

15th January 2021



Arran High School

NOTE FROM MRS FOSTER

Well, that's one week of home schooling completed! As I said in my previous letter, I appreciate that this is not straightforward and there were the inevitable teething problems as the whole of Scotland's school population attempted to log-on on Monday morning. We are learning from this experience too and adapting our strategies to ensure that our pupils are able to engage and move on with their learning. Our IT technician, Martin Gallacher, is on hand for drop in surgeries if devices do not seem to be cooperating, so please use this service if you have queries or concerns. I have to say that I am very pleased with the high level of engagement this week. Faculty leaders have also commented on how well our young people are coping so far. The building is closed to pupils until Monday 1st of February, but it may be longer so it is important that everyone keeps up this excellent effort. This is especially the case for senior phase pupils. Mrs Bunting is in direct communication with the SQA; at this time of writing there is no further information to give you but as soon as we know we will pass it on. However, it is important to remember that health and well-being is as important as academic progress. I can tell you from experience that sitting in front of a screen is extremely tiring; it is necessary to move about and take a break. Luckily my new puppy is ensuring that I do just that. In the last lockdown the weather was lovely and it was easy to get outdoors. More effort and more layers are definitely needed this time around! In addition to the IT drop ins, there are a range of other opportunities to speak to appropriate staff. We did provide a timetable at the start of the week but it has been repeated here later on in the newsletter. SDS (Skills Education Scotland) will also be available in the coming days to speak to parents or pupils about career choices, options etc. and I will keep you posted on times for this once it has been finalised. Our door is always open virtually, and we are all very keen to speak to you. I hope everyone has a well-deserved relaxing and safe weekend.

NOTE FROM MRS DICK

Below is a link to a survey we would really appreciate you taking the time to complete. It has been an interesting time for all of us including our staff. As I'm sure you are aware, we have all been working hard to learn overnight how to deliver teaching and learning remotely and using IT that is new to us all. At the end of this first week we would like feedback for the next week as we are continually looking to see what is working and what is not, so we can enhance what we are doing within our capabilities. One thing we can't do is fix national IT issues with Teams or Vscene, however much we might like to but there will be things we can do so, working together, we want to offer the best we possibly can. A similar survey has been sent to students via Teams and the results and feedback will be posted in the next newsletter.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVOTctawUZKRkaHYvxFO5EggAZuYgZ9fxURFowS1IYR0EySTAxRVhBsk4wNFdCMldWMy4u>

New Staff

Welcome to Mr Wilson who is joining Arran High School to cover for Mrs Hogge as Acting Faculty Leader of Mathematics & Numeracy, whilst she is on Maternity Leave.



"I feel excited to be given the opportunity of joining Arran High because I know what a dynamic school it is, within a great community. I look forward to working with staff, meeting parents and importantly helping our pupils succeed . . . and dare I say, helping pupils to enjoy Maths too! Stay Safe"

NOTE FROM MRS BUNTING

I hope you all had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Things have progressed and changed so quickly, the holidays already seem a long time ago. With learning moving online, not just for one week as was originally indicated by the Scottish Government, but for the foreseeable future, it is important that pupils know which platform their work is posted under.

To clarify:

All platforms are accessible through logging in to **Glow**. This is your young person's first port of call.

After that subject material is on one of the following two platforms:

Google Classrooms:

English, French, Social Subjects & MI, Science, HE and Technical

Teams:

Maths, Art, Music, PE, PSE

Live lessons and drop-ins are hosted on **VScene**, links for which will be posted in Google Classrooms and/or Teams. Pupils do not need to 'join' Vscene or create an account; clicking on the classroom link will take them into the lesson.

Downloading the Microsoft Teams App onto a phone is a handy way of being alerted to any messages posted. If they are in a Team, to which a message has been posted, they will automatically be 'pinged' to alert them.

All work will be posted on **Show My Homework** (Satchel One) so that parents are aware of the work set.

The **Notes** application on phones can also be used as a Scanner which will allow pupils to submit work more easily.

Do you have an **Xbox** and/or **PlayStation**? This might be a useful way of accessing online learning if multiple children are using a single device:

For the **Xbox**:

1. Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot.
2. Go to my games and apps.
3. Find and select Microsoft Edge.
4. Navigate to your online learning platform.

For the **PlayStation**:

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (WWW with dots around it).
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller.
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications.
4. Go to applications and you will find the internet browser.
5. Navigate to your online learning platform and log in as usual.

IT Support

Martin Gallacher, our IT Technician, is running IT support sessions each week and will try to help solve any issues that your young person may be having.

The next session will be this coming Tuesday through Vscene using the following link:

<https://app.vscene.net/r/61a8URVVLL>

We are aware that Microsoft Teams and VScene have been struggling with the volume of usage this week; this is out of our control and we have been advised that they are working hard to rectify this.

Hopefully next week will see some improvement.

Update from SQA

The SQA are continuing to look at the requirements and measures to put in place for qualifications this academic session.

The present lockdown has resulted in us postponing the proposed Prelims until March.

To this end, and because we do not know when pupils will be returning to school, the priority at the moment is to continue with Teaching & Learning rather than assessment and revision.

We would encourage our senior pupils to continue to revise prior work and sample past papers during this time.

The following information for parents and carers was posted on the SQA website on Wednesday:

Update on National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses 2020-21

Wednesday 13 January 2021

On Monday 4 January, the First Minister announced that, as part of a national lockdown, schools across Scotland will operate on a remote learning basis until at least the beginning of February.

Following this announcement, the National Qualifications 2021 Group has met to consider the impact this will have on schools delivering National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses under the alternative certification model.

The National Qualifications Group is working through a range of scenarios and is considering any potential flexibilities, should they be needed, for the alternative certification model that will be used to award your child's courses this year. This may include extending the date for when schools and colleges send provisional results to SQA.

Learning and teaching

The priority for schools and colleges during January should be to maximise your child's learning and teaching time. Given the move to remote learning, assessment of your child's evidence cannot be undertaken unless they have been taught the foundations of their course. This will impact on the timing of assessment, which can take place later in the session.

Keeping you updated

Schools and colleges will receive regular updates on any newly published guidance and assessment resources which will support your child's teacher or lecturer to gather evidence, consistently apply the national standard and make accurate assessment judgements.

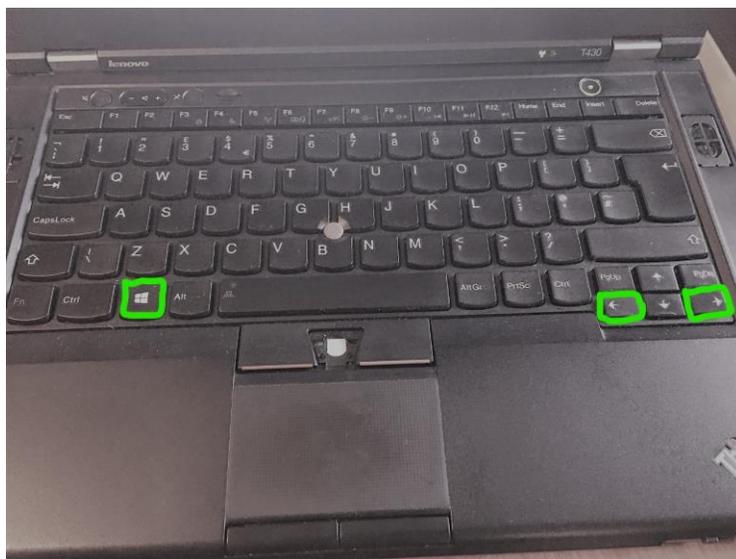
The National Qualifications 2021 Group is continuing to work through the details of the 2021 alternative certification model, including appropriate contingencies, and will provide further information as soon as possible.

Useful IT Tips!!!

Pupils with Chromebooks, if they click ALT and the | button at the same time, it will allow them to split their screens into 2 tabs with no extension needed. So they can meet and look at their work at the same time.



This also works on windows computers if you use the windows icon key on the bottom row (4 squares) and the left or right arrow keys



For 'live' sessions, when using Vscene on laptops, it is best to use Google Chrome as your web browser.

Firefox might work but not as good as Google Chrome. It doesn't work well with IE (Internet explorer) nor Safari on Apple device.

If using a Smartphone or Apple devices, please download the Vscene App onto the device. Note that with the Vscene App, the pupil will not be able to 'chat' (or type in the 'chat' box) with the teacher, so there is limitation using the App.

Literacy Across the Curriculum

As the current United States President is impeached for an historic second time, it is perhaps fitting to remember the words of his predecessor Barack Obama that “reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible.”

During lockdown, let's remember the importance of reading - for pleasure, relaxation, together time and to make sure we are all continuing to become better learners.

Reading for fifteen or twenty minutes a day, at the right level, will accelerate all pupils' learning, in all subjects where reading is key. Please continue with this whole school focus when studying at home.

All pupils in S1 - S3 have their own bespoke reading targets for this term. Pupils should know these, but they can be accessed through the school's Accelerated Reader portal (links below and on the school website and on the Junior Phase English website). Remember to do a quiz after you've finished each book!

S1 to S3 - Need Help Finding a Book?



Did you know that we have recommended reading lists for all CfE Levels on the Junior Phase English website?

Take a look at the amazing books we recommend. We even tell you how long it should take for you to read them, so that you can plan your time.

All the books in the recommended reading lists are also available to borrow for free, in your own home, as eBooks! All you need is your library card! Easy, hassle-free book selection.

<https://sites.google.com/view/junior-phase-english/choosing-a-book>

Borrow eBooks from home!



Borrow, download
and enjoy here

Your library in one app.

Did you know that you can borrow eBooks at home from your local library? All you need is your library card! You can pick up to 4 books to borrow at one time and download them to your device.

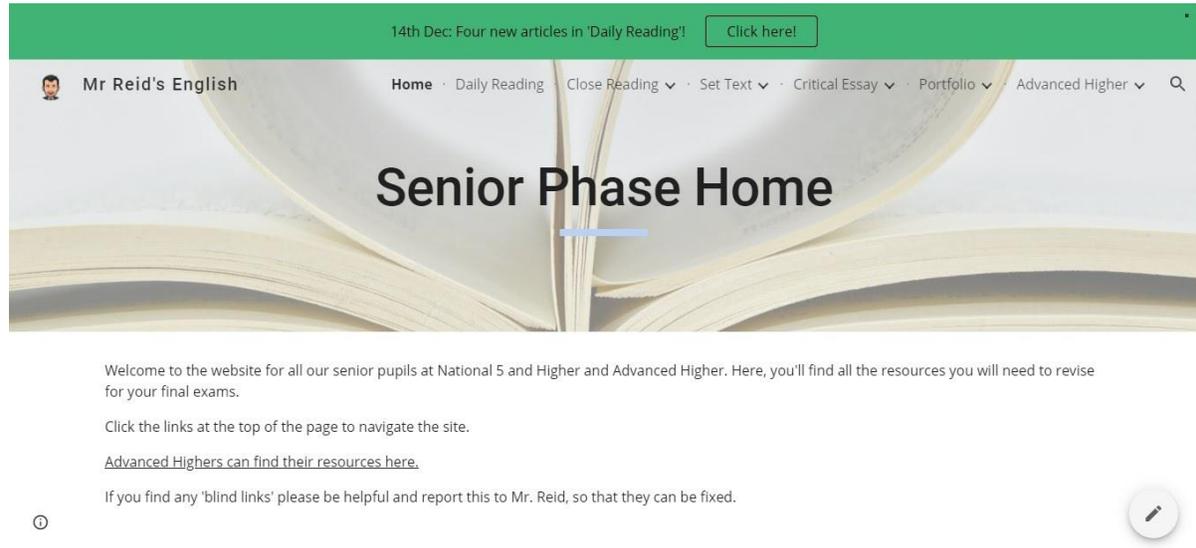
North Ayrshire Library link: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/read-online.aspx>

Senior Phase English

Did you know that we have a Senior Phase English website? This is fully populated and has all the resources needed for success at Nat 5, Higher and Advanced Higher English.

We also have a Daily Reading page, packed full of articles from across the curriculum.

Please take a look! <https://sites.google.com/view/mr-reids-english/home>



Skills Development Scotland

The SDS Careers Adviser will be continuing to hold interviews with pupils either by phone or video call.

We now have a temporary adviser Jade Sim (jade.sim@sds.co.uk)

If students or parents want to contact her she will be happy to help in any way she can.

If students would like to make an appointment, please let Mrs Macbeth know and arrangements will be made.



News from PE

Happy New Year Team, I hope that you are all well and keeping safe and active.

We are all aware of the importance of Physical exercise and positive mental health! Let us use our P.E time wisely during this lockdown. The P.E department would encourage pupils to join us on our very own strava page (Please see information below of how to join).

Miss McGhee and Mr Scott will use this as a way of tracking pupil activity, and registering pupils as taking part in the 'virtual P.E lesson' (If pupils do not wish to join strava, an activity sign-up sheet will be posted on teams to tell us what you have been doing) You can also make sure that the P.E staff have been taking part and keeping active too!

It does not always have to be the allocated P.E time that you exercise, but we recommend at least 60 minutes per day.

We have included the Joe Wicks link as an idea of what you can do in those 60minutes, we will continue to update you with different options each week.

 The image shows the logo for 'JOE WICKS THE BODY COACH WORKOUT' on the left, featuring the name in bold letters and a smaller tagline below. To the right is a photograph of Joe Wicks, a man with curly hair wearing a grey t-shirt and dark shorts, standing with his hands on his hips.	<p>Mon, Wednesday & Friday – Live at 9am – Workout!</p> <p>Once pupils complete the workout, log it on the TEAMS activity tracking sheet for PE!</p> <p>Here is the link to the live workouts: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ</p>
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Strava Winter Challenge 2021

Can you complete over 80km??? Start date 11/1/21- 29/1/21

Cyclist should half their km so a 10km cycle = 5km travelled. This will make things more even with our runners / walkers and paddlers. Home workouts = 3km every 30minutes of activity. Every activity gets 10 house points for your house. #Sannox #Iorsa #Rosa #Shuraig 50 additional house points if you log the most distance over the lockdown.

Create your own twitter account and follow @Arranhighpe and screen shot your completed challenge? Screenshot your total distance covered in the dates shown and post to the above twitter page' Prizes allocated when we come back to school to the top 10 individuals gathering the most distance and house points will be allocated for everyone else completing the initial challenge! Challenges can be completed in your P.E lesson times and beyond. Go team!!!!

Not already part of strava....no problem.... please see below

The school and PE department in conjunction with the parent council who have kindly agreed to host the club on our behalf have established an 'Arran High School 'Parent Council Strava Club' – this is a great online way of tracking activity. This application is used to track walking, running, cycling etc. You can access and download the app to your phone or smart watch. If you do not have apps and smart watches do not to worry the link to webpage is here and you can also upload manually anything you do after you create your profile. The app tracks where you have completed activity and allows the other members of the club to see those particular routes that have been used. The main registration process and further information is available on the main Strava website here: <https://www.strava.com/> The club is a private club. To join the club simply type in the following link once you have set up your individual profile <https://www.strava.com/clubs/arranhighparentcouncil> From here you click 'join'. This will then be approved by the P.E department.

Wellbeing Centre

In December the Skills for Success Group proved that they played an active role in the community by organising Christmas gifts to be given to each of the residents at the McKelvie Rd sheltered housing.

The Group used their communication and organisational skills to reach out to local businesses for donations of gifts. A massive thank you to Arran Aromatics, Driftwood, Janelle's and Arran Dairies for their contributions.

Enclosed with the gift was a handmade card and specially selected festive poem. The gifts were then delivered in time for Christmas. Well done each member of the group who worked well together to raise the spirits of those in our community who are isolated as a result of Covid 19.



Mrs Gregg and Mrs Gaw would like to remind everyone that pupils can still access the Wellbeing Centre from home during this period of remote learning.

The Skills for Success Group will run virtually at the new time of **Tuesday morning from 11am to 11.45am** using the following link... <https://app.vscene.net/r/JrWwRkaakQ>

Pupils from last term are invited to attend this, as are those who would normally attend the lunchtime drop in sessions.

If you would like to be added to this group, please email Mrs Gaw at gw20gawpamela@glow.sch.uk

Drop-In Sessions during Lockdown

We are holding a number of drop in sessions as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Virtual Nurture (primary). 9.30- 10am. By invite. Hosted by: Mrs Gaw				SLT staff drop in. 9.30-10am. Hosted by: Mrs Foster
Virtual Group Chat with the school nurse. 10-10.45am Hosted by: Ann Reid	ICT help drop in (anyone). 10-11am. Hosted by: Martin Gallagher, IT	Walking group in Whiting Bay (only for previous members). 10.30am. Hosted by: Mrs Macbeth and Mrs Dick	ICT help drop in (anyone). 10-11am. Hosted by: Martin Gallagher, IT	Street wisdom mindfulness walks. 10am-10.30. Hosted by Mrs Dick. Questions set on a Monday on Teams.
Breaktime drop in on Vscene 10.50-11.05. Hosted by: Mrs Gaw	Breaktime drop in on Vscene 10.50-11.05. Hosted by: Mrs Dick	Breaktime drop in on Vscene 10.50-11.05. Hosted by: Mrs Bunting	Breaktime drop in on Vscene 10.50-11.05. Hosted by: Mrs Macbeth	Breaktime drop in on Vscene 10.50-11.05 hosted by: Colin McDermott
	Virtual Skills for Success (secondary). 11-11.45am By Invite. Hosted by: Mrs Gaw		Vscene Group Chat with the counsellor 11.15-12pm. Hosted by: Beth Moon.	Virtual Personalised Support drop in (students). 11.15-12pm. Hosted by: Mrs Macbeth.
ADHD Support Group (parents) 1 – 1.30pm Hosted by Mrs Dick.	Pastoral Drop in (Primary and EYC) 1-1.30pm. Hosted by: Mrs Dick and Miss Gardiner.		Early Years Drop in 1-1.30pm Hosted by: Mrs MacFarlane	
	SLT drop in (anyone). 3-4pm. Hosted by: Mrs Foster	Autism ASD Group (Parents) 3-4pm. Hosted by: Mrs Bunting	Pastoral support drop in (parents). 2-3pm Hosted by: Mrs Macbeth	Inclusion support group (parents). 2-3pm Hosted by: Colin McDermott

More information about these drop-in sessions can be obtained by contacting the school

School Nurse Appointments

Confidential 1:1 sessions to discuss any health concerns can be arranged with Ann on a day and time to suit if you email her on ann.reid@aapct.scot.nhs.uk . An online appointment can be arranged by Ann via the NHS Attend Anywhere platform.



Ann will send you a link to join your personal session.' They are in addition to the group chat offered on a Monday via Vscene <https://app.vscene.net/r/cHtfKih3Fe>

Useful Information & Links



Are you a North Ayrshire resident, a parent and currently in employment but on a low income?

CEIS Ayrshire can support you if you are;

Lone Parents	Parent with a Disability	Parent with 3 + Children
Parent from Ethnic Minority Background	Parent with youngest child under 1	Parents under 25

We can support you with;

- Career Progression — Support to help you improve your skills
- Support with current barriers or issues being faced to sustain employment
- Explore other employment opportunities
- Advice and support with any financial issues
- Discussions with you and your employer around ambitions and career plans

If you are interested please contact our advisor Jacqueline on jacqueline.stevens-gray@ceisayrshire.co.uk or 07960 145419

26 Eglinton Street
Irvine
KA12 8AS
01294 322707

1 Main Street
Stevenston
KA20 3AB
01294 607002



CEIS Ayrshire



@ceisayrshire



@CEISAyrshire

Interesting events coming up including Michael Palin and Stephen Venables (Antarctic explorer):
[All Events | The Royal Scottish Geographical Society \(rsgs.org\)](#)

The Royal Conservatoire at Home series including a master class by Nicky Spence the opera singer:
[RCS at Home - Royal Conservatoire of Scotland](#)

One of Mrs Dick's friends was also British life photographer of the year and is a farmer in the Lake District. This link takes you to an online tour of her photography.
<https://www.facebook.com/WilkinsonCameras/videos/650504972488268> (It starts about 5 minutes in)

A bit of a mix, and not all or even most about medicine. One in particular that is an excellent listen and advice on How to Handle Difficult Conversations. When there is conflict between you and another, how should or could you handle it?

[Medical Education Resource | WEM Academy](#)

Autism Spectrum Disorder master class for parents. These podcasts take you through the world of autism and what to look out for and strategies for supporting those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
[Autism Masterclass for Parents | Podcast Series \(clinical-partners.co.uk\)](#)

Glasgow School of Art - they have published a number of guides on how to draw. One is available here:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjrotGzs5vuAhURi1wKHTPPABAQFjACegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gsa.ac.uk%2Fmedia%2F956631%2Fguide-to-drawing.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3y_w03KbQyMhGq4eWq6lRX

Help for reading and writing. This guide may help how to use an iPad really effectively for reading and writing support:

[IPad Short Video Guides to Support Reading and Writing \(callscotland.org.uk\)](http://callscotland.org.uk)

Christmas Quiz Answers

As promised here are the answers to our Christmas Quiz which was on our last newsletter

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree? **(Germany)**
2. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*? **(4)**
3. In *Home Alone*, where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind? **(Paris)**
4. Which country did eggnog originate? **(Britain)**
5. How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song? **(364)**
6. What year did Mariah Carey's 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' come out? **(1994)**
7. In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters? **(The Polar Express)**
8. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner? **(Japan)**
9. In the movie *Love Actually*, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'? **(Billy Mack)**
10. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'? **(3)**
11. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding? **(Silver Coins)**
12. Which city has been donating Trafalgar Square's Christmas tree to London every year since 1947? **(Oslo)**
13. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign? **(Capricorn)**
14. What is the best-selling Christmas single of all time? **(White Christmas)**
15. UK sitcom *Gavin and Stacey* returned to TV for a Christmas special in 2019. How many years has it been off-air before the reunion? **(nearly 10 years)**
16. In the episode of *Friends* 'The One with the Holiday Armadillo', who dresses up as an armadillo? **(Ross)**
17. In *Mean Girls*, which Christmas song do the plastics get up on stage to perform? **(Jingle Bell Rock)**
18. What time is the Queen's speech traditionally broadcast on Christmas Day? **(3pm)**
19. What colour are mistletoe berries? **(White)**
20. In *Home Alone 2*, who does Kevin run into in the hotel lobby? **(Donald Trump)**
21. What colour suit did Santa wear until Coca Cola rebranded him in red? **(Blue)**
22. What decoration do elves traditionally have on their shoes? **(Bells)**
23. *Miracle On 34th Street* centres on what real-life department store? **(Macy's)**
24. Which Christmassy song plays at the end of the 1988 film *Die Hard*? **(Let it snow)**
25. What is the opening line to Shakin' Stevens' 'Merry Christmas Everyone'? **(Snow is Fallin')**

Burns Night - 25th January

A Burns supper is a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns 25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796), the author of many Scots poems.

The suppers are normally held on or near the poet's birthday, 25 January, known as Robert Burns Day (or Rabbie Burns Day) but more commonly known as Burns Night.

Haggis is traditionally eaten on this day and served with mashed potatoes (tatties) and mashed swede (neeps).

Here is a wee word search to try about Robert Burns:

Robert Burns (1759-1796)

R C E J A X R T A N O S I B S B E F N S
H O B S M E O E G O N W I A N U G O I Z
S M M I O A F L M R L A W R R R A F V X
L G M A M R Q O U R U Z C D U N C D H N
S H N O N K D B N L A E C O B S M S P F
C C U O C T T E D D L F T F E N Z A B B
U S O U S R I L R E K S P A I I M U G E
E B V T E K A C B D I I V Y B G Y T Q A
Z T M B T N L R M C E P S R B H Z O M H
Z D O N G I A O I O O R A S A T I A C A
Q R T S P T S R F Y V J A H R E X L V H
Q Q Y V E K Y H N A M E S I C X E O Z W
T N I D N L P O E T B N M R H A Y U R O
E S R E P P U S S N R U B E R Q A S X T
T A M O S H A N T E R R G M N S N E Z I
I J J H N U S C O T L A N D T T A J T U
Y A W O L L A E Q U N U P O U Z M D R K
Z B O H X Q V Q X X R M C G D D G R F B
I Q W S A X H A N L D S K P L H O Q D M
T Z H O W Q R W W F G H M Y R Q H X L X

AE FOND KISS
A RED RED ROSE
BARD OF AYRSHIRE
BURNS SUPPERS
EXCISE MAN
FOLK SONGS
LYRICIST
RABBIE BURNS
ROMANTIC MOVEMENT
SCOTS
TAM O SHANTER
TO A MOUSE

ALLOWAY
AULD LANG SYNE
BURNS NIGHT
CELEBRATED
FARMER
HOGMANAY
POET
ROBERT BURNS
SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH
TO A LOUSE
WHA HAE

