



ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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June 2019

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Dear Parent/Carer

I'm delighted to bring you our final newsletter of the year. It has been another very full year, with many triumphs and challenges along the way. I have been very grateful to have such a supportive community when times have been tough this year and our staff have also pulled together to support the young people and one another in some very trying circumstances.

It is during these difficult times that we see what matters most, the relationships that bind us all together and make our school and island community so strong. I would like to extend my thanks to you all once again for your support this year.

We have a number of updates in relation to staffing. We have appointed teachers in Computing, Social Subjects, HE, RMPS and we have a probationer teacher in English next session. We still have vacancies in Music, Physics and Maths although we are grateful that Mr Dickie will be with us in Music at the start of next session for a period of time and we have an interim cover plan for senior school Physics and Maths.

I remain optimistic that we will be able to find the right staff for these positions, despite us being on our third round of advertising for the positions.

I look forward to seeing you all again in August 2019 and wish you a happy and restful summer.

Yours sincerely

Barry Smith

Head Teacher

National Champion

Huge congratulations from everyone at the school to L Urquhart Dixon on winning the CTT (Cycling Time Trials) National Junior Road Cycling TT Champs and the Road Cycling Hill climb at Cumbrae. His TT time was a very impressive 21mins 35s and his hill climb was 5min 17s.

He is a National Champion!

He finished 17th out of all 100 riders (including adults) in the TT and 4th overall in the hill climb. He has now qualified for the British Hill Climb Championships in which he'll be competing in Devon during October 2019.

This achievement is thoroughly well deserved, as he has exemplified being committed to improving every aspect of his cycling, as well as taking on all of the advice he has received from his coaches. He is a great example to all of what can be achieved when you put your mind to achieving a goal! We wish him very well for the British Championships in October.



Duke of Edinburgh Award – S3 Students

S3 students during the next Academic Year will have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme during their weekly outdoor learning class. Sessions so far have been an introduction to the Award Scheme and the sections involved to achieve the award. Registration forms have been handed to those interested. Please ensure that these forms are returned to the school office. We are also holding a parent information evening on Tuesday 3rd September in the school.

First Ministers Trophy

Golf Competition

4 students take part in the Arran High School First Minister's Trophy Golf Competition at Lamlash Golf Course.

K McNicol with the winning round.

He will receive the trophy at the Annual Awards Ceremony which will take place in August.



Netball



F McNicol was awarded most improved player at the Ayrshire Netball end of season awards.

Congratulations to F McNicol, S Clark and R McKelvie who took part in the Ayrshire netball trials at the Portal, Irvine on Saturday 15th June.

Ayrshire Athletics Medal winners

R Lindsay-Smith - Bronze Javelin
J McAllister - Gold Discus
L Gray - Bronze Discus
J Hamill - Silver Discus
M Godwin - Bronze 300m
T Gilmore - Bronze Discus
J Currie - Silver long jump
F McNicol - Silver Discus and Javelin
J Reid - Silver Shot Put and High Jump
L Bremner - Bronze triple jump and 200m
F MacArthur - Gold Discus
C Bonner - Silver 400m and Bronze Long Jump

Other Sporting News

Congratulations to J Reid and J McHugh who will be attending a Glasgow Thistles Rugby training camp in Perpignan France for two weeks from 30/7/19. A fantastic opportunity for these young players.

Congratulations to G Crichton who was awarded Players player of the year for Ardrossan U16s rugby.

Congratulations to D McNamara who represented Arran High School at the world schools orienteering championships in Estonia.

North Ayrshire Athletics Club

The school have built up a link with North Ayrshire Athletics club (NAAC) at St Matthews Academy. This allows pupils to further develop their performances with specialist coaches, and allows them an opportunity to compete more. For any parent wishing their pupil to join the club please contact J McGhee in the P.E department. Training is Tuesday and Thursday evenings - Pick up off of the 4.40pm boat and drop off at the 7.20pm boat.

North Ayrshire Sports Academy (NASA)

E Hamill and L Millar graduated from the North Ayrshire Sports Academy (NASA). E Hamill won a special achievement award at the event for her help within the community.



Arran High School supporting ending period poverty

North Ayrshire Council is leading the way in the fight against period poverty by becoming the first local authority in the UK to offer free sanitary provision. Since spearheading the initiative last August, young women have benefitted from over 13,000 free sanitary towels and tampons while at school.



This ground breaking initiative aims to address the growing issue of 'period poverty' which sees females across the country use unsuitable items, or nothing at all, to manage their period simply because they cannot afford the proper products.

Students in Arran High School are able to access a free supply of sanitary products.

Any student wishing to access these products to take home can do so by speaking with Mrs Macbeth or the school office.

S1/2 Ready for Learning Trip

On Friday 21st June, the top 10 students were rewarded for their efforts in taking part in this year's Ready for Learning scheme for S1 and S2 students. The group took part in a trip to the Royal Highland Show in Inverclyde.

The group had a fantastic day accompanied by Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Urquhart-Dixon and Mrs Bunting



BBC Sports Sound Scotland

On 11th June Over 50 Arran High School students were given the opportunity to take part in the BBC Sport Sound Football event at Arran High School. The students enjoyed a mix of coaching sessions and games with ex professional players, and an opportunity to attend the live recording of the BBC sports sound discussion and panel show in the evening at the high school.

The radio broadcast was pre-recorded at Arran High School and went out on the Saturday before the recent Scotland V Cyprus international football match, with students and members of the audience, allowed to pose questions to the panel of ex-players and sports journalists/broadcasters.

The students had a fabulous time during the football activity in the afternoon, with a number of them also attending the evening question and answer panel show recording.



Sports Day

We were very lucky this year with the weather



The Sports champions this year are:

Junior Boys - Ruairidh Lindsay Smith

Junior Girls - Beth McCarthy

Intermediate Boys- Alan Tweedly

Intermediate Girls- Julie Hamill

Senior Boys - James Reid

Senior Girls - Mia Walker

The following house points were issued for sporting achievements on the day -

Shuraig - 742

Rosa- 568

Sannox- 550

Iorsa- 434

Both staff male and staff ladies won the staff v pupil tug of war.



AHS Summer Concert

Music making in Arran High School came to a spectacular conclusion on Monday 24th June in the school theatre. Just over 150 performers from across most of the island schools performed under the footlights and amazed the community who came to watch the closing concert of the year. This was an incredible turnout from a potential combined school roll of around 500 young people.

Performers demonstrated excellence in all aspects of performance and this was supported by a backstage army of staff, students and professionals making the showcase slick and seamless.

The breadth and wealth of performing arts abilities are testimony to the investment of everyone in the arts on the island from schools themselves to the wider community.

Many thanks to all who attended and supported this event.



Tanzania

After many months of planning and fundraising a group of young people accompanied by Mr Donlin departed for an adventure in Tanzania.

Following their long journey and safe arrival, Day one was spent settling into their new surroundings.



All of the group also got to experience the worksite seeing the variety of work being done whilst they are there. After home building efforts a bit of dancing was a great way to end the day.



Another great day for the group on their Vine Trust expedition. The first half of the day was spent on the work sites with a visit to the Kalali orphanage during the second half of the day. On the way home from Kalali the group were treated to a fab view of Kilimanjaro.

As they now reach the end of the expedition the group have completed their home building work and have had their first day on Safari

An extremely well earned reward for the outstanding work the teams have done over the past 10 days.



We are now awaiting their safe arrival back to the UK with many tales of their Tanzanian adventure.

Statement from Mr Donlin from Tanzania:

During our two weeks in Tanzania we have had the opportunities not only to further our bonds with each other and learn about new cultures but also had the amazing experiences of meeting four families and being able to be part of helping to give them a better home and creating a solid foundation for their future.

This last two weeks was a building expedition where we helped the fundis (Swahili for builders) to lift bricks, fetch water, carry sand, mix cement etc. It seems like a simple contribution but it immensely sped up the building process. We had the opportunities to create four family homes which required us to pick, dig, and lay bricks and much more. There was much difficulty in seeing the family's old homes and the conditions they had to live in. Yet seeing the progress of the house, the hope it brought and their happiness was moving. The families helped on worksite - even in their bare feet! Their motivation and determination was empowering.

We had the opportunity to meet some of the most inspirational people. We visited TAWREF (an organisation who decide the location of homes we work upon). Everywhere we were warmly welcomed with songs and laughter. We also visited two children centres - shared many hugs, laughs and unforgettable memories (not to mention an amazing game of football). We also had the chance to meet the inspiration that is Dfrosa (director of TAWREF) at a ceilidh and had many amazing dances with her and her colleagues from TAWREF. At the end of the trip we left for our safari - the views and amazing wildlife added to the unforgettable experience of this trip.

The trip overall was mentally and physically challenging - and pushed us to our limits. Yet the bonds and connections we made with the families, communities and each other were life-changing. Yet there is no way to express this in words.

We cannot thank everyone enough for supporting us throughout our rewarding journey. We have all grown as people and gained a global perspective of the struggles of poverty. We have never appreciated a warm shower so much! We know the memories we made will stay with us for the rest of our lives and we are so grateful for this opportunity.



Prefects and School Captains

School Captains

Elyse Aitken
Eilidh Hamill

Vice Captains

Aiken Adam
Laurie Miller
Hannah McCartney

Senior Prefects

William Downing
Daisy Urquhart-Dixon
Robbie Milton
Ellie Wood

Dates for your Diary

Inservice Day	Friday 16 th August 2019
Pupils return	Monday 19 th August 2019
School Photographer in School	Tuesday 20 th August 2019
DofE Parent Evening	Tuesday 27 th August 2019
AHS Awards Ceremony	Wednesday 4 th September 2019
AHS Parent Council AGM	Tuesday 10 th September 2019 - 7pm – School Library
Inservice Days	Friday 20 th & Monday 23 rd September 2019
October Holidays	Monday 7 th October to Tuesday 22 nd October 2019
Inservice Day	Monday 21 st October 2019
S1 Parents Evening	Tuesday 26 th November 2019
Options Evening	Monday 9 th December
Christmas Holidays	Monday 23 rd December 2019 to Monday 6 th January 2020
S3 Parents Evening	Monday 13 th January 2020
Inservice Day	Monday 10 th February 2020
S2 Parents Evening	Thursday 20 th February 2020
S4-S6 Parents Evenings	Tuesday 25 th & Wednesday 26 th February 2020
Inservice Day	Friday 3 rd April 2020
Easter Holidays	Monday 6 th April to Monday 20 th April 2020
May Day	Friday 8 th May 2020
Inservice Day	Monday 25 th May 2020
Summer Holidays	Friday 26 th June 2020