

Auchenharvie

Academy



Christmas Newsletter

December 2017



Auchenharvie News



December 2017

On behalf of all of my teaching and non-teaching staff I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your continued support this year has been invaluable and is greatly appreciated by all of our staff. As we juggle the daily life of a very busy school we continue to make every effort to ensure that your child's education, both in and out of class, is the best it possibly can be.

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.

School Refurbishment

You will have noticed the considerable progress in our school refurbishment over the past few months. Work is now well underway to install the new windows. We are hoping to have complete window installation by February when you will see the removal of the scaffolding and emerging work on the external cladding.



Panto

Our S1 pupils enjoyed their day out at the pantomime in Glasgow earlier this week. Oh yes they did..... For pictures and further information take a look at our Twitter feed @Auchenharvie.

Positive Relationships Policy

At the end of term 1 we held our celebrating success assemblies where bronze certificates were issued to pupils in line with our positive relationships policy. Our team are now working to prepare for our next celebrating success assembly in February where silver and bronze awards will be issued. We are also working with pupils to arrange a reward trip in June where pupils who achieve gold, silver or bronze awards will be rewarded further through trips etc. Awards are issued based on our in class merit system.

Musical Activities

November and December have been as busy as ever in the Music department with our Young Musician and Young Singer competition taking part early November with over 100 young people taking part. Congratulations to John Wilson and Sarah Denny who will represent the school at the North Ayrshire Competition in February.



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Our young musicians have also been taking part in both the Saltcoats and the Stevenston switching on the Christmas Lights - Flute and Saxophone Groups and singers represented the school at two very well attended events.

The Flute group has also been out and about, performing at Christmas events outwith the area in both Troon and Kilmarnock. What talented young people we have at Auchenharvie! Our annual Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday 19th December from 7pm. Our school band, instrumental groups and singers will perform before an audience - an event not to be missed with tickets available at the door on the night £3/£2. Our junior Drama Club will also take part premiering their very own version of the well-loved pantomime Cinderella. A night not to be missed!

A group of our junior school singers also successfully participated in the national Children in Need performance and performed live from the BBC studios in Glasgow. A tremendous honour and a great achievement.



Arran Aspirations

Over the past few weeks some of our S3 and S5 pupils have participated in the residential experience at Arran Outdoor Centre. These experiences have proven to be hugely popular with our pupils once again excelling themselves and representing our school brilliantly. Look out in the new year for an S2 residential week to Loch Eil.



Christmas Party S1/2

On Wednesday 20th November our S1/2 Christmas party will take place in school. Pupils will have permission to go home from 12pm to get changed (if appropriate) and the party will run from 1.10-2.50pm. Pupils who do not require to go home will remain in classes until 12.30pm as usual, and facilities for changing will be provided in school over lunchtime.



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Prelims

You will be well aware that shortly after we return from the Christmas break we move into our very important prelim examination period. This lasts from 15th January 2018 to 29th January 2018 (inclusive). For full details of the examination schedule please look at our school website.

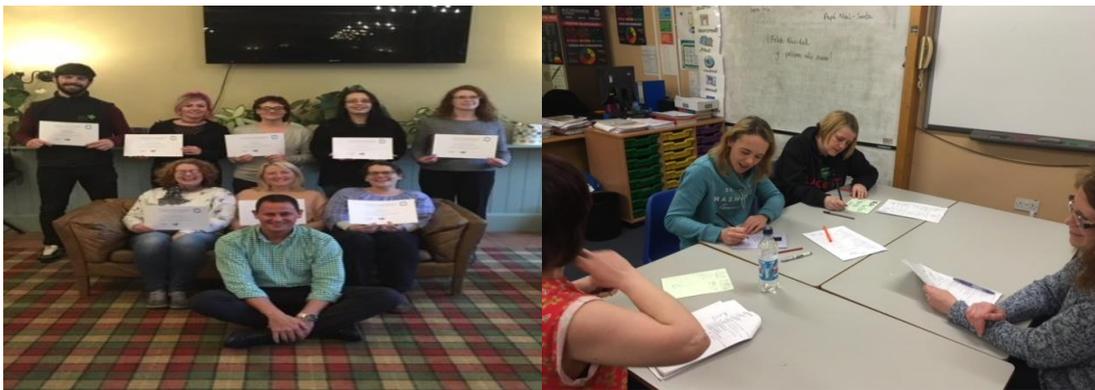
Attendance

As you are well aware we have prioritised attendance at school this year and have a clear and determined vision to improve this dramatically. Whilst our average attendance is up so far this session there is still considerable room for improvement and I would therefore encourage you to ensure that all pupils (assuming they are fit and well enough to be here) are sent to school every day. If pupils are unable to attend school it is essential that you let us know prior to the start of the school day. Please contact our school office on 605156 to let us know the reason for absence and the expected time out of school. Your help with this important priority is greatly appreciated.

Family Learning

Parents in Partnership: After the success of the first Parents in Partnership session, our parent group continued with their engagement both in their own learning and the school community. We had an exciting literacy based second phase of this project running through November and December with the parents studying a block of Spanish lessons along with sessions from a CLD sign language team, British Red Cross, Barnardo's and Internet Awareness Training. Our group are now looking forward to a Health and Wellbeing focused phase 3 in the New Year.

Parental empowerment residential: The group visited Dumfries House with Cani Coaching's Derek Gall for a three-day residential. This was an emotional, motivational and inspirational journey for the group and one which they have assured me they will never forget.



Look out for...

- Study skills booklet - Coming to all senior phase families. The purpose of this is to provide a guide for the young person and their family members to aide studying at home for all subject areas. This booklet also provides information on creating good studying routines, environments and practices.
- Clothing collection and 'February Fayre'



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- Recycle
- Exchange
- Donate



Auchenharvie's Clothing Collection

The Family Learning Team is keen to collect any pre-loved items of clothing for all age groups to be recycled for other families in the community.

Any items should be delivered to
Mrs Hopton in the Music Department, Ardeer Community Centre or Hayocks Community Centre.

Thank you!



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Remembrance Parade

In November, many of our pupils participated in both local and national services of Remembrance. Many of our pupils (some pictured below) attended services in Saltcoats and Stevenston whilst some pupils represented local organisations in the national service in London. Well done to all involved.



Health and Wellbeing

Life has been busy in the PE department both in curricular time and after school. BGE pupils are now moving onto block 4 in the new year after having completed blocks of work in a variety of activities including Badminton, Basketball, Hockey, Football and Gymnastics. After school our "B" team footballers have played numerous matches against other schools across the authority and in Glasgow. Our S1-3 basketball players have competed in the North Ayrshire Active Schools tournament and our Higher PE pupils competed recently and won against St Matthews Higher PE pupils. Our gymnastics group continues to work towards putting together their routines and practice their vaults for the upcoming North Ayrshire Schools Championships in February. In table tennis our S1 pupil Jamie Johnston won the North Ayrshire Table Tennis tournament.

The School of Football group visited Hampden where they received some extra coaching and played against other School of Football groups in a friendly tournament. Also our S1 School of Rugby has now commenced and pupils have participated in a number of successful matches against other schools from across Ayrshire.



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Other fun events we have had in the department over the last few months include Active Girls Day, Staff v Pupils Football and Dodgeball as part of the national Rainbow Laces campaign. For full details and pictures of these and a wide range of other activities check out Twitter feed @Auchenharvie.

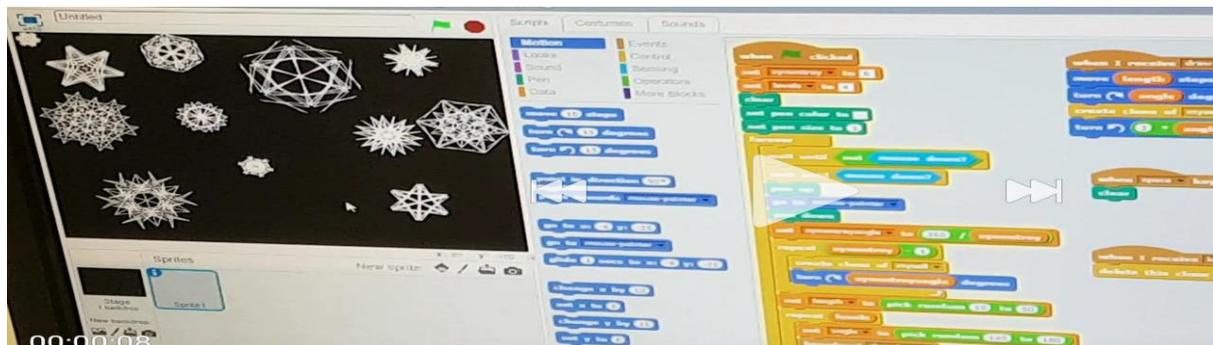
Pretty Little Nails

Earlier this month, the latest in our school based projects aimed at Developing the Young Workforce was officially opened. Pretty Little Nails is funded by the Princes Trust and working in partnership with DYW Ayrshire and Ayrshire College we are delighted to offer this exciting opportunity to our S3 pupils. This follows on from last year's 'Higher Grounds Coffee Bar', which continues this session. Our nail bar was officially opened by Provost Clarkson. Look out next term for more information on next sessions plans to introduce a Cyber Security facility in school for offering in our curriculum next session.



Christmas Learning in Computing

National 5 Computing students are currently working through their Programming unit, we decided to experiment with our programming skills to create "SNOW FAKES!" No two snowflakes are the same, however they all have a pattern known as six-fold symmetry. Our N5 students used variables, symmetry and angles inside forever loops and subroutines to create some amazing "SNOW FAKES" (yep fake not flake). Here are some of the images created.





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Science Activities

NARRATIVE FROM KIRSTY



Last Day of Term

Finally, a reminder that school closes at 2.30pm on Friday 22nd December 2017 and reopens at 8.45am on Monday 8th January 2018. The last day of term will involve our annual 'talent show' where pupils will have the opportunity to show yet again that Auchenharvie has talent. I have asked all class teachers to ensure that all classes continue to undertake productive coursework from S1-6 until close of school on Thursday 21st December 2017. Once again, we hope you have a fantastic festive break and I look forward to working with you in the new year as we continue to make our school a great place to learn and work.

Happy Holidays,

Calum Johnston

Head Teacher