



ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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March 2018

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Dear Parent/Carer

It has been another very full term in the school and you will see below the huge range of activities in which our young people and staff have been involved.

Numerous sports activities as always, have been taking place and it is wonderful to see and hear of so many of our young people taking up opportunities in such a wide range of activities.

Representation at the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Competition was a first for the school and we are delighted to be able to provide the opportunity for participation at this event for a number of our young people.

A group of thirteen Arran High School students represented the island and Scotland at the European Youth Forum in Trogen, Switzerland. This was an extremely valuable life experience for all involved, providing an insight into the lives of other young people from all across Europe and debating some of the major issues for our young people in this context.

Finally we have, as always, been focussed upon doing our best to prepare our young people in S4-S6 for the SQA examinations and this year has presented a number of new opportunities as well as some significant challenges. I hope and trust that all of our young people will use the last month before the start of the SQA exam diet to 'pull out all the stops' and maximise their efforts to ensure they achieve all that they deserve for their hard work this session.

I wish you a happy and relaxing Easter and look forward to seeing you again in the summer term. Thank you for your ongoing support of Arran High School.

Barry Smith

Head Teacher

Provost Civic Pride Awards

I'm sure you will join me in congratulating our Young Sports Leaders who were awarded the "Provost's Award" at the Provost's Civic Pride Awards ceremony on Friday night. Megan McNicol and Ellie Wood received the award on behalf of the Young Sports Leaders.

The award was the culmination of the evening and is awarded to the group or individual whom the Provost feels has made the greatest impact upon their community with the voluntary work they have done.

The Provost was hugely impressed by the willingness of our Young Leaders to organise and deliver activities in the school and in our cluster primary schools, as well as in community clubs.

He also commented on the warm welcome he received when he visited the school.

Thank you to all of you who have been involved in supporting this work, particularly those that are responsible for lunchtime and after school clubs that provide opportunities for young leaders.

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/Provost's-Civic-Pride-Awards-2018-a-huge-success.aspx>



Staffing

We welcome our new Active Schools Co-ordinator Andrew Brisco to the school and the Arran Primary Cluster.

We are also sorry to say farewell to Hazel Fennell (classroom assistant) who will be leaving for pastures new in Tarbet. We wish her well in her new adventure.

Parent Pay

You should have received a letter from North Ayrshire Council's Catering Department with login details for setting up an account with ParentPay. Unfortunately, we were not given any notice of this happening therefore could not explain the system in advance.

ParentPay works in a similar way to PayPal in that you can set up a ParentPay Account that allows you to make payments from the funds you hold in this area of their system. You then 'drop' funds down to your child/children's lunch accounts that are set up using the login issued in the letter you received. While funds are sitting 'unallocated' in your ParentPay account you still have access to them. One of the main advantages of this system is that you have access to details of all payments made at any time. Full details on how it works can be found on their website www.parentpay.com

We are hoping to move other functions on to this system after the summer holidays therefore if you require a copy of your activation codes please contact the school office, which will be staffed during the Easter holidays from 10am to 4pm.

School Lunches

We have just been informed that the cost of a school lunch (meal deal) will increase from £2.00 to £2.05 following the Easter holidays.

Dog Fouling

S1 Outdoor Learning - have been working on improving the environment around the school.

One of the biggest improvements would be to have **NO DOG MESS**

Children ranging in age from 3 to 18 use the playing fields and school grounds so it is not right that people should be walking their dogs and leaving mess where children play games and run around.

In the space of 10 minutes we counted 13 piles of dog mess around the pitches and another 6 piles around the Primary school gate.

It is disgusting and can carry parasites which are harmful.

So our message is SCOOP THAT POOP!

Any black bin will do.



National Computer Science Competition Success

In November all S2 and S3 pupils entered the national Bebras competition – competing online against over 80000 other pupils throughout the UK to solve a number of coding problems. Abi Traill achieved best in school in S3 and Keir Riddell, S2, did well enough to progress to the next round of the competition. This took place in March and Keir achieved a distinction – he was the best pupil in North Ayrshire and was in the top 2% of all pupils throughout the country. Well done Keir!



YPI Fundraising

On Wednesday 28th March we spent a whole day fundraising for this year's Youth Philanthropy Initiative. The total funds raised was £392.55. This was raised through various activities including a dress down day, hot chocolate and bake sales and a film afternoon.

School Show

The school show this year is Our House which is based on music by Madness. Rehearsals have started for the show and take place on Wednesday afternoons at 3.45 to 4.45pm.



FREE Start-up Science Masterclasses for S1 and S2 Students

The Royal Society of Edinburgh is inviting applications for the Spring Start-up Science Masterclasses. These are run in partnership with, and will take place at the University of Glasgow or Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. The Masterclasses are intended to give young people who have shown an interest in science and technology the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and experience. The classes promote widening participation and provide the students with a unique insight into academic life and research.

Four Masterclasses will take place on successive Saturday mornings and will comprise of a mixture of talks and fun, practical activities with guidance and encouragement from session leaders. I have attached the flyer, which includes the dates for the classes and how to apply.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow would be grateful if you would make S1 and S2 students aware of these Masterclasses and distribute a copy of the flyer to those who are interested. They can apply by getting their parent or guardian to fill out the application form on the back and returning it to the Royal Society of Edinburgh by the date stated on the form.

There is no limit to the number of students who apply from one school, however places for each class are limited. Once applications have been received we will correspond with students and parents at their home address.

Thank you for your continuing support for this programme and please get in touch with me if you have any questions or require hard copies of the flyer.

Enactus

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

Arran High School got the opportunity to be involved in this when the Glasgow Caledonian University Enactus team contacted us about being involved in their project. Together, we identified issues we felt needed addressed on Arran, with isolation and mental health being the front runners, specifically in elderly citizens.

In an attempt to combat these issues some pupils from Arran High School go weekly to Mackelvie Road, a sheltered housing estate, to socialise with the residents there and get involved in various activities with them such as board games, nail painting, arts and craft and tech help. As well as this, the pupils have hosted events in the High School and invited members from the community and other care homes on the island.

The film afternoon and the Christmas lunch that was hosted were both very popular but we want our next event to be even better.



This event is called “my childhood”, we plan to put on an exhibition where we display different tables filled with clothes, toys, music and photographs from decades raging from the 30s to present day. It will provide a perfect opportunity for guests to reminisce and socialise with old friend and new. To be able to achieve this however, we require some help. We ask that if anyone has any artefacts they would feel happy to bring along and share to please hand them into the school (where they will be kept safe) or to attend our event and bring them along on the day. This would be greatly appreciated by both us and all the guests attending.

Thank you so much :)

Big Green Show

We have hosted the Big Green Show for all the students to access the workshops on offer from the local community.

This event was organised jointly by Arran Community Land Initiative and Eco-Savvy.

With activities, information and loads of fun things to do this will be a celebration of eco action on Arran including a showcase of:

- Environmental protection
- Waste reduction
- Local food production
- Green energy generation
- And a huge range of green activities on Arran currently helping reduce global warming and protecting our environment!



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Congrats to Ross Kerr, Alison Provan, George Doubleday, Katie Mowatt and Susie Mowatt on completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

They will be representing Arran at the North Ayrshire Awards on Thursday 29th March.

Table Tennis

Congratulations to Naomi Provan who reached the Scottish Schools Table Tennis Finals in February and was very close to making the Scottish Schools Table Tennis squad.

NAC Schools Cross Country League

Arran High School has been very well represented in the KA Leisure/NAC Schools cross country league over the past 3 months. Around 22 young people have travelled to the races, half of them from the high school. At the end of the 3rd race of the series we have seven runners with the opportunity of a 'top 3' finish. This is to their great credit in using their weekend to represent the school and manage the early start for the ferry! All of our participants have shown great commitment across the series of races.



Arran High School students leading the warm up for Team Arran!

Hockey

Congratulations to the hockey team who visited Largs Academy and won 3 out of the 4 games in the schools festival



Netball

The Arran High School Netball team played on the mainland last week at Irvine Royal and had a very successful result. The girls won both of their games emphatically, 19-1 and 16-3.



Other Dates for your Diary

Youth Philanthropy Initiative Finals – S2 Pupils – Wednesday 25th April

NAC Schools Cross Country Race 4 – Saturday 28th April

Study Leave – Monday 30th April to Friday 1st June

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 7th May

Health & Wellbeing Week – S1 to S3 Pupils – Tuesday 8th May to Friday 11th May

S1 Goatfell Challenge – Friday 18th May

S1 Reports Home – Friday 18th May

Rag Bag Collection – Wednesday 23rd May

S1 Environmental Studies Day – Brodick Castle – Thursday 24th May

Inservice Day – Monday 28th May

North Ayrshire Athletics – Tuesday 29th May

Bronze DofE Expedition – Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June

New Timetable Begins – Monday 4th June

Ayrshire Athletics Finals – Tuesday 5th June

School Show – Tuesday 19th June to Friday 22nd June (Weekend rehearsals will take place the 2 previous weekends prior to the school show dates)

S1 Ready for Learning Trip – Highland Show – Friday 22nd June

DofE Silver Kayaking Expedition – Wednesday 27th to Friday 29th June

School Closes – Friday 29th June