



ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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November 2017

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to bring you our November newsletter. As always, it has been a busy and productive time for our young people and staff. I am delighted that we been awarded the North Ayrshire Community Sport Award for School Sport for the second year running. This highlights the excellent work and commitment of staff and students in the school to ensure that sport and physical activity are central to our approaches to encourage the health and wellbeing of our whole school community.

We are always on the lookout for new ideas and if you would like to be involved in our physical activity and sports programme at the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Should you wish to discuss anything you read in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Barry Smith

Head Teacher

North Ayrshire Community Sports Awards 2017

I am delighted to let you know that for the second year running the Arran High School Campus has been awarded the NAC Community Sports Award for School Sport, this year pipping the other finalists Garnock Community Campus and Glebe Primary School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to the very wide range of Health and Wellbeing, Physical Activity and Sport related extra-curricular (and curricular) opportunities on our campus. Once again this has been recognised by others as being of a very high quality indeed.

Also special mention to our other finalists on the night:

Team of the Year finalist – Arran High School Young Sports Leaders,
Volunteer of the Year Finalist – Robert McNeice (AHS Mountain Bike Club),
Partnership Award - Active Schools (Archie McNicol) and AHS.

It has been a fantastic achievement to have finalists in four categories and to have retained the School Sport Award.



School of Sport – Triathlon

Our school of sport athletes have been working hard on their running, cycling and swimming through a combination of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities and we look forward to them reaping the benefits of their efforts in the new year as they represent the school and club at various events.

We have had a visit from the Triathlon Scotland Club development and Coaching officers, as well as training five students in the new Youth Activator coaching course, being the first school in Scotland to have done so. In addition, we will be welcoming the Triathlon Scotland Area Skills School head coach, Crawford White, to the school at the start of December. Crawford will work with staff and students to develop the programme in line with the British Triathlon Athlete Development framework.

We are also looking forward to working with a new paid coach to support the programme within the school and community and we will post further information regarding this when the coach position is being advertised. We are very grateful to Sport Scotland, Triathlon Scotland and the Auchrannie for their support so far.

We will be sharing the information regarding next year's School of Sport cohort with primary 7 parents very soon.

Staffing

Archie McNicol our Active Schools Co-ordinator will be leaving us on Wednesday 29th November to take up a post in the St Matthews Cluster. We are all very sorry to say farewell to Archie and we wish him well in his new post.

We are also sad to say farewell to John Ferris who has supported us as an IT Technician for many years within Arran High School. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Annual Awards Ceremony

We celebrated student achievements during the previous academic year at our Annual Award Ceremony which was held on Wednesday 6th September.

The Dux this year was shared between A Provan and R Janse Van Rensburg and the Margaret Wright Award for S4 was also shared between L Walsh and N Alberti. Other special awards were presented throughout the evening along with many certificates for achievement in individual subjects.

Mr Barry Fisher (Director of Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scotland) and a former pupil of Arran High School delivered a speech about his time spent as a former pupil, his career progression and his love of outdoor activities.



Enactus 2017

Enactus is an international organisation that pairs entrepreneurship and philanthropy to develop sustainable and beneficial projects in communities.

Enactus has predominantly been for university students and business leaders to date but Glasgow Caledonian University contacted Arran High School and invited them to become a branch of their Enactus group and the first high school in the UK, and possibly the world, to be involved.

When the Glasgow Caledonian Enactus team came to the school the fifth and sixth years had a brain storming session with them and together we compiled a large list of issues that we feel need addressed on Arran.

The key priority we identified was to get young people and older people working together to challenge two issues that impact on both age groups: isolation and mental health.

Being new to the Enactus family we perhaps didn't understand fully what Enactus entailed, but after attending the annual World Cup it couldn't have been clearer...

Enactus is made up of 70,500+ students from 1,700+ universities in 36 countries. Each year they hold a World Cup, hosted all around the world, which 3,500 students, business, academic and government leaders attend. This year, for the first time, it was held in London and we were invited to attend by Glasgow Caledonian University advisors Alec Wersun and Karen Fryer as well as our Business Advisor (and one of the panel of judges) Jean McInnes.



The World Cup took place over 3 days with 36 Enactus teams from around the world presenting their projects to observers and judges and explaining the impact they have had on their community, the changes they have made and what they are going to do next.

After a series of engaging presentations the original 36 teams were filtered down to the final four.

The focus of the different teams were really diverse ranging from food security to sanitation to women's empowerment and this gave us valuable insight to the problems that affect our world.

As young people we often have a need, a desire to change the world and help - this couldn't be more apparent at Enactus. By attending the world cup we were able to really understand first-hand the incredible impact that these students are making around the world and the positive changes they are bringing to their communities. Their passion, dedication and enthusiasm was inspiring and definitely set the tone for our project. The atmosphere of the entire competition was amazing, the excitement, the need for change, the support everyone had for each other.

As new members to the Enactus family we hope Arran High School can create a lasting impact and tackle the issues we feel need addressed with the same success and achievement we saw at the world cup.



Scottish Climbing Competition

On Thursday 26th October 12 young people from Arran High School and Lamlash Primary took part in the qualifying round of the Scottish Schools Climbing Championships at Ibrox Climbing Wall in Glasgow. The competition is designed to allow participants of all abilities to be able to take part in the qualifying round, where the competitor can choose to enter either the Bottom Rope or the Lead Climbing category. Each competitor had to complete and score on four different routes ranging from grade 5+ to an eye watering grade 7C for those in S3. This was the first time that our schools had entered the competition and all performed well in the climbs, showing maturity, determination and agility in the way they approached the different routes. Thank you to all those who helped us attend this event and, in particular, to the climbing wall for opening early for us to fit around the ferry timetable and to Andy McNamara and Nicola Kier from Arran Outdoor Centre for accompanying us and taking on instructor duties during the competition.



S6 McKelvie Road Project

Some of the S6 students are preparing to start an inter-generational project between the school and the residents of McKelvie Road Sheltered Housing in Lamlash. They have already met with a small group of residents to discuss shared interests and activities which students could lead within the communal lounge of the housing complex. The activities which have been identified are use of laptops and tablet computers, arts and crafts, beauty and board games. The meeting was very animated as both groups were very enthusiastic about their joint venture.

Students will go across to the housing complex in groups of two or more when they are timetabled in school for Wider Achievement and will work with residents on the agreed activity in the lounge area. They will not always be accompanied by school staff but staff from the housing complex and/or staff from Arran Council for Voluntary Services will be on site. The IT group will meet in the ACVS office in Park Terrace so that the residents can use their own devices on the WiFi system there.

The activities will begin in the next couple of weeks when resources (kindly provided for us by ACVS) have arrived and students are familiar with them.

Students who take part in the project will be put forward for a Saltire Award – the Scottish government’s youth volunteering award.

<https://saltireawards.org.uk/parents/saltire-overview/>

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.

Since August we have raised a total of £99 towards school funds.

Sports Events

Last term we have had several sporting events where our young people represented the school.

These included a Badminton Tournament at Irvine Royal Academy, a Hockey Tournament at Greenwood Academy and the North Ayrshire Cross Country Championships. We also hosted a Rugby match where S2 & S3 pupils from Largs Academy came across to the island. We were very successful at winning two out of three games very convincingly.

On Friday 6th October the whole school took part in the Active Girls Day and saw several activities take place including dance and a staff v girl's netball match at lunchtime.



Our school netball team also took part in a netball tournament at St Matthews Academy. They played exceptionally well.



Charity Events

We have supported a couple of charities last term.

We held a Jeans for Genes Day and raised a total of £410.27 for this worthwhile cause.

We also supported Show the Red Card for Racism by wearing red on Friday 6th October. This was well supported by students and staff.

Pipes & Drums Launch Day

On Monday 30th October, 10 specialist tutors visited Arran High School as part of the hugely successful pipes & drums project launch in conjunction between Arran Schools Cluster, Arran Pipe Band, Isle of Arran Music School and the SSPDT.

Around 90 young people from all school across the island met at the high school and received small group tuition which culminated in a sharing session at the end of the school day by which point, learners had received around 6 weeks of tuition in the one day!

Students absolutely loved their experience and now all of our S1 cohort are enjoying lessons on a weekly basis as part of their Music curriculum. All of these lessons are fully subsidised by the project now operating here on Arran.





Halloween Party

The S6 students ran a very successful Halloween Party this year on the night of 31st October. This year saw a Halloween experience at Arran High School never seen before. Staff and S6 students created a spooky walk around the corridors where teams of students had to go into different areas and find items before moving onto the next spooky zone.

All the Halloween costumes were fantastic!!



Halloween Cakes

This term the 4 National 5 Practical Cake Craft pupils have worked on their first Assessment - A Hallowe'en cake. They are truly spooktacular and next assessment is their Christmas cakes'.



MTB Camping

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club have been fortunate to receive funding from Foundation Scotland's Woman's Fund for Scotland. With help from Arran Active they have invested in Tents, Sleeping bags and mats.

On 22nd September the girls group convened at Velo Café Lagg for cake and a blether after school. From Lagg they cycled across the Forestry road back towards Whiting Bay, down the Glenashdale Falls path and back up towards their campsite for the night at Arran Community Land Initiative. The girls had their tents up in no time. Juliette Walsh and Lucy Urquhart-Dixon were there to supervise them cooking their dinner outdoors. Lucy was recently awarded £2760 from Education Scotland - 'Food for Thought' fund to spend on outdoor cooking equipment which Arran Active very kindly provided.

The girls now plan on camping overnight more often, as it opens up more of the islands amazing Outdoor places.





MTB Bike Maintenance

The Arran High School Mountain Bike Club has extended its range by offering members of the public free bicycle maintenance during workshop open days along with Arran's first bike repair station.

On Saturday 7th October during the open day, students repaired customer's bikes, tuned gears, adjusted brakes, replaced broken pedals, replaced brake and gear cables and washed bikes, and, in the process six of them earned themselves a Park Tool School Cycle Mechanic Qualification.



Auschwitz Visit

On Tuesday 3rd October at 4.00 o'clock in the morning two Arran High School students joined with 262 other people to fly to Poland to visit Auschwitz and Birkenau and then returned to Glasgow just before midnight. They went with a group called the Holocaust Educational Trust, a British charity whose stated aim is to 'educate young people of every background about the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learned for today.'

This was a long hard day, much of what they saw was very difficult for the pupils to take in but both students made the most of this opportunity. Over the next weeks they will be preparing a Holocaust assembly which they will deliver to the school on Holocaust Day in January.



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

On the evening of Saturday 11th November, the Arran Duke of Edinburgh Group held their annual Awards Presentation evening at Corrie Hall. The event was very well attended and a number of awards at all levels were given out. The awards were presented by Ian Staples, Manager of Arran Outdoor Education Centre and the newly appointed North Ayrshire Council Duke of Edinburgh Manager.

We would like to congratulate all the participants receiving awards on the night.

The Arran Duke of Edinburgh Group is going from strength to strength with a large number of new participants enrolling this school year.

This year will see our first Mountain Biking expedition.

If your child is over 14 and is interested in taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, please contact the school office for more information.



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.

Parents' Evenings

S1 Parents' Evening – Thursday 30th November (4pm-6pm)

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

S3 Parents' Evening – Thursday 16th November (4pm-6pm)

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

Other Dates for your Diary

Monday 18th December – S4-S6 Christmas Party 7pm-10pm

Tuesday 19th December – AHS Christmas Showcase – 7.30pm

Wednesday 20th December - S1-S3 Christmas Party 7pm-9.30pm

Friday 22nd December – SCHOOL CLOSES @ 2.30pm (Notification will be sent nearer the time to confirm bus times)