

3rd September 2021



Arran High School

NOTE FROM MRS FOSTER

It was lovely to welcome our young people back to school on the 18th August. It was a smooth start as the timetable had been tried and tested for a week before school broke up and the seniors had, in general, sorted out course changes based on the evidence based grades given by teachers. At the end of the second full week, there is definitely a very busy bustle around the school as teaching and learning starts to pick up the pace.

I think it is important to keep you updated on staffing. Next week we are interviewing for two substantive depute posts: Mrs Bunting has been in the acting post since last year and Mrs Dick resigned at the start of term. We are also interviewing for a temporary general teacher to support Covid recovery and 'Developing the Young Workforce'. I will keep you updated on the outcome. Finally, we are still looking to appoint a part time RE teacher and an English teacher.

I would like to welcome Mr Graham Wilks to the school. At the start of the term he took up the physics post. I'd also like to welcome Mrs Emma Brown who has taken up the temporary English post.

Last week we held our Awards Ceremony. As part of our Covid precautions we held it on our outdoor stage and we were incredibly lucky with the weather. Congratulations to all of our prize winners! The Arran Banner printed some lovely photographs and we will send out the recording as soon as it is edited. Mr Dickie is a perfectionist!

I'd like to end by wishing Mrs Dick well in the next stage of her career path. She was an integral part of the senior leadership team and I know that not only will she be missed by me, she will also be missed by the school community.

Have a lovely and safe weekend

FAREWELL NOTE FROM MRS DICK

This is my last contribution to the newsletter as I have now finished my time at Arran High School, Lamlash Primary and Early Years Class.

I came across an article the other day that talk about The Human Library. In Denmark, there are libraries where you can borrow a person instead of a book for 30 minutes. Every person has a title - bipolar, unemployed, refugee etc. Listening to another objectively makes you realise why you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. This brilliant project is active in 50 countries. It made me stop and reflect what we might find out on Arran if we did this, how fascinating would that be? During my time here I have met many people, and I always wished I had had more time to just stop and talk and see what more I could learn or how my perspective on an issue might change. In school we talk about academic success but also we emphasise relationships and I think our relationships across the island is the strength we collectively have here on Arran. It is these day to day conversations and relationships that I will miss the most going forward.

Wishing everyone, parents, carers, grandparents, staff, pupils and students all the best for the future.

NOTE FROM MRS BUNTING

Welcome back! I hope you were all able to take advantage of the beautiful Summer that we have had. The new term is well under way and I would like to take this opportunity of updating you on a few things

SQA Update:

As we returned to school the Scottish Government announced that, should the public health situation permit, the exam diet for 2022 will run from 26th April - 1st June 2022. A contingency plan is being worked on should things change. Meanwhile, the SQA are updating the course requirements for this session and staff are familiarising themselves with these modifications.

Health & Safety:

A number of measures are in place to help keep staff and pupils safe. These include a one-way system, mask wearing, regular hand sanitising and wiping down of tables. At present we are still unable to make full use of the PE changing facilities and I would ask that pupils come to school on PE days wearing the PE uniform top or another t-shirt underneath either their school polo-shirt or sweatshirt. Pupils are not to wear other hoodie sports tops in class.

The wearing of masks is still mandatory for all those without an exemption. Masks should be worn at all times when moving around the building and whilst in class. Masks should only be removed whilst sitting down and eating/drinking. I would welcome your support in stressing the importance of this to your young person in helping to keep our school a safe place. Please could all pupils who are exempt wear a lanyard - this will reduce any stress caused by being asked repeatedly by staff.

We are allowed, however, to now hold face-to-face music lessons with the peripatetic music tutors. This term has seen the very welcome return of traditional Scottish music – pipes & drums and clarsach – and woodwind and brass tuition. Let's hope the boats don't interfere too much and hinder this welcome return.

Attendance Matters, the Impact of Absence

We will continue to monitor and track your child's attendance, following North Ayrshire Councils Policy. This follows a four-week tracking period. If attendance falls below 90% during this period we will contact you by letter, inviting you to discuss your child's attendance. Please bear in mind that over a four-week period, 3 days absence will trigger a letter home. The first tracking period ends on Tuesday 14th September.

What specific attendance during one school year actually means -

95% is equal to having 9 days or approximately 2 weeks out of school, missing 63 lessons.

90% (below average) is equal to 19 days out of school or approx. 4 weeks, missing 133 lessons.

85% (persistent absence) is equal to 29 days or approx. 6 weeks out of school, missing 203 lessons.

80% (persistently poor absence) is equal to 38 days or 8 weeks, missing 266 lessons.

75% (potential prosecution) is equal to 48 days or 10 weeks, missing 336 lessons

It is imperative that parents/carers inform the school office of any absence relating to pupils on a daily basis. For example ... this includes sickness, appointments and any off island activities

Royal College of Surgeons – Edinburgh

On Tuesday those in S5/6 who are interested in studying something along the medical/veterinary side went to the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh to take part in a surgical skills workshop.

The group had an opportunity to hear from the tutor who teaches doctors how to teach, have an introduction to suturing skills and practice putting in airway protection. Afterwards the group looked round the museum at the specimens and heard the story of Burke and Hare, including seeing a book bound in Burke's skin.



Arran Mountain Bike Club

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club would appreciate your support with comments or suggestions as part of their pre-planning application consultation for their proposed Bike skills facility at Dyemill, Lamalsh. You can access their very short questionnaire with this URL, <https://forms.office.com/r/mazvtdB1jB>

Library News

BOOK APPEAL!

Although we now have books from Arran Library available for AHS pupils to borrow through school (see below) we still have LOADS of books missing.... So this is another plea for the return of any overdue library books (easy to spot as they usually have a plastic cover) - no questions asked! And if anyone is having an autumn clear-out and has any good quality books (suitable for S1-6) donations would be very welcome!



Many thanks - Susanna Talbot, AHS Library

ART DROP-IN

A wee reminder that there is an art drop-in with Shona Redmayne every Tuesday in the library at first and lunch break.

AHS Award Ceremony

Arran High School held a spectacular outdoor award ceremony to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of students from the last academic year. It was lovely to hold this event outside even though we were still under some covid restrictions which only allowed those students receiving awards to attend. The event was filmed and the link to this will be sent to parents in due course.

Congratulations in particular to this year's joint John S Scott award for DUX recipients Milo Godwin and Mackenzie Campbell.

Certificates were presented to pupils from all year groups for attainment and effort in all curricular subjects.

Other special award recipients were as follows:

	Special Awards
Morgan Bell	Arran Society of Glasgow - J D McKinnon Award for entering Further Education of Apprenticeship
Andrew Bunting	Margaret Wright Award for Attainment in S4 Exams
Grant Coyne	Arran Dairies Hospitality Trophy for Attainment in HE
Donald Currie	First Minsiter's Trophy - Golf Champion
Alec Fraser	Heather Gough Trophy for Speech and Drama
Samuel Gaber Hammednor	SWI Trophy - Boy Senior Sports Champion
Milo Godwin	Andrew J Johnson Award for Attainment in Maths in S5
Louis Gray	Arran Society of Glasgow Endeavour Award
Liam Green	Arran Society of Glasgow - J D McKinnon Award for entering Further Education of Apprenticeship
Julie Hamill	Margaret Wright Award for Attainment in S4 Exams
Emma Henderson	Arran Society of Glasgow Endeavour Award
Cerys Herapath	Nicola McConnell Trophy for Contribution to Music Department
Rhys Jackson	Arran Society of Glasgow Endeavour Award
Thomas Learmonth	Ceitidh Anderson Quaich - Succeeding through Adversity
Bradley Lord	Arran Society of Glasgow - J D McKinnon Award for entering Further Education of Apprenticeship

Finn MacArthur	Arran Society of Glasgow - J D McKinnon Award for entering Further Education of Apprenticeship
	Charles Russell Trophy for Attainment in Technical Education
Megan McCartney	Buchanan Prize for Essay Writing in S4
Isla McKelvie	SWI Trophy - Girl Senior Sports Champion
Olivia McNeice	Arran Society of Glasgow Poetry Trophy in Memory of Dr D Brown
John McNeish	Ian Watt Trophy for Attainment in S5/6 Science
	Lamlash Millenium Cup for Citizenship
Erin McNiven	Arran Society of Glasgow - J D McKinnon Award for entering Further Education of Apprenticeship
Abbie Mulholland	Arran Society of Glasgow Endeavour Award
Naomi Provan	Lamlash Millenium Cup for Citizenship
Isabella Reid	Junior Golf Trophy
Sam Reid	Brian Miller Trophy for Attainment in S5/6 Social Subjects
	Arran Society of Glasgow Endeavour Award
Avery Russell	A R Humphreys Award for Attainment in S5 English
Jed Russell	Arran Society of Glasgow - J D McKinnon Award for entering Further Education of Apprenticeship
Jemma Totty	Andrew J Johnson Award for Attainment in Maths in S2
Annie West	Arran Society of Glasgow Endeavour Award



Home Economics News

S1 Safety and Hygiene lesson set up called 'Calamity Kitchen' Can you spot the hazards?



S2 Food sensory lesson, tasting fruit and vegetables

Request to anyone who has a glut of fruit and veg which could be kindly donated to the Home Economics department in the High School. All donations gratefully received (but please no tiny tiny apples or windfalls). Please pop any donations along to the school office who will pass these on to Mrs Urquhart Dixon.

We have received a very kind and generous donation of fruit and vegetables from the Arran Community Land Initiative.



Prefect News

Hello ! We are the new school captains... Sid, James and Grace.



We are pleased to announce the 15 prefects who will help us achieve our goals this year. They are: Andrew Milton, Callum Haddow, Cerys Herapath, Charlie Aitken, Finn McAleer, Freya McNicol, Hannah Ritter, Jemima Currie, Jessica Reid, Lachlan Campbell, Mackenzie Campbell, Milo Godwin, Molly Frost, Natasha Nelson and Sam Reid.



To achieve the goals that we set out at the beginning of the term, we have decided to split our prefects into 3 core groups, which are the peer mentor group, social and charitable group and a group focused on gaining different awards for our school.

Each group will have 5 prefects led by one of us. This will enable us to be able to work closely and delegate tasks.

In the short term we hope to establish ourselves in the community and become good role models, for our peers at Arran High School.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

AFTER SCHOOL (All activities are 3.45pm-4.45pm unless otherwise stated)

MONDAY

- Mountain Bike Club – S5 & S6 – Mr McNeice – 3.45pm to 6.30pm
- Drama – Miss Smith – Theatre
- S1 & S2 Boys Football – Mr Scott & Mr McCartney – Astro Turf
- Hockey – All Years – Astro Turf
- English Supported Study – S4 to S6 – By arrangement with Mr Reid
- Biology Supported Study – S4 to S6 – Mrs Logan
- Maths Supported Study – S4 to S6 – Mr McInnes

TUESDAY

- Mountain Bike Club – S1 to S4 – Mr McNeice – 3.45pm to 6.30pm
- S2 Cook Club – Mrs Urquhart-Dixon – Room G10 - (£2 contribution per week for ingredients)
- Junior Sailing Club – S1 & S2 – Mr Early - 4pm to 6pm
- Senior Football S5 & S6 – Mr Scott – Astro Turf
- Basketball – Miss McGhee – Sports Hall
- English Supported Study – S4 to S6 – By arrangement with Mr Reid

WEDNESDAY

- Art - S4 to S6 – Mr Wedge – Room F16
- Cross Country Mountain Biking/Bike Packing – All Years – Miss Toogood – 3.45pm to 6pm
- Girls Football – All Years – Mrs Early
- Graphics and Design & Manufacturing Supported Study – S4 to S6 – Technical Department – Mr Wilson
- Chemistry Supported Study – S4 to S6 – Mr McCartney - Room G3
- English Supported Study – S4 to S6 – By arrangement with Mr Reid

THURSDAY

- S3 & S4 Football – Mr McInnes & Mr Barr – Astro Turf
- Graphics and Design & Manufacturing Supported Study – S4 to S6 – Technical Department – Mr Wilson
- English Supported Study – S4 to S6 – By arrangement with Mr Reid
- Physics Supported Study – S4 to S6 – Mr Wilks
- Netball – All Years – Mrs McGrath – Sports Hall

Extra-curricular activities have now started after school as per the extra-curricular activity timetable above.

Extra-curricular buses run for all activities at 4.45 to transport your child home, unless the activity finishes at a later time then it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to arrange transport home.

In addition to **school** extra-curricular activities the Arran Youth Foundation are running activities every day in the youth cabin located behind the school.

Arran Youth Foundation Activities (based in the youth cabin behind the high school)

MONDAY

- 1.25-2.10pm – Lunchtime drop-in.
- 3.45-6.45pm – Cooking project where young people can learn culinary skills and experiment in the kitchen, with regular visits from local chefs.
- 3.45-6.45pm – Guitar tuition with local tutor Steve Agnew. Anyone wishing to enquire about tuition (funded by AYF and provided free of charge, as with all our activities) should get in touch.

TUESDAY

- 1.25-2.10pm – Lunchtime drop-in.
- 3.45-6.45pm – Music jam, chance to form bands, record music, work towards live performance, with local tutor Steve Agnew.

WEDNESDAY

- 1.25-2.10pm – Lunchtime drop-in.
- 3.45-6.45pm – Art psychotherapy. A chance to create, experiment and express yourself in the company of qualified art psychotherapist, Shona Redmayne. Art typically lasts an hour or so, then fun activities.

THURSDAY

- 1.25-2.10pm – Lunchtime drop-in.
- 3.45-4.45pm – Walking group. Some weeks this may go on later – details will be posted each week on the Facebook group.
- 3.45-4.45pm – Youth forum. A committee of young people meet to discuss and tackle local issues – plan events, raise funds, make decisions about the running of AYF.
- 4.45-6.45pm – LGBT+ club. A chance for young people of any sexuality or gender to socialise, share their story and pursue equality for the LGBT+ community.

FRIDAY

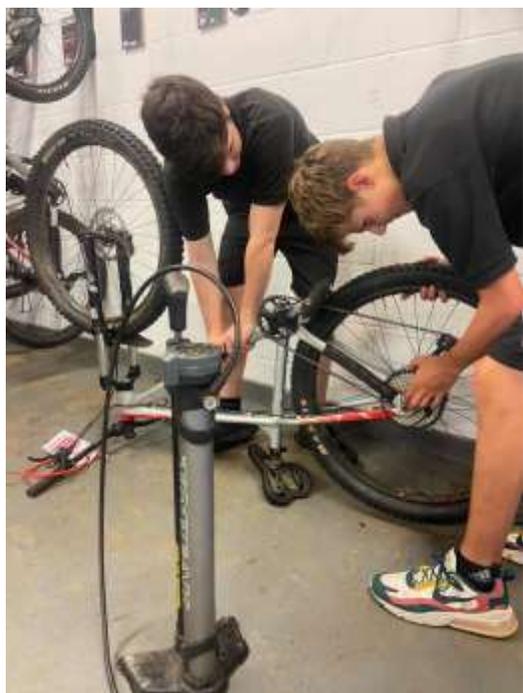
- 1.25-2.10pm – Lunchtime drop-in.
- 3.45-7.00pm – After-school Friday group. Loads of fun and games, film nights, quizzes, music, Xbox/PS4/Switch, sports on the astro.

Hollie Tattersfield and Leigh Boyd from the Arran Youth Foundation visited your child's class recently to tell them about Arran Youth Foundation.

Arran Youth Foundation wish to highlight that while the young people are cared for in a highly responsible and conscientious manner in accordance with their own child protection policies, they are permitted to opt in/out of activities: they are allowed a break to visit the village shops in the same manner they are allowed to leave high school grounds at lunch. Parents have been asked to clarify with their child how they expect their child to engage with the activities run by the Arran Youth Foundation – supervised activities are always available between the times noted above.

While Covid-19 restrictions continue, attendance at each of the Arran Youth Foundation activities is limited to 5 young people at a time.

Extra-Curricular Mountain Bike Club



Arran Junior Sailing Club - Sail Training Week. – August 2021

After 18 months of restrictions, lockdowns and two cancellations of their Ocean Youth Trust sailing trip, 10 local youngsters finally had a taste of big boat sailing.

AJSC ran an 8 day course of alternate dinghy and yacht sailing based in Lamlash with longer passages to Sanda and An Caladh, Kyles of Bute.

Emphasis was definitely on fun, with learning sailing techniques and seamanship skills each day. All participants were successful in completing the competent crew syllabus.

Highlights included helming a 46' yacht, halyard flying, climbing the mast, paddleboarding, swimming from the yacht and dinghy racing. Well done to all the youngsters for being such good sports and showing great enthusiasm for all the challenges presented to them. One mum got a surprise phonecall from the top of the mast!

Our thanks to the CAN Group for the use of the yacht Can Do, and to Adam for volunteering to help make this such a great experience. Also to OYT for the use of their waterproofs. To Peter Dunn of Lochranza Distillery, Liz Mclean from Brodick Co-op and Duncan McColm of Home and Garden, Brodick for their kind and generous donations, and to Alan Dixon for the use of his mooring. Thanks to Sally Hunter for her fascinating Q & A session about her "Maiden" circumnavigation, and to Martin Wood and Tim Crocket for a fascinating tour of the Lifeboat and Station.

The event could not have gone ahead without all the AJSC volunteers, in particular a huge thanks to Gavin Cameron, without whose lightbulb moment and hours of organisation this project would not have happened.

AJSC continues to offer dinghy sailing to Arran school pupils from P7 upwards.

