



March 2018

## NEWSLETTER

### Dear Parent, Carer or Colleague

As we approach the Easter break, I reflect that this has been a busy term for the pupils and staff here at Kemnay Academy.

S1, S2 and S3 pupils have been busy in school with all aspects of curriculum work and activities. Our senior phase pupils have been engaged in NQ course work including assignments and folios and pupils in S4/5/6 undertook prelim exam practice in January in all their subject areas.

Our Parent Council continues to support the Academy in its work and aims to promote more effective engagement by parents in the work of the Academy. The Parent Council met again for this term led by chair, Mr Bob Jones. Reports on its work will be included in each newsletter and on our website.

This term we have experienced some of the worst weather to hit the UK in a number of years. The snow closures highlighted to the school the need to keep good communication at the heart of what we do. The poor weather has had an impact on all our pupils across BGE and SENIOR PHASE. Pupils were encouraged to access homework set out on the SHOW MY HOMEWORK or TEAMS. There is more information inside on the systems we use for homework.

For advice on bus transport in poor weather please make use of the document found via Aberdeenshire Council – Pupil Transport Unit or follow this link - <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/public-transport/school-transport/>

**Mrs L Paul, Rector**



Reminder:

School Closure Website: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures/)

Telephone Information Line:

0870 054 4999

PIN: 021070

School uses a variety of means to communicate with parents and carers. Where we can we will text information to advise and update parents.

Please also use our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Kemnay-Academy>

The school website details are: <http://kemnayacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

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### ***Values, Vision and Aims***

*As part of our continued focus on school values all teaching staff engaged in a discussion about the values. Staff were asked to identify what the values looked like in their classrooms.*

*The pupil council have taken the comments to add their view and opinions. Our school aim is to mirror our focus on high quality learning and teaching throughout the school.*

### ***Continuous Improvement***

*The school generates a standard and quality report annually. This document is based on validated evaluation statements from how good is our school (edition 4) I have included x for parents.*

### ***Excellence and Aspiration***

*We have high expectations that every learner will aspire to be the "best you can be" at Kemnay Academy. Our school supports all learners in personalising an appropriate and ambitious curriculum to allow every young person to develop and achieve.*

### ***Responsibility and Respect***

*As a school we promote both responsible citizenship within school and across our wider community. We are clear about our responsibilities as Kemnay Academy citizens. All our pupils are encouraged to support an outward looking culture. We aim to cultivate a mutual culture of respect, social justice and equality and reflect this in all our actions. At Kemnay Academy we encourage learning for a sustainable world. We are inclusive and respect the differences of others.*

### ***Success and Determination***

*Success is achievable with hard work, commitment and determination. Throughout the learner journey, pupils at Kemnay Academy are developing resilience. We value achievement and celebrate it. As a school community we recognise and acknowledge success across all our curriculum areas and throughout the wider life of the school.*

# Updates

## Staffing Changes:

Thanks to all staff for their hard work and commitment again this session.

We are delighted to welcome the following staff to Kemnay Academy: -

Mr R Patterson – PE  
Mr R Brown – Humanities  
Ms H Williamson – Art

Welcome to all new colleagues.

The school welcomes back Mrs K Laird - English



## How to support your child with Microsoft Teams.

Kemnay Academy will be changing the method of conveying and requesting planned homework.

You will be aware that the school has made use of Show my Homework to support pupils with homework planning and revision. At the change of timetable in June 2018 the school will have moved to a new electronic method "Microsoft Teams".

Within school some staff are already making use of this as part of a pilot, you may be aware of this or familiar with this.

To access Microsoft Teams as a parent we would encourage you to download the app. You will need the GLOW email address and GLOW login details of your child to access the account, your child will know both of these.  
Currently within school pupils access information and curriculum through the GLOW platform.

The school will contact you again to advise the change to Microsoft Teams and host a parental support event alongside this.

## Pupil Council

It is important that pupils have the opportunity to discuss issues in the school with the leadership team and other members of school staff. At the recent meeting pupils have highlighted the need to address concerns about “the toilets in the school”.

Pupils have raised the following –

**“Soap dispensers are not filled up”** Janitor team have spoken with the cleaners. All checked regularly.

**“Paper towels in the toilets, better than driers”** Janitors have put in place paper towel dispensers.

**“Fix broken locks on the doors”** Again actioned by the janitor team.



A number of issues drawn to the schools attention are directly linked to pupil vandalism.

Some pupils have been vandalising the taps in the unisex toilets by turning the taps round the wrong way. These are repeatedly fixed to support pupils.

It is noted that toilet paper dispensers don't work when the toilet paper is pushed back through the dispensing gap! Again, this requires pupils to think about others and not do this.

Many of these issues would be solved if more care and attention was given to the resources we have in the school. To support pupils to speak out we have placed photographs of all the Janitor team on the walls and posted signs to advise action that needs to be taken. Any breakage/fault can be reported to school staff.







Kemnay Academy has been selected as one of three schools who are finalists in the Learning for Sustainability category of the Scottish Education Awards 2018.

### **Looking at ourselves, looking to the world, learning for our future**

Our nomination included information about the work pupils and staff are doing under the broad context of Learning for Sustainability. It showed that Kemnay Academy is developing activities and encouraging participation from pupils and staff

“Learning for Sustainability is being embedded across the curriculum, vision and values at Kemnay Academy through a three-year school improvement plan focus.

An S6 Sustainability Leaders group coordinates work for the Eco Schools programme and promotes LfS activities across the school through the newsletter, social media and at school events. The group is represented on the school strategy group and has also contributed to the planning of a new Aberdeenshire Schools Sustainability initiative. S6 pupils also support classes across the curriculum and lead health and charity groups.

A pupil-led Global Goals Group promotes and celebrates the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The school is currently working towards achieving awards in Rights Respecting Schools, Fair Trade, RHSS Schools Gardening and the Eco Schools Green Flag.

The annual Sustainability event is enjoyed by pupils, staff and presenters. It provides an opportunity for staff and pupils to learn together through new experiences. A popular event, it is never short of staff volunteers!

All staff have attended and engaged with CLPL activities within the school at twilight and In-service events. Our work has been presented at national LfS events and at the Scottish Learning Festival.

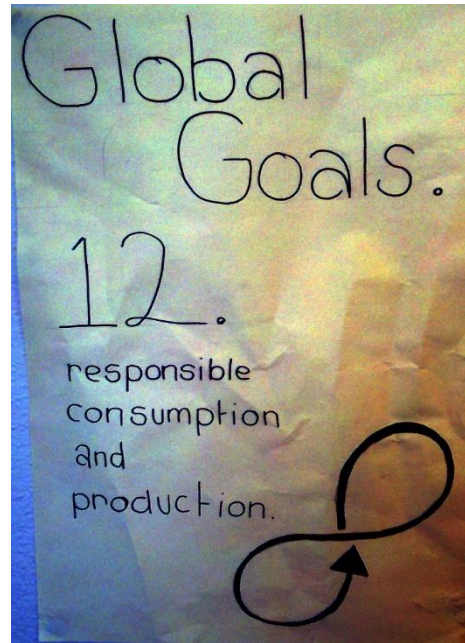
Access to activities by pupils and staff is not driven by ability, but by interest and enthusiasm. This is providing wider achievement for all.

Feedback from pupils and staff always demonstrates an enthusiasm for the big events with surveys used to gather feedback from other initiatives.

The impact of learning in LfS is not always immediate, sometimes it just sows a seed and the impact comes later.”

In April there will be a visit to the school by the judging panel who will meet pupils and staff. We have also to prepare a short video clip to be shown at the final in Glasgow in June. This recognition reflects the interest and support there is from staff and pupils for the various activities and initiatives across the school. It should also inspire pupils who are involved to encourage others to take part, learn new skills and develop their knowledge of the world.

Twitter @KemnayAcLfS



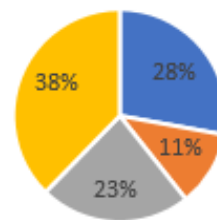
Waste Week at Kemnay Academy ran from the 5th to the 9th March using resources designed by Kemnays S2 IDL classes. A number of posters were designed by the students to raise awareness of waste around the school.

The classes investigated global food waste, and then surveyed the full S2 cohort. We also designed a multiple-choice personal Food Waste Promise that each student could sign.

The classes investigated global food waste, and then surveyed the full S2 cohort. We also designed a multiple-choice personal Food Waste Promise that each student could sign.

Here are the results of the S2 Promise.

Waste Day 2018 Survey Results



Dr Jefferies and S2 IDL

- Eat all their food and not throw it away
- Try to buy goods with less packaging
- Try to buy goods with recyclable packaging
- Recycle correctly

## Kemnay Academy Youth Philanthropy Initiative Final 2018



The S5 pupils at Kemnay Academy have been working on the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). This is an active citizenship programme that raises awareness amongst young people about philanthropy and their local community. Each participating school, each year is responsible for directing a £3000 YPI Grant to a local charity through a unique programme of team work, research and competition. YPI Scotland is all about creativity and passion, leaving the four walls of the classroom behind, and supporting the issues young people care most about.

### Aims of YPI

- To engage a full year group of participating students (S2-S6) through a curricular based programme.
- To develop the next generation of responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- To develop the skills and confidence of young people through a real life, hands on experience of philanthropy.
- To raise awareness of social service issues and the work of local charities, and channel funds to them effectively.

This year at Kemnay there were class finals where 4 groups made it to the school final. The charities that were represented in the final were – Legion Scotland, Gordon Dementia Services, Kincardine and Deeside Mental Health Association and Foos Yer Doos Sing-song Club. The winner this year were the group representing Foos Yer Doos Sing-song Club. Joy Doorghen, who runs the club said ‘you have no idea what the £3000 means to us. We will be able to keep our club open for another year, providing support for the people who attend our club. I am so grateful to Ailsa Smith, Saffy Joss and Calum Marr for their hard work in promoting our charity and winning this money for us.’



The winning group with the Foos Yer Doos charity representatives.

## Science Snippets

### British Science Week

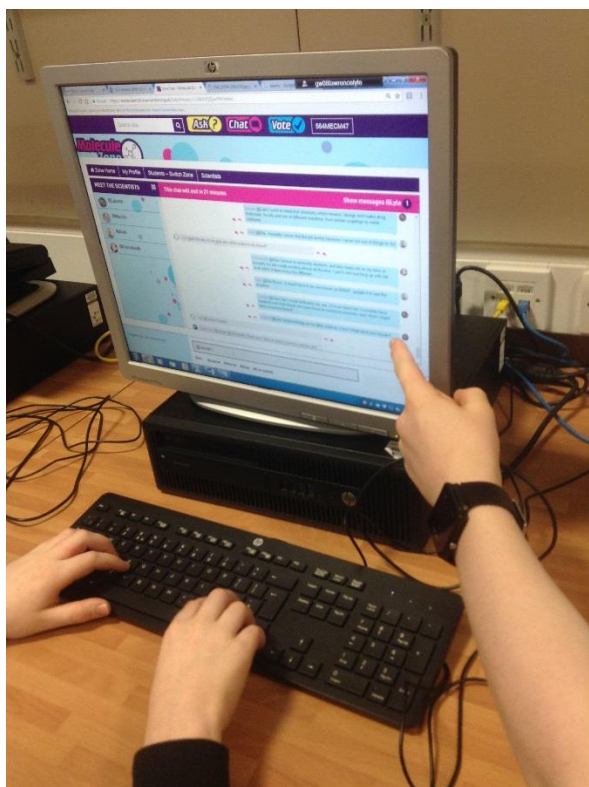
From 9-18th March, Science classes participated in a number of activities to celebrate British Science Week. Class 1B1 enjoyed an online chat with some real life scientists who work on the Immune System. Pupils asked some great questions, including 'What makes cancer so strong that the body struggles to fight it?'. Later in the week they also enjoyed participating in the Squashed Tomato Challenge. Pupils designed and tested transport systems to help farmers in Nepal transport their tomatoes from the fertile land on the mountainside to the market in the valley below. There were lots of ingenious designs, but the winning system, which could transport 5 tomatoes down a metre in just over ten seconds was by Aiden, Fraser, Sophie, Keira and Sam - well done!

Chemistry class 3C also participated in the I'm a Scientist online chat, with 5 Chemists from around Scotland. The pupils said they enjoyed the experience, particularly since they had met one of the Chemists earlier in the term when he visited the school to do a Chemistry show.

Pupil comments included:

"The online chat was good because we learned interesting things about what jobs you can do with Chemistry'

'It made me understand more about all the different areas of Chemistry and places you can go to study them'.



### S3 Chemistry Show

On Wednesday 21st February, all the S3 Chemists were treated to a live Chemistry Show. Dr Alan McCue and Mr Chris Wildi from Aberdeen University brought their 'Flashes and Bangs' Show to school. Pupils learned about reactions of gases and hydrogen buses, how fireworks are coloured and how much energy is in a jelly baby. The pupils really enjoyed watching the



experiments and commented afterwards on how much they learned about how Chemistry influences our everyday lives and the skills needed to be a research scientist.



## **Science Baccalaureate**

Two S6 pupils have completed work for the Inter-disciplinary unit of the Scottish Science Baccalaureate. This has involved working with scientists at Aberdeen University and SRUC and sports scientists. Pupils shared their work with pupils from Banchory Academy at peer review events.

The projects were:-

Erin Jones – Protein Use in Sport

Angus Cook – Wind Energy

## **Learning for Sustainability**

### **UN Global Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production**

Initiatives are continuing to be used to help to manage waste at the Academy and to raise awareness of how we can all reduce our waste.

The S1 and S2 IDL Food and the Environment classes have continued to investigate issues around food waste and took part in raising awareness of KemNae Waste during Waste Week.

S2 pupils carried out surveys and gathered views about water fountain provision at the school. A new water bottle filling station has been purchased and the group are continuing to advise on the best system for pupil use.

A survey of general views about the initiatives at the school have again highlighted the issue of Litter and Waste management. Different solutions are being trialled and a group will be established to take on this role.

The Sustainability Leaders group are continuing to collect used stamps ( RNIB and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf) and broken/unwanted jewellery (Alzheimers Society) to send to charities.

### **UN Global Goal 15 - Life on Land**

Planting is underway to establish a wildflower meadow near the Astroturf. S1 pupils have been successful in the One Planet Picnic Pocket Garden competition and will be displaying their garden at Gardening Scotland from 1-3 June. Other garden designs will be shown at the school during the Sustainability event.

### **UN Global Goal 7 – Clean Energy**

The Sustainability Leaders carried out Switch Off Fortnight activities in December and March. Results from this will be used to measure the effectiveness of their campaign. Pupils are also contributing their ideas to the Aberdeenshire Council Carbon Budget Initiative.

### **Eco Schools Update**

The S6 Sustainability Leaders Group has been working to promote the school and wider community's care for the environment. An Eco Committee has been established which includes different year groups, staff and involvement of the community. Links have been established with Greener Kemnay, the Kemnay Community Beekeeping group and Kemnay Community Council. This is a positive development to support a better relationship between the school and local community.

The Eco Schools group is evaluating it's work to set priorities and targets for next year to improve it's environmental sustainability. The key focus areas have been Litter and Waste Management (KemNae Waste), Energy, Improving School Grounds and Biodiversity. Our work is linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals) and we are submitting an application for the Green Flag.

We are also continuing to share our work with our e-twin school Laanila School, Oulu, Finland

Any pupils or staff interested in joining the Eco Group or participating in our activities should contact Sasha Bryden, S6 or Ms Buchan.

Upcoming events

Monday 21 May S3 Global Goals event

Tuesday 22 May S2 Sustainability event ( 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event! )

Tuesday 22 May Kemnay Academy Country Show

Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 May S1 John Muir Award

Twitter @KemnayAcLfS



## Young Carers

This year, Young Carers Awareness day was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> January. S1 classes have been learning about Young Carers during Personal and Social Education lessons. To spread their knowledge across the whole school, S1 pupils prepared presentations which they will deliver at assemblies to all year groups. S3 classes have been developing their knowledge further on the topic through exploring what type of support could be offered to young carers in our school.

If you believe that your child may be a young carer, you can find more information at <https://quarriers.org.uk/services/young-carers-support-service-aberdeenshire/>

Your child's Guidance teacher will also be able to give more information and support.

## Active Schools Easter Programme



### ACTIVE SCHOOLS EASTER PROGRAMME

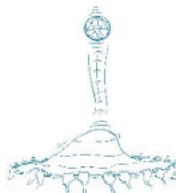
#### P1-7 Multi-Sports:-

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April  
10am – 1pm each day at Kemnay Academy  
Cost = £6 per day or all 3 days for £15

*Come and join us for a variety of different sports, activities, and games each day! Local club coaches and instructors will also be adding to the endless list of fun!*

#### Boccia (taster session):-

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
P1-3 – 10am-11am, and P4-7 – 11am-12pm  
Both sessions at Kemnay Academy  
Cost = Free



*These sessions are primarily for children with a physical, sensory or learning disability but will be inclusive to anyone who wishes to give the sport a try. Parents are welcome to attend along with their child if they wish to stay and get involved! There is potential for a regular local session to be developed if there is demand following this taster session.*

For information regarding booking, please see reverse of leaflet.



*Spaces are limited and must be booked before Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April!*

#### Booking Procedure:-

In order for your child to attend the holiday programme activity sessions you must ensure you sign up via one of the following methods:

#### Online application form:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/request/active-schools/active-schools-online-form-garioch-holiday-programme/>

Call: Lynsey Coutts on 01467 538899 / 07909 875461  
or Email: [lynsey.coutts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:lynsey.coutts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

\*If your child has previously attended an Active Schools club/session, and contact details have not changed, then please call or email to book your child's space at the programme\*

#### Payment:

Please bring payment in a sealed envelope with your child's name and school clearly marked on the front. **Please bring payment on the first day your child is attending the programme.**

Cheques can be made payable to "Aberdeenshire Council".  
\*Free of charge for Active Aberdeenshire Members\*





Dear Parents and Pupils,

To celebrate the World Book Day, 17 of our pupils went for a trip to Waterstones bookshop in Aberdeen where we participated in some fun activities, browsed and bought some books with World Book Day Tokens and also pupils chose books for our school library. Waterstones also offered two prizes for best character costume and the winning characters were Bob Cratchit and Anne of Green Gables!

Since our last newsletter the school Library has changed quite a lot! We are now equipped with 15 new tables, 50 colourful and comfortable chairs, 10 beanbags, 2 book trolleys and a magazine rack.

And that is not the end of transforming this place! We are working on improving it even more but we can already see a big difference. The computer homework suite is now a well-used space and is available to all students throughout the day expect for when it is used by a teacher with their class.

We are open every break and have regular lunchtime activities

#### LUNCHTIME IN THE LIBRARY (13:15 – 13:55)

Mondays: Reading, Homework, Drawing, UNO and Jigsaws

Tuesdays: Book Club, Quiet Reading and Homework

Wednesday: Board Games, Reading and Homework

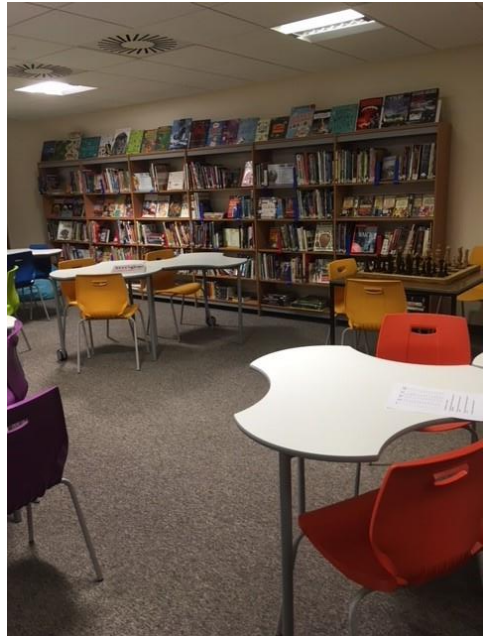
Thursday: Lego Club

Friday: Reading, Homework, Drawing, UNO and Jigsaws

Mrs Walicka and Mrs Davidson



And that is how our library looks now:



## Kemnay Academy Dress Code

**As we plan for the summer term parents/carers are encouraged to support young people to wear school uniform.** The uniform worn in school creates a working atmosphere, which supports pupils learning. Pupils at Kemnay Academy are expected to wear the following items to school:

White polo shirt with school badge or white shirt with school tie

All pupils will have the option of wearing a shirt/blouse and tie or polo shirt.

Black sweatshirt or V-neck sweaters for all and cardigans (girls) each with the Academy badge

Green tie for senior students

House colour school tie for S1-S4 (optional)

Black skirt or trousers (**not jeans or leggings**)

Black shoes or black trainers

Senior pupils have a senior school tie

Pupils, parents and staff were involved in choosing the current dress code and the items have been selected so that pupils clearly identify with the school. Please also consider the changeable nature of weather conditions and provide your child with appropriate outerwear and footwear to suit.

**Please note the wearing of denim clothing is not permitted. Outdoor clothing including hoodies should be removed in the classroom.**

### Uniform suppliers

Sweatshirts and polo shirts can be purchased from D.F.S. 13 High Street, Inverurie.

School ties can be purchased from the school office. Tesco also offer an online service for the black jumper, cardigan, polo shirt and sweatshirt. Details can be found on the Tesco website.

Parents should note their responsibility to ensure all clothing and belongings brought to school should be named or marked in some way, as it is difficult for children to distinguish their own clothing from that of others.

### Clothing Grants

Some families may be entitled to a school clothing grant of £50 per year. More information about this can be found at:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/assistance/school-clothing-grants/>

## Auschwitz Trip

In October 2017, Ailie Keddie and I (Rebecca Mackie) visited Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. This was made possible by the The Holocaust Educational trust which takes thousands of students from all over the United Kingdom to a number of concentration camps and Holocaust memorials across Europe. The one-day trip allowed two students from each school to visit the town of Oswiecim, Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau. We were chosen after a competitive selection process which involved writing a personal statement and then we were interviewed by our RMPS teacher and a member of senior management. The project is made up of three different parts. The first part of our project was an orientation seminar down in Glasgow. The orientation seminar allowed us to meet with our team leaders and the other students that we would be visiting the camp with. There were around 220 other students from all over Scotland visiting at the same time as us. The seminar focused on the history and background of the holocaust, giving us an insight into anti-semitic behaviour before and during the Second World War. We were also fortunate enough to listen to Holocaust survivor Janine Webber. Her testimony was incredible and extremely hard-hitting. We are both so grateful that she shared her testimony with us, as we are the last generation to be able to hear from a holocaust survivor first hand. The second part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project was the day-trip to Poland. We travelled down to Glasgow the night before and had an early flight to catch at 4am the next morning to Krakow airport. We set off to the town of Oswiecim. Oswiecim had a population of 60% Jewish people in 1939 but today no Jews live here. The history of this small town gave us a real insight into how many individual lives, towns and villages were impacted, and still are to this day. The second part of the day-trip was the visit to Auschwitz One. As we entered through the gates to the camp we both felt very emotional. The weather was cold, wet and miserable when we arrived and this only added to the feeling of gloom we experienced. The visit to the first camp was a guided tour, so we heard a lot of individual life stories. This made it personal and very difficult to comprehend. In Auschwitz One, stands the remaining gas chamber which we chose to walk through. One of the hardest things about this was seeing the scratch marks all over the walls and floors. Many of the other students could not bring themselves to enter. The tour included different exhibits, including personal belongings on show. One of the hardest things for us was the 'Room of Shoes' which displayed hundreds of thousands of shoes either side of us down a long corridor up to the ceiling. There were also thousands of glasses, wedding rings, family photos and suitcases. There was also the room of hair, which the Nazis shaved off the prisoners when they arrived at camp and which they used to make blankets. We had to keep reminding ourselves that these belongings were only a tiny proportion of the mass scale of individuals who were murdered simply because of who they were. The third visit was to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp which is situated 3km away from Auschwitz One. The scale of this camp is immense, and still haunts us both. Although I did not expect the scale of something to impact me in this way, it did. After the visit to the second camp, we headed back to the airport and caught our flight at around 11pm. Overall, it was an extremely emotional and hard-hitting day, and I cannot possibly manage to write every detail and feeling down. The third part of the project was a 'Follow-up' seminar down in Glasgow a few weeks later. This has allowed us to reflect on our own experiences and share with others. We are now ambassadors for the trust, and we hold the responsibility of our own 'next steps'. We have held assemblies to mark holocaust Memorial Day (January 27<sup>th</sup>), provided a presentation to staff at Kemnay Academy, given a presentation to Kintore church and we also intend to hold a memorial in the near future. The trip has certainly impacted us both in good and bad ways, it is



something we both still find incredibly hard to talk about, however as ambassadors we will continue to raise awareness and share our personal experiences so that the holocaust is never forgotten.





## S1 Social Subjects - Rich World Poor World

In S1 Social Subjects this term we have been studying the topic Rich World Poor World which includes the topics of Modern Studies and Geography. We have been looking at rich and poor development indicators, fair trade and the geography of chocolate.

### **India Expedition:**

Miss Cameron visited South India last summer with 12 senior pupils from Kemnay Academy as part of an Expedition with Outlook Expeditions. During this time the group worked on a Community Project at the Elysiom Centre in Chennai. Elysiom have been working in the slums of Chennai for nearly two decades now and they run a variety of activities in the area aimed at uplifting the most disadvantaged in Indian society. Their beneficiaries tend to be women and highly vulnerable children. Aside from the free tuition centre, they run health camps, support any children who go to school with their school supplies and run vocational programs for women that live in the slum community. As many as 60-70 children attend the centre every day. Whist the team were in Chennai they worked and played with the children, teaching them English, supporting them with their homework tasks, exchanging cultures and taking them on day trips. The team also donated a huge number of items including money, toys, school equipment and clothing as financial support is greatly valued by the Centre. When the children shared their home life stories with the team they found it heart-breaking to hear about how difficult their lives were, single parent households, alcoholic fathers, abusive parents, little money. When the team left Chennai they made a promise to Joshua and Angeline, the Centre organisers that they would keep in touch with the children. Joshua's biggest wish was that these children would have someone somewhere who cared about them as this is not always the case for them at home as this is what we have tried to do in Social Subjects.

### **Our classroom:**

This term in class we have been learning about life in India and building links with the Elysiom Centre. We have also looked at Miss Cameron's Expedition photographs and created both India and Scotland Fact Files. During our research into India we found out about the food, climate, religion, clothing, history, people and culture. We decided to send our Scotland Fact Files to the Elysiom Centre along with some photographs so that the children could learn more about Scotland. The Fact Files would also brighten up their Centre too as it is just one single room. We have been sending photographs of us hard at work in class to Joshua and Angeline via What's App. We were even able to have a short video chat over What's App with Joshua and the children. Four member of our class, Pyper, Ellie, Lauren and Niah have also worked hard to put together a short documentary about life at Kemnay Academy to share with the children at the centre. We are also planning on having a video chat with the children after the Easter holidays where we will exchange questions and answers to help them develop their English skills and to learn more about the Indian culture.

**Feedback from the Centre:**

We received a lovely email from Joshua and Angeline this week which makes us proud of the work we have done.

*"Thanks for those lovely pictures and letters, we have showed to the kids and they were so excited to see it. That was very innovative and thoughtful and we really appreciate you and your students for taking such an effort. You guys brought joy to our kids as they were so happy to know that somebody thinks about them and showing their love towards them. This is what we long for and we are so thankful to you and your students for this. We have placed few pictures on our notice board. Your act motivated our kids too to do something like this and they want to send it to your students. We will do it before we close our center for summer and i will keep you posted on the same. Once again on behalf of kids, parents, volunteer a big thanks your for all your efforts and a very big thanks to all your students for their tremendous efforts. We look forward to have a continued relationship".*

*With Love*

*Josh & Angeline*

**Next term:**

We have very much enjoyed learning about India and we are looking forward to our video chat after the Easter holidays.

S1 Social Subjects and Miss Cameron



## SCOTLAND

the Capital: Edinburgh  
the population: 5.295 million

Languages: English, Gaelic, Doric

Thistle

flag:

Surrounding Counties: England, Ireland, Wales

Religions: Christians, Jews, Muslims

Sports: football, Rugby, Swimming, tennis

## SCOTLAND

Capital city: Edinburgh    Population: 5.295    Language: English

Well known Scottish food

- Haggis
- Cullen skink
- Cock-a-leekie soup
- Stovies
- Rumbledelumps
- Dundee cake
- Cloutie dumpling
- Scottish tablet
- Scottish cranachan
- Tipoy laird
- Shortbread
- Outcakes
- Tattie scones
- Porridge

Edinburgh Castle

Loch Ness

Ulughart Castle

Ben Nevis

Museum of Scotland

Arthur's Seat





This term, pupils and staff of Kemnay Academy travelled to the world class ski resort of Serre Chevalier in the French Alps for a week of skiing, challenge and adventure! The terrific facilities and outstanding conditions in the French Alps gave our pupils the perfect classroom to further develop their skills.

Our pupils skied, skated, slid and swam through the activity packed week. Every day, pupils enjoyed recording their progress through their Alpine Skier 'Significant Aspects of Learning' booklet, which formed a keepsake to be treasured of their time away with friends. Pupils commented throughout the trip; 'this is amazing', 'it was a brilliant week!', 'Take me back - seriously!' There are more pupil comments and photos of the trip on the next page.

Preparations are currently underway for a ski trip in 2019.

Mr MacKenzie







'We would like to tell you a bit about our experience when we went on the Serre Chevalier ski trip this year. We found that it was a great way to improve our skills on the slopes, teambuilding in activities and recording what we had done in our booklets.

When on the slopes we split into three groups of appropriate level which meant we could learn quicker. Some people had never skied before whilst some were quite advanced. The groups were able to develop their parallel turns and experience different terrains - including off-piste and snow parks! All groups had amazing instructors.

Skiing every day was tiring, however we were still able to keep a smile on our face for the whole week. We really enjoyed spending time with everyone during the activities at night. These were skating, bum boarding, hot chocolates, swimming, quiz, crepes and a movie.

We would 100% recommend this trip to the upcoming years. It is a great way to learn new skills, as well as getting to know people in a different way. It really is a great experience!'  
Freja, Amy and Katie





# KEMNAY ACADEMY

Developing Scotland's Young Workforce

Newsletter – March 2018

## Welcome

Welcome to Kemnay Academy's fourth Developing the Young Workforce letter updating pupils, parents, staff and business partners on what is happening with DYW in school. Each newsletter will provide information on current projects, an update on previous and future projects going on here at Kemnay Academy.



## Career Ready

Our Career Ready Pupils Dylan Cunningham, Niamh Milton Kyle MacRitchie, Eilidh Morrison & Carly Cairns have continued to attend their Masterclasses. Two weeks ago, Kyle, Carly and Eilidh attended their final masterclasses at Anderson, Anderson & Brown in Kingswells Prime Four Business Park. The classes were on Success at Interviews and Brand You. Brand You.

These masterclasses were exciting and it gave the pupils an opportunity to reflect on their strengths and how they can use them to succeed at interview.

This has now completed the masterclass programme for the 2016-18 students and they now look forward to their Career Ready Graduation in Perth Concert Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

ctd

Our two 2017-19 students Niamh Milton and Dylan Cunningham are currently updating their information and going through the recruitment process for their 4 week summer internship. Niamh will be spending her time at Wood Group and Dylan at BP. They have also been in contact with their mentors who will guide them through the process.

Finally, we have some fantastic Career ready news to share – Eilidh Morrison in S6 was nominated for the Career Ready Student of the Year Award for Aberdeenshire. We are pleased to announce that Eilidh won the Aberdeenshire region Career Ready Student of the Year Award and now goes onto represent Aberdeenshire, competing against other regions in Scotland for the overall Scottish winner. We wish her luck with this.



“The career ready experience has been an amazing journey that I have learned a lot from. The journey started with 3 masterclasses to help me prepare for my internship.

The experience also includes a 4 week internship which I really enjoyed as I got to work within Aberdeenshire council. My mentor was really good as he gave me a range of experience with different departments in Aberdeenshire council. During this time my mentor also got me to work on a CV with the correct information needed for future employers. At the end of the 4 weeks each of the career ready students had to do a presentation telling the executive members of the council about our time at the council.”

# DYW

<http://dywaberdeenshire.org>

ABERDEENSHIRE

Developing the  
Young Workforce



### Business Engagement

We continue to work hard on developing new Business Partners for Kemnay Academy. Our Partnership with Aberdeen Northern Marts based at Thainstone Centre continues to grow. We have some curricular partnership working in the planning where our Science faculty and Home Economics departments have started engagement. The staff have spoken with the groups and trips planned for next term.

Our head of Science is going to be doing work with her Environmental Science class looking at exploring the role of livestock in the North East food supply chain and its importance in the local economy.

The Home Economics Hospitality class are looking to visit a working kitchen to give the pupils an insight into how a live kitchen works and the importance of each role in order to make it work. They are also planning on having Chefs into school to teach pupils how to garnish, present, learn cutting techniques and knife skills. We look forward to these projects being the start of many to come.

Caroline Mackie from ANM Group also came into school to assist with the judging of our YPI Final. We thank her for her time and appreciated her input.



We are also currently working on some new partnerships/business engagement projects which will be announced in our next edition.

### Construction

Our S3 woodwork pupils are having an opportunity to visit the new Inverurie Hospital/health centre. This has been organised through the Open Doors into Construction project. Morrison Construction, who are building the centre have invited the pupils along to see how the building has been constructed, the joinery work involved from interior walls to all the finishings.

We hope the pupils find this experience worthwhile and bring their knowledge learned back into the classroom.



### Business Directory

Our business directory is currently being developed. This is being formed as a tool for staff to use created by including all the businesses that have worked with the school over the past few years. Here, staff will be able to use it as a guide for potential visitors for any faculty projects they may run in the future.





### Skills for Life Learning & Work

This term we have had a focus across the school on the Skills for life, learning & work. Pupils have been encouraged to think about these transferrable skills across the curriculum and have had opportunities to use them in class.

DYW noticeboards with a skills, careers and opportunities focus are currently being created in faculties. A special thank you goes to Mrs Catherine Richmond who has managed to get many of her personal contacts on board to provide career snapshots for the board.

Finally a huge thank you to all the staff who are sharing their career experiences with everyone through the staff career profiles. We encourage pupils to read them as there are a number of interesting journeys into teaching.

### YPI

Mrs Hepburn organized and ran the Youth Philanthropy Initiative final. All pupils presented very well and the prize was won by 'Foo's your doo's'. Well done to all involved and a big thank you to our partners – Martin Johnston from DYW and Caroline Mackie from ANM Group who came in to judge on the panel.

### My World of Work Ambassadors

Having recruited our S2 students to becoming my world of work ambassadors for the school, they have been busy promoting the website to staff. Staff have had the opportunity to sign up and engage with the website.

On the schools in-service day, we also had a representative from my world of work and from Skills Development Scotland speak to staff on the in service days regarding using the MWOW website and the career lesson inserts available to them.

The website is parent friendly and the school encourages parents to register and have a browse at what the website can offer in terms of support for your child.

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



**My World of Work**



### Next Issue.....

Update on current projects:

- P7 Skills transition event
- Business & Curricular engagement

Skills updates:

- Skills for Life, Learning & Work
- Skills across the curriculum



## Preparations for SQA Exams

This is an exciting time for our senior pupils at Kemnay Academy as they prepare for their final SQA exams, which commence on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018. This will be a culmination of their study throughout session. For all of our youngsters it is an ideal opportunity for them to showcase their talents and to be recognised for their hard work and commitment.

To assist our young people in the preparation for these examinations, they have been granted study leave which begins on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April and ends on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June (both dates are inclusive). Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 is an Occasional Day Holiday (please note those pupils timetabled for an exam on this day, should attend school at the scheduled time).

Expectations – All of our pupils are aware of the expectations which have been placed upon them in the run up to their final exams and indeed during the prelim examination period. This message has been shared with senior year groups during assemblies and PSE time. Pupils have been issued with a booklet called Your Exams 2017 which covers all aspects of exam preparation and conduct. This information can be accessed online at:

[https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/YourExams2018.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/YourExams2018.pdf)

Important points to note for all parents/carers are:

- No portable electronic devices (smartphones/phones/i-Pods for example) allowed in exam rooms
- Clear pencil cases (a sandwich/freezer bag will do) only in exam rooms
- No programmable calculators in exam rooms
- All pupils must be in Academy uniform when they arrive for an exam or to study

Every pupil will get a personalised exam timetable. Please note that the Academy varies the start/finish times of many exams from the published ones on the SQA site. Pupils arriving late for an exam will not be granted any additional time so please check timetables carefully!

Should any pupil be too unwell to sit an exam, please contact the Academy as soon as possible and arrange for a Medical note or a letter from you to be passed to the Academy within 5 days of the exam.

The previous 'Appeals' system has been replaced by a new 'Results Services'. This change will not affect support for pupils who miss an exam due to exceptional circumstances. However, once results are published there is no facility to send additional evidence (e.g. Prelim papers) to SQA for review. Teaching colleagues at the Academy will look at the results to make decisions on whether any post-results service actions should be pursued. Please note that as a result of a marking review, a pupil's grade can go down as well as up.

Results will be issued on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and there will be SQA and school support during this period. Please contact the school should you have any concerns relating to the exam results and certificates.

We wish all our pupils well for the forthcoming exams!

## **Advice on Exam Preparation for Parents**

### Further advice on Exam Preparation

Regular attendance throughout the year will help your child keep up with course work and homework. If she/he does fall behind, through illness perhaps, contact your Guidance teacher to discuss any support that may help them catch up.

Talking to your child to reassure and encourage them and taking an interest in what they are doing will help them get through what can be a stressful time and will help them to do their best.

### **Managing their time**

- Encourage a start to revision in good time to avoid cramming and panic.
- Help plan a realistic timetable of study for each subject. Subject teachers may offer advice on revision and a weekly revision planner is available on the Student Life BBC website.

### **Getting organised**

- Discuss and decide on a fixed area at home for study with the least distractions. Make sure that the materials and equipment (pens, pencils, paper, notebooks and past papers) are at hand in this study area. (Past papers are available from the SQA website).
- Ensure that snacks and water are close by to prevent any unnecessary distractions and make sure the study area is warm and well lit.
- Speak to the rest of the family, particularly younger members, about respecting this study area and as far as possible trying to avoid interrupting.
- If it is difficult to study at home perhaps consider making use of the local library or the Academy. Study areas can always be made available if necessary and teachers may be contacted during study leave.
- Encourage your child to get their notes in order for each subject before starting. Having notes organised into topic areas for each subject may be helpful.
- Check the dates of each exam and keep a record of them somewhere you can see them easily. The Academy will issue a personalised exam timetable for each candidate. You can access the full exam timetable on the SQA website but remember that the times may be different from the Kemnay Academy times. Your child can also use the SQA Personal Timetable Builder facility to create their own timetable.

The mobile timetable builder is now available for most Java-based mobile phones along with those using Google Android and IOS (iPhone). Remember: sometimes an exam is on a public holiday. The exam will definitely take place on that day and there will be no opportunity to sit it on another day.

### **Tips to encourage studying**

- Exam times can be stressful so encourage your child to take breaks. Hour long revision sessions with short regular breaks of 10 minutes are effective.
- They may prefer to complete each task and then build in a break rather than stick to definite time slots. It's the quality of study that is important.
- Young people often focus best earlier in the day or early evening so encouraging them to study at these times may be beneficial.



- Your child might find it useful for you to read through revision notes with them. Asking them about what they have learned in their revision may be useful.

### **Keeping well**

- Encourage your child to get plenty of sleep. This is particularly important the night before an exam as it will help them perform better.
- Encourage your child to eat well. On the morning of an exam encourage them to have a breakfast, or lunch if the exam is in the afternoon.
- Help your child to avoid any unnecessary anxiety or panic by making sure they are in plenty of time for each exam and have everything they need for it.
- Encouraging regular exercise.

Academy teachers are available throughout study leave to help where necessary. If pupils need to see a teacher, they should check via the Academy office that the teacher is free then make an appointment.

We wish all our pupils every success in the forthcoming examinations.



## ***Important Dates:***

### **TERM 4**

16 April	Start of Term 4
7 May	May Day Holiday
8 May	S2 Reports Issued
1 June	S1 Reports Issued
4 June	Occasional Holiday
5 June	S5/6 induction
5 June	Start of New Timetable
19 June	KAMA Summer Concert
20 June	S1/2/3 Awards Ceremony
21 June	S4/5/6 Awards Ceremony
30 June	End of Term 4
27-29 June	P7 Link Days
6 July	End of Term

Details of term dates until 2020 are available on Aberdeenshire Council's website on:  
[http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/term\\_dates.asp](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/term_dates.asp).



Did you know Kemnay Academy has a Facebook page?

Like us at to be among the first to find out what is going on at Kemnay Academy.

- Pictures and updates from activities and trips.
- Reminders about Parents' Evenings
- Celebrating our pupils' successes both in and out of school.
- The easiest place to get the most up to date information.

Find us on 

[www.facebook.com/kemnayacademy](http://www.facebook.com/kemnayacademy)