22nd June 2021

Arran High School

NOTE FROM MRS FOSTER

The last school day of this session is upon us once again, and what a session it has been! We came back to school in August after an unprecedented school closure, with recovery firmly in mind, looking forward with optimism to a return to normality. That was not to be, and the ensuing challenges with blended learning and yet another disruption to qualifications have dominated since.

I have said it many times in these letters, but it is worth repeating, that the enormous resilience shown by staff, pupils and parents was admirable. I sincerely hope that we can be justified in looking forward once again with optimism, a whole year on, to a less chaotic school year. We shall see!
The end of term has been a busy one – we have had school sports, leavers' days, the annual golf competition, the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, inter-house football and various other events that occur at this time of year. More than ever, it is crucial to realise how important these events are for our school. They allow us to move away from an academic focus and celebrate the successes of our young people in a whole variety of ways.

I look forward to welcoming our young people back on the 18th August – until then I hope that you all have a relaxing and totally well-deserved break, whether it's dipping a toe into our turquoise water (you can pretend you are at the Caribbean), travelling further afield (not much further!) or staying a home to strip wallpaper (like me).

NOTE FROM MRS DICK

That has been one heck of a year. I probably could just leave it at that but in this year there have been just as many positives as there were interesting times and I have learnt a lot this year, including how virtual platforms work, how to organise PPE distribution and write risk assessments for a global pandemic. At the end of every year there are many people to thank for providing assistance and support along the way but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the contribution that Dr. Nicholls, communications specialist; Shona Redmayne, art therapist in residence; Beth Moon, school counsellor; and Ann Reid, our school nurse, have given throughout this past year, and on our return from lockdown. Behind every child's success in school is scaffolding of support from family, friends, the community, and support from specialists where need be, with the aim that every child to have as an equal chance of success regardless of background, starting point, or personal circumstances. The four professionals I have mentioned have provided invaluable support to many in the school, quietly working behind the scenes often unseen and unknown except to those that they are supporting but we see the results in the classroom where children are then in a position to be able to learn. Many thanks from all of us here at the high school.

To all of you reading this I am sending best wishes for the summer holidays whether at home or on the mainland. Stay safe and I look forward to welcoming all our families and students back in August.

NOTE FROM MRS BUNTING

SQA Update

The last couple of weeks have been exceptionally busy with Stage 3 and, as of today Stage 4, of the ACM being completed. All the internal and external quality assurance has now been finalised in conjunction with colleagues near and far and the final results were submitted to the SQA today (18th June).
Last Friday (11th June), S4-6 pupils were met by Mrs Dick, Mrs Foster and myself to explain the process behind the grade judgements and to give pupils their provisional grades, subject to clerical checks. For many this was a great reassurance; students with provisional offers for College and University now know their results and can start planning for their next steps. For some, there were disappointments leading to changes in options and rethinking plans. The one positive of this process is that re-coursing has been able to be completed prior to the Summer break rather than on our return in August. Hopefully this will allow teaching and learning to commence smoothly when the new session starts.
All senior pupils should have received through the post a booklet from the SQA explaining the appeals process. If a booklet did not arrive, a digital copy can be accessed at:
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html
which will outline the procedure. As most things related to this year, these will not be applied for via the school but directly by the pupils to the SQA through a portal which will open on 26th June. Please note that pupils will require a note of their Scottish Candidate Number - anyone unsure of this please come and let me know. Following the issuing of final certificates by the SQA on the 10th August, I will be notified by the SQA of any appeals. Evidence that has been gathered as part of the ACM will then be submitted to the SQA for independent cross-marking. As is the case in other years, marks may go down as well as up when using this facility.

Timetable

The new timetable started on Monday, 14th. As always there will be a few 'tweaks' to iron out but, thankfully, the changeover seems to have gone quite smoothly. This change has also encompassed our new Curricular Design for S3 pupils as outlined back in November's consultation.

Holidays ...
I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the pupils, parents/carers, teaching staff, classroom assistants and technicians for all their hard work and support to make this challenging year go as smoothly as possible. Particular thanks also to the Office Staff – Julie, Mairi and Claire – for all their help this year – I couldn't have managed without you!

School Captains

Following a successful interview process we are very to announce that our School Captains for the next academic year are Sid Townsend, Grace Crichton and James McCarthy.

YPI Final 2021

Our S2 pupils have engaged with the Youth & Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) for the eighth year running, securing another £3000 for an Arran based charity. The pupils have spent the past few months researching their charities, meeting charity representatives and creating compelling speeches in an attempt to win the £3000 for their chosen charity. Our pupils have certainly faced more challenges during YPI this year due to current circumstances but they managed to work around restrictions to create impressive presentations.

Our YPI Final was held in school on Tuesday 8th July. Our 5 teams were joined virtually by Isabel Johnstone, YPI co-ordinator for Ayrshire and 4 guest judges: Suzie Dick, Depute Head Teacher; Julie Cannon, Business Education Assistant; Cecilia Paul, Advertising Executive at the Arran Banner; and Naomi Provan, S6 pupil representative. The judges had a tough decision on their hands but decided to award the £3000 to Ross Currie, Jemma Totty, Catherine Smith, Jack Popplewell & Zak Stone who were supporting the Arran RNLI.

Mrs Gosman presenting the winning team with the £3000 cheque

Lee Girbow receiving the £3000 cheque on behalf of Arran RNLI

Clarsach

Arran High Clarsach students were filmed performing some of their final practices on Monday 14th June in the school theatre. Students are not able to take part in a concert this year. They have made some incredible progress in this difficult year and they have all done so well learning over lockdown.

PE News

Pupil of the Block Award – April-June 2021

The PE Department have awarded pupils for their Pupil of the Block Award for April to June 2021
This award is for high standards of work in the physical education classes and awarded every term.

Annual Golf Competition – First Ministers Cup 2021

On Friday 18th June our Annual Golf Championship at Lamlash Golf Club took place. It was great to see so many young people playing. Over 25 pupils took part this year from S1-S6. We couldn't have asked for better weather too. This year we have also presented a Junior First Ministers Trophy for S1-S3 pupils, as well as the Senior First Ministers Cup. We are grateful to Lamlash Golf Club for providing the yummy pizza for all of our pupils who took part.

Thank you to Lauren Gilbert, Active Schools Co-ordinator for helping to organize this event and keep the tradition going.

Our Prize Winners from the day for the Senior First Ministers Cup were FIRST PLACE- Donald Currie, SECOND PLACE- Gordon MacIntyre, THIRD PLACE- James McCarthy

Our Prize Winner from the day for the Junior First Ministers Shield was Isabella Reid

Our Prize Winner from the day for the longest drive was Frazer Ferguson

Staff Golf Competition

On Wednesday 16th June, a group of staff members attended Lamlash Golf Club to round off the year with a staff golf competition. Lots of laughter and fun took place and some teams took it very seriously. Prizes were awarded for best score, best dressed team and nearest the pin as follows:

Best Score – George Inglis, Lee Girbow, Dougie McInnes & Mairi Inglis
Best Dressed – Allan Wilson, Robert McNeice and Peter Early
Nearest the Pin – Lee Girbow

One team was disqualified!!! Some teams didn't complete the nine holes!!! , however, it was a lovely outdoor social event.
Many thanks to Lauren Gilbert (Active Schools Coordinator) for organising this end of term event … one which we are sure will be repeated very soon.

Geography Outings

Mrs Gosman has been making the most of the favourable weather by conducting fieldwork with her geography classes. Pupils have been practising their data gathering techniques by conducting pedestrian counts, traffic counts, environmental quality surveys and land use mapping. This will help to prepare them for their geography projects next session.

S3 Geography Class

Higher & Advanced Higher Pupils

S1 Social Subjects Election Campaign

Our S1 classes have been learning about democracy this term. As part of this topic they formed political parties and ran an in-school election campaign. Pupils had to create policies that they would like to see implemented in our school, create leaflets, rosettes, posters and a speech. We had 12 political party groups across the two classes with every pupil casting a vote for a political party in the opposite class. The winners in class 1A were the Arran High Child Labour Party and in class 2B the winning party was Arran High Fab Decisions.

Outdoor Learning

Making a bivouac shelter in the forest

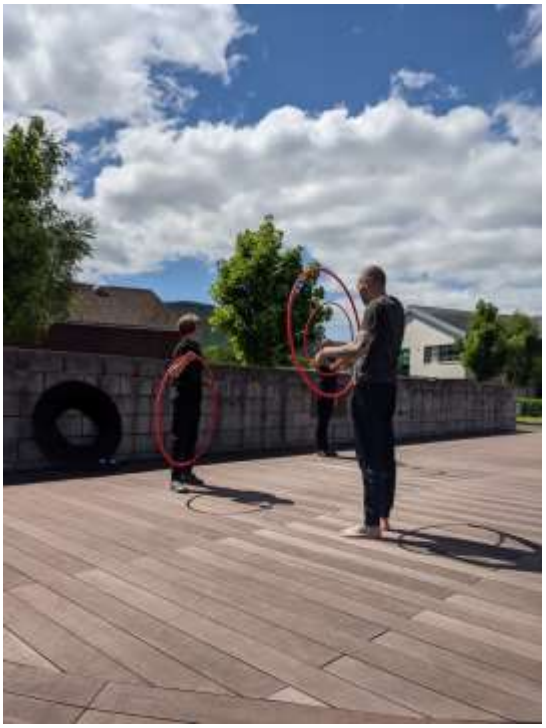
School Uniform

Just a reminder to place your orders prior to the summer holidays for any school uniform that you may require for the return in August. Orders are to be placed via parent pay against the uniform payment item.
Please see below a photo of an example of uniform that pupils are expected to wear whilst attending school and also a photo of the new PE top that pupils are expected wear for all PE lessons and sports events. These can also be purchased via Parent Pay £10 each.

Drama News

The lovely and very talented Ross Cleland, who is an Arran High School ex pupil, came to visit our drama class on Friday. Lots of circus fun with hoops in the sun! Have a wonderful summer holiday everyone.

….. Ms Smith



Open Doors – 13th August

On the 13th August between 9am and 12noon Mrs Dick will be running an 'Open Doors' drop in for all students who are new to the school or are moving from primary 7 to S1 in August. This is an opportunity to have another look round the school, collect your timetable and if you haven't picked up your school uniform then to collect that. In addition, lateral flow covid tests will be available for all new students and new S1 pupils to collect on that day to begin testing before school begins. This is optional but we encourage all to do so if they are able. There is no need to book in advance. Timetables, tests and uniform will also be available on 16th August from the school office and also on the day school begins.. Best wishes, Mrs Dick

A wee reminder that if your child (or you!) want books over the holidays, Arran Library in Brodick is now open on Tuesday morning 10-1 for browsing and on other days for call and collect - just phone 302835. And more excitingly, I'll be putting the branch library children's books onto the Accelerated Reader scheme! Don't forget, we also have eBooks through Borrowbox and a wide range of publications through PressReader - check out the NALibraries webpage https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/libraries.aspx

Have a good summer

Careers Advisor

John Lang our SDS Careers Advisor is available to be contacted during the summer break on 01294 685339

School Counsellor

Beth Moon, the school counsellor, is retiring this month and sad to be saying goodbye. She thoroughly enjoyed her time on Arran and wishes all the pupils every success. If any pupil would like to self-refer themselves for support or counselling over the summer, please have him/her/them contact the counselling team leader Marie Murphy at MarieMurphy@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Please note that summer counselling will be by phone, mobile or remotely on Teams/Vscene.

RBS Vacancy

Please see below a link to information regarding the role available in Brodick.

Customer Service - Personal Banker https://g.co/kgs/UtZtrk

The RBS Careers website is currently going through maintenance which should be resolved within 24hrs. If looking on there the job ref code is:
R-00133603.

RAF VIRTUAL EVENT
ACCESS ALL AREAS
WEDNESDAY 23RD JUNE
18:30-20:30
Explore the roles of the RAF within an immersive, never-before seen virtual hangar with an opportunity to discover information on key roles, as well as chat live with a specialist RAF recruiter. All from the comfort of your own home.
• Find out more about life in the RAF
• An immersive, interactive 360° experience
• Find your force – discover a role for you
• Download role specific information
• Chat live with an RAF recruiter – have your questions answered
BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET NOW!
ROYAL AIR FORCE
REGULAR & RESERVE
NO ORDINARY JOB

Communities & Education
Education Maintenance Allowances
2021-2022
Would £30 per week encourage you to stay on at school??
If you are thinking of staying on at school after your statutory school leaving date, and your date of birth falls between 1 March 2002 and 28 February 2006, you may be eligible to receive an Education Maintenance Allowance.
Apply Online Now!
www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/EMA
A late application may delay payment of any allowance.
Please note that a new EMA Application should be submitted for each Academic Year.
North Ayrshire Council

School Sports

Following 3 intensive Sports Days during last week and today, pupils from S1-S6 took part in a Hexathlon Competition. This included 100m, 800m, Shot Put, Javelin, Long Jump and High Jump.

The PE department have been delighted to have seen some kind of normal sports days this year following Covid restrictions.

They are happy to announce the following Champions:

Junior Champions S1 – Lewis Gregg and Kirtsy Hume

Intermediate Champions S2/S3 – Eden Robertson and Harriett Lucas

Senior Champions S4/S5 – Samuel Gaber Hammednor and Isla McKelvie

Art in Heaven Competition

Here is just some of the fantastic work from our pupils who have entered the worldwide 'Art in heaven' competition. Pupils have created art work based on themes such as 'God's good earth?' And 'We have far more in common than that which divides us.' Well done to everyone for their entries.

Art in Heaven Competition

NATRE - Spirited Arts Competition 2021

"We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us."

For this piece we attempted to portray contrasting hands of black and white skin colour, both cut and damaged by the harsh environment, but also each other - as humans are one of the deadliest animals in existence, turning to violence to attempt to solve problems. Whilst racism is increasingly being foug ht against, as most now strive for equality, it is still prevalent and causes many to fear for their lives due to something out of their control - despite all being human and all being the same both physically and within, such as our souls.

Christians believe that God is within us all and despite people looking at outward appearances, the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7), which is what we tried to focus on, as the blood of each bleed into the same heart. The use of the collage is to emphasise the differences of each yet creating something whole, with the saturated colours contrasting the lack of colours used for the hands highlighting the insignificance of external looks.

Road Safety Slogan Competition

The road safety competition received 19 entries which were judged by Dannielle Jackson, Arran Vets; Janis Murchie, Arran Riding Club; Mr Reid, Faculty Leader Languages; Carol and James, ACVS. It was a really difficult decision for the judges but after much deliberation the winners were announced as:
1st – Niamh Gosman 'Common sense & vision, Avoids fatal collisions – SLOW & WIDE FOR HORSES'
2nd – Kirsty Morrision 'Better late than never. SLOW DOWN FOR HORSES'
3rd – Harriett Lucas 'Leave space, Happy face ☺'

The competition has been supported by Arran Riding Club and and BHS. The winning prize was an alpaca big trek experience for two at Arran Alpacas and a custom hoodie from Isla Arran Designs. Both runners up received a custom hoodie from Isla Arran Designs. The co-op also donated vouchers for all three winners.