

8th March 2022



Arran High School



NOTE FROM MRS FOSTER

I am writing on Monday morning, and I have to say that I feel so much more ready for the week ahead after the lovely weather we enjoyed over the weekend. The spring weather does remind me that we are heading very quickly towards the Easter break or, as the seniors may want to call it, 'extended study time'.

The prelims gave us all an excellent idea of what is going well for pupils in courses and what the main areas of study should be; it is important to be organised, to prioritise and make the most of opportunities such as Easter School and supported study. I know that Mrs Bunting is keeping you all updated of key dates and deadlines.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Moira Peck to our school. Moira took up the post of Support for Learning Teacher today and I am confident that she will make a very positive impact on our ability to ensure that all pupils are appropriately challenged in their learning. She brings a wealth of experience from her time working in Aberdeenshire with her.



In other staffing news, you may be aware that Kim Toogood, our science technician is retiring (early!). The position is being advertised and I will keep you updated about this.

Last week was World Book Day. Our fantastic school librarian, Susannah Talbot, worked with Mr Reid to make the day memorable with events such as a 'book -nic'. Teachers also shared what they were reading with posters on their doors, which was very inspirational for me, especially as I am wondering what to read during the upcoming holiday.

At very short notice, I asked pupils to bring in something to send off to the Ukraine along with the donations from 'Arran For Ukraine'. I have to say a massive thank you to everyone who donated. It was a fabulous response.

NOTE FROM MRS BUNTING

SQA & Exams:

The prelim diet – the first in two years – were a huge learning experience for our senior pupils. For our S4 and S5 pupils this was their first taste of being in an exam hall. Exam technique and etiquette is being discussed in classes as part of the feedback being given to pupils. Evidence for pupils with Additional Arrangements is being finalised and Ms Officer, PT Support for Learning, will be in touch shortly to discuss the applications being made to the SQA to support our young people.

Mobile phones being brought in to the exam hall was one of the biggest concerns raised by our Chief Invigilator. Mobile phones are strictly forbidden and I would highly recommend that they are put in lockers during the exam or, better still, not brought in to school that day.

From Monday, 7th March, the SQA will start releasing student support materials. These will be shared with students by their class teachers as they are made available.

The SQA have set up a resource, called Ushare, for students to access the support directly for each of their subjects.

https://ushare.education/Ushare/Home?utm_source=marketo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2022.03.08-LearnerRevisionSupport-ES-AM&utm_content=button&mkt_tok=NTA1LVICSC0zMDAAAAGDB00vVL7EHcJ0rtNYKN5FdfSaWB_4fuoREORIdRpWIS6Ba2urPSTgu168LWmiZ9dWisd1Y1f0FG6DEw9ST9KV1E9_ePK9RLhagbvTCokG

Easter school:

Easter supported study will run this year. Sessions will run from 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of each week of the holidays. Mrs Gosman is finalising arrangements and creating a timetable which will be distributed to senior pupils shortly. Pupils will be requested to sign up in advance for sessions.

Options:

Senior option forms were due in on Friday, 4th March. Please could you check that you child has submitted their choices. S2 into S3 Personalisation & Choice forms are due to be returned by Friday, 11th March.

Covid:

Covid mitigations changed last week in school; face coverings are no longer required to be worn in classrooms by either teachers or pupils. They do, however, still need to be worn in corridors, when walking about the school and on transport. The one-way system in school is still in operation.

From Monday, 21st March pupils will no longer be required to wear face coverings, the same as it will be for wider society.

Pupils who wish to continue to wear face coverings will be permitted to do so. Other mitigations (eg hand sanitiser) will still be available. Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits are still available free from the school and pupils and staff are still being encouraged to test and record results twice weekly.

Arran for Ukraine:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to support the aid efforts this weekend. The quantity of donations of food, clothing & bedding, baby and medical supplies was outstanding. The amount brought in by pupils and staff on Friday was heartwarming, especially with such short notice. The sorting and boxing of all the donations from across the island took place at the school on Sunday; over 250 boxes of urgently needed supplies were collated along with a number of cages of clothing and bedding. Thank you.

YPI

The S2 YPI (Youth Philanthropy Initiative) group require to raise £500 which will be our contribution go to the winning local charity.

A number of charities will be represented by S2 pupils at the final competition.

They have already raised £129.12 from the dress down day held on 11th February in school.



They would like to also raise money by creating an Easter Hamper full of chocolate goodies etc.

If you would like to donate an item towards this hamper, all donations would be gratefully received. Donations can be dropped off at the school office.

Raffle tickets to win the hamper are available to purchase via iPay from today (Tuesday), so please look out for this payment item.

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 25th March

On Friday 4th March, Mrs Gosman and Mr Barr accompanied 15 of our S2 pupils on a trip to Heather Lodge and Arcas as part of our YPI programme. The pupils involved have chosen to represent Arcas or the Mary Davies Trust in our YPI competition this year.

Pupils were given a tour of Heather Lodge and the chance to chat with some of the therapists who offer a range of different treatments to patients suffering from cancer and other illnesses. We then went on to Arcas to meet and interview shop manager Lisa Remington. A few pupils even got trained on how to use the tills and managed to serve several customers!

The pupils were very positive about how much they had learned from observing the charity at work and are hoping to do some follow up work with Arcas very soon.



B McCarthy learning to use the card machine



Niamh Gosman serving an Arcas customer



Severin Riddell and Lewis Gregg doing a muscle test used in alternative therapy



Pupils trying out the sounds used in therapy



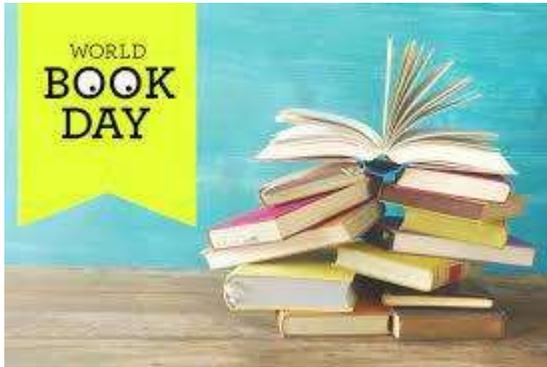
Learning about outdoor therapy sessions

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is delivering a nationwide webinar to parents and carers which offers an **Overview of Scottish Apprenticeships**. The webinar is on **Thursday 10 March at 6.30pm until 7.15pm.**

Parents and carers can join our SDS Careers Advisers to find out more about Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships and how work-based learning can open the door to a wide range of careers. We would be very grateful if you could share details of the session; to help you do this we have included suggested social media posts below and the Eventbrite link which can also be found here: <https://overviewofscottishapprenticeships.eventbrite.co.uk>

World Book Day Thursday 3rd March



Sharing and promoting a passion for reading is something we do all the time with our pupils. World Book Day was not only an opportunity to share the wonderful life-changing effects of reading, but also to collectively model the joy it brings to us all.

Some World Book Day snippets:

Booknic

Mrs Talbot, our librarian, hosted a 'Booknic' in the library at lunchtime. It was lovely to see a wide range of new faces enjoying their reading as well as the nibbles on offer (the finger sausages being particularly popular).

Both Mrs Talbot and the Senior Leadership Team enjoyed speaking to the pupils about their books.

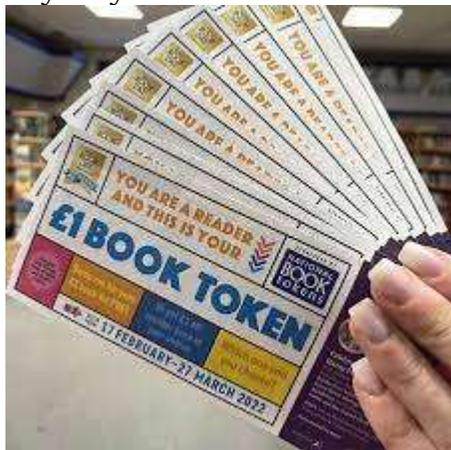
The library is always open on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes as a quiet place for reading, catching up with work, chatting about books, or browsing for your next read.



Senior girls enjoying their reading during the 'booknic'.

Support Our Local Bookshop

Every pupil has been given a £1 book token which they can use for money off any book at the 'Book and Card' in Brodick (or any other participating book shop). Please support our wonderful local bookshop by visiting them with one. Mr Reid has plenty of spare vouchers if anybody needs more!



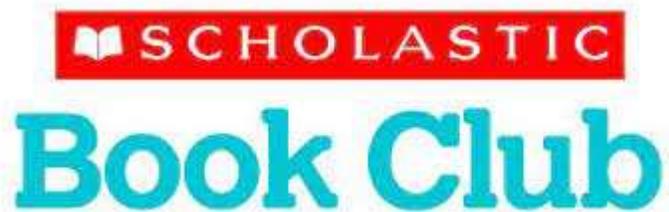
Share the Joy

Thanks to all the pupils and parents who donated books to the library in celebration of World Book Day. Sharing the joy of reading is such a fabulous thing and it was touching to see so many donations. Generating particular excitement was 'Eragon' (we've been missing the first book in the series for some time now!) and 'The Ice Monster' by David Walliams (very popular with S1 boys at the moment for his wit and humour).



Thanks to Kaitlyn, Gregor, Niamh, and John (amongst others) who donated books they have already read and enjoyed to the library.

Scholastic Book Club



This is the last day to order from our latest Scholastic Book Club. Just go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/arran-ka27/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and place your order by Fri 4th March.

Every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club will earn 20p for our school in Scholastic Rewards.

Once we reach the £100 mark, **the pupils will vote** for what we will buy next for the library. We'll keep you posted with the result!

Latest Reading Prizes

The Golden Ticket



Every pupil in the junior phase has a termly reading target as part of their whole school reading homework.

Every time a pupil reads a book, or recommends a book to another, they receive a Golden Ticket which enters them into a weekly prize draw for a £10 Book Token.

Perhaps some of the winning examples 'pulled from the hat' will inspire your child's next read!

Reader of the week:



Chloe won last week for reading 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'. We have the full set of 'The Chronicles of Narnia' both in the Library and in the English department. If you think you would enjoy some 'Aslan action' then please feel free to borrow from us!

Reading for Pleasure: Latest Reading Prizes

Since the start of the academic year S1-S3 have collectively read an astonishing **29 million** words! Let's smash 30 million before the end of term!

Thanks to all of Arran's parents who are supporting reading for pleasure at home. You are wonderful.

Most Smashed Targets

- S1 = G Gunaydi - Iorsa House (427% of targets)
- S2 = O McNeice - Sannox House (465% of targets)
- S3 = S Hale - Sannox House (227% of targets)

Most Improved

- S1 = S Boxall - Shuraig House
- S2 = R McNamara - Shuraig **and** N Swalec - Iorsa
- S3 = C Fraser - Shuraig House





Every Term pupils get 10 House Points for smashing their reading target; 5 points for meeting it; and 2 points for nearly making it.
House Rankings so far!

4th Place Iorsa with 123 House Points and 3,631,103 words read
3rd place Shuraig with 131 House Points and 4,462,610 words read
2nd place Sannox with 145 House Points earnt and 4,597,076 words read
1st place Rosa with 297 House Points earnt and 9,084,401 words read!

Well done Rosa for your radical reading record so far! But it's not the end of the academic year yet ...can another House overtake you?

Arran Junior Sailing

Once again Arran Junior Sailing Club will be running courses for secondary age pupils. They will run from Tuesday 26th April and run through to the summer holiday.

It is intended that sessions will run every Tuesday from 4.00pm till 6.00pm and 6.00pm to 8 pm.

If interested, additional information can be obtained from Mr Early and Consent forms can be collected from the school office.

These need to be completed and returned to Mr Early, by the 25th March.

The Subscription of £60 must be brought on the first night of sailing.



Forthcoming Fundraiser

We are raising money in support for Ukraine by having a wear Red, Blue and Yellow day. This will take place on Friday 18th March.

Monies raised will go to the British Red Cross for support the Ukrainian refugees.

Child Online Safety Campaign

On Tuesday the Scottish Government launched its national Child Online Safety campaign.

The campaign aims to increase awareness of the importance of online safety to parents and carers of children aged 8-11 year olds, and reassure and inform them that the skills they apply offline to help keep their children safe can be used to protect them online too.

The campaign provides practical advice for parents and guardians on how to check and monitor their child's online activity by speaking regularly about online safety and taking an interest in what they do online; discussing and agreeing boundaries; setting safety measures. The campaign also provides clear signposting for parents and children towards additional support.

The campaign includes Digital TV and radio coverage, social media activity, website advertising, and press coverage. A supporting hub at parentclub.scot/online-safety is packed with practical ideas and advice for parents to feel more confident and informed on the steps they can take to keep their children safer online.



My World of Work

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

Support your child on their career journey

We've got lots of resources and steps to help parents and carers with career conversations.

Through a My World of Work account, you and your child can access our full range of support.

S2 Holocaust Poetry

Our S2 pupils have been studying the Holocaust in RME and have written some harrowing yet excellent poems which try to demonstrate just how difficult life was for prisoners living in the concentration camps. With very few Holocaust survivors still alive to share their stories, it is encouraging to see our pupils help educate others through their work.

Locked Up In Hell

My eyes flutter open to a half-dead crowd,
Groans in pain all around,
What a dreadful morning,
What a dreadful sound.
Blow the whistle and ring the bell,
As it's another day locked up in hell.

A beam sat on my face,
A shower? What great news,
I run into the chamber, what's there to lose!?,
But nothing could prepare me for the sick gas to ooze.
Blow the whistle and ring the bell,
As it's another day locked up in hell.

Coughs,
Splutters,
My heart thumps,
One beat after another,
A person after another, they all fall and they clutter.
Blow the whistle and ring the bell,
As it's another day locked up in hell.

By Brooklyn

Set Free

People ran to the fence,
They'd had enough,
When the morning came, it was tough,
They'd tried so much,
All for this, the struggle,
The pain, and worst of all the end game.
It wasn't just that, that set me free,
The Nazis, they slowly killed me.
Everyone sad, everyone tired,
If you didn't work hard enough,
The gun was fired,
But at the end of the day,
We were tricked,
Only for us to be gone in a tick'.
So that's everything over,
Everything gone,
For the fence I flee,
One last breath, the weight has been lifted of my shoulders,
And at last, I am set free.

By Lucy

Decay

Through this work I struggle

Through this life I strain

Numbness has consumed me

I no longer feel pain.

My skin is callus

Through my wrists shine my veins

As I try to heave my weight

My efforts are in vain.

I long for an escape

Even just a slight sensation

As I walk through the wire

The numbness rushes out of me, all I feel is elation.

Barbs erase my flesh

Bullets pierce my skin

I do whatever it takes

To escape this hell I'm in.

By Archie

Death is in the Air

Crammed in barracks like chickens in a coup

Living off bread, and miserable soup.

Eight in a bed, like sardines in a tin,

Hungry, weak, tired, thin.

Treated like a pig.

Without any sleep, the trenches I dig.

‘Work will set you free’, it was all a lie,

Too exhausted to cry. The people close to me begin to die.

We’re in despair, death is everywhere.

Death is in the air.

By Filip

Boys and Girls Football

Brilliant day last week for the senior boys representing the school over at St Matthews, tremendous work ethic by all in the game, and some strong overall performances from the pupils who were also being assessed in their SQA Higher PE practical one-off performances.

MVP for the game (as picked by the players) was C Aitken. A very good team performance overall in difficult conditions underfoot, and some very good goals scored as well.

J Young (scoring twice) and the other goals supplied by F Miller and L Campbell.

The AHS girls' football team also travelled to St Mathew's with the boys. They played really well despite facing a very challenging older opposition who all play for adult clubs on the mainland. The first half was competitive; the score was 1-1 at four minutes to half time. E Kincaid scored an excellent goal with an assist from H Lucas.

Despite the difference in age and experience our girls played really well.

Veterinary Science event, which will be held at **7.00 pm on Thursday 3rd March.**

Speakers include:

- Prof Susan Rhind – Chair of Veterinary Medical Education, University of Edinburgh
- Patrick Pollock – Director of the Equine Hospital at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
- Sarah Day – Vet in General Practice, on balancing career with the rest of life
- Zoie Ballantyne – recently qualified vet, on the journey to vet school and beyond
- Joanna Wilson – final-year veterinary student on making it to finals

Please let me know if you plan to take part.

Pupils and parents can register free of charge on Eventbrite using the following

link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/271901874827>

Medical Science and Caring Professions event, which will be held at **7.00 pm on Wednesday 16th March.** This event will be hosted by the charity Jo's Trust, with the support of Dollar Academy. The charity aims to support young people who wish to embark on a medical career, as well as raising vital funds for brain cancer research. Speakers include:

- Dr Callum Cruickshank – Clinical Fellow in Medicine for the Elderly at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
- Dr Erin Cooper – Junior Doctor at Dumfries General Hospital, on life as a medical student
- Dr Jill Hepburn – GP in South Queensferry, on general practice and the range of career opportunities in healthcare
- Lauren Henderson – Reach Officer, University of St Andrews, on applying to medical school
- Michelle Sinclair – Access Manager, University of St Andrews, on applying to medical school

Opportunity from **Argyll College UHI.**

This event forms part of Apprenticeship Week. This free, online event is hosted by our Schools link Officer Dawn Miller and may be of interest to any young person (or parent) who is interested in studying a Foundation Apprenticeship with us. Anyone interested in attending need to click the link and register for their free place.

- Apprenticeships at Argyll College UHI (will cover Foundation Apprenticeship, Modern Apprenticeship & Graduate Apprenticeship)

Tuesday 8th March at 6pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeships-at-argyll-college-uhi-tickets-275536275417?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Career information and Guidance - various opportunities are being posted on the PSE and the DYW Team Tiles. As parents you do not have access to these, but I would strongly recommend asking your child to show you what is being posted there. For those pupils in the senior phase there are virtual work experience placements, summer schools, research projects and more to look at. In addition, for those wishing to leave school this is where job opportunities will be posted too. Pupils may need to be encouraged to turn on notifications for these, so they do not miss out on the opportunities being advertised.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Good News!

Welfare Rights Officer, Audrey, provided advice to a parent on the help available to pay their council tax bill, Audrey assisted to make a **claim** to council tax reduction including a **backdate** of the help available.

The parent was awarded arrears of benefit **£363.95** and an ongoing **award** of **£12.01** per week. A total of **£624.52** towards their annual council tax bill.

Council tax reduction is a means tested benefit i.e. dependant on your household circumstances and income.

Have you checked if you are entitled to any financial support?

Contact our schools
Welfare Rights Officer
Audrey Ritchie on
01294 310498,
07799075426 or email
moneymatters@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Good News!

Welfare Rights Officer, Audrey, was able to advise a parent on the help available to deal with the **benefit cap**. The parent was assisted with a discretionary housing payment application and a request to **backdate** any award.

The parent was awarded a discretionary housing payment of **£3776.74** for the financial year 2021/22. In addition, assistance was given to resolve a **council tax reduction** query and a **£671.34** annual reduction re-instated to help with the bill.

Are you subject to the benefit cap?

Or know if you are entitled to any other help?

Contact our schools
Welfare Rights Officer
Audrey Ritchie on
01294 310498,
07799075426 or email
[moneymatters@north-
ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:moneymatters@north-
ayrshire.gov.uk)

Staff Bake-Off Competition

On Monday 14th February, the staff at Arran High School Campus held a Valentines Bake-Off Competition. Staff were invited to enter a Valentine's Day themed cake (anonymously) into the competition which could be of any shape, flavour and design of their choice.

The cakes were displayed and judged by a threesome of cake loving individuals with the winner being announced at lunchtime. Cakes were then consumed by staff during lunchtime at a staff get together in the canteen.

Donations for ARCAS were collected for a slice of cake and the total amount raised was £74.01. The overall winner was Mrs Foster who made a marvellous cake. She was presented with a Bake-Off Trophy, Certificate and Bake-Off Apron. The runner ups were Diane Taylor and Vicki MacDonald.

All participants made a valiant effort with their cakes and were very tasty. Lots of effort with the decoration and flavours.

A special mention must be made to Mrs Logan who presented a broken heart cake on the day. We all thought this was a genuine entry until she revealed that she had dropped the cake on the way to the oven shelf!!!!

