

26th February 2021



Arran High School

NOTE FROM MRS FOSTER

I think spring is definitely here – it's been such a lovely couple of days. It coincides with the return to school of some of our senior pupils, and I have to say that a wee bit of bustle has been great.

There was great concentration in the technical workshop and the machines were all on, contrasting with the serene creativity of the art room upstairs. The sound of the instruments in music also found its way to my office today, so that's the tunes stuck in my head for the next wee while!

Some of the seniors were telling me that it's weird being in the building when it's so quiet – I agree! I'm hopeful that we will soon hear details about the return of the rest of our young people. Mrs Bunting will give an update of what we know so far about SQA later in the newsletter.

Engagement has been slipping a bit in the last couple of weeks. I would encourage everyone to keep going (both weary students and even more weary parents!). Class teachers are using a variety of strategies to ensure that home learning progresses as smoothly as possible. If any of these are too much of a challenge, let them know and keep in contact. Well done to everyone who is hanging on in there - I have explored some of the things that are going on in lessons and it's great to see the effort that the vast majority are making.

I'll finish in the usual way by repeating that I'm missing everyone very much, both staff and pupils. Please do remember that I am in school if you want to contact me and I have a weekly drop-in on a Tuesday afternoon.

Have a lovely and safe weekend.

NOTE FROM MRS DICK

Just a short note from me this week to extend my thanks to everyone involved in sorting the covid tests and distribution round the island. It truly was a collective effort from Mrs Duff in the office sorting the labelling and tracking system, to all of you for so quickly ensuring the consents were returned and to the students for turning out to collect in often the most horrendous weather.

One particular vote of thanks must go to our wonderful school nurse, Ann Reid, who took the time to come round the island with me to help sign out the tests and answer any questions and concerns. It was going above and beyond and we were grateful for her assistance.

A second vote of thanks to the Lochranza Centre for helping us out by providing shelter and an offer of hospitality during gale force winds - much appreciated.

If your child didn't collect their tests from their village drop off they can collect them from the school office. As before, only they can collect and sign for their tests, not anyone on their behalf.



NOTE FROM MRS BUNTING

I hope you and your family are all keeping safe and well.

This week saw the very welcome return to school for some of our Senior Phase pupils who are undertaking Practical Subjects. At present this does not include PE due to the social distancing requirements and the Level 4 restrictions that physical activity has to be outdoors. Hopefully the announcement expected next Tuesday may allow us to include this in the next three-week block.

Pupils are expected to be in school for the whole day as sessions are being run as practical 'masterclasses'. Pupils should be accessing their normal school transport to and from school.

If pupils are finished before the end of the school day, or their session starts later in the day (HE on Thursdays) there is a separate Senior Phase hub where students can use laptops and work on other subjects. Whilst in school, pupils must adhere to all the guidelines regarding social distancing.

Attendance of these sessions are mandatory and have been well attended so far. As we can only have 19 pupils (8% of the school roll) in at a time, non-attendance prevents a space being used by another pupil so I would urge you to ensure your son or daughter takes up this opportunity.

Next Tuesday, the first Minister is due to make a further announcement to the Scottish Parliament about the next stage of schools returning to face-to-face learning. I will be in touch with more details about how this affects us at Arran High as soon as I am able.

In the interim, I hope you all have an opportunity to take advantage of the improvement in the weather.

Spring is just around the corner



Live Lesson Schedule

The Live Lesson schedule is now emailed to all parents on a Friday (or over the weekend) giving information about all the live online lessons taking place during the following week.

We hope that you are finding this a useful piece of information and helping you and your child to know when they should be online with their teachers.

The schedule is also put on your child's year group Team Tile in Microsoft TEAMS.

2021 Teaching Awards

The 2021 Teaching Awards are now open until 12th March and there are 15 categories to nominate in, including teaching assistant of the year, making a difference, new teacher of the year and Thank a Teacher nomination.

If you know of any staff member who goes above and beyond, please consider nominating them.

https://www.teachingawards.com/?dm_i=LQE%2C79AOK%2CPY8UL%2CTFN57%2C1



LGBT History Month Design Competition!

If you're getting a bit bored at home, we have a new challenge for you!

For LGBT History month, we need a visual representation to celebrate their history and to show our support of all LGBT individuals. This task is up to you!

We are holding a design a Banner and flag competition!

The winning designs from S1-3 and the winning designs from S4-6 will be made into proper banners and flags that will be put up in the school for the future LGBT months to come. The design you create can be digital (like on Word or Publisher) or hand drawn on a sheet of paper. Anything you can design on, we will look at!

Your design must include:

For a Banner:

- It must not be offensive.
- The font must be easily readable.
- It must have a colour theme of at least 1 LGBT pride flag (this could be a rainbow theme).
- It needs an inspirational LGBT slogan or quote from a famous LGBT person/activist.
- It needs LGBT imagery (this could be showing an LGBT person, or an LGBT symbol).

For A Flag:

- It must not be offensive.
- It must have a colour theme of at least 1 LGBT pride flag (this could be a rainbow theme).
- It must have the school logo on it somewhere.

Not only will the winners from each age group get their design professionally printed, but they will receive A £10 AMAZON VOUCHER.

To send us a submission, please email us your word document/a photo/scan of your design to arran@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk or hand it in at the foyer at school!

The deadline for submission is THE 9TH OF MARCH 2021.

We look forward to seeing your designs!

Yours Sincerely,
The Peer Mentor Group



Literacy across the curriculum

“Books are a uniquely portable magic” - Stephen King



ENTER OUR WORLD BOOK DAY (MONTH) “SHOW YOUR SHARES” COMPETITION!

£110 prize every week!

March is World Book Day (month)! This month we have competitions for sharing your love of reading. EVERY WEEK during World Book Day month (four in total), we'll award prizes for the best story shares with a different theme each week. The best 'story share' each week from Arran High School will be awarded a £10 book token! In addition, we'll enter it to the World Book Day national competition, where a further £100 could be won!

There are two categories: The 'Individual Share' and 'The Family or Group Share'

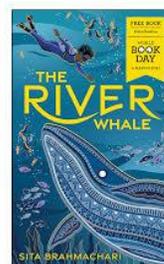
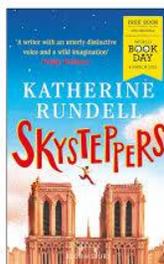
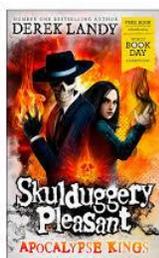
A story share could be: reading at home with your family, reading in your favourite nook, reading in an unusual location, sharing a story with your pet, reading a book dressed as your favourite character, and more! Send your photo of a story share to Mr Reid: gw09reidmatthew4@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk (in doing so, you are giving permission for the photo to be used in Arran High School and World Book Day publications).

Bringing Books to Life – this week we want you to show us how you bring your favourite books to life. Are you reading together with a potato, or wooden spoon, or model that you've transformed into your favourite book character? Or with your favourite book in a special place that reminds you of what brings your book to life? Or, are you reading dressed up like someone from a book? Are you recreating the front cover of your favourite book with a dramatic pose? Let your imagination run wild! Bring your book to life!

Deadline for submissions is Thursday 6th March Happy reading and happy sharing!

£1 Books or £1 off books!

Every year the school gets Book Vouchers to give out to pupils to exchange for a book or for £1 off a book. **Vouchers are available in the school entrance by the school office to be picked up.** Four great books to exchange your voucher for this year!



Literacy across the curriculum continued

A love of books and shared reading is vitally important. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.

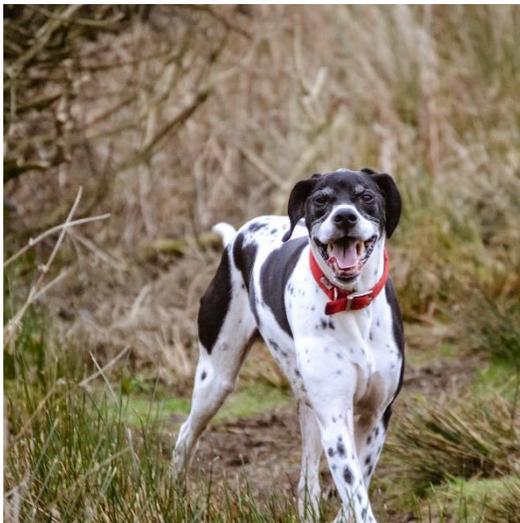
Reading for fifteen or twenty minutes a day, at the right level, will accelerate all pupils' learning, in all subjects where reading is key. Please continue with this whole school focus when studying at home.

All pupils in S1 - S3 have their own reading targets for this term. Pupils should know these, but they can be accessed through the school's Accelerated Reader portal:

<https://ukhosted50.renlearn.co.uk/1941363/> Remember to do a quiz after you've finished each book!

Wednesday Walking Group

The walking group have been out again over the last couple of weeks - up and round Glenashdale falls and a walk through ACLI, Knockenkelly finishing at Sandbraes. we are really pleased with the progress they are making; the walks support their physical, social, and mental wellbeing.



Scottish Apprenticeship Week – 1st to 5th March

Scottish Apprenticeship Week (1st – 5th March 2021) is the annual campaign from Skills Development Scotland that celebrates the benefits of earning whilst learning with a Scottish Apprenticeship.

Next Wednesday at 2.10pm, we will be hosting a session with the Royal Navy about the apprenticeships which they offer. This session is targeted at all S3-S6 pupils, but younger pupils if they wish to join may do so. The session will be run using the following link : <https://app.vscene.net/r/jsBPqcaJbC>

Also over the week there are a variety of sessions for pupils to take part in. Some of them are as follows:

Pupils have the chance to ask apprentices questions about their jobs and learning on the apprenticeships.scot Instagram page on Friday 26th February, then return to the page during Apprenticeship Week on Wednesday 3rd March to hear their answers.

Over on the apprenticeships.scot YouTube channel there are loads of inspirational stories from some amazing apprentices for you and pupils to watch and get a feel for life as an apprentice. The film covers lots of types of apprenticeships, from different job types and industries.

Useful links

- **My World of Work:** Scotland's careers website
- **Apprenticeships.scot:** about apprenticeships in Scotland
- **My Kid's Career:** website for parents and carers
- **Skills Development Scotland:** Scotland's national skills body
- **Marketplace:** connect with businesses and apprentices
- **Digital World:** promoting digital technology skills and careers in Scotland

Ever thought about joining the Army?

Pupils can find about the full range of Army apprenticeships, and how they relate to careers with their virtual event on 5th March @11.30am.

You will explore the different routes into the Army including the Army Foundation College, Harrogate.

https://events-emea3.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/3956621110/en/events/event/shared/default_template_simple/event_registration.html?sco-id=4729432670&_charset=utf-8

Join their virtual work experience event for your chance to experience first-hand what it's like to be in the Army. Hear from serving soldiers about what it's like to learn skills. Ask questions about travelling the world, having everyday adventures, and pushing yourself to do things you never thought possible. Register now for our live Adobe Connect event.

https://meet82224173.adobeconnect.com/eati00i0hmm7/event/event_info.html

Thursday 4th March at 1000 – 1300hrs

Visit their work experience page for more info <https://jobs-ar.my/movementtowork>



What skills and traits are required to become an engineer in the Royal Navy?

How do you become a 3D Game designer?

What opportunities are available across the NHS?

Whatever your child's aspirations, Spotlight Talks: Inspiring Careers Excellence is a fantastic opportunity for them to hear from, and pitch questions to, role models, Skills Champions and apprentices across a range of sectors.

Use the link below to find out more and register!

https://www.worldskillsuk.org/careers-advice/spotlight-talks-inspiring-careers-excellence/?dm_i=5BD4,BXO8,1DFMM7,1D3J4,1

Highlights include:

24th March 9:45am -10:15am

Hear from a technical apprentices at the Science Council about what it is like to work within the sciences.

24th March 11:30am – 12:00pm

Find out what life is like as an engineer in the Royal Navy.

25th March 9:10am – 9:30am

Hear from the British Esports Association on exciting vocational career pathways available.

25th March 11:20am – 12:00pm

Hear from the National Fire Chiefs Council about what is involved with being a firefighter.

Radio silence... not a chance!
Let's SHOUT
about apprenticeships!
with Radio DJs Cassi & Garry Spence

CLYDE 1 TAY FM NORTHSOUND 1 FORTH 1

An Introduction to Apprenticeships with
Scotland's Apprentice Network
Monday 1st March | 2.30pm

Skills Development Scotland

APPRENTICESHIPS.SCOT

SCOTLAND'S APPRENTICE NETWORK

Seagoing Modern Apprenticeship Programme 2021/22



CalMac are delighted to announce that they are opening their application process for their 2021/22 seagoing modern Apprenticeship Programme on Monday 1st March. They are looking for enthusiastic talent to join their next cohort starting in September 2021.

Recognised as a leader of seagoing apprenticeships by the Merchant navy, CalMac offers three types of apprenticeship – Engine Rating, Retail and Catering and Deck Rating.

Successful candidates will begin their career gaining hands on experience on board vessels whilst also spending time learning the theoretical knowledge at college.

While no formal qualifications are required, they are looking for candidates who will live and breathe the CalMac values, show a passion for learning and form the next generation of maritime experts.

Places are highly sought after and interested candidates should take a look at their website for more information.

Their current apprentices will also be sharing their stories during Scottish Apprenticeship Week on their social media channels; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. They will also be sharing lots of useful information including how to apply.

Key Dates:

Applications open on Monday 1st March at 9am

Applications close on Friday 12th March at 5pm

Applications will only be accepted by completing the application form through their website.

Drama

This week I wanted to share one of my favourite theatre companies with you. Their name is Gecko and they create physical theatre. This piece is called 'Time of your life'. They have also uploaded more of their work onto YouTube to stream for free!

Remember if you would like to be added to the 'Drama' tile on teams, please let the office know by email.

https://youtu.be/5PQpxi7h_rc

Enjoy!

Miss Smith

Dynamic Earth Online



Dynamic Earth Online have had a busy week bringing together their next batch of awesome 'at home' activities. There's loads to learn, watch and do, so please check out these activities on their website <https://www.dynamicearthonline.co.uk/>

Coming up next week:

Monday – It's mouldy Monday, as today we find out what exactly makes old food turn bad... Try out the experiment at home and test which conditions are most marvelous for mould!

Tuesday – Quick and easy kitchen experiment for you to try; then discover the magic (or is it science?) behind this cook trick!

Wednesday – The rocky surface of the Earth is cracked into sections and the movement of these plates is what causes earthquakes and volcanoes – can you complete the tectonic plates jigsaw?

Thursday – Today is World Book Day and we will be sharing our Learning Team's recommendations of amazing science books for you to read!

Friday – British Science Week begins today- this year's theme is 'innovation' and today we are exploring how this relates to the climate crisis.

It's OK to worry about going back to school

Though aimed at those who are neurodiverse (such as autism spectrum disorder, ADHD and other learning needs) the resource pack has lots of useful hints and tips on how to plan, prepare and talk to your child about returning to school. It is called 'It's Ok to worry about going back to school: resource pack for parents of neurodiverse children'

Please use the following link to find the pack:

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/34130/psychosocial-mental-health-and-wellbeing-support/taking-care-of-other-people/working-with-young-people-and-families/it-s-ok-to-worry-about-going-back-to-school-resource-pack-for-parents-of-neurodiverse-children>

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Applications are now open on the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's website. Applications are invited for courses including Drama & Dance, Music and Film & Production.

<http://www.rcs.ac.uk/apply/>

S1 & S2 Tunnock's Teacake Challenge

https://www.canva.com/design/DAETAUBGHy8/vgbfdmMAJGf6eOCmo94ctA/view?utm_content=DAETAUBGHy8&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton&fbclid=IwAR2zfZ_zn62Q-uhEoWFZiqrhAiTP3Ta34Gfve56CJ6ndu-39C7ntFVUR3L8

The closing date for this challenge has now been extended until Friday 12th March

All photos to be sent to Mrs Urquhart Dixon



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



Valentine's Day Quiz Answers

As promised, here are the answers to the quiz from the last newsletter:

1. Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne? **Dom Perignon**
2. Which was Shakespeare's most romantic play? **Romeo & Juliet**
3. What kind of flowers are traditionally given to symbolise love? **Red Roses**
4. As well as being the unofficial patron saint of love, what occupation is St Valentine also believed to be the patron of? **Bee Keepers**
5. Today we associate love with the heart, but this wasn't always the case. In medieval times, which internal organ was believed to cause love? **The Liver**
6. Which Roman god was either depicted as a plump cherub with a bow and arrow, or as a handsome teenager? **Cupid**
7. Which Roman goddess was Cupid's mother? **Venus**
8. A poem called *The Parliament of Fowls*, which describes a man's dream of Cupid preparing his arrows in the Temple of Venus, is usually held to be the first cultural link between St Valentine and romance. Who wrote the poem? **Geoffrey Chaucer**
9. If you're quick to show your feelings, where do you wear your heart? **On your sleeve**
10. Which Shakespeare play features Valentine and Proteus? **The two gentlemen of Verona**
11. Who led the Chicago gangsters behind the St Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929? **Al Capone**
12. Which symbol does New York's Empire State Building illuminate on every Valentine's Day? **A Heart**
13. Which Scottish poet wrote *A Red, Red Rose*? **Robert Burns**
14. Which singer had a Top Ten hit, in 1961, with *Cupid*? **Sam Cooke**
15. Who played the title role in the film *Shirley Valentine*? **Pauline Collins**
16. What was the name of the small heart-shaped sweets, manufactured by Swizzel, which had short romantic messages printed on them? **Love Hearts**
17. What is the approximate date of the first Valentine ever sent? **1415**
18. In Japan, what do women give men on Valentine's Day? **Chocolates**
19. Which fruit is sometimes called a love apple? **Tomato**
20. It was once believed that a woman would marry a sailor if she saw what type of bird flying overhead on Valentine's Day? **A robin**

February Facts

As we near the end of the last day of February and all look forward to spring, here are a few facts about the month of February:

February is mostly recognised for Valentine's Day, flowers and depending on where you are, being incredibly cold!

February fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years. The length of February was finalised when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

The name February comes from the Latin word "februum" which means purification. February was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival. In Welsh, February is sometimes known as "y mis bach" which means "little month".

The Saxons called February "Sol-monath" which means "cake month", because they would offer cakes to the gods during February. February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is amethyst and your flower is a primrose.