

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s

Auchenharvie
Academy



Christmas Newsletter
December 2019

Respect

Equality

Determination

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s

Merry Christmas



Auchenharvie News



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. As ever we are keen that parents/carers have their say in improving our school and if you would like to support this by joining any of our working groups please just contact the school office. Your voice in school improvement is important to us so please give this some consideration for the new year.

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

The Parents in Partnership group have had a busy term continuing to work on various qualifications including PC Passport and Modern Studies. The group have been working on a paired reading activity where the young person and their parent/carer have been working their way through a book together. This has been well received and seems to be a very popular activity for both young person and their parent/carer.



We are delighted to have launched Auchenharvie's first uniform station, NA Plus. This provides uniform items for all pupils in need with no obligation to swap, donate or return. This is being run by our parents group who have really hit the ground running. We are already helping a lot of families and providing a service that the school were in desperate need for. Please contact Mrs Hopton for more information or support.



Mrs Hopton is meeting with a group of Parent Ambassadors from Renfrewshire to try and bring this programme into North Ayrshire...watch this space!

Merry Christmas from all of the Family Learning team and here's to a happy and healthy 2020.

Respect

Equality

Determination

Merry Christmas



Auchenharvie News



Halloween Disco

The senior leadership group did a fantastic job of organising a Halloween disco for S1 and S2 pupils. We had many inventive costumes including Thing 1 and Thing 2, the cookie monster and an air dancer (the wacky inflatables you normally see outside car showrooms!). We also had many spooky costumes such as skeletons, zombies and a ninja warrior. The senior leadership team organised the DJ, the tuck shop and the supervision. The feedback from the pupils was that it was a great afternoon. Even the English Department got involved with staff dressing up as characters from Stephen King films.



Celebrating Success Event

The Positive Relationships Team are preparing for the Celebrating Success event on Thursday 19th December. This will involve inflatables, movie and chill out zones. The focus will be on merit successes which will be the entry pass. Thanks to the Positive Relationships Team for organising this event. In school we continue to encourage our young people to make positive choices and link this in with our school values.

Craft Club

Miss McGilvery runs a Craft Club in her classroom every Wednesday lunch time. Pupils are in the process of making Christmas baubles and some pupils are taking part in Mindful colouring.



Respect

Equality

Determination



Auchenharvie News



Social Subjects & RMPS Faculty

As part of their unit on Animals and Food, S1 have learned about the moral issues around the destruction of the rainforest. Human caused deforestation leaves animals without homes, destroys rare and important plant life, and contributes to climate change. First year enjoyed working in groups to produce excellent holistic assessment posters which included their plans to protect forests around the world. Well done!



S2 pupils represented Auchenharvie in the Law Society of Scotland Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition at Wellington School in Ayr. They made speeches in front of a large audience and a judging panel of two practicing lawyers for a combined total of 15 minutes, as well as taking a wide range of difficult questions from the floor. Pupils involved impressed everyone with their strong arguments and confident delivery. Not only this, but they were undaunted by the fact that all of the other teams were made up of 5th and 6th year pupils who were very experienced. They more than held their own in very

strong company and were a credit to the school throughout the evening; with other S2 pupils coming along to enthusiastically support their peers.

Also, 2 S1 pupils have recently competed in the Scottish Schools Debating National Junior Championships, held at Douglas Academy in Milngavie. Both spoke excellently and learned a lot while meeting other pupils from around the country. Special thanks to the 2 S4 pupils who stepped in at the last minute to make up the numbers in a heat; they went down a treat and the organisers were very grateful.



Respect

Equality

Determination



Auchenharvie News



In October 2019 the Social Subjects Department hosted an education workshop from the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). A number of pupils from first and second year became "Animal Advocates", learning about the laws that protect animals from harm and learning in detail about a real case of animal neglect. To fully understand the case, our pupils took on roles such as, procurator fiscal, defence lawyer, vet, SPCA animal welfare officer, psychiatrist, jury, and judge. They learned about animal rights laws, the moral issues around animal rights, and how to present an argument based on evidence. The SPCA website (www.scottishspca.org) has more information about animal rights and pets that need rehomed.

Later this session we look forward to welcoming representatives from Vox Liminis who focus on the criminal justice system in Scotland. As part of their presentation they focus on the range of ways that the justice system can affect people's lives; the ways in which people can make more positive futures for themselves and their families and the responsibilities of all in terms of building a fairer society; at the same time breaking down associated stigma irrespective of life experiences. These sessions support both Modern Studies and RMPS courses and we are certain that this will be a positive experience.

Firereach Programme

Pupils from the Firereach Programme were keen to share Christmas spirit throughout their local community this year so they busied themselves campaigning to school staff and parents asking for gift donations. The generosity of everyone who provided gifts was amazing, resulting in quite a stack of gifts for all ages. Pupils delivered the gifts to Ardrossan Social Work Department and were met by the Department's Manager, Drew Maxwell. Drew explained to the pupils what a difference the gifts will make to someone's Christmas and passed on his sincere thanks to pupils and all those that had donated. A big well done to the pupils for pulling the plan together and to everyone that gifted a present. Thanks must also go to PC Barlas who coordinated this along with the pupils.



Respect

Equality

Determination



Auchenharvie News



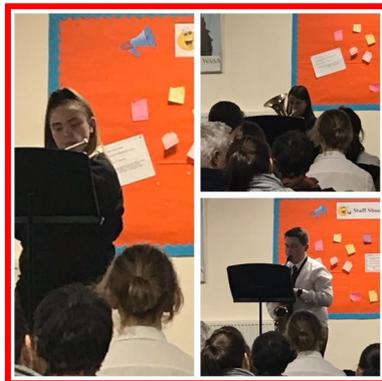
Police Station Visit

PC Barlas took some S2 pupils for a guided tour of Saltcoats Police Station recently. All pupils were released early for good behaviour.



Young Musician of the Year Competition

Our Annual Young Musician of the Year competition took place in November with over 70 pupils taking part. Well done to Mollie Ford who was awarded overall Young Musician of the Year, Dionne McGrory overall Young Singer of the Year and Reece O’Hanlon overall Young Traditional Musician of the Year. All 3 pupils will represent the school at the North Ayrshire competitions in March 2020. Our overall Junior Young Musician was Lucy Saunders and overall Intermediate Young Musician was Grant McLellan. Congratulations to all our talented young people who took part.



School Show 2020

Rehearsals for the school show Buggy Malone are well underway. Get the dates in your diary now—7pm on Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th June 2020.

Respect

Equality

Determination

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s



Auchenharvie News



Last Week of Term

We would encourage you to continue sending pupils to school until we officially close on Friday. There are various events happening in school next week; on Monday there are Christmas assemblies and a trip to Edinburgh, on Tuesday there is a Panto trip and a Lion King Theatre trip, on Wednesday we have a trip to Sky Academy and our Christmas Concert in the evening, on Thursday we have our Celebrating Success reward day and finally on Friday we have our annual talent show.

Finally, a reminder that school closes at 2.30pm on Friday 20th December 2019 and reopens at 8.45am on Monday 6th January 2020. 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

Communication

Starting in January 2020 we will be sending all non-urgent communication via email/Xpressions App. If you have not already provided the school with your email address please fill in your details below and ask your child to return this slip to the school office. Please see overleaf information regarding the Xpressions App and how to download it.

-----><-----><-----

I am happy to receive future non-urgent communication via email.

Pupil Name: _____

Reg Class: _____

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Parent/Carer Email Address: _____

Respect

Equality

Determination

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s



Auchenharvie News



Miss Duffus

After 7 years at Auchenharvie, Miss Duffus is leaving us to take up a new post with South Ayrshire Council in the new year. Miss Duffus has done an excellent job in her role as PT Pastoral Care. We would like to thank Miss Duffus for all of her hard work and commitment during her time at Auchenharvie and wish her all the best in the next chapter of her professional career.



Groupcall Xpressions

View your child's information on your mobile or desktop



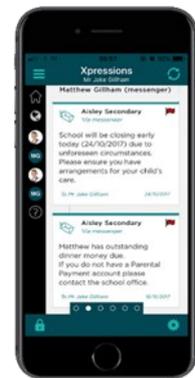
An exciting new service is now available to help make home-school communication easier, more effective and more accessible. Groupcall Xpressions is created, supported and maintained by the award-winning school communication company Groupcall Limited.

Xpressions is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It supports both Apple iOS and Android devices. Alternatively, you can visit xpressions.groupcall.com from any internet browser on your computer, laptop or mobile device.

If you have children in different schools and those schools also use Groupcall Xpressions, you will be able to view information on multiple children within the same app and same login.

What do I need to do now?

It is vital we have your correct mobile number and email address on our school database to ensure you can use Xpressions as soon as it is available. You will need these as well to log into Xpressions – we do not issue you username or passwords! Forms are available from the school office to check and update your details or simply email them to the school. You'll need to make sure you keep these details up to date in future to maintain access to the service.



What happens next?

Once set up, you will be able to see the following information depending on the school's system:

Free messages sent by the school delivered directly to your Xpressions.

Respect

Equality

Determination

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s