



Dear Parent, Carer or Colleague

Welcome to our Christmas term newsletter, the final edition for 2017. In this newsletter we celebrate pupil leadership.

Staff and pupils have experienced another busy term since our return in October. There have been some changes in staffing. (More details inside).

During the October break a number of pupils had the opportunity to participate in organised excursions. The school is very proud of its traditions to support and encourage pupils to widen their experiences. In the ever changing world around us school trips are under constant review to ensure they meet all the safety standards expected. *Excursion experiences included inside.*

Senior pupils again led assemblies. These were well received by all pupils. The focus was on "One Scotland" highlighting the diversity of our nation.

Most recently the Global Goals' group presented at assembly. The group undertook to highlight a 'Global Goal' and focus on it. Pupil leadership is important to the development of skills for life, learning and work.

Lastly another group of pupils had the opportunity to lead and organised the scholastic book fair. The event which ran for a few days and across the Christmas fair was well managed by S1/2 pupils.

Mrs L Paul, Rector

Reminder:

SchoolClosureWebsite: 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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Values, Vision and Aims

As part of our continued focus on school values all teaching staff engaged in a discussion about the values. Staff were asked to identify what the values looked like in their classrooms.

The pupil council have taken the comments to add their view and opinions. Our school aim is to mirror our focus on high quality learning and teaching throughout the school.

Continuous Improvement

The school generates a standard and quality report annually. This document is based on validated evaluation statements from how good is our school (edition 4) I have included x for parents.

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: -

A regular part of our updates is to keep parents/carers aware of staffing changes we have here at the academy.

Welcome to all new colleagues.

This term (Oct – Dec) the following staffing changes have made.

Mrs Nicola Stuart has joined the school to take up the post of FH Technologies. Mrs Stuart previously taught at St Machar Academy in Aberdeen.

Mrs Agnieszka Walicka has taken up the post of network librarian. Mrs Walicka has freshened up the library routine to include more activities at break and lunchtime.

Miss Rona Wilson has joined the modern foreign languages team from Turriff Academy

Sadly, the school has to advise that Technician John Leishman who retired recently from his position here at the Academy has died. John was a keen advocate and supporter of his grandsons and Kemnay Academy. Our thoughts are with his family.



Highlights from Term 2

Pupil Leadership

Young Health Leaders Positive Steps Presentation

On Tuesday 5th December, the senior health and wellbeing leaders – Matthew, Katie and Victoria, attended an exam skills presentation evening, to share advice on preventing exam stress and how to cope with it.

“For the past couple of months we have been preparing for this presentation, we made positive steps leaflets, and a PowerPoint which included; what exam stress is, how exam stress affects people, and how people can cope with it. We also included facts and figures about having a healthy lifestyle, we then showed parents a video about the importance of drinking water and reducing sugar consumption”.



A visual demonstration on sugar levels in drinks was shown to parents, for example, a Ribena bottle contains 8 cubes of sugar.

“At the end of the presentation, we offered a selection of suitable healthier snacks for pupils to consider eating instead of regular sugary ones. Parents were enthusiastic to sample the range of snacks we provided and noted down brands which they are keen to purchase in the future. This experience, has enabled us to begin to develop our public speaking skills and self-confidence, as well as team working skills. We were able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses from our presentation, so that we can adapt and improve for our next presentation in March 2018”

Matthew Watson, Katie Paterson, Victoria Guzik

Healthy eating in school

The Scottish Government is committed to improving the health of all in Scotland. Therefore schools are required to adhere to legislation in regard to the promotion of healthy lifestyles. As part of Curriculum for Excellence, health and wellbeing experiences and outcomes are

delivered across the school curriculum. This is the reason why Kemnay Academy is delivering a programme of health and wellbeing messages.

“A good diet is essential for good health. Health promoting schools can make a valuable contribution to improving the nutritional quality of children’s and young people’s diets and promoting consistent messages about healthy eating.”

Scottish Government

What does this mean?

As part of the programme to deliver health promotions the school catering service can’t provide additional salt for food. Pupils often comment on why we have no salt or pepper available at lunchtimes.

No confectionery

Kemnay Academy is not permitted to sell chocolate or any hard boiled or sugary sweets. Some pupils do choose to purchase confectionery beyond the school and consume this as part of their diet.

We do sell crisps but these have to comply with reduced salt and fat requirements. No crisps can be sold at lunchtime.

Drinking water

The school provides access for all pupils to water fountains.

The school encourages parents to discuss the benefits of healthy eating and reducing the amount of sugar and salt that is consumed.

You may have read recently in national newspapers that concerns have been raised regarding energy /caffeine drinks. As part of our healthy eating and drinking message pupils are discouraged from purchasing and consuming these drinks. However if pupils choose to go off site at lunchtime to purchase food then nutrition standards can’t be monitored

Ban sale of energy drinks to under-16s, say experts

Extract from The Guardian

Children and teenagers are main consumers of energy drinks, which contain unacceptable levels of sugar, carbohydrate and caffeine, a new study shows.

In both 2015 and 2017, the average sugar content of the energy drinks was more than the entire recommended daily maximum for an adult in the UK.

The study in the journal BMJ Open analyses the sugar, caffeine and carbohydrate content of energy drinks, which include brands such as Monster and Rockstar as well as supermarket own-brands. In both 2015 and 2017, the average sugar content of the energy drinks was more than the entire recommended daily maximum for an adult in the UK.

The campaigning group Action on Sugar, whose researchers carried out the study, is calling for a ban on sales to under-16s. “This study illustrates the huge contribution of energy drinks to sugar intake, which is linked to the development of obesity and various types of cancer, as

well as type 2 diabetes and rotting our children's teeth. They are completely inappropriate for children to consume, form no part of a healthy balanced diet, and should be banned for under-16s," said its chairman, Graham MacGregor, professor of cardiovascular medicine at Queen Mary University of London.

TV chef and food campaigner Jamie Oliver has also called for a ban on sales of energy drinks to children, as have teacher groups.

Energy drinks are marketed for general consumption, rather than for athletes, who are targeted with so-called "sports" drinks. Children and teenagers drink them more than older adults, even though energy drinks with high caffeine levels over 150mg per litre have to carry a warning that they are not recommended for children or pregnant women. The study found that the 43 products carrying such warnings contained the caffeine equivalent of nearly two cups of coffee.

"Since children and teenagers are the main consumers of energy drinks, manufacturers should consider reducing levels of caffeine," says the study.

Wellbeing Assemblies

Once again we have seen a lot of variety within our morning assemblies this term. Mrs Webster started the term off by speaking to pupils about the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce initiative and demonstrating to them how they are engaging with this across the curriculum. She highlighted the variety of opportunities that are open to our pupils and encouraged them to consider their development in the areas of skills for learning life and work. Mrs Paul then led us through some Remembrance Day assemblies with a small group of pupils then following this up with an overview of their amazing experience on the battlefields and remembrance excursion.

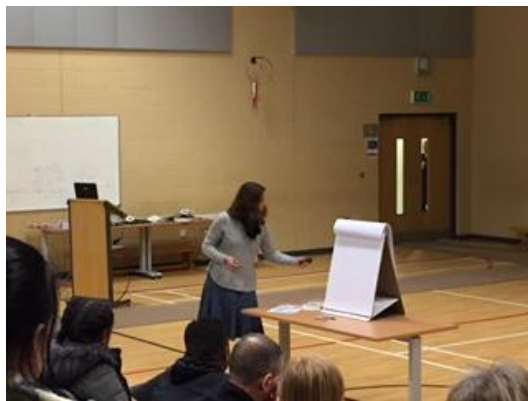
Miss Arthur spoke to the S1-3 pupils about the role of profiling within their curriculum, and encouraged all pupils to ensure they were regularly updating their Glow 'Profile' and sharing this with their parents. The pupil 'Profile' provides an excellent insight into the learning and development of each young person in the Broad General Education and encourages them to identify their latest and best achievements in each curricular area. Pupils will also be considering their approach to learning, and recognising their wider achievements and skills development as well. Mr Wright led the Senior Pupils through a presentation in preparation for their prelim exams which run from the 15th – 28th January, to ensure that all pupils felt ready for the experience and knew exactly what to do if they had any concerns at all.

Our School Captain team led another very interesting presentation, this time focusing on St Andrews day celebrations whilst promoting the 'One Scotland' theme and extending this further into a 'One Kemnay Academy' theme. Pupils were encouraged to celebrate the diversity that we have within the school and to ensure that we all treat each other equally and with respect. Some of the junior members of the Global Goals group then spoke very eloquently on Human Rights and led a thought provoking presentation where we were encouraged to compare the experiences of a World War 2 child evacuee and that of a modern day Syrian refugee. The pupils were then made aware of an online petition that is currently being promoted in support of child refugees.

Finally, our House Captains presented a Christmas themed assembly focusing on the importance of "giving" and being considerate of the needs of others at this very special time of year. This will be followed up our official Christmas assemblies which are due to take place on Friday 22nd December and will be led by Mrs Paul with the support of some of our senior pupils.

Senior Phase Parent Information Evening – ‘Supporting your child to prepare for Exams’.

On the 5th of December we invited all of the parents of our senior phase pupils to join us for an evening which focused purely on preparation for the prelim exam diet in January and the subsequent SQA exam diet in May. Over the course of the evening we welcomed a number of speakers who covered a range of different topics. Miss Arthur provided an overview of the work done within PSE classes to support young people in developing effective study skills, and shared information on what is being covered by subject teachers as they encourage their pupils to work hard, prepare thoroughly and aspire to do the best they possible can. Mr Millar went on to demonstrate the use of ‘Read and Write Gold’, and how it can help all pupils with their revision and preparation activities and shared details of this can be accessed from home. We welcomed Sue Edwards from the Scholar team, who gave a very comprehensive overview of this invaluable resource, and very clearly highlighted how parents can use this to support their young people at home. Emma Cameron from ‘The Spark’ also joined us, and focused on how to support young people with stress and anxiety at this very challenging time in their school careers. Finally, we welcomed some of the members of the Health and Wellbeing Young Leaders Team who presented very well on the pupil experience of exam periods, and also encouraged us to think about the importance of good sleep patterns, healthy exercise routines and healthy diets, with a particular focus on the impact of sugar on our minds and bodies. A number of useful resources were made available to parents to take away on the evening, including exam preparation overviews from each of the subject areas, advice on study skills and techniques, and leaflets to support with young people with stress and anxiety. All of these resources can now be accessed online in the parent section of the school website under the heading of the SQA. If anyone would like any further information on this, please don’t hesitate to contact Miss Arthur via the school office.



Library News

Dear Parents and Pupils,

My name is Agnieszka Walicka and I would like to use this opportunity to introduce myself as a new full time Network Librarian and join our part time Library Assistant Mrs Katherine Davidson in the Academy library. It is my second month in the post and I am thrilled at the opportunities that lay before our school library and our pupils. I am a newly qualified librarian and I would like to use the knowledge and inspiration from my university course to transform

our library. My vision of the library is the place for everyone, a social as well as learning space which is enabling rather than controlling.

We want to transform the library space to be more flexible, inspirational, colourful and modern. We will apply for funding from different sources and run some fundraising activities as well, not only to change the physical layout but also to expand our stock of resources. I want this library to reflect the needs of our pupils and I asked all S1-S4 students to tell me how they imagine an ideal library space. I received over 500 responses and the most common answers included:

welcoming, colourful, modern, chill out space, place to do homework, better colour scheme, reading corner, easier to choose books, nicer seats, nicer desks, more access to the library, able to eat in the library, lighter/brighter library, not a typical library, not just for book worms, different colours walls as it looks like a prison, bully free zone, no one should be afraid to come to the library.

Not all the changes can be made at once, but we will strive to make it a fantastic space for our pupils. Library is open now at break, full lunchtime and after school. We have started a Tuesday lunchtime Book Club for S1/S2 pupils and a selection of modern board games will soon arrive. We have just hosted a Scholastic Book Fair, which was led by the pupils and we are very grateful to our helpers and all who bought the books as we were able to raise £182.89 for new books. This is particular important, as we try to improve and expand our library stock.

Thus, the challenge is big. We will seek support and funding to overcome it; allowing the library to become a place that encourages reading, which in turn enhances overall understanding, information literacy and improves attainment. In addition, we aim for the library to be supportive to the whole school curriculum and cooperate with every faculty to improve outcomes for all our young people.

If you have any ideas that would help us raise the funds, please contact us in the library.

Agnieszka Walicka and Katherine Davidson



On 5th December 2017 Agnieszka Walicka MA MSc graduated with Distinction from Robert Gordon University Postgraduate Information and Library Studies

Pupils who help to ran the Scholastic Book Fair





Residential Trips

Battlefields Trip

Remembrance

At Kemnay Primary they have a beautiful war memorial in the school hall, which commemorates the men and women of Kemnay who lost their lives during WW1. One of the parents (Mrs Berkin), and previous P7 pupils conducted some research on the individuals commemorated on the board. Just before the holidays they had a visitor from Spain whose great uncle was one of the fallen. They were very pleased to be able to “fill in the blanks” on aspects of his family history.

On 17th October 2017, the Berkin family attended a rededication service at Birr Cross Roads Cemetery near Ypres for Private John Anderson, who was killed on 28th May 1915. Private Anderson had no known grave, and was commemorated on the memorial to the missing at the Menin Gate. But in the course of researching the school war memorial, Mrs. Berkin noticed that there was an unknown Gordon Highlander buried at Birr Cross Roads Cemetery. This soldier’s date of death and regiment were known. Further research proved that this could only be Private Anderson, and the Ministry of Defence confirmed the identification. A new headstone has been placed on the grave, and his name will be removed from the Menin Gate.

John Anderson worked at the Don Co-operative Society in Kemnay as an apprentice butcher. He was killed by a shell and buried behind the lines. A wooden cross was placed on the grave, but this was partially destroyed during later fighting. After the war, his body was moved to the cemetery at Birr. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The 40 pupils from Kemnay Academy who attended this year’s Battlefields Trip to France and Belgium commemorated Private John Anderson at the Birr Cross Roads Cemetery. Kim Taylor of S5 laid a cross at his grave on behalf of Kemnay Academy and Robert Howie of S4 played the bagpipes.



On the 14th of October 2017, a team of 40 pupils from Kemnay academy set off towards Hull, to begin the battlefields trip. The annual trip is an educational and eye-opening experience for all who have attended; I, being the lucky person that I am, got the opportunity to go on the trip for a second time – having almost as great a time as the previous trip. The trip begins with a long drive combined with an early wake-up time; the journey down to Hull taking an ungodly 12 hours or so – the ferry that follows however is entirely worth it. From there the pupils are sucked into the world over and around 100 years ago – visiting such areas as the Death Trench, the Menin Gate, the Newfoundland Park and the Thiepval Monument. The Menin Gate was among the most moving areas to see – our piper, Robert Howie, performing a piece in our respect for those missing dead that are still written on the walls of the monument. All around, the trip is an unforgettable week that leaves people with undying friendships and memories to last a life-time. It also grants the team a new and educated stance on what being on those battlefields was really like; something that pictures and cinema cannot begin to capture. I would highly recommend anyone who is reading to take up on the opportunity when it comes to you.

Kim Taylor, on behalf of the 2017 battlefields team.



Valencia trip- Miss O'Brien

During the last week of term 41 pupils from S2-S4 departed on a 5 day training trip to Valencia Spain along with Miss O'Brien, Mr Christie, Mr Payne, Mr Penny and Mrs Thomson. The pupils participated in a range of training sessions and also competitive matches against local opposition in both basketball and football. Our S2 team football team won their game with our basketball team and S3-S4 team up against some tough opposition. The pupils also attended a Euro League basketball game with Real Madrid narrowly winning in an incredibly close game. The atmosphere was incredible and pupils enjoyed their experience.

Next year's trip focuses on netball and basketball and we hope will be just as enjoyable.



Geography S3 Field Trips

S3 classes have been out of school on trips twice this year to look at physical and human Geography. They worked well and seemed to have a few moments of fun. Thanks to Mr Christie and Miss McIntosh for helping. Mr Robinson

Trip 1 - 12th October:

Today we went to the south Aberdeenshire coast on a Physical Geography field trip. At the first site, we went down a steep hill to get to a beach where we stood on a fault line. We sketched a beautiful landscape full of conglomerate, porphyritic basalt, sandstone and a waterfall. We looked at an old blowhole and then onto a basalt lava flow to see columns that had formed in the rock. We discovered vesicles in the rock that had filled up with calcite to make amygdalites. We then went down to a beach where we looked for pebbles of schist, granite and serpentinite. Then we went to Stonehaven, had some lunch, walked quickly along the beach and harbour and came back to school. By Keira, Emma and Harris

Trip 2 - 1st December:

On Friday 1st December we went into Aberdeen City for a field trip. In the morning we got dropped off by the bus at Palmerstone Road in the 'North Dee Business Quarter'. First, we looked at the use of the arches under the railway bridge. They were used by small businesses and some were vacant. Then we mapped the nearby streets with mostly older buildings with storage centres, fish processing, transport and removals with a couple of brand new, massive offices. We did a traffic count and noticed all the cars parked along the road and amongst the old fish smoke houses which were also covered in graffiti. We then looked at the Maritime Museum and the Tolbooth Museum. Both were good, however I would have liked more time, especially in the Maritime Museum which had an ROV, an old boat propeller and models of schooners. After lunch we did more fieldwork on Union Street. With some time to spare at the end, we walked through Union Terrace Gardens and into the churchyard to see Archibald Simpson's grave. We saw the leopard in Marischal Square and came back under an underpass with lots of street art, even venturing under Union Bridge. We then went back to school and tidied up our work. By Jessica

Music

It has been a busy term with concert band, jazz band, brass ensemble, senior choir and ceilidh band rehearsing for our very successful Christmas concert on 13 December. We also saw the birth of a new group – the Junior Ceilidh band! Our third year music class also put in an excellent performance of "All I want for Christmas is you".

On the 16 November 6 musicians from our concert band attended workshops by the Royal Regimental Band of Scotland at Meldrum Academy and gained great experience by taking part in an amazing evening concert.



Pupils and staff are also working towards our tour to Lake Garda, Italy in July of 2018 where we will play 4 concerts as well as visit Venice and Verona. Please look out for fundraisers for this tour in the New Year.

Members of our concert band also played Christmas carols for the school's Christmas Fair on the 2 December and then in the afternoon played for the Christmas sing-a-long at Kintore church before the switch on of the Christmas lights.



S3 Computing Science Trip

On Tuesday 12th December, 30 pupils and 2 teachers attended Robert Gordon's University to take part in the annual Cyber Security lecture. The speakers this year included Police Scotland, Lyndsay Shepherd and Gavin Hales, Federico Charosky, Greig Paul, Katy Caie and Brian Higgins.

We found the talk very informative and fun with sweets being thrown for correct answers. It was very interactive and hearing about hacking was interesting. They spoke about the different career opportunities in Cyber Security, password complexity and cyber bullying. Daniel Walters

Women's Suffrage Lecture



On November the 15th the higher history pupils were invited to go a lecture in RGU (Robert Gordon's University). This lecture took part in the business school. The lecture was all about Women's Suffrage in Scotland. This is appropriate because as the Higher History course has a section on democracy in the UK and Women's Suffrage was part of that section. We learned many new things that day. These were things such as the suffrage movements in Scotland which most of us were not aware of. Everyone learnt more things about the women involved, the attitudes to the protesting and the ways in which women were punished for wanting the same basic rights as men. The information also helped some of us with our Assignment as it gave us good primary sources to use and more insightful views on the Historical events which took place; such as the force feeding of women in jail who refused to eat and went on hunger strike. Overall the lecture gave every higher student a new and more in depth understanding of what women went through and why. Therefore this was beneficial as if a question is asked in the exam we will be ready! By Astrid Redford

Heroes of Tomorrow S1 Science Trip



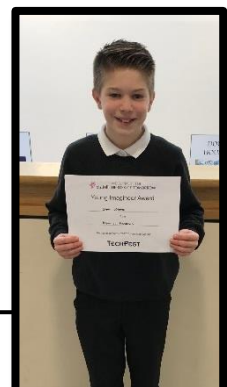
This term, nineteen keen and enthusiastic first year pupils took part in an exciting day of Science activities at the Sir Ian Wood Building, Robert Gordon's University. The event was organised by Techfest and supported by Statoil and the London Science Museum.

Pupils worked on number of energy challenges, learned about the importance of renewable sources of energy and took part in an engaging Science Show. Some comments from pupils: 'the day was really exciting!', 'we had lots of fun speaking to people that have Science careers', 'I found it very interesting'.

Sam Whyte was awarded the 'Young Imagineer Award' for his effort in designing something that would make tomorrow's world a better place - Well Done!

Thanks to Techfest, Statoil, RGU and the London Science Museum.

Mr MacKenzie



Learning for Sustainability

UN Global Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

The Higher Environmental Science class prepared a display with suggestions about how to have a more Sustainable Christmas.

The S1 and S2 IDL Food and the Environment classes have been investigating issues around food waste and are considering suggestions to reduce the food waste produced at Kemnay Academy.

The Sustainability Leaders group are collecting used stamps (RNIB and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf) and broken/unwanted jewellery (Alzheimers Society) to send to charities.

UN Global Goal 15 - Life on Land

Anya Cooper, Emma McPherson and Matthew Norrie are leading work to improve the biodiversity within the school grounds. Bee houses, planting a wild flower meadow, living wall and bird boxes are all being planned.

UN Global Goal 7 – Clean Energy

Hannah Singer, Jade McWilliam and the S1 IDL Sustainable Energy Solutions are monitoring the energy use around the school. There is a Switch off Fortnight when they will be looking to see the impact of encouraging teachers and pupils to switch off lights, projectors etc. Hannah and Jade will also be contributing their ideas to the Aberdeenshire Council Carbon Budget Initiative.

There is now a Learning for Sustainability Twitter .
Follow us at Kemnay Academy LfS
@KemnayAcLfS

Eco Schools Update

The Sustainability Group has been at work in the past few months to improve the school and wider community's care for the environment. The group has spearheaded the foundation of the Eco Committee which includes all years, staff and involvement of the community. Links have been established with Greener Kemnay, the Kemnay Community Beekeeping group and Kemnay Community Council. This is an excellent start to our endeavours to support a better relationship between the school and local community.

The Eco Schools group has conducted an environmental review in an effort to see where the school could improve it's environmental sustainability. The key focus areas are Litter and Waste Management (KemNae Waste), Energy, Improving School Grounds and Biodiversity. Our work is linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals) and we are working towards the Green Flag.

We are also continuing to share our work with our e-twin school Laanila School, Oulu, Finland

Any pupils or staff interested in joining the Eco Group or participating in our activities should contact Sasha Bryden, S6 or Ms Buchan.

Upcoming events

11/12/17-22/12/17 and 12/3/18-23/3/18

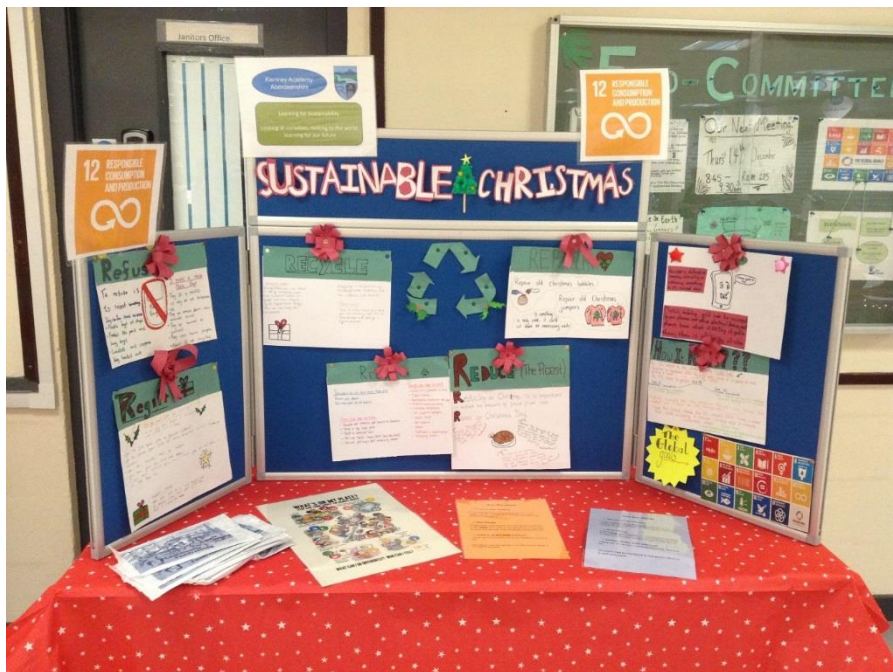
06/02/18, 27/02/18, 27/03/18

29/01/18

Switch Off Fortnights

Eco Schools Committee Meetings

Bee Group



Sustainability Leaders display at the Christmas Fayre



Advanced Higher Chemistry – Spectroscopy in a Suitcase

Biodiversity at Castle Fraser



Fresh Air Friday at the River Don

Science Snippets

STEM in the Pipeline

A team of 6 Advanced Higher Science and Maths pupils took part in the annual STEM in the Pipeline competitions. This required them to use their knowledge of Geology, Maths, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry and Economics to interpret data and information about a potential oil field. The project began in August and culminated in a presentation event at BP headquarters when the team had to present their findings and have their project report judged. This is a demanding project and the team of Lewis MacDonald, Amy Emslie, Luke Johnston, Harris Ogston, Sean Malcolm and Emma Jackson are to be commended on completing the project. They will also achieve a Silver CREST Award.

The team won the Health and Safety Award for STEM in the Pipeline 2017 and special congratulations to Luke Johnston for winning the Best Project Manager Award.

Advanced Higher Biology Practical Day: Finding the Right Inhibitor

A group of seven AH Biology pupils (Jai Dasgupta, Luke Johnston, Abigail Paterson, Sasha Ratnayeke, Adam Tate, Beth Thomson and Erin Jones) attended a practical laboratory session with Miss Rodwell at the University of Aberdeen's Zoology Building on Tuesday, 28th November.

High levels of one particular enzyme has been linked with diabetes, multiple sclerosis and osteoporosis; there is only one drug currently available to inhibit this enzyme in diabetics so finding another would be of great value.

Drug companies invest millions of pounds into finding new drugs which target specific enzymes. The day was designed to give our students a taster of the practical skills employed in the lab to discover new drugs.

After an introduction to some techniques like the accurate use of pipettes, pupils were given a library of 28 "drug candidates" which they would investigate methodically to find the best potential candidate for the enzyme they were targeting. The techniques they used were a pH screen, protein folding screen and finally an enzyme inhibition screen. This enabled them to conclude which of their 28 potential "drugs" were most suitable for further investigation.

In addition to the three practical sessions, they attended a lecture in the Zoology Lecture Theatre, which was all about the history of the discovery of human anatomy. This lecture was aimed to students studying Biomedical Sciences and so gave them a taster of life as a student!

Environmental Science Field Trip

The National 5 and Higher Environmental Science classes visited Castle Fraser to carry out an environmental study of the Castle and grounds. A lovely autumn day allowed the class to walk around the Flight Pond area and to carry out biodiversity studies of the pond life and the tree species. Our new wellies were very useful thanks to a donation from Creative Star Learning.

Sustainability is environmental, social and economic and the class used their research to produce reports detailing how Castle Fraser provides good examples of all aspects of sustainable practice.

The class is continuing with the Fresh Air Friday walks around Kemnay to view and discuss seasonal environmental changes.

Science Baccalaureate

Erin Jones (Protein and Sports Science) and Angus Cook (Wind Energy) are currently researching about their chosen project topics and have been making contact with links at Aberdeen University, SRUC Craibstone, Statoil and Sports Scotland. They will be joined by pupils from Banchory Academy and Albyn School to present their interim work before continuing to prepare presentations for pupils and staff in the school.

S5/6 Microbiology Lecture

Following the extremely well-received annual lectures that have been organised at Foresterhill over the last few years by the University of Aberdeen, we were delighted to be invited along to continue this tradition in earlier in December. Miss White, along with 13 students represented Kemnay Academy on the day.

The Annual Microbiology Lecture is intended to stimulate **senior school students (in S5 and S6 at the time of the lecture)** whose aspirations may lie in studying Medicine, Biomedical or Biological Sciences at University. This year's speaker, **Dr Neil Stone**, is a Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Fellow from the Institute for Infection and Immunity, St George's, University of London. He delivered an inspiring lecture entitled "**Bugs without borders – Microbiology in the middle of nowhere**". This gave a great insight into the different roles of a Microbiologist and the incredible places around the world the research and treatment of different infectious diseases could take a person. This also highlighted how rewarding researching microbiology can be, given that their research could cure or help so many people around the world.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative S5 PSE

S5 pupils during PSE have been working on the Youth Philanthropy Initiative.

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an active citizenship programme that raises awareness amongst young people about philanthropy and their local community. Each participating school, each year is responsible for directing a £3000 YPI Grant to a local charity through a unique programme of team work, research and competition. 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.

Aims

- To engage a full year group of participating students (S2-S6) through a curricular based programme.
- To develop the next generation of responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- To develop the skills and confidence of young people through a real life, hands on experience of philanthropy.
- To raise awareness of social service issues and the work of local charities, and channel funds to them effectively.

Our class final is taking place on the 19th December with the school final on the afternoon of the 30th January 2018. The groups that go through to the final will be judged by a panel from our school community and the winner will gain the £3000 for their chosen charity.



www.ypiscotland.org.uk

Youth Philanthropy Initiative Scotland

YPI Scotland is a structured curricular programme, designed for secondary schools, centred on youth voice, youth action and youth philanthropy.

UCAS and College applications

Pupils have been working hard on their UCAS and College applications. All UCAS applications are to be completed by Friday 15th December and College applications should be completed by Friday 22nd December. Please see your Guidance teacher if you need assistance.

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Curriculum Experiences

Duke of Edinburgh Award, Winter/Autumn term



First of all, well done to Zoe Till and Neil Fraser who have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. They have worked hard to complete the sections, namely

Volunteering section: 3 months

Physical section: 3 months

Skills section: 3 months

Expedition section: 2 days/1 night

There are also a handful of S5 students who have almost completed – they just need to finish off their sections and get their assessments signed off. Meanwhile, the S4 DofE students have been participating in their training sessions – showing real commitment including map reading in the snow!



Below is the updated S4 DofE timetable. Students are required to participate in the training sessions as non-attendance may mean that they are not allowed to go on the expeditions. Please note that the Expedition dates are confirmed.

Many Thanks, Dr A Jefferies, Computing, Kemnay Academy.

Week	Topic	Date	Who?
	Christmas holiday	25 th -> 5 th Jan	
8	Route Planning 2	12 th January	Alex
	Prelims	18 th Jan -> 26 th Jan	
9	emergency procedures	2 nd February	Andy
10	Outdoor map day (Saturday)	17 th February	Alex & Leaders
11	First aid	23 rd February	Laura
12	Food and cooking, use of stoves	2 nd March	Andy
13	Camp craft, equipment and hygiene	16 th March	Alex
14	Tents practice & Talk	23 rd March	Jim
	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	Date confirmed
16	Bronze Practice – Bennachie 2	16 th / 17 th June	Date confirmed
17	Bronze Expedition - Glen Muick 1	23 rd / 24 th June	Date confirmed
18	Bronze Expedition - Glen Muick 2	30 th June/1 st July	Date confirmed



Cross Country

The Cross Country Club has been meeting every Thursday lunchtime for regular training. There is an opportunity for pupils to be part of the school team for Run Balmoral's 2.5km Secondary School's race in April 2018 – this will be the first time the Academy have entered a team. Pupils can collect a consent form and details about the event from the PE department.

Netball

There are 4 teams that have been competing in Aberdeenshire's netball league and have played a number of matches to date. The squads have come up against some very strong opposition at times, although the junior 'A' squad have competed well, losing only one match so far. There are still a few games remaining in the New Year so players will continue training

on Tuesdays or Thursdays to develop their skills. The S1 team won against Bucksburn in a friendly match and narrowly lost to Cults – they have a few friendly matches arranged in the new year and will compete in Aberdeenshire's S1 Tournament in March.

Swimming

Well done to Lucy Alexander, Faith Morris and Freja Jones who took part in the highly competitive time trials for South Aberdeenshire. Lucy was successful in being considered for the Scottish Finals in January.

Charities Leaders

Eilidh Morrison and Leanne Harris organised a very successful Christmas Fayre as their 'Leadership in Practice' project for the N5 SQA unit. The fayre was well attended by stall holders and buyers and £580 was raised for our school charities Alzheimers Scotland, MS Society and RDA. The other leaders – Megan Gibbon, Hannah West, Caitlin Gray and Beth Elkin have been busy on other fund-raising activities and managed to raise £790 for Children-in Need. Megan and Hannah are leading an awareness-raising project of our school charities and parents will be able to find out about their work at future parents' evenings. The group will be holding a raffle for a chocolate hamper in the last week of term and any money raised from our 'Christmas Jumper Day' on the last day of term will also go towards our charities.

Sports Ambassadors

The Sports Ambassadors have been working on a number of projects. Ronan Swanson has organised a series of very successful Inter-House Sports Competitions to contribute towards the House system and this is continuing with Eve Smillie and Arran Walters. Eve and Arran have also been working on the organisation of a Health campaign which will be launched in 2018 in competition with an additional campaign run by Ronan and Matthew Dailey. Matthew has run a successful Golf club for pupils and is now encouraging pupils to join his interval running club on Wednesdays after school. Niamh Chalmers, Abigail Paterson and Rachael Morrison have been busy planning an ambitious project for 'Sport Relief' in March 2018.

S1 Football

The S1 footballers have made a fantastic start to the season this year. The boys have been playing some excellent free flowing football and are currently top of the Aberdeenshire league after winning 5 out of 5 games. They have worked hard for these victories and demonstrated great teamwork, determination and resilience to come through some tough games. The team are through to the quarter finals of the Aberdeenshire Cup, however narrowly lost in the quarter final of the North East Cup to a strong Cults team. The boys should be proud of their achievements so far and strive to work hard for the rest of the season.



S2

The S2 football team have carried on their good form from last year by beating local rivals Inverurie 7-3 to reach the Semi-Final of the Aberdeenshire cup. This was a very convincing performance and we hoped to carry that into our Quarter Final of the North East cup against Cults. Kemnay stormed into a 2-0 lead and could have been further in front with a few good chances going begging. Cults scored two late goals in the first half to make it 2-2. We were confident with our quality that we could win the second half but Cults scored an early goal to make it 3-2. The rest of the game was pretty much played in the Cults half with us having the majority of possession but just could not find a way through. Cults looked dangerous on the break and killed the game off with 5 minutes to go by making it 4-2. The boys should be proud of their efforts and on another day would have won the game comfortably.

Other footballing news

S3 team lost out in the Quarter Final away to a good Ellon side 3-2. Again we felt we did enough to win the game but there stand out player went on a mazy run and showed composure by placing it bottom corner with only a few minutes remaining. Our Senior boys are still waiting to get their campaign started as their opponents have been hard to pin down. If this continues it is likely they will get a bye into the next round. The senior girls are playing Fraserburgh in the Aberdeenshire cup and we are hopeful the game will get played prior to the Christmas holidays.

Congratulations to Bayley Hutchison, who has been selected for the Scotland Women's Under 16 Football Training Camp which will be held in Edinburgh in January 2018



KEMNAY ACADEMY

Developing Scotland's Young Workforce

Newsletter – December 2017

Welcome

Welcome to Kemnay Academy's third Developing the Young Workforce letter updating pupils, parents, staff and business partners on what is happening with DYW in school. Each newsletter will provide information on current projects, an update on previous and future projects going on here at Kemnay Academy.



Career Ready

Our Career Ready Pupils Dylan Cunningham, Niamh Milton Kyle MacRitchie, Eilidh Morrison & Carly Cairns have been involved in connection meetings with Mentors here in the school. The S5's will be attending Masterclass 2 next week at Elevator in the bridge of don, which will be an exciting opportunity for the pupils to learn more about Effective Communication & Networking. They have also met their Mentors who will guide them through the next two years of the programme. The S6's will be attending Masterclasses 5+6 in February at Anderson, Anderson & Brown. The classes will be looking at Success at Interviews, Assessment Centres and Brand You. This will complete the masterclass programme with a final mentor meeting. They will then look forward to their Career Ready Graduation in Perth Concert Hall on 18th April 2018.

Business Engagement

We have been working really hard on developing new Business Partners for Kemnay Academy. We are excited to announce that we have established a new Partnership with Aberdeen Northern Marts based at Thainstone Centre. Staff from the school visited Thainstone in June and Staff from ANM Group had their return visit in November. Both visits went very well and in turn had we had a chance to see how each establishment was run, find out what they did and the staff had a chance to interact with pupils and discuss their learning with them. The next step we are now looking forward to is working with ANM Group on various school curricular activities and being able to offer our services to ANM Group for projects they require our support with. Exciting times ahead!

Maths in Business – our Maths department had a number of businesses in working with them on a project with S2's regarding how maths is used in their line of work. The pupils (and staff) all enjoyed having this input as it not only gave the pupils an insight into possible careers using Maths, but also allowed pupils to use their problem solving skills and communication skills.



DYW

<http://dywaberdeenshire.org>

ABERDEENSHIRE

Developing the
Young Workforce

DYW

<http://www.dyw.org.uk>

NORTH EAST

The vital link connecting
schools and business

Careers Fair 2017

We held a new re-vamped Careers Fair on 15th November. All at Kemnay are very pleased to announce that this was a highly successful event where many pupils and their parents attended. The varied professions allowed variety for pupils to come and speak to the professionals regarding the variety of careers available to them across all sectors of work. Feedback from speaking with parents and professionals was positive, but we always welcome others to feedback to us for future event planning.

We also staged presentations for pupils and parents on some key specific areas to provide support to pupils for future career and employer engagement. These were based on: Work Experience; Skills Development Scotland; Interview Skills; Employability skills & Developing the Young Workforce. For those who attended, we hope that it was beneficial and welcome any feedback for future events.

Following the success of the Careers Fair, all businesses are happy to become more involved with providing curricular support at Kemnay Academy, offering a wider variety of opportunities for our pupils here at Kemnay. This is fantastic news which will help us in moving our Business agenda forward.

Business Directory

Due to the success of our recent Careers Fair and curricular business input, we are currently compiling a Business Directory for staff to consult for inviting businesses in to speak to pupils in particular curricular related areas.

Many of the businesses from the careers fair are willing to be included in our business directory. However, I wish to extend the invitation out to our parental network – if you have or are part of a business that feels they contribute to the school as part of our ongoing business development, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We have also been out in the community with the School Captains, introducing ourselves to local businesses and the work we will be looking to do in school, linking up with businesses in local area. We are looking to bring this forward next term and include them within our directory.

Marketplace

After attending the marketplace launch in September, this is an on line facility for businesses to engage with schools and vice versa in order to broaden pupil's career options.

How it works is that schools can request business input in a particular field to help with curricular input and in turn, businesses can request help from schools.

The portal is part of My World of Work and developed by DYW & Skills Development Scotland. It can be found here:

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



Skills Scotland Event

We had a number of our S4,5,6 pupils attend the Skills Scotland Event at the Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre in November.

The event showcased opportunities for pupils who were unsure of their future career paths. The event provided an opportunity for pupils to talk to employers, colleges and investigate the number of apprenticeship schemes available to them. Pupils received hands on demonstrations, talks on specific topic areas, some listened to the Modern Apprenticeship talk whilst there.

Pupils all came away with a bag of information from businesses and college brochures. There are a number of career paths open to pupils nowadays, including apprenticeships. This allows pupils to gain a formal qualification whilst in employment learning on the job. Apprenticeships are explained on the national Parent Forum which can be found here:

<https://www.npfs.org.uk>

Jobs can be found here:

<https://www.apprenticeships.scot>



My World of Work Ambassadors

My World of Work Ambassadors were recruited and we are pleased to say we have a number of our enthusiastic S2 pupils ready to accept the challenge of becoming Kemnay's Ambassadors.

Their role will be to learn all about the My World of Work website in detail, understand what each part does, how it can help people search for jobs suited to their interests and advise on the best use of the website to find that suitable career path. They will roll this out across the school by offering workshops to allow both pupil, staff and parents to become familiar with the site and how it can be used effectively.

Please feel free to look through the information on the website with your child:

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



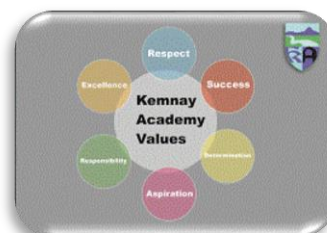
Next Issue.....

Update on current projects:

- My World of Work Ambassadors
- Business Directory
- Business & Curricular engagement

Skills in school:

- Skills for Life, Learning & Work
- Skills across the curriculum



Community Partners

The Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership, which is made up of local groups and organisations in the Kemnay Network, is keen to promote and provide relevant learning opportunities and support in our local area. Our tag line is SHRECC, aiming to promote Strong, Healthy, Resilient, Engaged, Connected Communities. Active Schools and The Spark are both involved with the Partnership and this is the type of opportunities they provide.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS

The fundamental aim of Active Schools is to offer school aged children the motivation and opportunities to adopt active and healthy lifestyles. These opportunities are available before, during and after school, as well as in the wider community. Essentially our main aim is to get more children, more active, more often.

The Active Schools Coordinators are responsible for putting in place and driving forward a range of planned activities in both school and community settings to help encourage children and young people's participation in physical activity and sport. Our role is to support current, and develop new, high quality opportunities for children to allow participation in regular, frequent, safe and fun activity incorporating such things as sport, play, health and active travel.

The Active Schools team work closely with local sport and recreation clubs to provide children with additional motivation and opportunities to get involved in sport and physical activity. Active Schools' programmes rely heavily on volunteers to assist with and run various sessions and clubs around Aberdeenshire. In order to keep the clubs as inclusive as possible and at minimal cost or free, it is essential that we have volunteers on board. There are always a variety of opportunities and ways of getting involved in the work of Active Schools, and we offer advice and support in relation to training and workshops, coaching qualifications, funding applications, links to national governing bodies and much more.

For more information on Active Schools and on volunteering, please contact Lynsey Coutts, Active Schools Coordinator (Kemnay Primary and Secondary Network), Tel: 01467 538899 / 07909 875461, Email: lynsey.coutts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



The Spark - Supporting Children and Young People, Individuals, Couples and Families

Formed in 1965, The Spark is a well-established and highly respected charity in Scotland delivering a range of relationship support, education and counselling services.

As a national charity, the organisation is committed to ensuring that all Scottish residents have access to relationship support, regardless of whether they live in a remote and rural location, in a village, town or city. These include:

Children & Young People - Early intervention services to enable young people aged 5 – 25 years to develop essential relationship skills and support them with issues and challenges in their everyday lives. Programmes include relationship education, building relationship resilience, tackling violence, mental health & wellbeing, anxiety and stress, and employability focussed workshops. Individual counselling and art therapy services are also available.

The Relationship Helpline – Immediate and free access to a listening support service for individuals. The service is available by telephone (0808 802 2088) or via webchat www.thespark.or.uk/webchat

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www.thespark.or.uk

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Relationship Counselling

Time to think about and discuss relationship difficulties with a professional Counsellor for individuals, couples and families. Services are available face to face, by telephone and online by calling our national appointments team on 0845 271 2711.

Professionals

Comprehensive range of relationship focussed learning and development solutions for individual cpd or organisations seeking to develop their teams. These include Relationship First Aid, Scottish Mental Health First Aid, COSCA Counselling Skills, Diploma in Relationship Counselling, Emotionally Focussed Therapy, Helpline Training and many more.

Important Dates:

TERM 3

8 January 2018	Start of Term 3
11 January	S2 into S3 Info Evening
16 January	S2 Parents Evening
15-26 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.



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