



December 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a great first term and are very much looking forward to the Christmas holidays and an exciting 2016 at Kilmarnock Academy.

There have been a lot of activities and successes this year both in attainment and wider achievement. I know you will be proud of the school's success which reflects positively on you as parents and the pupils who are impressive, without exception.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the invaluable support you have given the staff over the course of the year and in particular to myself since August - it is very much appreciated. We, as a partnership, will continue to take the school forward as we strive for excellence. The future at Kilmarnock Academy is in safe hands and it is exciting times to be involved in our school.

Whilst I commend this newsletter to you there are also many ways to keep in touch with what is happening at Kilmarnock Academy. You can find up to date information on our school blog at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/kilmarnockacademy/> which I would encourage you to check on a regular basis. We also have a new Kilmarnock Academy Twitter

account where there are instantaneous posts on our school activity. This can be found @KilmarnockAcad, again I would ask that you please follow this to keep abreast of school matters.

We have a couple of Christmas events coming up very soon. Our fantastic Christmas Concert is on 16th December at 7pm in the Assembly Hall. Tickets can be purchased from the Music Department or at the school reception. We also have a 'Christmas Jumper' day on Friday the 18th December where pupils can wear their Christmas jumpers for a £1 donation with proceeds going to charity.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family all the best over the festive period.

Christmas Closure

Kilmarnock Academy will close on Wednesday 23rd December at 2.30 pm. The Academy will re-open at 8.44 am on Thursday 7th January.

School contact details - Telephone No: - 01563 525509

Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/kilmarnockacademy/>

E-mail - kilmarnock.academy@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

**Address - Kilmarnock Academy, Elmbank Drive,
Kilmarnock**

English Department

This Christmas – make sure there's a book in your child's stocking.

"I just can't get him/her to read!" How many times we English teachers have heard this statement at Parents' Evening!

But you know – encouraging your child to read is hugely important. Reading develops your child's understanding and broadens their vocabulary.

It's simple. If they don't read it, they'll never KNOW it! Of course reading will help their English skills but the more they understand, the better they'll be in every single subject in every single year group.

Studies into the effects reading has on the impact on attainment are mind-boggling.

If your child were to read for only 5 minutes a day they would "meet" 500,000 words a year!

Start now. Buy a book. Get reading!

PE Department

So far it has been a fairly busy term for the PE department. In September, we had pupils from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year competing in the East Ayrshire Cross Country at the Ayrshire Athletics Arena, managing to take home 1st prize for Samuel Tekel who competed in the 3rd year boys' category.

In December, there are various upcoming events. Eight of our senior pupils are attending the East Ayrshire Senior Volleyball Tournament on the 10th of December in Stewarton, along with an in-school dodgeball competition for both staff and pupils, being held before the Christmas holidays in order to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

Lastly, 1st-3rd years shall be taking part in social dancing in the upcoming weeks to Christmas, and the annual Christmas Ceilidh will be taking place on the 22nd of December.

Biology and Geography Department

The Biology department recently took part in a joint field trip to Aird's Moss with the Geography department.

Aird's Moss is a conservation area where blanket bog is being reclaimed from farmland.

Bogs are a rare and precious habitat with special plants and animals living there.

S4 pupils took part in field work to sample and compare the restored bog and the drained farmland.

They measured moisture and pH levels and identified and counted the plants and animals they found.

These findings form the basis of their Geography and Biology National assignments.

The pupils were enthusiastic and hard-working and were a credit to themselves, to you and the school.

A good experience for all.



Physics Department

The Physics Department visited Hunterston Nuclear Power Station in Fairlie, North Ayrshire. Fourth year Physics pupils saw the workings of a nuclear plant first hand. This deepened their understanding and will help with their Physics assignment. A real-life experience.

Modern Languages Department

A number of events have taken place or are planned in order to encourage all pupils in their study of a Modern Language. In October we celebrated European Day of Languages with songs, games and quizzes; we did it all over again in November to welcome our P7 pupils to the Academy. S1 pupils went to the Glasgow Film Theatre to see a French animated film called "Zarafa" and had a great time. In February next year Kilmarnock Academy will be hosting a Modern Languages Business Breakfast, again to encourage our young people to continue with their study of a modern language. We will also be welcoming representatives from Scottish CLT (Centre for Languages Teaching) who will be talking to our S3 and S4 pupils about the advantages of having a language on your Curriculum Vitae. In the run up to Christmas, pupils in the Spanish, German and French classes will be finding out more about how Christmas is celebrated in these countries.

Joyeux Noël!

¡Feliz Navidad!

Frohe Weihnachten!



Library

It has been a busy term for the school library. Book clubs for S1, S2 and S3 pupils started up in October. Book club members are currently reading the nominated books for the Scottish Children's Book Awards. These awards are voted for entirely by young people in schools and libraries across Scotland. We'll submit our votes in February and the winners will be announced in March.

At Hallowe'en, all S1 pupils took part in a scary story competition run by the library and the English department. The winner of the competition was Mia Hay with her story *The Graveyard Haunting*. Three runner-up prizes went to Bailey Douglas for *Laugh if you Dare*, Andrew Maxwell for *Pretty Little Noses* and Sofia Saleem for *The Shortcut through the Graveyard*. Well done to all the pupils who took part - there were some excellent entries!

Book Week Scotland took place from 23rd – 29th November. To celebrate, the librarian ran a Guess the Character quiz for pupils, held a Scholastic Book Fair in the library and also asked teachers to become Reading Role Models. Young people who read do better in school, not just in English but in *all* subjects. Teenagers are more likely to read if they are surrounded by others who enjoy books. Members of staff displayed the title and author of the book they were reading on their classroom door. Find out more about the benefits of reading on the Reading Agency and Scottish Book Trust websites: www.readingagency.org.uk www.scottishbooktrust.com



Business Partners

Kilmarnock Academy has acquired business partners, some of whom already help out in different ways. Some provide work experience placements, others provide mock interviews or visits. Some do all three things and others have newly come on board. We look forward to their input in assisting our pupils venture into the world of work.

The business partners are as follows:

ASDA; CentreStage; Frankie and Benny's; The Galleon;
Jeffersons Restaurant; Jungle Madness; Mahle Engineering; McDonalds
Utopia; Engineering Tools and Consumables; Ron Young Photography (Troon);
Premier Inn (Newton Mearns); E.J Templeton (Chemist);

We always welcome interest from the business world so if you have a contact or are in business yourself, please get in touch. We are trying to link each department to a company which would enhance the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the subject.

S1 Dominoes Tournament

Over the past 4 weeks each of the S1 Maths classes have spent one period in turn competing in a Dominoes Championship. The competition has been organised by Mrs Hamilton with assistance from Mr McClurg and the Maths Department.

Mr McClurg's S2 Admin pupils have hosted the event brilliantly and helped explain the rules to the S1 pupils. The 7 lowest scorers from each of the S1 classes will be competing in the Grand Final, to be held on Wednesday December 9th. Well done to all the S1 pupils who have enjoyed their games of dominoes and well done to S2 Admin pupils who have been excellent hosts.



Kilmarnock Academy has now got it's own twitter feed! Follow @kilmarnockacad for updates on what has been going on in the school, upcoming events and local news. This is a valuable resource to provide information for parents and pupils and well worth giving us a follow."