. We welcomed a number of different people into the school to take their seats in our interview stations to allow pupils the opportunity to practice their interview skills with someone new, who would in turn would offer effective and constructive feedback at the end of each interview. For the pupils, this has proved an invaluable experience as many have been able to draw on the knowledge and experience of our interviewers, whilst building their confidence as they add to their portfolio of preparation for work activities. We would just like to take this opportunity once again to thank everyone who has been involved in making this scheme a success, and we look forward to welcoming new and returning interviewers when we launch our next set of interview experiences later on in the session.

GOALS Motivation Programme

Last week saw 7 pupils successfully take part and complete the GOALS Motivation programme. The programme has been produced by the AWPR (Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route) project. They are keen to offer students an insight into the planning and management behind the AWPR project, taking into consideration the environment and the technology which is being used. Through this programme pupils were given the opportunity to develop their team building skills, help pupils to recognise their strengths and attributes, whilst building their confidence as they work on their employability skills. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their week as they all learned a lot about themselves, were able to reduce any barriers to learning and raise their self-esteem. They were all presented with certificates and trophies at the end of the course.



Future Asset

On Friday 22 September, four S5 girls travelled to Edinburgh with Mrs Stage to attend FUTURE AS5ET. This was a one-day conference for S5 girls across Scotland, aimed at underlining the fact that gender should never be seen as a barrier to progressing in whatever career you choose. The event had over 500 young women attend and was set up as a proper conference allowing the pupils to experience key note speeches, Q&A sessions and workshops in a formal setting.

The event opened with some very inspirational speeches from Chelsea Cameron, Young Scot of the Year 2017; Jayne-Anne Gadhia, the CEO of Virgin Money and Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister, Scottish Government. The rest of the event was just as positive with the girls finding out about various jobs within the finance sector, a chance to speed network with a variety of successful business women and a final motivational speech from Ross Jennings, The First Piper who has overcome diversity in his challenge to be the first piper to pipe in every country of the world.



The event has opened the world of work up to these young women and through sharing of their day to their peers it will help every young woman at Kemnay Academy believe that if they want it, they can do it.

My World of Work Ambassadors

We are currently offering a leadership opportunity for the S2's and are in the process of recruiting My World of Work Ambassadors. There has been a positive uptake on this and we are looking at a team of about 12 pupils so far. These pupils will become experts on the My World of Work website and will be looking to introduce this across the school teaching all stages of pupils across the school how to see the site and get the most out of it in planning for their futures. The pupils will receive training on this and will be expected to run workshop sessions with pupils and staff. The pupils recruited are enthusiastic about this project and looking forward to their training. Information can be found here:

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/ambassadors>

Session 2017-18 Work Experience

Work Experience is a valuable opportunity for all our Senior Students. There are two Work Experiences weeks in the school's annual calendar. The November experience is targeted at S5/6 students as it will not interfere with the prelims. The January placement targets S4 students. This year, I am delighted to say, we have record numbers of Senior Students applying for experience. In November 75 students will go out on placement across the city and shire and in January 85 students take their first steps into the workplace. I am sure they will all have a very positive experience. If you wish to check which experience your child has been successfully placed in please log in using your child's unique username and password on the Workit database. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for supporting their child in getting their placements booked and the consent forms returned by the deadlines.

Ms Murray-Smith
Principal Teacher Guidance
Work placement Coordinator

WORKIT



Kemnay Academy Careers Fair - Date for your Diary

Kemnay Academy will be holding a **Careers Fair on Wednesday 15th November in school from 6-8pm**. Please come along as we will have a number of different businesses, apprenticeship schemes, colleges and universities. So please come along and talk to the exhibitors and find out more about the different types of employment/courses which are available. It's open for Primary 7 up to Secondary 6 so please come along and see the fantastic opportunities that are out there.

Mrs Pamela Webster, PT Developing Scotland's Young Workforce

Kemnay Academy Football

Kemnay have started the school year with some very good football results. The S1 team have been entered into the league and cup and have made a winning start in both (12-1 v Meldrum and 8-0 v Peterhead respectively). We have high hopes for this team who have shown great ability and enthusiasm for school football.

The S2 team won their North-East first round tie against the International School of Aberdeen 6-0 with several players making their competitive debut for the team. A home draw vs Peterhead is the reward for their efforts and that will be played early November. The S3 Kicked off their cup campaign with a comfortable 6-0 win over Meldrum. They now face a tricky away tie to Ellon for a place in the semi-final, this game will be played on the 6th November.

We had 6 players who attended the Aberdeenshire Select trials with all of them making a very positive impact. Three players made their respective teams Jack McKenzie, Ben Anderson (U-15s) and Craig Robb (U-18s). This is the first time that Kemnay have had representatives at the U15 level and that reflects on the improvements we have seen in recent years.

Kemnay Academy Rugby

The Schools rugby team have this year entered for the first time the Tier 4 Mitsubishi Conference. The aim of the conference fixtures is to get more pupils playing rugby more often with games at S1/2 and under 16's level on the same day.

There has been a large increase this year in the number of pupils playing and in the first conference fixture Kemnay played Turriff at Banff RFC. Unfortunately, Banff were unable to field a under 16's side. With a number of debuts in the S1/2 team and over 8 players playing their first ever game of rugby Kemnay had a very hard task in trying to beat a good Turriff side. After a very close game which swung back and forth Kemnay came out on top securing a win with a bonus point for scoring four tries or more.

In the second conference match Kemnay were again on their travels this time to Ellon. Kemnay were dominant in the S1/2 fixture securing a bonus point and playing some excellent rugby as well. It was roles reversed in the under 16's match though with Ellon playing some lovely attacking rugby and utilising the space on the pitch and showing some deft hands with excellent offloads. Ellon won with a bonus point in the under 16's fixture but a special mention goes to Tristyn Clark who scored the try of the match collecting the ball on his own try line and going the length of the field to dot down under the posts.

Kemnay's third conference fixture is at home on Tuesday 10th Oct to Cults at S1/2 and under 16's level and the under 15's side have drawn The Nicholson Institute from Stornoway at Home after the October holidays in the North of Scotland cup.

The boys have made an excellent start to the year and hopefully will continue to play good attacking rugby as we move into winter. Well done to all

I Can Lead

I Can Lead is a sports leadership opportunity open to pupils aged 13 years or over. It provides an introduction to leadership that will give learners the knowledge and skills to assist in leading basic sports/activity sessions under direct supervision. The course is fun and practical with a focus on personal development and not just sporting ability. On completion of the course learners will gain an award that will be recognised on their CV. Following the two days of guided learning, pupils will get the opportunity to gain awards and qualifications in a wide variety of sports to enhance their sports leadership skills, abilities and knowledge.

The course will be taking place during the in-service days in November, 13th and 14th, from 10am-4pm at Alford Community Campus (transport may be provided).

For a further information sheet and/or an application form to be considered to be part of the course, please see Lynsey, Active Schools Coordinator, in PE as soon as possible.

Peer Mentors

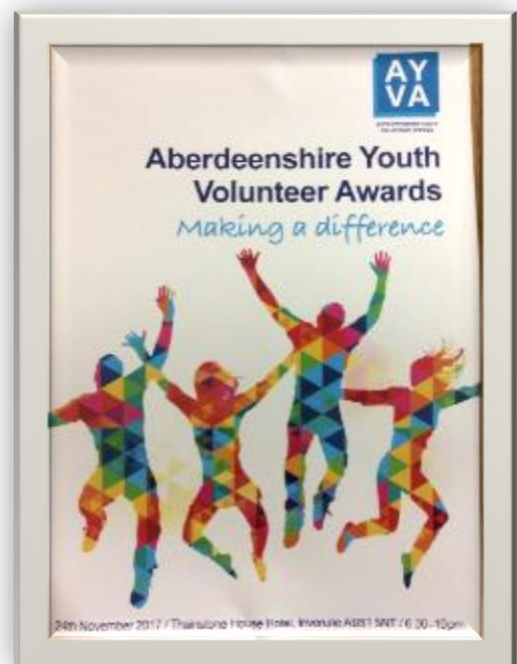
This year we have 47 pupils participating in our Peer Mentors Programme across S5 and S6. This programme allows our students to further develop their skills in communication, leadership and teamwork as they work with our staff to offer additional help and support to their fellow pupils. This term each of our Peer Mentors have decided to devote their time to supporting junior classes within departments across the school. This allows them to share their expertise in subject areas, as they work one: one or with small groups of pupils supporting the class teacher to deliver the curriculum. Each term their role is reviewed and they have the choice to continue on with the subject area they are currently in, to swap to a different department within the school, to take on their duty during the lunch hour and support some of our smaller groups of pupils around the school or to offer support within the Support for Learning Department. This means that over the course of the session the Peer Mentors have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills whilst having a significant impact on areas all across the school curriculum in its widest sense. Each of our Peer Mentors are completing a termly log book which will be collated at the end of term three and the pupils will then be put forward to receive a Saltire Award, which will officially be recognised in our end of session Awards Ceremony. This programme is a very valuable part of our senior curriculum and we wish all our Peer Mentors well with their endeavours this session.



S5 PSE – Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Pupils in S5 are currently completing the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) which is an active citizenship programme that raises awareness amongst young people about philanthropy and their local community. Each participating school, is responsible for directing a £3000 YPI Grant to a local charity through a unique programme of team work,

research and competition. Each pupil group in S5 must identify a local charity and prepare a presentation outlining their work and how they would benefit from the £3000. YPI Scotland is all about creativity and passion, leaving the four walls of the classroom behind, and supporting the issues young people care most about. Originating in Canada, YPI is now an international programme and, in 2016/17, is being delivered in 210 secondary schools across Scotland. To date, YPI Scotland has engaged over 135,000 students, providing them with the essential skills and confidence to grant nearly £2million to thousands of local charities. The programme is principally funded and managed in Scotland by [The Wood Foundation](http://thewoodfoundation.org.uk). As we go into term 2 the pupils will be finalising and delivering their presentations as they compete for a place in the school final at the end of the term. For more information see <http://ypiscotland.org.uk/>





S6 Leadership Programme

This session we have introduced Leadership courses for S6 pupils. In this our pilot year we have put together five different leadership groups across the school involving 35 pupils. Each of these groups have their own agenda and are taking forward a 7-month project which allows them to strengthen the pupil voice within the school by giving the pupils the chance to lead on some new initiatives which have a direct impact on pupils across all year groups. Our five groups are as follows;

Health and Wellbeing Young Leaders – This group is focusing on positive mental health, with a two-tiered approach, one targeting junior pupils and one targeting senior pupils. The project includes the delivery of PSE inserts and the hosting of assemblies and information sharing events.

Sports Ambassadors – This group is trying to promote and encourage involvement in sporting activities both through our inter-house competition calendar and through their planned event for the 2018 Sport Relief day. They are also looking to celebrate success in sports by putting together a display board and recognising the efforts of a 'Sports Star' of the month. Rachael Morrison and Niamh Chalmers were Kemnay Academy's representatives at the Regional conference at the AECC in September. They had the opportunity to mix and share ideas with other Sports Ambassadors and continue extending their leadership skills and qualities. They were lucky enough to meet two inspirational Sports stars – Gemma Faye and Caitlin McClatchey and hear their own stories about the hard work for sporting success. They are now keen to work with Abigail Paterson on their own Sport Relief Project. The other Sports Ambassadors have been busy with their own projects – Ronan Swanson has been leading the organisation & delivery of successful inter-house events with the support of Matthew Dailey, Arran Walters and Eve Smillie. Matthew has also started up an additional extra-curricular club in golf; as a qualified coach, he delivers after school coaching to a small group of interested pupils. Arran and Eve are finalising their own Health Campaign and will be delivering this in the near future.

Sports Leaders – This group is focusing on health and wellbeing and they aim to increase the activity of younger pupils in the school community. They will be running a series of events for primary aged pupils in their own local primary school as well as running events such as the Kemnay Academy sponsored walk and hosting a variety of sports clubs here at the Academy as well.

Charities Leaders – This group of S6 pupils have been working hard to plan and deliver activities to support the school's chosen charities this year. The group of Beth Elkin, Megan Gibbon, Caitlin Gray, Leanne Harris, Eilidh Morrison and Hannah West are working on paired projects as well as whole school activities; they have delivered assemblies to all pupils outlining the work of Alzheimer's Scotland, Multiple Sclerosis Society and

Riding for the Disabled – Gordon Group (RDA) which are the school's chosen charities for 2017-18. All pupils have had an opportunity to vote for one of these charities to decide how any funds raised will be distributed. We have met with RDA to find out more about their work and how we can support them and the group will have a stall at Parents' Evenings to share information about the charities and the group's work with parents. We have run our 1st fund-raising activity of 'Guess the Most Popular Girl's and Boy's Name of Pupils' – Jay Beattie was lucky enough to win the £20 Union Square voucher!

The group are busy planning a week of activities for 'Children-in-Need' starting on Monday 13th November – for small donations pupils can enter a range of activities including: 'Guess the Amount of Sweets in the Jar', a Bake-Off competition, staff v pupils football tournament, 'Guess the Giant Teddy's Birthday' and a themed dress-down day where pupils can come to school on Friday 17th November as their favourite movie character for a donation of £1 – alternatively pupils can wear their own clothes! As we are becoming more of a cash-less community we would very much appreciate cash support for the fund-raising activities outlined above and appreciate any support from parents.

Sustainability Leaders – This group are working to promote sustainability across the school. They are leading the Eco-Schools programme which includes the running of an Eco-committee with focused projects on topics such as litter, improving the school grounds and biodiversity as they strive to achieve the Green Flag for Kemnay Academy.

In addition, each pupil involved in the programme has been completing a Leadership theory course with Miss Arthur, where they have been looking at what makes a good leader, considering different leadership styles and approaches, and reflecting on their own capacity for leadership. Each pupil has been able to identify their own strengths and areas for development and have carved out opportunities within their project, where they can work on developing these skills further over the course of the next few months. If successful in this programme, each pupil will achieve a SCQF level 5 SQA award in Leadership. With the theory course almost complete it will be time to focus on the project work as we go into term two and I know you will join us in wishing them well with it.



S6 UCAS/College/Apprenticeship Personal Statements

S6 have been working towards their personal statement for applications for University, college and apprenticeships. The focus this term has been on paragraph 1 – 'why you want to apply for the course or the apprenticeship'. Pupils have been looking at their personal qualities and skills and how these link with the courses they are applying for. They have also been focusing on the skills they have gained from school and beyond and linking these to the courses they wish to apply for. The UCAS website has a huge amount of information which will help with personal statements not just for university, for college and apprenticeships also. Next term the focus will be on completing the statement with hobbies and interests, part time work, relevant work experience and other relevant information. The statement should be no more than 4000 characters. Useful websites

– www.ucas.com and www.myworldofwork.co.uk

The Global Goals Group - 'The World's Largest Lesson'

Kemnay Academy Global Goals Group is back this term and their mission to raise awareness for 'The World's Largest Lesson'. This is a worldwide campaign which aims to spread the word about what the Global Goals and what they aim to achieve. Our Global Goals Groups is promoting the 'The World's Largest Lesson' by running an inter-house competition, where pupils are asked to create a Birthday Card celebrating the Global Goals 2nd Birthday. Each card submitted will earn point for the House. It is hoped that this competition will get more pupils talking about the Global Goals and make them more aware of what the Goals are.



**KEEP
CALM
AND COME TO THE
CHRISTMAS
FAIR**

Kemnay Academy Christmas Fayre 2017

***11:00am – 3:00pm on Saturday 2nd
December 2017***

Plans are well under way for the 2017 Kemnay Academy Charities Group Christmas Fayre. Entry is FREE and further information is available on the school website and Facebook page. 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 go towards our chosen charities for this year. If you are interested in having a stall at the Fayre or donating a raffle prize please contact the school office or Lindsay Salvage, Faculty Head for Health & Wellbeing for details.



Important Dates:

TERM 2

30 October	Start of Term 2
10 November	S2 Interim Reports Issued
13 November	In Service Closure
14 November	In Service Closure
15 November	Careers Fair
22 November	S4 Reports Issued
2 December	Christmas Fair
5 December	S5/6 Reports Issued
13 December	KAMA Christmas Concert
19 December	S1 Interim Reports Issued
22 December	Whole School Ceilidh
22 December	End of Term 2

TERM 3

8 January 2018	Start of Term 3
11 January	S2 into S3 Info Evening
16 January	S2 Parents Evening
18-26 January	S4/5/6 Prelims
25 January	S3 Parents Evening
29 January	S4 Work Experience Week
3-10 February	S2 Ski Trip
9 February	Occasional Holiday
12 February	Mid Term Holiday
13 February	In-Service Closure
14 February	In-Service Closure
15 February	Senior Phase Info Evening
22 February	S4 Parents' Evening
28 February	S5/6 Parents' Evening
29 March	Senior Prom
29 March	Last Day of Term
30 March	Holiday – Good Friday

TERM 4

16 April	Start of Term 4
7 May	May Day Holiday
8 May	S2 Reports Issued
1 June	S1 Reports Issued
4 June	Occasional Holiday
5 June	S5/6 induction
5 June	Start of New Timetable
19 June	KAMA Summer Concert
20 June	S1/2/3 Awards Ceremony
21 June	S4/5/6 Awards Ceremony
30 June	End of Term 4
27-29 June	P7 Link Days
6 July	End of Term

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



ATTENTION S5/6 PUPILS

- Do you have used study guides and past papers books lying around, gathering dust in your room **NEVER TO BE USED AGAIN?**
- Would you like to **GET SOME MONEY FOR THEM?**
- The Interact Group would like to help you **TURN THOSE OLD BOOKS INTO CASH!**

We are organising a second-hand book stall and will sell your books onto pupils who can use them – we will donate 20% of the sale price to Roxburgh House in Aberdeen. You will receive the other 80%.

Books can be handed in to Interact Group members in Mr Millar's ASFL Office any morning interval until the 10th of November 2017.

RECYCLE, MAKE MONEY & HELP PEOPLE WITH LIFE LIMITING ILLNESSES





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