



Auchenharvie Academy

Christmas Newsletter



2022

A Message from the Head Teacher

On behalf of all 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 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, 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 included some important information and a snapshot of some of the activities that have been taking place in our school recently.

Thank you.

Calum Johnston, Head Teacher.



For further information on what is happening at school follow us on Twitter [@Auchenharvie](#).

To keep up with information from the school please download our Xpressions app.

You can find instructions on how to do this on the school website.

[Parental Support Resources | Xpressions \(groupcall.com\)](#)



Rights Respecting School Award

As part of our journey towards becoming a silver accredited Rights Respecting School, all pupils were given the opportunity to select which articles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) match our school values of Respect, Equality and Determination. The pupils selected the following articles:

We have updated and adapted Harvie Heros to incorporate a monthly focus on the selected articles. We have been utilising the house assemblies, year group assemblies and teacher nominations to highlight and discuss how each article is demonstrated and experienced in Auchenharvie Academy.

The Rights Ambassadors have been working on creating a whole school rights charter. A rights charter provides an opportunity to learn about specific articles and helps to establish and build shared values and relationships for creating a rights respecting ethos in the class room and the whole school. We are aiming to complete the charter by the end of December.



Respect



Equality



Determination



In the coming months, we will continue to create rights displays in each school area and start to explicitly link teaching and learning with articles of the UNCRC.

If you would like more information about the Rights Respecting School Award, scan the QR code.



Work Experience

Alesha Imrie, Ellyse Beveridge and Kaleb Sillars took part in doing work experience with the police.



During this, they visited the Marine Unit, went a sail using the police boat on the river Clyde. They went to Prestwick Airport to speak with airport police, and got to speak with firearms officers learning about their role.

They were lucky enough to be allowed on American military and Canadian military aircraft and met the pilots. All of them had a shot in the cockpit. They also spoke with CID officers, and learned about forensics and how the police investigates serious crime.



They also visited Hampden Stadium, touring the police control room learning how big events are kept safe.

During this they also visited the cells, and the court.



All pupils were given certificates by Police Inspector Cameron in recognition of their work.



Tapas Lunches

We are delighted to have started our tapas reward lunches for pupils who are trying really hard in their Spanish classes. These are not only to reward their efforts but to help them to experience the culture of the country.

These are the lucky winners of the monthly draw in October. They had the pleasure of trying lots of typical dishes such as Gazpacho (a cold tomato soup), Paella and Tortilla de Patatas.



Most things went down a storm, but the olives were a step too far for some!

Language Learning at Primary



Mrs Kirkwood from the Modern Languages department has had the privilege of meeting pupils from Mayfield, Ardeer, Glencairn, Hayocks and Caledonia Primary schools since August until now, during her visits to help deliver Spanish and French lessons.

It has been great to see how enthusiastic pupils are about learning another language, often their second foreign language. This will help pupils build the confidence they need, ready for starting Auchenhavie Academy in S1! Well done folks!



European Day of Languages



Both S1 pupils and staff were delighted to finally get the chance to celebrate European Day of Languages together, on the 10th of October. These were the first celebrations since the Covid restrictions were lifted, so we certainly made the most of it.

A huge thanks to the parents and carers who came along. There were tapas, kindly made by 'Clare's Lunchbox' in Saltcoats, games, face painting, mini-disco and Zumba.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and some went home with a doggy-bag!



Sleeping Beauty Pantomime

S1 and S2 pupils had a great day at Ayr Gaiety theatre where they saw the pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty' – 'oh yes they did!'

The trip was organised by the English and drama department and over 100 pupils attended. Everyone was in agreement that it was a fantastic day out.

Sarah in S1 said her favourite part was when Jim Dog fell off the stage in the opening act!

William said that he loved the Yeti running through the aisles and Mrs McDade enjoyed the happy ending – with a twist!

The performances of all the cast was outstanding and the theatre was incredibly welcoming.

We can't wait to book for next year!



Maisie Chan

S1 pupils were delighted to welcome the author Maisie Chan to the school in September this year. Maisie is a British Chinese author whose young adult novels include 'Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths' and 'Keep Dancing Lizzie Chu'. Both books are set in contemporary times and examine themes such as growing up, ethnicity and finding your own path. Maisie spoke to S1 about how she became a writer and the different opportunities (such as writing for TV) which have become available to her through writing. The event was sponsored by Tidelines Festival. The school were also lucky enough to be gifted 14 copies of Maisie's books sponsored by Specsavers and provided by Timberbooks.

Auchenharvie Academy Achievers



A number of pupils have received awards for achievements in and out of school since the scheme was launched in October. We have had achievements from National table tennis champions, an international ice skater and national taekwondo champions to loads of amazing local participation in clubs ranging from football to drama.



We are still really keen to hear about what pupils are taking part in around the community. Pupils can be nominated through a link on the school website in the achievement section. Pupils will also receive awards for participating in extra curricular activities in the school. Well done to all award winners so far and we look forward to many more awards being handed out!



AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY ACHIEVERS

IN SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

BRONZE AWARD	SILVER AWARD	GOLD AWARD	PLATINUM AWARD
Awarded for 15 hours participation in school activities	Awarded for 25 hours participation in school activities	Awarded for 40 hours participation in school activities	Awarded for 90 hours participation in school activities

EXAMPLES:
 • Participate in musical theatre for 15 hours - **BRONZE AWARD**
 • Participate in homework clubs for 25 hours - **SILVER AWARD**
 • Participate in Chess club for 10 hours and football team for 20 hours - **GOLD AWARD**
 • Participate in chess club for 15 hours, dance club for 12 hours and band for 23 hours - **PLATINUM AWARD**

OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

BRONZE AWARD	SILVER AWARD	GOLD AWARD	PLATINUM AWARD
Regular participation in a local group or club	Representation at a regional or district level	Representation at a national level	Outstanding achievement at regional or national level

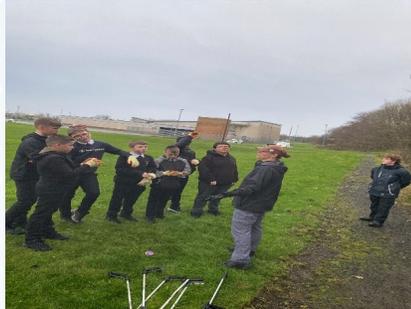
EXAMPLES:
 • Dance regularly for the local dance club - **BRONZE AWARD**
 • Selected for a regional football team - South West Scotland/Ayrshire - **SILVER AWARD**
 • Represent Scotland in a national golf competition - **GOLD AWARD**
 • Win a national award such as trophy with a National team - **PLATINUM AWARD**

Celebrated at assemblies, on Social Media and through achievement newsletters. Pupils will receive certificates and badges to recognise in school achievement as well as house points. Visit the achievement section of the website to nominate a pupil.

TO BE RECOGNISED WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING!



John Muir Group



An experienced ranger from the local area took 8 of our pupils on a conservation task in order for them to receive their Discovery certificate for the John Muir Award. The challenges involved a practical aspect of using hand tools, assembling hammocks, building tents and being responsible around a fire. These tasks required teamwork, safety awareness and precision and attention to detail. The group completed these tasks over a period of 2.5 hours every Monday for 4 weeks and I am proud to say they all passed.



Extra Curricular Activities

Musical Theatre are busy working on Panto Little Red Riding Hood, Guitar Club, Band for All, Singing Club, Percussion Club, Brass Group and Saxophone Group all preparing for Christmas Show on Tuesday 20th December 7pm.

Our Open Mic Friday at the end of every month has been a great success and we look forward to seeing some of these acts taking part in our annual Talent Show on the last day of term - Friday 23rd December.

This term we have welcomed Art Student - Miss Coldwell and Music Student - Mx Wilson. They have worked well with both pupils and teachers.

20 pupils and 4 teachers headed off to see Greenwood Academy's show - Matilda Jr. Everyone had a great evening and gave us some ideas for our own performance of Matilda in June 2023.

Expressive Arts P7 Challenge Day

On Wednesday 23rd November we welcomed P7 pupils from our 5 cluster Primary School, Ardeer, Caledonia, Glencarin, Hayocks and Mayfield Primary to Auchendarvie to take part in our Expressive Arts Challenge Day. The pupils had the opportunity to meet the Expressive Arts team and take part in Art, Music and Drama activities. The P7 pupils had great fun and thoroughly enjoyed their first taster session of Auchendarvie. We are looking forward to welcoming the pupils again on Monday 19th December to see Christmas Show "Little Red Riding Hood.



Remembrance Services

In school Connor Boyd played the Last Post on Trumpet and represented Auchendarvie at Brodie Engineering Kilmarnock's Remembrance Service along with East Ayrshire's Provost.

Connor also then performed at Saltcoats Remembrance Service and singers joined us for the Stevenston Remembrance Service.



P7 Curricular Input



The P7 children in our Cluster Primaries are thoroughly enjoying the curricular input they are getting from Mr Lodge in Science, Mrs Shaw in Drama and Mrs Kirkwood in Modern Languages.

This is a great opportunity for our P7 pupils to meet staff from Auchenhavrie and get a taster of some of the subjects that they will experience when they join us in August 2023.



Maths Department News

It was the Maths Department's turn to set the House Challenge in November. Pupils were set the task of making an origami star.

The results were:

Ashgrove - 40

Parkend - 56

Warner - 89

Well done to all those who took part and earned points for their house.

Some of the stars will be available to buy at the Pupil Council Coffee Morning so look out for them there!



Pupil Council

The Pupil Council is made up of representatives from S1 – S3 and meets every Wednesday lunchtime. This term we have been working hard to plan a ‘Christmas Cheer’ Coffee morning on the 16th of December.

Pupils have designed and sold tickets, organised a raffle and taken a trip to B & M to buy all the supplies needed for a successful coffee morning.

The coffee morning is open to all staff and we would also like to invite all parents/ carers from 11-12 to come and be part of this event.

Personal Safety Sessions

After the success of the knife defence session last term, delivered by The Centre of Personal Safety to all young people, we've been very fortunate to welcome them again this term to work with S1 - S4 pupils. All pupils have had the opportunity to discuss the law and statistics surrounding self-defence and domestic abuse, whilst also having the opportunity to observe and practise self-defence techniques. All sessions have been tailored to each year groups needs based on the feedback received from pupils. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers from



The Centre of Personal Safety Scotland for their continued support and look forward to them working with S5 & S6 in January and all S1-S4 pupils again in March 2023.

Megan's Space

We are thankful for the continued support we've received from one of our local charities, Megan's Space, who came in to work with some of our S4-S6 pupils prior to the prelim examinations. The theme of the morning focused on goals setting, techniques for prelim preparation and overcoming exam anxiety including learning and practising havening (alternative therapy technique). The session was delivered by a Life Coach, a Megan's Space fundraiser and an Anxiety Therapist. The feedback received from all pupils who attended was very positive and it was clear that another session tailored to pupils' experience after prelim examinations would be beneficial. This session will be made available to all S4-S6 pupils on Thursday 19th January.

See Me See Change

A group of 12 S5 pupils represented the school at the See Me event last month where we joined other secondary pupils from across North Ayrshire to take part in See Me See Change training on tackling mental health stigma and discrimination in schools. These pupils will work alongside trained staff in the school to take this approach forward. The pupils were a credit to the school, and we look forward to working with them once the pupil's prelim examination diet has concluded.



Physical Education

This term there has been lots of fantastic achievements and events going on in the PE department. On our return from the October break we were straight into competing at the Ayrshire Schools Cross Country Championships where we had success for the first time in many years. Our S1 sisters Lola and Emi achieved 1st and 2nd place respectively in their race.



We then hosted our Annual Active Girls Day where all S1-3 girls were invited down to PE to take part in a range of activities including football, netball, fitness and trampoline. We were also joined by Tass Girls football coaches on the day who managed to recruit a few new players for their team!



In November we hosted a staff Handball CPD course where our PE staff and others from the local secondary schools were trained in delivering this new activity. This has been introduced to many classes now with all pupils really enjoying it.



Physical Education

November was also the start of Staff v Pupils competitions. The first event organised by the S6 leadership group was Dodgeball. As always this was played in a friendly BUT competitive spirit with the staff of course getting the first win of the year!



This has also been a busy term for our Sports Development pupils who are now putting their learning into practice. They have been delivering a number of PE sessions now to our S1 groups and doing a great job of it at that.



Social Subjects & RMPS

In June of this year, pupils visited Krakow, to enhance their understanding of the atrocities of the Holocaust. Pupils visited many historical sites, such as Auschwitz and Schindler's Museum. Pupils reflected positively on this experience and plans are already in place for another visit in 2024.



Police Scotland delivered a presentation to senior and S4 pupils on Terrorism Prevention. This informative information session, not only supported Modern Studies pupils in the World Issues unit of their course, but also allowed them to address many of the key issues surrounding the topic in real life contexts.



This year we are delighted to be again organising our annual Edinburgh Christmas Markets trip for seniors. This has not taken place since 2019 due to Covid, so staff and pupils are looking forward to its return!

S4 pupils will be visiting the Scottish Parliament in December to support learning in the National Modern Studies course. Pupils are given a tour of the building, including the debating chamber, as well as a chance to meet MSPs.



Duke of Edinburgh

We are delighted to announce that Madison Webster, Beth Hill, Brandon McLarney, and Naeve Muir have all achieved GOLD award for Duke of Edinburgh.

After several years of disruption due to Covid 19 we are so proud of all their hard work. They will now be invited to Holyrood Palace in July 2023 to receive their gold award from HRH Prince Edward. Due to Covid restrictions, this group were required to complete their bronze, silver and gold expeditions in one year.

This meant that they were camping almost every week! They faced all the elements that the Scottish weather can provide – and they all coped admirably. We are sure the skills they developed: team work, resilience and self-belief will stand them in good stead as they progress through life.

However, the expeditions are only half the story! The pupils also have to work on their sections: physical, volunteering and skills. The range of activities was inspiring!

Brandon completed his construction course and volunteered at his old primary to develop the football team. Beth coached a local swimming team. Madison and Naeve delivered hip hop dancing in the evenings for young people in North Ayrshire.

Overall, they have not only developed themselves but also had a huge impact on their local community and we could not be more proud of them.

