

Auchenharvie Academy



Summer Newsletter June 2019

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Auchenharvie News



Please find below some important information and a snapshot of some of the activities that have been taking place in our school recently. For further information on what is happening at school follow us on Twitter @Auchenharvie. Thank you.

Calum Johnston, Head Teacher.

Family Learning

'Parents in Partnership'

Our 'Parents in Partnership' group have completed accredited learning delivered by Ayrshire College on 'Exploring Wellbeing'. This has been an excellent programme and we look forward to working with the college again in the very near future. Well done to all involved!

The team have begun the recruitment and organisation for next session's PIP programme. If any parent/carer is keen to be involved in this please contact Mrs Hopton.



Family Learning Event

The team organised an event which tied in with the P7 information evening and included input from the NA Family Learning team, Police Scotland, Active Schools, school counselling service, Girl Make Your Move, Developing the Young Workforce and the school canteens. We have had wonderful feedback about this and are keen to make it an annual event which will allow all of our new S1 families to see what the whole school has to offer out with the core subjects.



Online Tutorials

We are looking at creating an online resource for families to access from home to help with completion of homework and for additional study for pupils. This is in the early stages but we are hopeful this will allow parents/carers to help their young person at home and work together as a family in a consistent format with the school. More information on this to follow.

Swap Shop

We are also in the process of starting up a swap shop for pupils to access in a discreet way. This will hopefully be up and running in August with our PIP parents leading the day to day running of the 'shop'. If you have any old uniforms which still have some wear left in them, please donate to the school to be recycled. Thank you!

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Titanic Trip

Auchenharvie Academy recently led a successful S2 trip to Northern Ireland to visit Titanic Belfast, located on the site of the former Harland and Wolff shipyard where the Titanic was built.

The museum is a highlight of the Titanic Quarter, which also includes the SS Nomadic and the original 44ft deep Thomson Dry Dock. Pupils were able to retrace the steps of the workers who laid underneath the ship to paint its keel.

As in previous years, this was a popular trip linked to an engaging S1 History course. Emma Boyd of 2P1 said "Titanic was an amazing experience, especially as I had never been to the exhibition before...Everyone had a great time." Zak Hilferty and Scott Kean added "The whole trip was great and a good time was had by all."

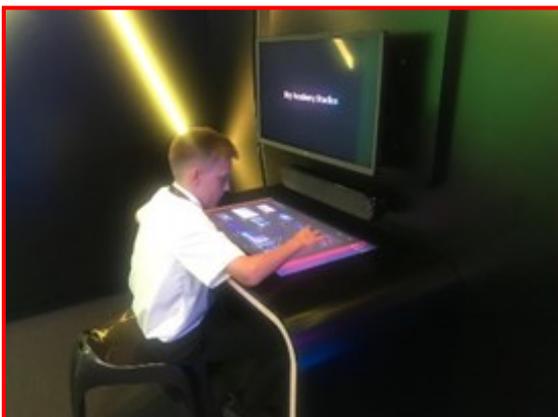


With a contingent of 40 pupils and five staff, this further shows our dedication to deliver memorable experiences for our pupils.

English Department

Making Headlines!

30 pupils from the new S3 had the opportunity to make the news last month when they attended the Sky News Academy in Livingston. Before leaving school, the pupils had to decide which of the four key areas they were going to be involved in. These were: presenting, writing, editing, and directing. The focus of the day was 'The Advancement of Technology'. Their stories included 'Alexa' listening in to conversations, data protection and robot surgeons. The pupils worked in teams to create a 5-minute news report that they wrote, presented, directed and edited. They were surprised at the amount of work required for such a short broadcast! The feedback from the pupils was that it was an enjoyable experience that developed their understanding of the work newsrooms do. It also helped them develop their ability to work in teams and to a deadline. You never know we might have the next Jackie Bird in our midst! To keep up to date with the events and activities in the English department follow us on twitter @AuchenharvieEng



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Horrible Histories

Pupils in the new S2 recently enjoyed a cross-curricular excursion with English and History to see 'Horrible Histories: The Awful Egyptians'. The pupils learned how mummification began (apparently, Isis used bandages to bind together the limbs of her murdered brother/husband in order to burying him) and how all their organs were buried in separate jars including the brain, which was pulled through the nose with a hook! The pupils loved the show especially the 3D effects and the McDonald's on return to Saltcoats. To hear about upcoming trips follow us on Twitter@Auchenharvie Eng



Loch Eil Outward Bound Adventure

24 of our bravest and most hardy pupils spent the week in the Outward Bound Trust centre on Loch Eil near Fort William in March. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to see what they are made of, learn new skills and make new friends from the three other schools that joined us.

Day one starts with the "Jog and Dip", a short jog down to the loch and a jump from the jetty into the freezing cold water. The rest of the week is filled with a mixture of challenges in and around the centre or more further afield designed to take the pupils out of their comfort zone, build resilience and learn and develop personal skills such as leadership and communication. Activities included various height challenges such as Jacob's Ladder, abseiling down a rock face at the bottom of Ben Nevis, raft building on the loch and team building challenges in the centre. As ever the food and accommodation were first class despite the huge amount of renovation being done in the building.

The weather was awful! There was rain, snow, hail and wind, often at the same time. Unfortunately the usual overnight expeditions were cancelled due to the high winds. The weather just added to the challenge. Everyone had a great time and many fears were met face on and overcome. Everyone achieved their John Muir Award. Well done all!



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Biglies Farm Project

4 S2/S3 pupils have been involved in the Biglies Farm Project throughout May and June. The project aims to provide students with the opportunity to develop a range of employability skills, an understanding of the workplace and the development of practical craft based skills including woodworking, landscaping/groundwork and gardening. The pupils have worked extremely hard as a team and the project has been a success!



Positive Relationships

Creating and maintaining positive relationships in Auchenharvie Academy is of vital importance to everyone within our school community. This year as you will know, we implemented the use of merits as one way of recognising our young people's successes. Merits and demerits are closely tracked throughout each term. This allows House Heads and Pastoral Care Teachers to observe any improvements or decline in our pupils' choices. At the end of May an update of merits and demerits accumulated by your child was analysed. This information alongside other data, such as attendance and number of referrals was then used to allow House Heads to identify the pupils eligible to participate in our end of term trips to either M&D's or Blackpool on Thursday 27th June. The Head Teacher fully funded the outings so there was no cost to pupils. There will be a celebrating success team in session 2019/2020 which will include pupils. Next session there will continue to be events that recognise your child's positive choices.

Gaming Club

Mr Marwick has been successfully running a Gaming Club every Wednesday lunch time down in the Technical department , where pupils can go along and play games such as FIFA 19 on the PlayStation 4. If you would like to join in on the fun Mr Marwick would love to see you there on a Wednesday lunch time in F79.



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Senior Mandarin

The camera-shy pupils in Miss Kelman's Senior Mandarin class recently enjoyed some Chinese delicacies. Noodles and crackers got a thumbs up but they decided green tea mochi were an acquired taste!



SQA Results

Following a successful SQA examination diet many of our pupils will receive their examination results in August. The results will be delivered by post on Tuesday 6th August. Please note that you can sign up to have SQA results delivered at 8am on that day by text message by signing up at mysqa.org.uk.

Following receipt of examination results some pupils in S5/6 may wish to change options. Please note that school will be open to do so on Wednesday 7th August between 10am and 2pm and Thursday 8th August between 10am and 12pm. Senior staff and pastoral staff will be on hand to arrange this service on each of these days.

Equally, there may be some pupils who wish to submit a 'marker review' based on a specific SQA result. The opportunity to do so will also be at the times and dates noted above.

School Holidays

Auchenharvie Academy will finish up on Friday 28th June 2019 at 1pm and pupils will return to school on Monday 19th August at 8.45am. Lunch will be provided in the school canteens for pupils from 12.15pm.

Please note that pupils will continue to work as normal until close of school on Wednesday 26th June, as we have our end of term reward trips on Thursday 27th, and we would encourage you to continue sending pupils to school until we officially close.

Uniform

Many parents/carers will be considering school uniform for next session and looking to purchase this prior to the school holiday. Can I please draw your attention to the attached information relating to school uniform for session 2019-20 and beyond. Your support in ensuring that ALL of our pupils follow our school uniform policy is greatly appreciated. Please note the school tie is a mandatory part of our school uniform and must be worn by all pupils.

Free Meal Entitlement /School Clothing Grant

Please note that if you are currently in receipt of free meal entitlement and/or clothing grant that you are required to reapply each year. This process can be completed online using the URL below. Please contact the school if you are looking for assistance in applying.

<http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/resident/education-and-learning/grants-and-allowances/footwear-clothing-and-free-school-meals.aspx>

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Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

As you may know, some pupils in S5/6 are entitled to EMA based on their gross family income. The amount pupils get paid to attend school varies depending on a number of factors. Please follow the URL below to apply for EMA for your child or to find out more about the criteria for applying. Again, please contact the school if you require assistance accessing online services.

<http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/resident/education-and-learning/grants-and-allowances/education-maintenance-allowance.aspx>

Staff Retirement

After 30 plus years of teaching Physical Education we congratulate Mr Michael Murphy on his pending retirement. Although we look forward to welcoming him back with us after the holidays for supply work. We wish him all the best for a happy and healthy retirement.



Happy Holidays

Finally, on behalf of all of the staff at Auchenharvie Academy we wish you all a happy and healthy summer break and we look forward to working in partnership with you in the coming session.

Calum Johnston, Head Teacher.

Future Newsletters

If you are happy to receive future newsletters via email instead of by post, and you haven't already notified us of your email address, please complete the tear-off slip below and return it to the main school office.

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I am happy to receive future newsletters via email.

Pupil Name: _____ Reg Class: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Parent/Carer Email Address: _____

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