

ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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November 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We have had a busy few weeks in the school, with staff and young people committed to learning and achievement and a number of interesting activities taking place.

A small group of S4/5 boys: Reece Currie, Ben Leslie, Scott MacKay, Jack McNally, Adam McNicol & Matthew Tetlow, took part in a week-long leadership course with Cycling Scotland in Perthshire, supported by our Active Schools Co-ordinator Archie McNicol. The following week I received an email from a member of staff who was at the same venue with another school group, wishing to express how impressed she was by the effort, behaviour and attitude of our young men throughout the week. What a wonderful endorsement of the students of Arran High School.

We also marked Remembrance Day in the school with a moving service in which our youngsters took a leading role, through the recital of war poetry and musical performance. Once again, the whole school demonstrated respect and dignity in marking this important occasion.

We recently had a successful careers event, organised by Mrs Macbeth, for all of our senior students, which demonstrated the strong partnership working that exists between ourselves, local employers and further and higher educational institutions. It is my intention to build upon and expand these links in the future, to the benefit of all of our young people.

Finally, we have been developing our approach to the consultation process for the school vision, values and aims and have been supported in this endeavour by the Arran Outdoor Education Centre, our parents and a team of willing staff and young people. This group will be leading the consultation process and our aim is to have the new vision, values and aims for learning 3-18 in our school completed by June 2015.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and look forward to seeing you at some of the school events taking place in the near future.

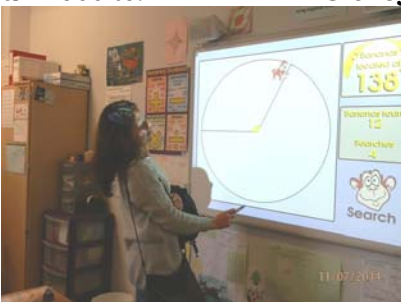
Congratulations!

We are delighted to announce that S6 pupil, Iain Clarke, has been successful in his audition to study music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. Anyone who has heard Iain play over the years will agree that he has earned this prestigious achievement. We wish him well for the future.

S1-3 Open Morning

Thanks to all parents who attended the Open Morning on 7 November. A copy of the evaluation is on our website.

Mrs Gregg



Remembrance 2014

'Lest We Forget'

On Tuesday we held a Remembrance Assembly and observed a two minute silence at 11:00 am.

The short act of remembrance was led by the Rev E Watson with Fr N Colford and Mr Alan Milligan of the Sub-Mariners Association and included both staff and pupils. Music was supplied by Mr Bailey, Emily Divine and Finlay Murchie. Lois Ashley and Innis Thorborn played the Last Post. Poems were read by S2 pupils Jack Burke, Shannon Galbraith, Alice Kinniburgh, Eilidh Macpherson and Rory Morrison.

The contribution of all those involved and the interested and respectful attention of staff and pupils made it a moving and meaningful few minutes in our busy day. **Mrs MacLeod**

Geography Field Trips

In past few weeks Advanced Higher Geography students have partaken in multiple field trips across North Ayrshire. The trips enabled pupils to collect data for three different field studies which contribute to 40% of their final grade. The studies are: "A comparison between the hydraulic variables of River Catacol and Glen Rosa Burn"; "A detailed comparison between the variables of a sandy beach (Blackwaterfoot) and a shingle beach (Machrie)" and "Exploring the relationship between criminal activity and human environments". Data was taken from Arran, Kilwinning and Irvine through door-to-door questionnaires.

AH pupils – Iain Logan, Lewis Bennett and Iain Clarke – successfully gathered the data required through various techniques learned in class. On one excursion a group of Higher pupils also attended and decided to use the data gathered for their assignment, which contributes to 33% of the final grade.

To gather data on river trips, various techniques were used with a variety of equipment such as a clinometer paired with ranging poles used to measure the river's gradient – all data was recorded and used later in class to form the beginning of the necessary 25 page field study. Similar techniques were used along eight transects on each beach to gain an understanding of exactly how and why the beaches are different – all data recorded to be used in the portfolio piece back in class.

The final trip was to Kilwinning and Irvine. For this project a questionnaire was asked at a total of 120 properties in six areas within North Ayrshire to explore how human environments impact on the social environment and further on the prominence of criminal activity. The answers will create a detailed Bipolar Analysis which compares the levels of crime in each area.

The trips were thoroughly enjoyed by all students who took part and contributed greatly to knowledge of the techniques used in the subject. **Lewis Bennett (S6)**

Ayrshire Art Competition – Journeys of Faith

As part of Scottish Interfaith Week pupils and other groups were invited to take part in a competition where they interpreted the phrase 'Journeys of Faith' in the way which seemed most fitting to them. They could use art, music, poetry, song etc.

S2 were encouraged to think as widely as they could and individually or in small groups produce a piece of work that they felt fulfilled the brief. The results exceeded expectations and were judged by Faculty Head Mrs Gosman and a small group of senior pupils. Six winning pieces of excellent and imaginative work were submitted.

At the end of last week we were delighted to hear that Arran High School S2 pupils had swept the board, and yes there were other competitors! Megan Hamill won first place with a song called 'Little Faith' that she had written both words and music for, accompanying herself on the piano. Second were Stella Riddell and Ellie Bonner with a photo montage on the word 'Religion' and in third slot Hamish Bunyan, Eilidh Macpherson, Victoria Mowatt and Lucy Walsh, with a poem and photo collage about the tightrope walker Blondin.

Unfortunately Megan cannot go to Kilmarnock on 23 November to collect her prize as she is in New Zealand with her family! Mrs Gosman, however, will take some of the other prize winners to the ceremony. **Mrs MacLeod**

Bonkers for Conkers

Sannox 4 are very pleased and excited to announce that we will be hosting a Conker competition next month to raise money for Help for Heroes, the charity devoted to providing the best rehabilitation and physiotherapy for injured and discharged troops.

A 50p donation will be required to participate – Health & Safety precautions will be in place! The competition is open to all staff and pupils. **Mrs Urquhart-Dixon**

Police Visit

On Tuesday this week Sgt Dodds visited the National/Higher Modern Studies class to discuss the role of the police and the court system, as part of their current work on the Crime Unit. He told the class about the differences between policing on Arran and on the mainland; the recent Scottish police reform; the new drink-drive laws and his own personal experiences as a police officer, including the use of Tasers in Scotland. The class also discussed the role of the Scottish Court System with him and the experience of being a witness in a criminal trial. Sgt Dodds also invited the class to visit the local police station to view the prison cells and interview room. The class are very much looking forward to this visit.

Fraser Blain (S6) & Beth McCartney (S5)



Sgt Dodds demonstrates the use of handcuffs with the assistance of Beth McCartney



Joel Small enjoys trying out the baton

Grease

DVD copies of the hugely successful school production of Grease are now on sale from the school office priced £2. Cast & crew members are entitled to a complimentary copy.

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Barry R Smith
Head Teacher