

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter November 2018



Welcome Parents / Carers to our Autumn Newsletter. This term we have been focused on the following:

Uniform

The school is committed to school uniform that is affordable and practical for all. School uniform helps to create identity with the school. Your support is acknowledged and appreciated in encouraging your child to wear uniform. School uniform comprises of the following:

S1-3
White polo shirt with school badge
Kemnay Academy sweatshirt
Black trousers / skirt
Black shoes / trainers

S4-6
S4 White shirt with junior tie
S5/6 White shirt with senior tie
Black trousers/ skirt
Black shoes/ trainers

Please note that leggings should not be worn.

With the change of the season all our young people are encouraged to prepare for the poor weather.

Staying Safe – all bus travellers

Pupils travelling to and from school are reminded and encouraged to stay safe. The BUS STOP! campaign highlights the importance of road safety to all pupils who travel by bus. Further details are available www.1second1life.co.uk

**PING!
NEW MESSAGE.**

**YOU GET OFF
THE BUS.**

**YOU STEP ONTO
THE ROAD.**

**WILL YOU SEE
THE CAR?**



1SECOND1LIFE.CO.UK



A ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE SUPPORTED
BY TALISMAN ENERGY (UK) LIMITED

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Supporting Pupils S4-6

To support our senior pupils (S4-S6) the school has compiled a calendar of assessment dates. This was done to support pupils with planning their revision time in the period before NQ prelims. The deadlines set for submission are fixed by the SQA.

The school is hosting an event for parents/carers on **Monday 3rd December**. This will be a senior phase NQ preparation evening. Full details of the evening will be issued further to parents.

Pupil Council

This term the pupil council has been working with Mrs Glendinning on the following themes:

Canteen experience

Mobile phone policy/application

Following the feedback given by pupils the school plans to have a discussion with Aberdeenshire catering staff. Pupils are keen to discuss availability of fresh fruit and the range of meals on offer.

With regards to mobile phones, pupils have acknowledged the requirement for management of mobiles in the classroom. The agreed procedures will be distributed and shared with all.

Pupil Behaviour

The school have been contacted by residents in Hallforest Drive Kintore. Local residents are complaining to the school about pupils' behaviour in and around this residential area in Kintore. The school is keen to maintain good relationships with all residents and encourage parents within Kintore to have discussions with young people to promote good neighbour behaviour.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

1. **School Closure Website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures/**
2. **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.
3. **Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Kemnay-Academy>**
4. **School website: <http://kemnayacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>**
5. **Twitter: <https://twitter.com/@KemnayAcademy/>**

Aberdeenshire Council website is kept updated on a daily basis during periods of adverse weather. This should be the first place to check for closure or late opening. The website also carries information related to buses in adverse weather.

School Highlights

Science Snippets

Advanced Higher

Pupils in the Advanced Higher Science classes have been participating in a variety of experiences this term.

- 4 pupils are working with a mentor from BP in the STEM in the Pipeline competition
- Advanced Higher Chemistry visited Aberdeen University for practical laboratory work
- Advanced Higher Physics attended a day of Optics lectures and workshops at Aberdeen University
- The Science Baccalaureate pupils have begun work on their chosen topics for their Inter-disciplinary projects – Malaria causes and treatment ; Neuroscience of Happiness ; Pain Relief and Anaesthesia
- Emma Henderson attended the Edinburgh Zoo Summer School and is now carrying out her Advanced Higher Biology project at the zoo studying gibbons

Top of the Bench

4 pupils have taken part in round one of the annual Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition

North Sound Energy Quiz

4 pupils took part in the North Sound 1 Energy Quiz which will be broadcast on the 4th November. This was tem captain Kim Taylor's 4th appearance!

Farming and Countryside Group

The group are meeting on Tuesday's to talk about farming and to plan outings to the mart, local farms and to plan the Country Show in May.

Study and Homework Support

Science teachers are available every lunchtime to offer support with study, homework and revision planning.

Aberdeenshire Green Champions

On Friday 28th September our S2 Sustainability Leaders attended an event at Aberdeenshire Council Headquarters to celebrate the environmental successes we and many various organisations have achieved. Organisations included recreation centres, libraries and care homes as well as three other schools.

At the event we were required to share our ideas for moving forward as well as what we have achieved so far. We did this by setting up a large notice board and people came to speak to us. We were given a presentation from Eden care home and Ellon Academy, explaining in further detail what they have achieved and their next steps to move further in the future. After this we were given recycled green champion badges to show that we are a part of the organisation. We were then given a certificate which we got our photo taken with and were informed that if we showed Aberdeenshire Council a plan for an environmental improvement at the school they would gift us £500 to carry it out.

We carried out a review of work done at Kemnay Academy in different areas of sustainability. This highlighted key areas where we are doing well and areas for development this year. We logged our progress and there were points awarded for achieving different parts of the Green Champion programme.

Key areas for development at Kemnay Academy this year

- Regular meetings
- Communication
- Linking with the pupil council and local community

Eco Schools Committee

The Eco Schools Committee has identified some projects for this year's focus topics and linked them to the Global Goals.

Litter and Waste Minimisation - KemNae Waste
Global Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption

- Poster competition
- Litter picks
- Increasing recycling in the school
- Food waste and food packaging in the school canteen

Biodiversity – Bees, Birds and local biodiversity
Global Goal 14 – Life below Water Global Goal 15 – Life on Land

- Bird surveys and boxes
- Bee-friendly Kemnay - Planting for Pollinators
- River Don and Salmon projects

Global Citizenship – Fair Trade

Global Goal 1 – No Poverty

- Work towards achieving the Fair Trade Schools Award
- Increase our use of fair trade products in the school
- Participate in Fair Trade Fortnight

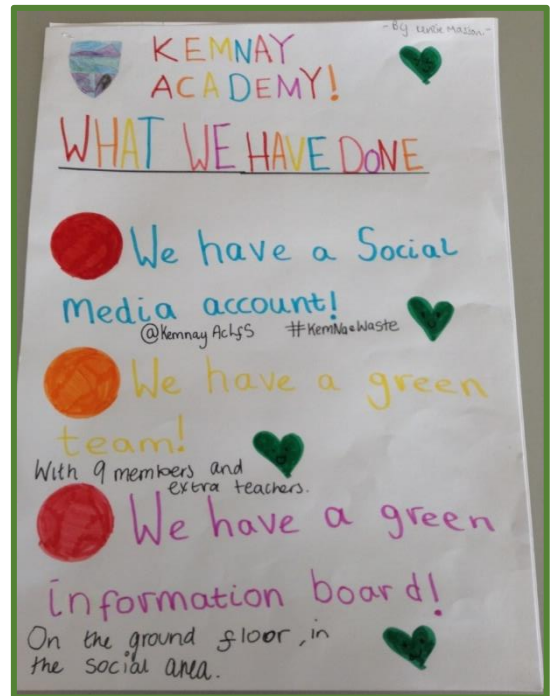
Health and Well-Being

Global Goal 3 – Good Health

- Water fountains
- Mental Health and Well-being
- Outdoor learning

We also have some on-going projects

- Saving Energy
- E-twinning link with a school in Finland
- Sharing our work with other schools



Brainstorming Ideas for KemNae Waste

Learning for Sustainability

Looking at Ourselves, Looking to the world, Learning for our future.

Learning for Sustainability appears in many forms in the life of Kemnay Academy.

Current examples include

Subjects and courses use topics and contexts which encourage pupils to engage with current issues e.g. use of plastics, food waste, recycling, democracy, modern slavery

Pupils in S1/2 participate in IDL courses which allow them to link different aspects of the curriculum to real life examples.

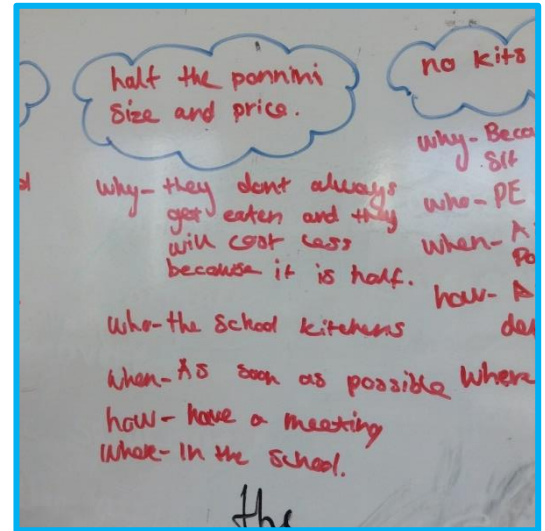
The school is participating in the UN Rights Respecting Schools Award and highlights the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Interact is toilet twinning!

Staff have a working group to look at different aspects of LfS

Events are planned for S1-3 in May – John Muir Award, Farming and Countryside Show, Sustainability event and Model UN

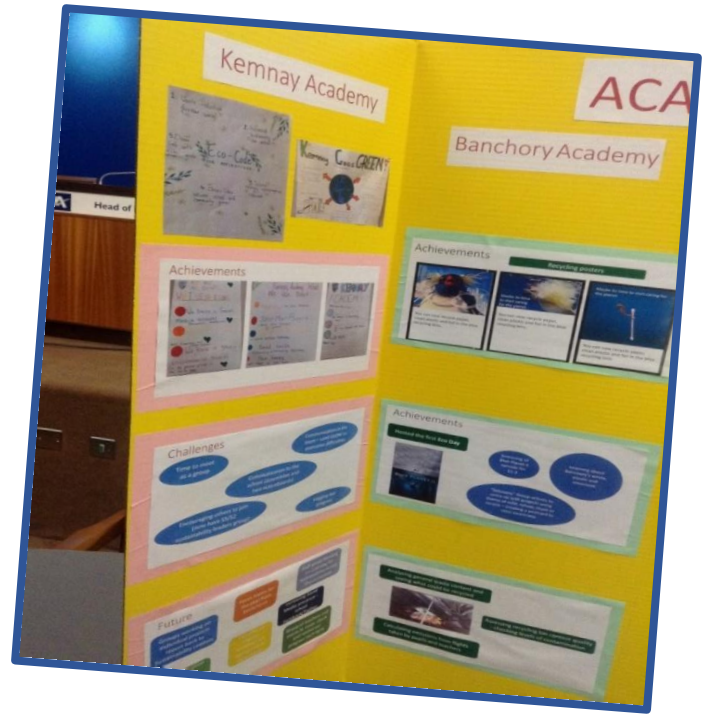
Pupils are contributing ideas and working and leading on projects about litter, biodiversity, energy and health and well-being.



Communicating our learning for sustainability work.



S2 Sustainability Leaders at Aberdeenshire Council HQ for the Green Champions launch



Sharing our Sustainability ideas with other schools

Kemnay Academy Eco Code

S5 Sustainability Leaders at Castle Fraser



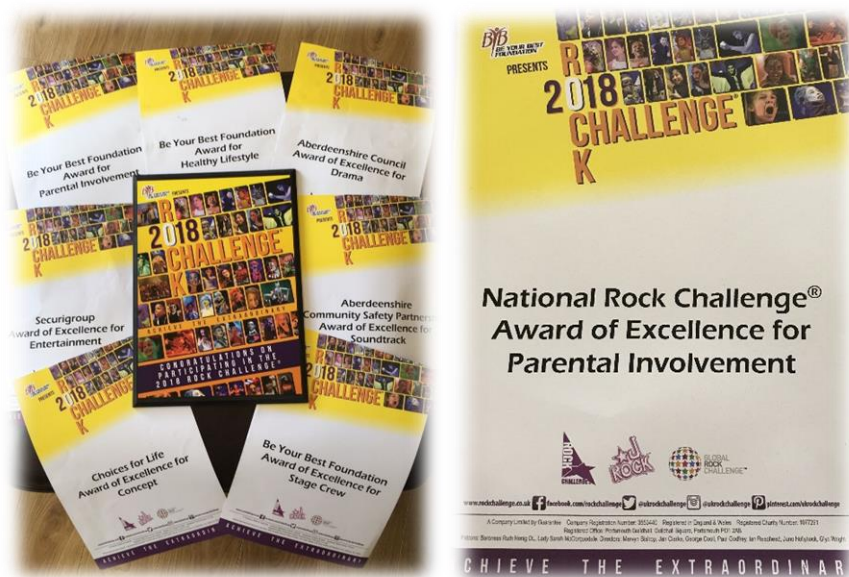
Rock challenge 2018/19

As we are about to launch Rock Challenge 2018/19, we thought this would be the perfect opportunity to share the exciting news we received during the summer holidays. At Rock Challenge 2017/18 we received a number of awards, one of which was the Parental Involvement Award; which was no surprise, as we could never have made it to Rock Challenge without all of the amazing support – thank you!

In turn, this support has been recognised by the Rock Challenge Organisation and Kemnay Academy have been awarded a National Award of Excellence for Parental Involvement!

Highlands to Portsmouth.

Thank you so much, once again for all of your hard work in getting Kemnay Academy back to Rock Challenge. We look forward to working with you again for the next event.



Active Schools...and everything extra-curricular!

It's been a very busy start to the new school year with Active Schools and the PE department offering a wide variety of sports and activity clubs for the pupils of Kemnay Academy to get involved in. This year we have a huge number of clubs on offer, during lunchtimes and after school, including Football, Basketball, Netball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Volleyball, Hockey and Rugby to name but a few.

So far this year, we have a record number of pupils attending the clubs and activities we have on offer. Last school year we only had around 10 pupils regularly attend our after-school hockey club, but now, we have around 26 pupils coming along each week. Likewise, our girls football sessions are proving to be popular with 18 girls signed up and participating each week, an increase of around 10 pupils on last year's numbers. Not only that, but we have managed to offer, alongside our boy's rugby club, a girl only session, where we have 20 girls learning and developing their skills and understanding – again, an increase of around 12 pupils compared to last year.

All the clubs and activities offered have been in high demand with the new S1 pupils since they joined the school in August. We have just over 30 boys signed up to and coming along to our after-school football club, and thanks to the enthusiasm of the S1 pupils, our lunchtime volleyball club is also bursting with new players in the making. Similarly, the S1 girls are showing a huge interest in our after-school netball club, where we have seen around 24 new participants come along to the sessions.

It's incredible to see how motivated the pupils are at Kemnay Academy and just how much they like sport and being active. Through all of the clubs we offer we try to ensure the pupils get access to, and experience, as much competition as possible. For example, our football teams are entered into the Aberdeenshire Cup and North East of Scotland Cup, the netball teams have been entered into a Shire League with other local schools, and our rugby teams are competing in the Tier 4 Conference. The PE staff are very much 'on the ball' with ensuring the pupils get the chance of regular fixtures so friendlies and mini-tournaments with other local schools are organised throughout the terms where there is no involvement in official local/regional cups or leagues. Not only this, but every year the academy gets the opportunity to be represented at the South Aberdeenshire Schools Sport Association (SASSA) event day where we compete against the seven other academies in the area in a number of sports such as badminton, athletics, hockey, table tennis, and basketball. Last year Kemnay Academy came 2nd overall, so we are looking to make it to the top spot this year in just a couple of weeks' times! It pays off for pupils to be involved in our school clubs and teams when they get the opportunity to be involved and be part of so many experiences out with the normal school day.

It's never too late to get involved in the sports clubs and activities at Kemnay Academy, new participants are always welcome!

Big shout out to the PE staff, Miss Cameron (humanities), Mr Zimmermann (technical), and senior pupil helpers who deliver and support all the clubs and sessions each week!



Interact – Rotary

The Interact Group are into their third year of running and are going strong! Interact is an organization which allows young people to experience new things and make a difference. This year Kemnay Interact aim to raise £240 for Toilet Twinning. This is an organisation that builds toilets for people who don't have them. They also teach good hygiene to improve health. Look out for us at Parents Evenings and try to help us raise the money. We've got a flush-o-meter, so you can see how far we have to go!



School information:

Kemnay Academy Improvement priorities 2018/19

The school is required to identify key priorities within a framework established by Aberdeenshire council and the Scottish Government as part of the school commitment to continuous improvement. Below is the shorter version of the key themes that the school has identified. These have been shared with learners/staff and parent council.

Leadership of Change

1. Develop greater confidence in use of HGIOS 4 at Faculty level.

Learners and stakeholders involved in self-evaluation to support and improve learning.
All stakeholders engaged with self-evaluation process.

2. Vision/Values themes across whole school policies.

Implement strategic policies- behaviour & learning/anti-bullying/LGBT/peer support under “vision” umbrella

Programme as an embedded feature Key events in place. Rights Respecting Schools Award achievement of Bronze award. Greater pupil groups/focus groups to support improvement.

3. Continued development leadership opportunities for all.

Impact on learning and teaching.

More stakeholders (pupil/staff) involved in leadership roles in school. This includes all year groups of pupils.

Teaching, learning and assessment

1. To increase moderation understanding in Broad General Education (S1 – S3) to support learning.

Greater consistency with learning conversations. Improved whole school understanding of progress through BGE. Discussion with learners through year.

2. To implement revision of curriculum across Broad General Education (BGE) /Senior Phase

Greater pace and challenge through BGE.

Focus on National Improvement Framework priorities.

3. To maintain focus on learning and teaching at all levels. Continued focus on teaching & learning – strategic/Faculty

Increased range of learning environments & creative teaching approaches. Review of assessment procedures across BGE.

Raising attainment and achievement

1. To make use of all data to support learners at all levels and to support increased self-evaluation.

2. Access to SEEMIS BGE tracking tools Greater use of data tracking to inform judgements about learning/attainment

3 Pupil council/focus groups in place across school to support improvements in all aspects of learning.

Improved engagement of learners in all aspects of school life.

4. Measuring impact of Pupil Equity Fund monies across school projects.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE.

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

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



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

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

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

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

Some of the benefits for the School are:

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

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

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

We can send three different types of text messages:

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

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

Groupcall Xpressions App

What happens if I haven't got the app?

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



Will my personal details be safe?

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

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

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

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

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

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

To start receiving messages via the app:

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

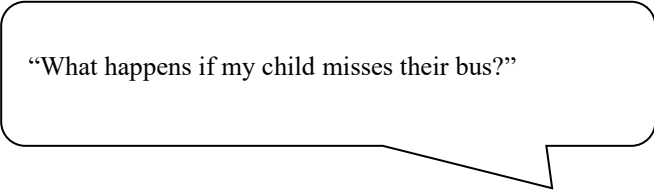
School Transport 2018/19

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

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

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

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



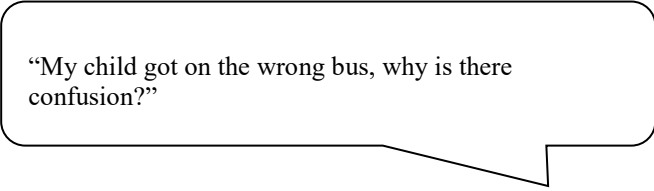
“What happens if my child misses their bus?”

Travelling to School

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

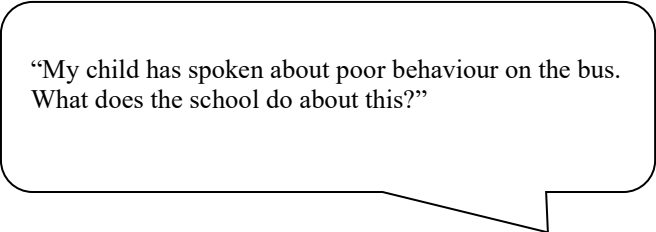
If your child misses the bus **from** school: -

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



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

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



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

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

Any young person found to behave inappropriately (smoking, vaping, vandalism) may find that they will be liable for replacement/costs or find that their bus pass is removed. Smoking/Vaping would result in parental involvement a severe sanction.

Important Dates:

TERM 3

7 January 2019	Start of Term 3
10 January	S2 into S3 Info Evening
14 January	S2 Parents Evening
14-25 January	S4/5/6 Prelims
28 January	S4 Work Experience Week
31 January	S3 into S4 Info Evening
2-9 February	S2 Ski Trip
5 February	S3 Parents Evening
8 February	Occasional Holiday
11 February	Mid Term Holiday
12 February	In-Service Closure No Pupils
13 February	In-Service Closure No Pupils
14 February	P7 into S1 Info Evening
19 February	Senior Phase Info Evening
27 February	S4 Parents' Evening
7 March	S5/6 Parents' Evening
29 March	End of Term 3

TERM 4

15 April	Start of Term 4
18 April	Senior Prom
19 April	Holiday – Good Friday
6 May	May Day Holiday
17 May	S2 Reports Issued
31 May	S1 Reports Issued
3 June	Occasional Holiday
4 June	Start of New Timetable
19 June	S2/3 Awards Ceremony
20 June	S4/5/6 Awards Ceremony
21 June	S1 Awards Ceremony
26-28 June	P7 Link Days
1 July	P7 Parents' Evening
5 July	End of Term 4

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



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