



Auchinleck Academy

Christmas Newsline



Head Teacher's Welcome

It has been a very strange feeling as we approach our winter break this year. Apparently evening temperatures were exactly the same on the year's shortest day in December as they were on the longest day in June. We no longer seem to have any seasons. Perhaps these Geography teachers have been correct all along with their predictions of climate change!

Despite this, the achievements of our young people continue to grow as the table below and the details of this newsletter illustrate.

Auchinleck Academy: S6 Achievements on leaving the school

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
3 + Higher A-C	24	28	30	28	28	39	36
5+ Higher A-C	16	16	21	20	21	27	30*
1+ Adv H A-C	7	10	12	11	16	15	15

In summary:

The performance of those achieving 5 or more Highers is the best ever for the school.

The 5+ Higher performance is now well above the East Ayrshire and national averages.

The 3+ Highers is the second best ever performance.

There has been an 88% improvement in 5+ Highers since 2009 and a 114% improvement in 1+ Advanced Highers since 2009

Once again I must thank all staff and pupils for their hard work throughout the year. Thank you also to parents for their continued support of our school.



I wish everyone a very happy Xmas and prosperous New Year

Peter Gilchrist



Well done to Lochlea pupil Carrie McLean who once again has been crowned World Champion in Indoor Bowling. She won the mixed pairs title at the under 25 Championships last week in Glasgow. In addition to being a talented athlete she has also shown fantastic academic prowess throughout her time at Auchinleck Academy and is now looking to study Law at University next year. We are all very proud of her.



Recognising Achievement Awards

September is the month of 'Achievement'.

The five core values of Auchinleck Academy are: Achievement, Respect, Responsibility, Equality and Teamwork. Auchinleck Academy pupils have always shown their effort and dedication through their hard work and positive attitude as an individual learner by achieving the best of their ability. Therefore Auchinleck Academy was proud to present 245 awards on *the 'Recognising Achievement Awards Evening'*. This event not only gave Mr Gilchrist the chance to show how proud he is of the pupils of Auchinleck Academy but it also allowed pupils from S1 to S6 to recognise their incredible achievements within the school. It was such a delightful evening and definitely brings pride to Auchinleck Academy.

The evening kicked off with a welcome speech by our head teacher Mr Gilchrist. Next was a music performance by Catriona Bryson, Kristen O'Dwyer and Natasha Romaniuk. Well done girls! This was followed by the Presentation of Awards. These awards were divided into different headings including:

**Responsible Citizens
Confident Individuals
Effective Contributors
Successful Learners**

Additionally the awards included challenges with well-known organisations such as Duke of Edinburgh, Coca Cola, Frankie & Benny's and many more!

Many sixth year pupils who have left school are now continuing with higher education or are going into employment. They also returned to school that evening to celebrate their achievement and collect their awards. Some say it was rather 'emotional'. The final award of the evening, The McIlwraith Award, for top performing student over S5 and S6 was presented to Jodie MacPherson. A lot of parents attended this evening as well and it was a good night to acknowledge pupil's wider achievements and their contribution to extra-curricular activities within the school.

The *'Recognising Achievement Awards Evening'* definitely show one of the core values of the school which is Achievement. Pupils have also shown their success through Responsibility and Teamwork when tackling challenges and tasks. So overall Auchinleck Academy is proud of these high achievers and hopefully pupils are encouraged to aim higher and achieve more each time. Well done to those who received an award!

Anti-Bullying Group

Pupils from across all year groups at Auchinleck Academy have formed an Anti-Bullying Group with the aim of stopping bullying in any form at the school. To raise awareness of this they made and sold ribbons to pupils and staff to show their support. These pupils are meeting on a weekly basis to discuss what can be done to support young people in the school and will hold a number of events throughout the year.



Music Department

Christmas Concert

On the 15th of December the music department held its annual Christmas Concert, an epic affair involving over one hundred pupils from both the Academy and associated primaries. We had music from all of our extra-curricular groups, who had been working hard since August to put together pieces for the concert. We had music from the Auchinleck and Cumnock Concert Band, Junior and Senior Choirs, Ukulele Club, Musical Theatre Club, Soul Band and also a very special performance from the Kickstart band, which is made up of P5-7 pupils from feeder primaries. This was their first public performance as they have only been playing together for 2 months! They did an excellent job and we are looking forward to continuing their musical education when they become pupils at the Academy.

Thanks to the generosity of our audience, we were able to raise over £1000 at this concert which will be used to continue to improve the provision of resources in the music department and also enable us to fund our extra-curricular activities.

School of Rugby

The Pro's visit Auchinleck Academy Rugby.

Mark Bennett and Darcy Rae both Glasgow Warriors and Scotland Internationals were in Auchinleck Academy on Wednesday 9th December to lead sessions for Auchinleck pupils. The afternoon started outside on the astro-grass for Auchinleck S1 School of Rugby pupils. With the wind and rain the session was mainly built around lots of activity and game like practices.

In the second half of the afternoon the session was held inside the games hall. Joining the School of Rugby pupils were over thirty pupils from across the other school teams. The main thrust of the session was skills. There was even a race between S5 pupil John Watt and Mark Bennett which can be seen on our twitter account @EACAuchRugby.

The session was finished with a Q+A session with pupils picking Darcy's and Mark's brains on all things rugby. Darcy and Mark then waited back to sign autographs and pose for pictures and selfies. Overall a great afternoon for everyone involved and more evidence of the increase happiness gained from the egg shaped object that is a rugby ball.



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

Health & Wellbeing Challenge

Over the course of this session, pupils have been involved in a variety of learning experiences and community based activities. In November and December they had the opportunity to participate in a work experience placement kindly offered by Tesco in Auchinleck. The young people were involved in several departments within the store including bakery, checkouts, dairy, fruit and veg, entertainment and helping collect for the foodbank. Tesco very kindly donated a Christmas tree to the school – shown in the photo.

More recently, December saw the pupils preparing, packing and delivering Christmas parcels to elderly folk in the community who were very pleased to receive them. One pupil was heard to say, “It’s great to give as well as get,” so this enterprise was a positive experience all round. A big thank you to staff, parents and Tesco for their generous donations which allowed us to make up 20 parcels.

White Ribbon Campaign

S6 pupils recently took part in an event for the White Ribbon Campaign to help prevent violence against women. As well as taking the white ribbon pledge they took part in a three legged walk to raise awareness of the issues and to show that working together is the way forward to tackling them.

S4 pupils were also given a talk by PC Bysouth, campus police officer, to raise awareness of the white ribbon campaign. They created a poster using their own handprints to make their own pledge for the white ribbon campaign during the 16 days of action.



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.

