



ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

School Website : www.arran.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Email : arran@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

September 2017

Follow us on Twitter: [@arranhigh](https://twitter.com/arranhigh)

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to bring you our first newsletter of session 2017-18.

We look forward to building upon what was a very successful year last year, despite a considerable number of staffing challenges. Our attainment in the SQA examinations was once again very strong in S4/5/6, with our S5 Higher results being the highlight. Thank you for your crucial support in ensuring that our youngsters achieved so highly.

We have retained our focus upon curricular and extra-curricular sport, as well as maintaining the very strong balance of musical and cultural activities taking place in the school. Last session more than 80% of our students were involved in at least one extra-curricular sporting or musical activity, which is a fantastic demonstration of the opportunities provided throughout the school. This session we have some exciting new opportunities for our young people which you will hear more of as the term progresses.

We have been working hard with community partners to develop further the opportunities for young people to gain skills for learning, life and work. Our Friday afternoon skills and volunteering programme for senior students continues to allow us to make very strong links in the local community and provide our seniors with excellent wider achievement opportunities.

I am inspired by the achievements of our young people and staff every day and I believe that even although the standards of achievement are already very high, we can improve even further in all that we do to support the learning and development of every learner.

I am excited by the prospect of what promises to be another challenging year as we aim to reach new heights in all aspects of school life and am buoyed by the fact that we have welcomed a number of new staff to the school who will, I am sure, bring fresh ideas as well as learning from our existing group of highly talented staff.

Finally, if you feel that you can offer something to the school to support us in our work, whether it be in relation to extra-curricular activities or any other aspect of school life, or you would like to share your thoughts about any aspect of our school, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss things further.

Barry Smith

Head Teacher

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome to Arran High School a number of new members of staff.



Mrs S Dick

I am the new Deputy Head Teacher, taking on year head responsibility for S1-3 in the secondary along with data, wider achievement and attainment. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to join Arran High School this year. Though originally from Scotland, for the last few years my family and I have been living and working in Ethiopia at the British Embassy and laterally in the south of

England. My background is in teaching geography and outdoor education, I have an MSc in Managing Sustainable Mountain Development and am currently pursuing my Doctorate in Education with the University of Glasgow. Interests outside of school include most outdoor sports, particularly mountaineering, expedition and remote medicine and baking cakes. My husband and I, plus our two small children, are looking very much to becoming part of the community on Arran.



Mr D McInnes

Teacher of Mathematics & Numeracy



Mrs R Early

Teacher of English & Literacy

We also have 3 new probationer teachers joining us this year:



Mr K O'Brien

Teacher of Mathematics & Numeracy



Mr G Elliot

Teacher of Business Education



Mrs K Officer

Teacher of Psychology

Annual Awards Ceremony

Next Wednesday 6th September sees the celebration of student achievement at our Annual Awards Ceremony.

This will be held in the school theatre at 7.30pm

Invitations have been sent from the school earlier this week for awards being presented during this evening.

Prefects and School Captains

After interviews which took place before the summer break, the following students have been selected for senior prefects and school captains.

Senior Prefects

Alison Provan

Lucy Crawford

Maili Beatan

Megan McNicol

School Captains

Jasmine Scorey

Mak Russell

Jessica Miller

The quality of applications and interviews was extremely high and it was a very difficult decision to make. We have decided to move away from a single boy and girl as school captains this year because there was nothing to choose between the three successful students.

Similarly, we have a team of 5 senior prefects, reflecting the very high quality of the interviews of these individuals. Please join me in congratulating those who have been successful.

Communication

The school, in all of its communications with parents, will endeavour to respond to all requests within 48 hours. This response may be in the form of a telephone call or electronic communication (depending on which is more appropriate) and may also be to initially acknowledge the enquiry whilst further information is sought.

Any email enquiries to the school by parents should be made via the arran@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk school email address. This will allow communication to be forwarded both to the young person's Pastoral Support (Guidance) teacher (Mrs Macbeth S1-S5 or Mrs Walker S6) and any other relevant member of staff and will ensure that we are able to retain the overview of communication between home and school that is vital in supporting each young person.

Any telephone communications which cannot immediately be connected to the relevant member of staff will generate an email, sent by the school office, to the staff member who will then reply as per the timeline above.

We have made this commitment to parents to try to ensure that we meet the needs of both parents and learners, whilst acknowledging the many different requests made to staff that must be dealt with each day.

S1 & S2 Exxpedition visit

The Sea Dragon, with an all women crew, is sailing around Great Britain to raise awareness of the issue of plastic pollution in the Oceans worldwide and also the detrimental effect that chemicals from the plastics can have on human and animal health and fertility. They are doing scientific research and sampling the seas around Britain in a variety of ways. You can follow their journey at www.exxpedition.com

The sailing ship moored in Lamlash Bay overnight during its journey, and S1 & S2 students were given the opportunity to take part in activities at the Coastguard station involving scientists and artists from the crew along with representatives from COAST.

The S1 students are taking part in a longer term project on 'Plastics Pollution' during their 'Environmental Learning' periods.

PhD students from the ship and the University Marine Station at Millport and SAMS at Dunstaffnage near Oban came into school in the afternoon to talk to senior Biology students about their work.



Student Entry to School

We would like to re-iterate procedures for entry to the school building to ensure that we maintain the safety and security of our young people, staff and visitors.

The main (front) entrance to the school is for access of visitors to the school or users of the building who have a secure entry key. All visitors must report to the school office where procedures are in place to ensure any request is dealt with appropriately.

There are two student entrances that may be used for entry to the building, one at the front directly below the school library and one at the back entering into the Science corridor. Only these doors should be used as entry points by our young people.

Students should also not open doors (with particular focus on the front entrance) to visitors to the school or fellow students during the day. It is also a requirement that students are not allowed in or out of fire exits.

The only exception for students using the front entrance is when they are late for school or going to or from an appointment. All students in these instances must report to the school office to ensure we have an accurate record of who is in the building.

Plea from Home Economics

The Home Economics Department are looking for any fruit or veg such as blackberries, apples etc. that can be used for students to cook with.

They are also looking for fabrics which can be used for textile projects after Christmas.

Please contact the school office if you are able to donate.

Show My Homework

Homework should be meaningful, and we believe that tasks should be created to engage students and enable parents to support them. It's about quality, not quantity.

Family involvement in children's education has proven to have a positive impact on a student's school life.

Arran High School have introduced a new homework system called Show My Homework.

This is accessible to pupils and parents to monitor homework being issued by class teachers and access homework set.

There will be a login given to your child soon via a school assembly along with relevant information.

There will also be a Show My Homework Parent Drop In session in Arran High School on Thursday 14th September at 4pm – We welcome you to please come along to this session to find out more details and explore Show My Homework on the computers.

You can also access our school's live homework calendar by visiting:

<https://arranhigh.showmyhomework.co.uk/>

This calendar provides an immediate way of viewing all homework set throughout the school.

Although this method of viewing the information is less personal, it is accessible without the need to enter any user details.

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is open to all students S3 or above.

It runs on a Wednesday after school in the porta cabin behind the school.

Anybody who wishes to join this award scheme are invited to attend an introduction session on Wednesday 27th September. Following on from this there will be a Parent Information session on Thursday 5th October at 7pm in the High School.

There is a fundraiser for DofE which is an Indoor Car Boot/Table Top Sale on Saturday 16th September in the High School. Please contact the school office for further details.

Lost Property

Throughout the year we get a number of items that are lost. These items are kept in the school office. Please ask your child to check lost property on a regular basis for any lost items. Any unclaimed items will be donated to the Rag Bag Scheme or sent to ARCAS every 6-8 if unclaimed. It would be helpful if clothes, especially sweatshirts and polo shirts, could be labelled with student names.

Please could you discourage your child to bring anything valuable to school. Throughout the year we do see a number of mobile phones handed in as lost property. We do endeavour to ensure that all mobile phones are returned to the rightful owner. However, each pupil is allocated a locker where personal items should be kept throughout the school day.

Lockers

We would ask you to encourage your son/daughter to use their locker. School bags left in corridors and stairwells are a significant risk factor in the event of a fire alarm and we would ask you to discuss this with your child in order to keep everyone in our school safe.

Students are requested to ensure that lockers are cleared of any perishable items on a regular basis and particularly before any school holiday. It would be appreciated if dirty PE kit is also taken home from lockers for laundering.

Each student is given a locker key which they keep from S1-S6. Should your child lose their locker key a new one can be purchased from the school office for £5.

Lockers should not be swapped without informing the school office as this causes problems when reallocating lockers to new students.

New Contact Details

Please ensure that if you move house or change your telephone numbers, that you inform the school office ASAP so that contact details can be updated on our systems.

This is essential information should you child require emergency treatment or even if your child is unwell.

School Uniform

Please note that school uniform is as follows:

- S6 – **Red** Polo Shirt, School Sweatshirt/School Jumper/Cardigan, Black trousers/skirt
- S1-S5 – **Black** Polo Shirt, School Sweatshirt/School Jumper/Cardigan, Black trousers/skirt

Formal Uniform for representing the school at major events: white shirt, school tie, black trousers/skirt.

Please do not buy jeans or black denim for your children to wear to school.

Should you need any uniform please ask for an order form from the school office. We would request that payment is made at the time of ordering.

Rag Bag

We have a large Rag Bag bin located in the school car park. Please feel free to deposit any unwanted textiles (not pillows or duvets) for re-cycling.

Absences

Just a reminder that school should be contacted **each day** in any instances regarding student absence. This enables school absence records to be accurate.

It is also a requirement that the school office is contacted should you wish to take your child out of school during school hours.

Dining Hall

The dining hall operates on a cash free basis, with students using the 'Reval' machines located in the canteen to put money on their account, which is accessed with their Young Scot Card when purchasing food.

A meal deal in the dining hall costs £2 per day. This includes a main, dessert and a drink.

If your child has lost their Young Scot Card – please phone 01294 310000 to request a new card. The dining hall can provide a PIN number which allows your child to use the machines to put money on their account until their replacement card arrives.

If for some reason your child forgets his or her lunch money for the day and has not got enough credit on their account, there is a facility to borrow money from the school office. However, it is imperative that this money is paid back to the school office the next day. This prevents debt building up as a result of unpaid dinner money.

The dining hall also serves a number of snacks at the beginning of the day and at morning interval. Please ensure that your child has extra money on their account in addition to their lunch money to cover these purchases.

Bus Passes

We will shortly be issuing your child with a bus pass.

This year these have been issued by Western Buses and not the school.

Please ensure that your child keeps this bus pass in a safe place as we have no facility to issue replacements from the school.

Should your child lose their bus pass, either you or your child will need to inform the school office who will contact Stagecoach to arrange a replacement bus pass.

Failure to have a bus pass could result in your child missing the school bus or having to pay a bus fare home.

The bus pass issued to your child only covers the journey to and from home. Should they need to travel outwith this journey, then payment is required for the bus fare.

Parents' Evenings

S1 Parents' Evening – Thursday 23rd November (4pm-6pm)

S2 Parents' Evening – Thursday 7th December (4pm-6pm)

S3 Parents' Evening – Thursday 9th November (4pm-6pm)

S4/5/6 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 16th January (4pm-6pm) & Wednesday 17th January (7pm – 9pm)

Other Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 6th September – Annual Awards Ceremony - 7.30pm

Thursday 14th September – Show My Homework Parent Drop-In – 4pm

Saturday 16th September – Arran High School Duke of Edinburgh group,

Indoor Car Boot/Table Top Sale -12-3pm

Friday 22nd September – Jeans for Genes Day

Monday 25th September – In-service Day

Friday 29th September – S1 Open Morning

Friday 6th October – School Closes - 3.45pm