



ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Autumn 2019

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to bring you our latest newsletter. As always there has been a great deal happening in the school and the number of opportunities available to the young people never fails to impress. Our extra-curricular programme of supported study, sports activities and music is looking really comprehensive again this year and I'm sure there is something for every young person to take part in, to support their Health and Wellbeing.

In October Mr Steve Evans retired from teaching after 40 years of service to the profession. Steve was been an integral part of PE and sport on the island for decades and we would all like to thank him for his contribution to the school and the island's young people over the years.

You will read below about the new staff we have in school this session and I am really pleased that we have been able to fill a number of posts, with the frustrating exceptions of English, Maths and Physics. I am grateful to all of our school staff who are filling in, as well as the supply staff cover that we have at the moment, including Mrs Pennycott in Maths who has been a huge help and Mr Dickie in Music who has committed to being with us until Easter.

I continue to work on your behalf and on behalf of the staff and students to try, with colleagues at North Ayrshire Council, to find a workable long-term solution for making the transition to Arran more straightforward for any prospective new staff member and remove as many barriers as possible.

As I write, we have a group of students in Ethiopia, taking part in the Great Ethiopian Run, which I am sure will be an incredible life experience for all involved. In addition, we recently announced an exciting challenge for S1-S3 students; cycling the full length of the Hebridean Way, 185 miles in 6 days, during June 2020.

We recently had a successful Quality Improvement Visit from Laura Cook, senior manager to the campus. This was the first of four visits and focussed upon school

attainment and achievement. As always staff and students were able to articulate the very good work which we do to support all learners to achieve to the highest possible standards and our school received very positive feedback, as well as identifying appropriate points for action. During our next visit in early December we will be conducting parent focus groups and I will be communicating with you shortly to seek your participation.

The final mention goes to our S6 students who organised the Halloween Disco this year. The evening was great fun for all involved and the time and effort our seniors expended to make the night a success was really wonderful. Next up are our Christmas dances and Christmas concert, which I'm sure will be equally memorable.

Barry R Smith

Head Teacher

New Staff

We are delighted to welcome to Arran High School a number of new members of staff who joined our school community in August.



Miss C Lockie
Teacher of RME



Mr C Barr
Teacher of Geography



Mrs J Christie
Nurture Techer



Mr J Beith
Teacher of Computing



Mrs K MacDonald
Teacher of Home Economics



Mr B Scott
Teacher of PE

Active Schools Co-ordinator



I have recently moved to the island to start my dream job of being an Active Schools Co-ordinator and where else better to work than Arran!

This is my first big job after completing my Honours degree in Sports Coaching and Development in May 2019 and I am enthusiastic to get started.

I've been working with Active Schools for 5 years and gained a wealth of experience working with both primary and secondary aged pupils.

I aim to provide a vast number of opportunities for individuals to get involved in sports before, during lunch time and afterschool as well as voluntary opportunities to help improve their coaching skills. The overall aim is to help young people on the island to become more active more often and get involved in the world of sport.

I play a variety of sports and am keen to join clubs that are offered within the community.

Ayrshire Cross Country

Congratulations to all the students who represented Arran High School at the annual Ayrshire cross country championships. The event was held at Ayrshire athletics arena in Kilmarnock. A fantastic performance by all students, with a few top ten finishes. Excellent work.



Halloween Party

Yet again we have held a very successful Halloween Party for all the young people of Arran High School. Spooky Fun was enjoyed by all



Wellbeing Centre

The Wellbeing Centre at Arran High School is now open for business! The lunchtime clubs are underway and the programme is as follows:

Monday – Spanish

Tuesday & Thursday – Arts & Crafts

Wednesday & Friday – Games

Some of the students at the lunchtime clubs will also be involved in volunteering and are working towards their Saltire Award.

The S1-S3 'Skills for Success' group has also started and the aim of this group is to improve skills for lifelong learning and achievement. There is also a focus on the Education Scotland Curriculum of Excellence objectives of creating 'confident individuals' and 'effective contributors'; students in the group will be involved in volunteering and are also working towards achieving Saltire Awards.

Look out for our stall at Santa Sparkle- lots of great gifts and decorations for Christmas! Furthermore, all of our proceeds will be going to charity.

Hope to see you there!



Volunteering at McKelvie Sheltered Housing

A huge thanks to N Bino, C Smith, C Fraser, K Haddow and J Totty for making Halloween decorations which were used to decorate the room at McKelvie Sheltered Housing's Halloween Party.

The party (organised by Arran Volunteering Services) was a huge success, thanks to L Thomson and A Lockhart ; excellent paint facing skills as well as A McGarrie, R Fox and K Rodgers who organised party games for the residents and nursery pupils (who were also invited along).



Halloween Cakes

The National 5 Home Economics students have been busy creating Halloween Cakes for their National 5 assessments.

Some examples can be seen below:



Geography Field Trips

Our senior geography pupils have been busy getting out and about collecting data for their Assignments.

The National 5 pupils had a day trip to Glasgow to compare two areas within an urban centre. Whereas, our Higher and Advanced Higher pupils opted to conduct river studies of Glen Rosa and Catacol.

Some of our Advanced Higher pupils also managed to visit Machrie and Sannox beaches to investigate the differences between sandy and shingle coastal environments.

All trips were hugely successful with all pupils gathering plenty of data to work with back in the classroom.



Home Economics

Mrs Urquhart-Dixon is still collecting Contact Lens Blister Packs and Crisp Packets as part of the ECO School Project. Further information can be found at Terracycle.co.uk. These items can be dropped off at the school office.

She would also like to thank parents and carers for their help with fruit and vegetable donations since August. It has been very much appreciated.

S1 Countryside Career Event, Valentins Educational Farm, Dumfries House

Dumfries House, part of the Prince's Foundation and the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) Ayrshire and Arran, joined together to create the opportunity for secondary schools to visit Dumfries House Educational Farm to learn more about the variety of careers in the countryside. A number of Dumfries House staff and RHET volunteers were involved on the day, and Quality Meat Scotland also provided educational activities.

Students increased their understanding of the countryside and were provided with information on jobs/careers and work experience opportunities in agriculture and the rural industries. Our pupils had the opportunity to speak to a number of agencies, employers and training organisation throughout the day including ...

Beef & sheep Poultry Vet Dairy
British Horse Society FARRIERY QMS Moredun
Dairy engineering PIGS HORTICULTURE SAC
SRUC Agricultural engineering LANTRA
AUCTIONEERING FORESTRY JOB FARM
ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURAL SALES PROCESSING

The pupils had a great time learning about a wide variety of career opportunities, we were congratulated on having such a well behaved group who engaged well with all contributors to the event.



Pupils learning about opportunities with the forestry industry.

The artificial insemination stall raised a few eyebrows and not just the fake cows!!



Still Game, Still Coffee Café

As part of our Wider Achievement on a Friday afternoon some S5/S6 students are involved in launching a café to the wider community.

The café launch took place on Friday 1st November and was open to the wider community from Friday 8th November.

They will be serving hot drinks and cake at very reasonable prices and service with a smile ☺

The opening times are 2.30pm to 3.30pm every Friday.

All profits from the café will be donated to ARCAS.

School excursions

Our programme of school excursions is in full swing already this term and we would like to take this opportunity to explain the process to you.

Once agreement for the trip to go ahead has been granted, the students going on the trip are identified and letters with a tear off slip are issued.

At the start of the school year we send out 'blanket' consent forms where we ask you to confirm your child's health information, emergency contact information and what permissions you are giving for your child. The use of this consent form means you do not need to complete such a long form each time your child is going on a school trip. However we do need this form from every student at the start of the year and if you change your mobile number, or any health information etc changes, the school office needs to be notified immediately to ensure we have the correct emergency details for you/your child.

Once your child has returned their tear off slip to the office; ferry tickets are issued, risk assessments completed and staff allocated depending on the numbers going, location of trip and age of students.

At the ferry terminal staff take attendance and head upstairs together. On occasion we can be waiting for students who do not turn up if the school has not been notified that they are not coming. This can mean our staff and students are held up waiting in the ferry terminal. If ferry tickets are already paid for by the school, then cost cannot be recouped.

In addition, when sending staff out of the school we need to pay for supply staff to cover their classes or ask other teachers to do so. Where it may seem at home that one not going may not make a difference, it can do so if we do not know either on advance or on the day.

In order to help our trips go as smoothly as possible can we ask everyone to:

- return forms as soon as you get them
- ensure your child's details are correct and updated
- let the school know if your child is pulling out of a trip for any reason
- volunteer to help with a trip if you have the time. If you would be willing to do so, then please let us know.

Admin Reminders

- Please ensure that you phone the school office if your child is going to be absent from school, ideally before 9.15am on the day of the absence.
- Please could you activate your Parent Pay account if you have not already done so, as North Ayrshire Council Policy states that we are no longer able to accept cash payments.
If you need more information regarding this, please contact the school office.
- Please return any outstanding Annual Data forms and consent forms that you should have received via post at the end of August if you have not already done so.
- We have a large amount of lost property every term and the majority of this ends up going to either the Rag Bag or ARCAS. Please could you ensure that items of clothing or personal items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Dates for your Diary

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| S1 Parents Evening | Tuesday 26 th November 2019 7pm-9pm |
| Options Evening | Monday 9 th December 2019 7pm-9pm |
| Christmas Concert | Thursday 12 th December 2019 7pm |
| S1-S3 Christmas Party | Monday 16 th December 2019 7pm-9.30pm |
| S4-S6 Christmas Party | Wednesday 18 th December 2019 7pm-10pm |
| Christmas Holidays | Monday 23 rd December 2019 to Monday 6 th January 2020 |
| S3 Parents Evening | Monday 13 th January 2020 |
| SQA Prelims | Monday 27 th January to Friday 7 th February 2020 |
| In-service 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 |
| In-service Day | Friday 3 rd April 2020 |
| Easter Holidays | Monday 6 th April to Monday 20 th April 2020 |
| SQA Study Leave | Monday 27 th April to Friday 29 th May |
| Public Holiday | Monday 4 th May 2020 – School Closed |
| Public Holiday | Friday 8 th May 2020 – School Closed |
| In-service Day | Monday 25 th May 2020 |
| Summer Holidays | Friday 26 th June 2020 – School Closes |