



# Auchinleck Academy

## Christmas Newsline



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and pupils for all their hard work over the past year in ensuring that our school and the achievements of our young people go from strength to strength. It has been an extremely successful year both in terms of our examination results and our wider achievements, some of which are illustrated in this newsletter. Our Higher results were particularly outstanding as the following table shows:

**Auchinleck Academy: Percentage of S6 pupils achieving 3 or more Highers**



| Year          | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 3+ Higher A-C | 24   | 28   | 30   | 28   | 28   | 39   |
| 5+ Higher A-C | 16   | 16   | 21   | 21   | 21   | 27   |
| 1+ Adv H A-C  | 7    | 10   | 12   | 12   | 16   | 15   |



Thanks also to all parents and guardians for your continued support of the school and our pupils in 2014. This is vital to our team effort and is very much appreciated.

This teamwork between staff, parents and pupils was perfectly illustrated by your support of our blazer initiative this year. Our boys and girls look superb in their full uniform and I am convinced this has greatly enhanced their pride in themselves and in the school.

I would like to wish all pupils, parents, carers and friends of Auchinleck Academy a very happy Christmas, a relaxing and enjoyable break and a very successful New Year.

P.Gilchrist.

Head Teacher



### **PC Bysouth—Campus Police Officer**

Earlier this year we welcomed PC Chris Bysouth to the school. Chris is our new Campus Cop, splitting his time between ourselves and Cumnock Academy



### Glasgow Science Centre Visit

S3 pupils and staff from Auchinleck Academy recently had the opportunity to visit the Glasgow Science Centre. Pupils and staff participated in activities in the science mall which is spread across three floors with dramatic hands-on exhibits. Pupils burned some energy in the giant hamster wheel, performed a virtual autopsy and busted some moves at the DNA disco. We were able to check out our hot spots with our thermal imaging camera and test our reactions with the wiggly wire. With selected exhibits, you could even record your performance and compare your results with other visitors. The sprint track was a firm favourite - with quite a number of budding Usain Bolts!

Pupils were able to access 'My World of Work' which hosts a fantastic range of information showcasing what it is really like to work as a scientist, explorer, researcher, or engineer, in one of 100's of careers in science! **Science Fundamentals** houses some of the classic science exhibits. Pupils could make a giant bubble wall, put their hand in the centre of a tornado, and generate electricity to power a radio!

We also visited the IMAX cinema for the ultimate film experience. We settled down with our popcorn to watch 'Space Station 3D'. The film was fantastic with special effects and images so clear and realistic that for a brief moment you could forget where you were and really feel like you'd been transported into space!

An enjoyable time was had by all and we look forward to more visits in the future where we can explore the relevance of science in everyday life along with personal, social, ethical, moral and economic issues that affect us all.

### Dumfries House Residential Visit

Thirty nine pupils and staff had an educational residential visit to Dumfries House estate. The purpose of the visit was to enable S4 Business Management pupils to undertake their National 5 coursework assignment. Monday began with pupils going to their chosen area on the estate. These areas included the Café, Visitor Centre, Garden, Farm and Education. Pupils were well prepared and asked managers some challenging business questions. Next pupils took part in some of the daily routine tasks which take place in these areas or were given specific tasks to work on. After lunch pupils conducted market research on the Estate, asking visitors to the Estate about their expectations and experiences. Then it was back to the Manoukian Centre for all pupils to take part in team building activities. This took place at the Outdoor Centre where Richard and James, the enthusiastic outdoor instructors, put pupils through some physical and mentally challenging tasks. Wet and exhausted the pupils enjoyed warm showers before tucking into a lovely dinner freshly prepared by the Estate chefs. The chocolate cake was a firm favourite! The evening programme included people bingo and the business decision game spaghetti challenge. After a good night's sleep day two involved pupils visiting Da Vinci's Café, Woodlands Restaurant, the Lodge Guest House and finding out about Events within Dumfries House where managers of these areas gave pupils business information, tours and answered pupils' previously prepared business questions. As ever, Auchinleck Academy pupils were commended on their excellent behaviour and their willingness to take part and help each other. Mrs Campbell and Mrs Hammersley would like to thank all of the staff at Dumfries House Estate for giving their time and making our pupils feel so welcome. It is always a treat to see the changes at the Estate and to chat with so many ex pupils who are part of the growing army of Dumfries Estate staff.



**From the PE Department**

**Fit for Girls Week**

Auchinleck Academy took part in the Fit for Girls activity week initiative. The Fit for Girls programme is aimed at encouraging girls to take part in physical activity and there were various means to do this. There was a girl's only extra-curricular club set-up with various activities arranged for each day. The girls that signed up for any session received a stamp on their entry card which led to a reward of a dance session delivered by a qualified dance instructor.



**Graffiti Art**

As was part of the Fit for Girls project encouraging girls to participate in sport, a graffiti artist was invited into the PE department to help make it a brighter place to learn. The work was carried out over two days and the Art department ran a competition to come up with a catchy slogan to write on the wall. The winner was Caleb Askin who came up with 'Aim Higher to Go Further'



**Rugby**

Forty-two young and keen Auchinleck Academy pupils recently travel to play established Rugby school Carrick Academy at Rozelle Park in Ayr. Auchinleck took S1 boys, S2 boys and a S3/4 girls' team for the first Auchinleck Academy fixture since the late eighties! The S1 side fought brilliantly and were very narrowly beaten 34-33 in a match that highlighted both schools ability to move the ball. Players Player was R. Airlie.



The S2 side were the stand outs with a brilliant 40-0 win, Players Player Jamie Drummond scored a hat-trick and led the forwards well. Other try scorers were O. Young, J. Barr and A. Houston.



The girls' game was an epic encounter with both Auchinleck and Carrick making big hit after big hit. The result went to Carrick 7 tries to 6 but all girls involved had a great time and Players Player L. Hill scored 3 very classy tries, with B. McSeveney adding 2 well taken tries and new comer F. Gemmell getting in on the action with a fine effort. Overall all pupils involved had a great time and were an absolute credit to the school! Mr Malakoty, Miss Sharpe and Mr Raby were all very pleased and proud of every pupil! Well done Auchinleck!



**Scotland v Tonga**

Auchinleck Academy ran a trip to Rugby Park to watch International Rugby being played on Astro grass for the very first time. Twenty-three pupils and two staff watched Scotland beat Tonga by 37 points to 12, in an open and exciting game. Auchinleck Academy PE department are already organising another trip to see Scotland take on Wales at Murrayfield in the 2015 Six Nations

**Referee Development**

Auchinleck Academy's SFA Referee Development Pupils, David McComb, Lee Conn and Jordon Murray officiated their first game tonight (Thursday 20th) as home side Auchinleck Academy under 13's ran out winners 7-1.

**Swimming**

Auchinleck Academy had a number of pupils taking part in the Ayrshire Schools Swimming Gala. All swimmers performed magnificently and represented the school in an excellent manner.



We offer a wide variety of extra curricular clubs at lunch time and after school !



## S4 College Class Coffee

Our S4 College Class have been learning how to plan, organise and hold an event. This culminated with them holding a coffee morning for staff. They made and sold cakes with tea and coffee and the money raised will be donated to a charity the school supports.

## Charity Day

S6 students at Auchinleck Academy organised a charity day at the school to raise money for local charities. Pupils could take part in a "soak the teacher", guess the baby picture, face painting and in addition to this there was a bake sale, a crazy hair day and a disco for S1, 2 and 6 students. The total amount raised was £426.73 and the S6 students did a tremendous job putting the full day together.

## S1 Leadership

All classes in S1 participated in a day of learning outdoors developing their Leadership Skills. Activities included a swamp crossing, blindfold trail and leaky tube. Pupils worked on communication, teamwork, initiative and perseverance during the days.

All pupils enjoyed the activities some getting very wet and muddy in the process .



## Visit to Cathy Jamieson's Office

Local MP Cathy Jamieson met with senior pupils from schools across the constituency, including Auchinleck Academy pupils Matthew Crawshaw and Rachel Templeton, to listen to their views and find out which issues are most important to them.

The meeting was lively and productive, with the pupils exhibiting interest and knowledge across a diverse range of issues.

## Severe Weather Routine

During spells of hard frost or snow, it is important that pupils are aware of the dangers from slipping on un-treated paths. The Janitors have priorities to consider when gritting areas around the School. Therefore when pupils are coming into school they should keep to the paths cleared.

From the bus drop off point a path will be cleared to the dining hall.

- ✓ When entering from Auchinleck a path will be clear from the bus stop entrance, around the assembly hall and down to the dining hall.
- ✓ Pupils being dropped off by car should also use the bus drop off point as highlighted.

