

Headteachers Update - October 31st , 2024

Dear Parent

On behalf of all in the school thank you for your continued support and partnership. We now look ahead to the months of November and December, which combines lots of continued hard work and opportunities for enjoyment for staff and pupils.

2024 marks the 175th anniversary of Airdrie Academy.



1 - Airdrie Academy Voices

I am delighted to share the completed online anthology of stories relating to the people of Airdrie Academy over its 175 year history.

<https://www.airdrieacademyvoices.com/>

Different backgrounds, different experiences, different lives

Welcome to Year 175: Voices from Airdrie Academy...

2024 marks the 175th anniversary of Airdrie Academy.

Imagine all of the people who have been associated with our school over that time!

Different backgrounds, different experiences, different lives...

What did they experience? What stories would they tell?

Our initial creative writing project involved picking particular moments in history to which Airdrie Academy has borne witness then, using photographs as prompts, writing short dialogue pieces to give the characters we imagine sitting in those classrooms a voice.

The project then grew to incorporate real life stories from the pupils, families and staff who experienced Airdrie Academy life through the years. I reached out to members of our local community to share their memories, reflections and stories. The response has been phenomenal.

It has been a joy and a privilege to lead this very special project. I have been in contact with such an amazing range of people telling stories spanning from 1941 to the present day. Each story is unique. It is a very special collection. Airdrie Academy has created a huge community with generations attending the school.

I myself am celebrating 20 years of working as an English teacher at Airdrie Academy in 2024. This has been the culmination of ten months of hard work to collate over 500 contributions from our school community.

Headteachers Award update from Dr Douglas PT Digital Skills



2 - Head Teacher Award - Airdrie Academy

We are excited to announce the launch of the **Head Teacher Award** for our BGE (S1-S3) pupils, aimed at recognising and celebrating outstanding **non-academic achievements**. This award will highlight those students who excel in areas such as leadership, citizenship, kindness, effort, determination, ambition and other contributions that positively impact our school community.

- *All staff are encouraged to nominate deserving pupils across S1-S3 who demonstrate outstanding non-academic achievement.*
 - *Nominations focus on contributions such as exceptional kindness, leadership in group projects, a significant positive change in behaviour, resilience in overcoming everyday challenges, or contributions to the school environment.*
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Nominations will be reviewed and shared every two weeks, and the recipients of the Head Teacher Award will be announced on the first Monday of the month by Tannoy.

This new initiative is a way for all staff to support and encourage our pupils, giving them recognition for their effort and dedication beyond their academic.

Pupils receiving the HT Award will

- *Golden pass to head to front of dining hall queues (for one week)*
 - *Additional merit points for their house*
 - *A well done message home recognising their success*
 - *Certificate of success*
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Our first award winners for this brand new initiative will be announced next Monday!

Developing the Young Workforce update from Mr Henderson



3 - [DYW](#)

Please click the link below for all of the latest news on; Employment opportunities, Apprenticeships, Volunteering, Work experience and much more.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/RMfh66wo15M8fIVD?ref=email>

On behalf of the Parent Council – Friday November 8th Bingo Fundraiser



Please come along to the school for our Bingo fundraiser which starts at 7pm on Friday November 8th. Cost of a ticket is £3 per person, please bring along your own refreshments and nibbles- this is an event for over 18's. We will have a raffle as part of this evening – any donations very much appreciated. We would love to have your company on what will be a really fun filled evening – thanks.

Sports News update from Mrs Gilmour



The senior sports leader class have now received their first aid training, Handball training and Badminton leaders training as a result of our partnership with Handball Scotland, Badminton Scotland and North Lan (first aid). We are currently out delivering their after school extra-curricular activities to our associated primaries on Tuesdays (3pm - 4pm). We offer the above activities, we have been trained in, as well as other activities and we are very proud of the strong partnerships we have developed over the years.

The under 16 football boys within the school are taking part in their first Lanarkshire schools football league match this Friday 1st November at Cumbernauld after school led by their coach Mr Benaran. Training has been arranged every Friday for the team and we also have

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both 3rd and 4th year pupils coming along. Our 3rd year team have their first game in a couple of weeks' time.

"Fashion Through the Decades: A 175 Celebration Show!" article by Miss Pearce





4 - Fashion through the Decades with Miss Pearce and Airdrie Academy pupils

On Thursday 10th October, pupils took a walk-through time from the roaring 1920s to the modern day 2020s showcasing iconic styles and strutting along to music of the decades.

Comperes Alice Soltan and Hannah McSheffrey helped to set the stage with a brief overview of events from the decade, before our models delivered a fantastic show with fast paced changes and classic looks. Roars of applause were given as pupils had fun and shimmied down the runway for this once in a lifetime event raising much needed funds for our local St Andrews Hospice and celebrating Airdrie Academy's 175th birthday.

A grand total of £800 was raised from this event which will be handed over to Hospice Officials in due course. Thank you to everyone for their generosity and support for this event and this worthy cause – we really do appreciate it.

Halloween update from Mrs Clelland



Halloween Disco and Haunted house will take place on Friday the 1st of November from 12:45pm-2:15pm. Pupils should buy their tickets before this date. They will be sold in the social area during intervals. Pupils who are entitled to a bus home will have access to this. This will also be a dress up/down day for pupils. Pupils are encouraged to come into school in their Halloween costume. There will be a prize for the best dressed in each year group. Pupils will pay £1 to their period 1 teacher for their non-uniform day.

Christmas update from Mrs Clelland



We will host our Christmas Fayre on Thursday the 28th of November from 6pm-8:30pm. We would love to see you all there to enjoy the stalls, food, drink, cafe 175 and special guest. A fun night for all the family to kick start that Christmas spirit. More updates will follow next month.

Family supports update from Mrs Carlin



Family Support Group (previously parent group) continues to run every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm until 8pm here in Cafe 175 at school. Crèche is usually available. Please consider coming along - especially if you haven't yet, it really is good fun. It is just parents and carers supporting each other. Email ahead if you like and our chairperson will reply: aafsq175@gmail.com

Understanding your child parent on-line modules are available. Choose from many modules including 'understanding the teenage brain'. Find out more at: [Online Learning](#) Use the free accessibility code **LANERCH3**

Breakfast Club is available every day to all pupils from 8.30am onwards in the social area. There is no charge. Breakfast items available are toasted crumpets with various toppings and a selection of cereals.

Stationery is available every day to all pupils from 8.45am onwards in the social area. There is no charge.

Christmas supports are available through us. We can refer or signpost you to our partners who can help you if your current situation means that it will be very difficult for you to cope with the additional financial cost of Christmas. These supports can include:

We can also arrange for your child to select small family gifts – **please get in touch before December if you would like this offer** – either through Pupil Support or contact me - Lynn Carlin: Acting Principal Teacher of Families and Wellbeing.

Practical Family Support is available through us. We have a family resource room which has many school items available for your academy child.

Airdrie Academy's Family Resource Room—F09

school



Here's what's available for you:



skirts	✓	
trousers	✓	
shirts	✓	
ties	✓	
PE kit	✓	
underwear	✓	
hoodies	✓	
hats & scarves	✓	
school bags	✓	
winter jackets	✓	
shoes, trainers, boots	✓	
cardigans, jumpers	✓	

available through any teacher: Pupil Support/Subject/Depute Head
and also by speaking to our Senior Pupil Family Ambassadors

UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools – Going For Gold update Mr Morgan



5 - UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools

Mr Morgan attended a course this month about how important children's rights are not just within our school but for our vision of society. Did you know that the UN Charter for Children's Rights was enshrined into Scots law this summer and should be our foremost thought in everything we do? Indeed, the first consideration that the Government must make now with regards to everything from Healthcare to Education decisions must be how this impacts our children! Here at Airdrie Academy, we have an excellent track record of upholding and promoting children's rights. We currently hold Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award and over the next few academic years will be looking to achieve Gold. In a recent survey of our school community, I found our pupils are overwhelmingly positive about this issue. A majority of pupils are keen to discuss rights in school and at home. If you

would like to know more about how you can help our school community or you think your child may be interested in taking an active role in this, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

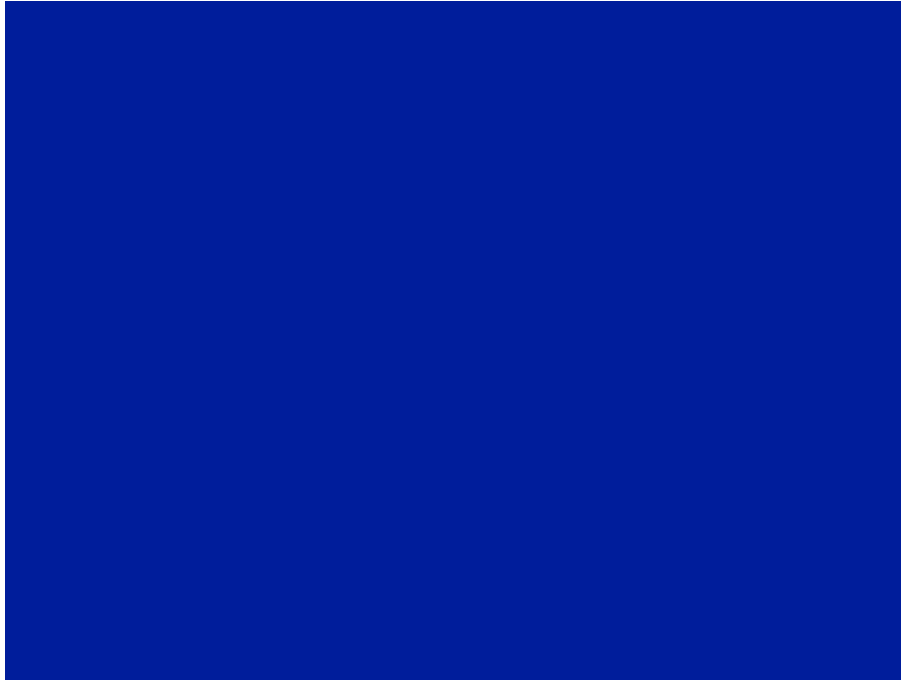
Navigating Exams – Support Update from Mrs Carlin



Prelim season is nearly upon us. Your child might not yet be in senior school but will likely be having end of unit assessments and class tests. This website could support your family through stress associated with test and exams.

Navigating Exam Stress

Upcoming Key Dates



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- *Friday November 1st P7 visiting the school for their Spyquest event*
 - *Wednesday 6th November S4 Parents evening*
 - *Friday 8th November Remembrance Services*
 - *Monday 18th November In-service day (only staff attend)*
 - *Thursday 21st November Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition – in the school*
 - *Monday 25th November S4 Prelim Examinations begin*
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Yours faithfully

Martin D Anderson

Head Teacher
