



**Kemnay
Academy**

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

Dear Parent, Carer or Colleague

As we approach the summer holidays, I reflect that I will have been at Kemnay Academy for 3 years. In that time I have seen pupils grow and blossom into young people ready to move onto the next stage of their journey.

This summer term has been busy as usual. The SQA exams in May were well organised and managed by Chief Invigilator Mrs Pauline Morrison and DHT Ian Wright. Our senior pupils wait expectantly on the results on the 7 August.

Our timetables started in June, and S1-S3 pupils have had the opportunity to engage in ne interdisciplinary learning programmes focussed on Health and Wellbeing, Numeracy and Literacy. This is an exciting refresh of our curriculum here at Kemnay Academy.

This term we also seized the opportunity to be out in the community; S1 & S2 pupils experienced a wider delivery of the normal school curriculum through engagement with the John Muir Trust programme and sustainability awards. The weather has been very engaging and allowed us to take advantage of the great outdoors that we have.

As always I wish all our readers a safe and relaxing summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you again in August.

Reminder:

SchoolClosureWebsite: 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/>

Twitter: [@KemnayAcademy](https://twitter.com/KemnayAcademy)



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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 and say farewell to others: -

This session we say farewell to Mrs Lorraine Cormack. Mrs Cormack will be retiring this summer after 38 years of teaching, much of it at Kemnay Academy. Mrs Cormack has inspired and encouraged, many young people through music groups over the period of time she has been a teacher here. Mrs Cormack is now on her final farewell tour with a group of school musicians in Italy. Mrs Cormack will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike.

The school also says farewell to Mr Colin Shand. Mr Shand has been at kemnay Acadmey since 1988. He retires from his post as Depute Head Teacher but will be continuing to support the Technical department. Mr Shand has been a long standing member of the Senior Leadership Team and he has brought humour and extensive knowledge of all things “Kemnay Academy” to the school. Mr Shand will be greatly missed from the school leadership team.

We also say farewell and thanks to the following:

Lorena Bechelli – Teacher of English. Lorena is taking up post teaching in Glasgow.

Gillian Anderson – Teacher of P.E. Gillian is leaving to go on a gap year to travel.

Congratulations to new mum Vhari Cairns. Mrs Cairns will be on maternity leave during session 2018/19.

The school welcomes the following new staff:

Mrs Marie Glendinning – Mrs Glendinning will take up the post of part time DHT. She joins us from Ellon Academy.

Ms Kirten Begbie – Ms Begbie will take up the post of full time DHT. She joins us from Lossiemouth High School.

Welcome also,

Naomi Duncan – P.E.

Rebecca Graham – Chemistry

Kate Young – ASFL

Probationer staff joining us include –

Katie Cameron – English

Kirsten Seidel – Modern Languages

Debra Turner – Chemistry

Gordon Zimmerman – Technical

Sarah – Louise Hunt - Art



KEMNAY HOUSE BOARDS



CASKIEBEN



TUACH



DON



BENNACHIE

Highlights from Term 4

Learning for Sustainability

Twitter @KemnayAcLfS

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. There will be new recycling bins and we will continue to work with the canteen and local businesses to look at how we can reduce waste packaging and food.

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

The school is continuing to collect used stamps (RNIB and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf), broken/unwanted jewellery (Alzheimers Society), batteries and the RagBag bin in the front carpark can be used to

UN Global Goal 15 - Life on Land

Planting is underway to establish a better garden area. S1 pupils were successful in the One Planet Picnic Pocket Garden competition their garden was on display at Gardening Scotland from 1-3 June.

Our Helter Skelter Garden story

Our Food and the Environment teacher challenged us to create a garden that is sustainable, Eco-friendly and fits on a pallet. This was part of our Inter-disciplinary course. We had also been looking at how the UN Sustainable Development Goals linked to our topic.

We created our garden based on the buildings in Singapore, as they are helping the environment by integrating plants into their everyday life. Our garden originally took the form of a modern apartment building, with balconies holding flowers and other assorted plants. We found our basic design to be uninteresting; it looked too plain, and felt too clinical. We wanted to add something to make it look more charismatic.

We noticed that the tubing made it look like a helter-skelter, so we stuck with the theme of fun. We added bunting to give the design more colour. This adds another element of fun to the building.

Our garden links mainly to the Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

Goal 15 Life on Land

We also wanted to show how our garden is a community for wildlife. Our building has homes for hedgehogs, birds and insects.

Our school is trying to reduce what we throw away, KemNaeWaste. We are using materials that have been repurposed, such as:

* Inner tubes of a bike, Wood from the technical department, Funnels from science, School uniform from the lost property, Old pillow slips and scrap fabric for bunting, Tin cans, Cups and mugs that are chipped or cracked

We used plants that we and other classes had grown in class for this project

* Sweet peas, Chili peppers, Rocket, Sunflowers, Spinach, Borage

We approached a garden centre in Aberdeenshire who gladly agreed to donate plants to our project. They get their plants from the local area and had lots of ideas to help us. A member of the local Bee Keeping group was also extremely helpful and has gave us ideas about design and how to arrange our plants.

Some of the plants we used are

Plants for Pollinators

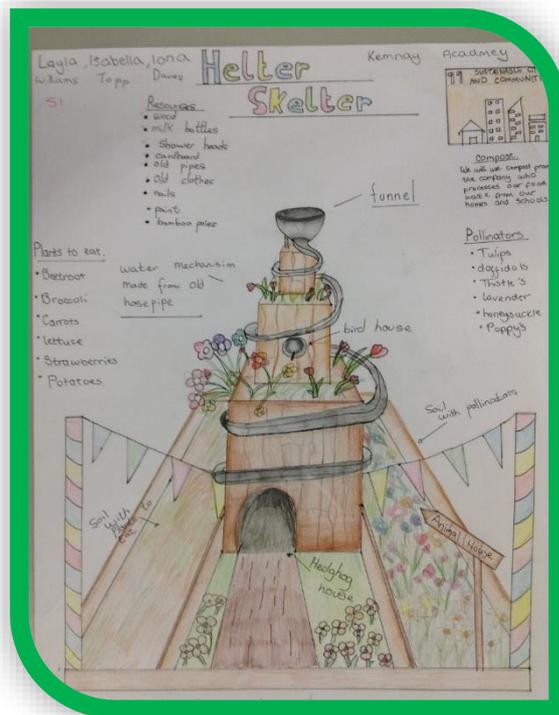
* Lavender, Thistles, Wild flower, Borage, Calendula, Heather, Poppies

Plants to eat

* Dwarf peas/beans, Lettuce, Radishes, Thyme, Chives and Potatoes

The three of us came up at lunch times to take care of our plants and to make sure they are doing fine. A challenge we experienced was when other classes did not respect our plants and put them in bright sun. We worked hard to let them know why it was important that our plants could grow well and they began to help us by watering and growing more plants.

We have really enjoyed this project and feel very proud of our design and how it is working out. Lots of teachers and pupils have been to look at our work and to offer advice and help.



Thank you to Mr Clail, Mrs Brown, Ms Buchan and Mrs Doyle for helping to make the garden plan come to life. Mrs Brown took the garden and us down to the Garden Show and helped to set it up. The plants have now been used in our school garden.

By Layla, Iona and Isabella, S1 Kemnay Academy, Aberdeenshire

Global Goals

The Kemnay Academy Global Goals Group have been awarded a 2018 Anne Frank Award by the Grampian Regional Equalities Council, for their work on raising awareness of human rights and the issue of Modern Slavery. They will be presented with their award at the ceremony on Friday 29th June. This follows up their award from last year for raising awareness about Quality Education in conflict.

Miss Washington

Eco Schools Update

The S6 Sustainability Leaders Group worked 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. The work for Eco Schools in 2018-19 is being led by a group of S2 pupils and supported by the Environmental Science class.

The Eco Schools group evaluated its work. The key focus areas in 2017-18 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 have submitted an application for the Green Flag.

Our focus areas for 2018-19 are Litter and Waste Management, Health and Well-Being and Global Citizenship.

We are planning to share our work with our e-twin school Laanila School, Oulu, Finland by making videos and having Skype meetings.

Any pupils or staff interested in joining the Sustainability Leaders or Eco Group or participating in our activities should contact Ms Buchan.

S2 Learning for Sustainability event

The S2 year group all participated in the 10th annual Sustainability event. A variety of workshops were visited by the pupils and they had the opportunity to meet scientists and others involved in environmental activities.

These included Beekeeping, Atlantic Salmon Conservation, Trapping and Tracking, Energy use, Biodiversity, River Don monitoring, Countryside Careers, Soils and Crops and Dog Behaviour.

Pupils and staff were interested to learn more about how they could make small changes to their lifestyles to have an impact on the environment.

As always, the most popular workshops were meeting the dogs with the Dog Wardens and the Gamekeepers! The 3 -day old calf and the bees were also very popular!

The event is made possible by the support of volunteers from a range of organisations in Aberdeenshire and beyond. The event has become a fixture in some of their calendars and we are delighted to work with them. The S1/2 IDL courses have also been able to make use of some of these contacts and resources.

Clean Up Scotland

Enthusiastic S1 students from Kemnay Academy, Aberdeenshire armed themselves with tabards, gloves, bags, recording sheets and litter pickers and went boldly out to make a difference to the local environment. It was a fine morning in every sense, as within an hour we had picked up and logged 171 different pieces of litter. We were all rather surprised by the amount of rubbish collected as the area around the school seems perfectly fine, but the sharp eyes of the investigators enabled them to winkle out all those hidden or half-buried objects.

The Litter Pick was part of a John Muir environmental event that we run each year for S1, with students participating in a number of activities including, Numeracy, Literacy, Gardening, Water Testing - and Bees! However, the Fine Pieces supplied to the Litter Pick Students from Greggs via Clean Up Scotland were much appreciated! Thank You!

Kemnay Academy Country Show 2018

This year the Learning for Sustainability event included our first Kemnay Academy Country Show based on the style of local agricultural shows

A small group of enthusiastic pupils (with a farming background) and Ms Buchan, planned activities to help promote a greater understanding of farming and agriculture amongst pupils and staff at the school. This is something they feel strongly about and they had been meeting weekly to discuss farming matters.



The activities at the Country Show included

- RNCI Countryside Classroom on Wheels
- Display of machinery provided by Ravenhill, AM Philips and Stewart trailers
- 'Industry Tent' competitions supported by the local SWI (Baking/Craft/Produce)

Pupils and staff were supported by

- Rob Clunas, RNCI
- Local farmers
- SAC
- SRUC
- Kemnay and Fetternear SWI

This was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how a secondary school can use the interest and expertise of its pupils to educate the wider student body about agriculture and country activities. Plans are already underway for next year's event to include a wider range of machinery and more demonstrations.

The HE department baking club organised the competitions which produced a wide range of delicious and creative entries from staff and pupils.

The feedback was very positive and a good time was had by all.

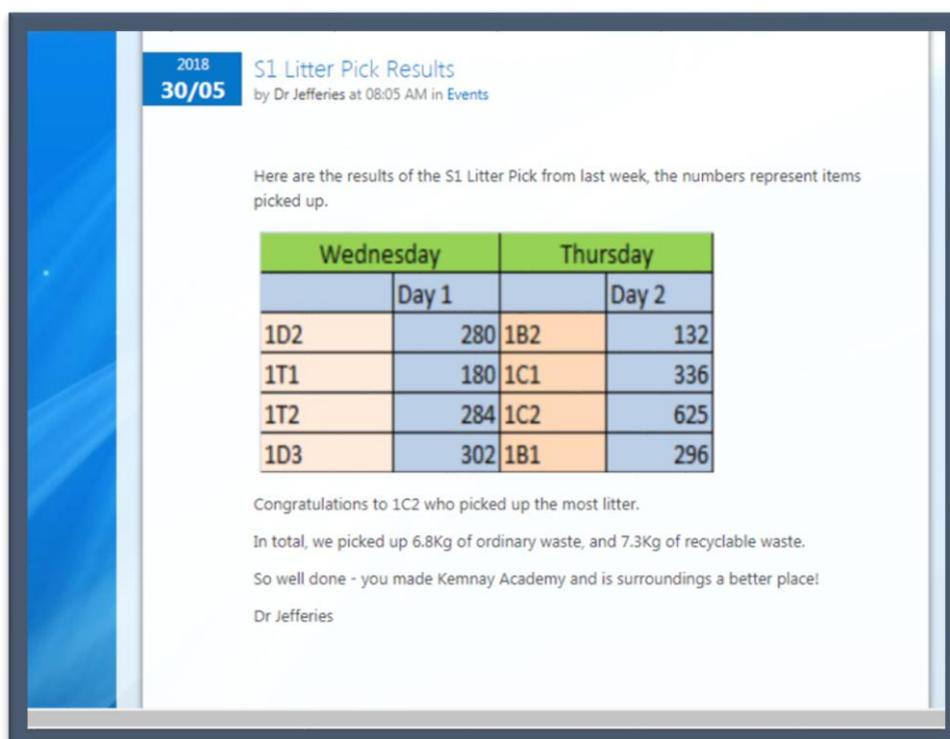


Scottish Education Awards 2018 – Learning for Sustainability category

Kemnay Academy was one of the 3 finalists in the Scottish Education Awards. The judges came to visit the school in April and met pupils and staff who shared examples of the many activities which we are doing here at Kemnay to support our work for Learning for Sustainability across the school.

Mrs Paul and four pupils representing the Sustainability Leaders and Global Goals group travelled down to the final awards celebration in a hotel in Glasgow. It was a very glitzy event with mocktails, fantastic lunch, balloon modelling and a chance to share the celebrations of innovative and exciting work done by schools across Scotland in a variety of categories. Although another school went home with the final prize, this was recognition of our work at national level.

KemNae Waste



Duke of Edinburgh

It's that time of year again – the Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition Season, in which the intrepid campers of Kemnay Academy donned their packs and marched out. Coping with determined midges whilst brilliantly navigating, the teams had to carry all their equipment, cook their own food and camp overnight. The teams completed a Practice and a Qualifier Expedition, which took place on Bennachie and at Glen Muick in June.

Congratulations to Ewan Ogilvie, Xavier Campbell-Ledgister, Jade Lamond, Libby McDonald, Nathan Wood, Griffin Riches, Lauren Conder, Juliet Mclean, Megan Duguid, Faith Palin, Leyna Reid, Molly Robertson, Holly Simmers and Emily Elphinstone, who passed the Expedition requirements of their Bronze Award.

All our pupils in S1 made the most of the warm weather this term when they undertook an extensive program of activities for their John Muir Award. Our pupils started their John Muir Award by discovering John Muir's legacy during an interactive, whole year group assembly. Two full days of activities in and around the school followed this and reinforced John Muir's vision of 'everything being connected'. Thankfully the weather was kind to us, which let our pupils make the most of these outdoor learning experiences!

Discover



Yoga on the
3G Pitch

Mindfulness and poetry
by the river Don



Thanks to all who made these events a success, I am sure many will remember the experiences for a long time! Pupil comments and photos of the events are displayed on the next 2 pages.

Mr MacKenzie

Calculating the height of trees



Gardening



'My favourite part was the yoga - I never thought I'd like it but it was so nice to do in the sun'

'I liked the gardening because we kept finding frogs!'

'When we went to the river, we looked to see what creatures were living in the water. We used this to find out if the river is healthy or not'

'I liked the bees, litter picking and water testing'

'I have learned a lot from the John Muir days - I hadn't really thought about everything being connected, but now I see it all the time!'



Water testing in Science Labs

Sampling on the river Don



Wildflower seed bombs



Conserve

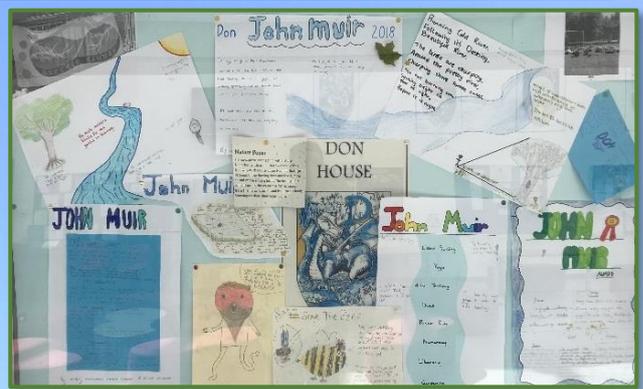
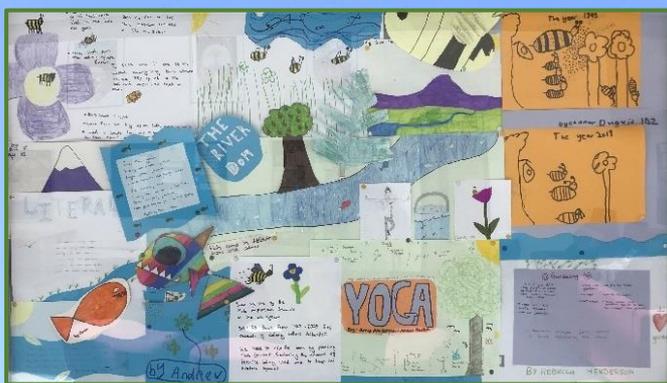
Litter picking in
Kemnay, part of
our work to
conserve our local
environment



Communicate



Pupils communicated their learning experiences on the house boards



Home Economics Department

We have had a very busy June and have promoted Hospitality through a range of events.

Taste of Grampian Saturday 2nd June 2018 Thainstone

Pupils from Kemnay Academy Home Economics Department volunteered to help as a “Commis” chef to well-known chefs who were demonstrating during the day’s events.

The photograph above shows Mrs Bennett accompanying Cameron McCrossan, Charlotte Lister and Rhianna Burns. It was a hot sunny day and pupils interacted with large lively audiences, what an amazing opportunity-well done!



Catering for Inspire Aberdeenshire Awards 15th June 2018

We were tasked with the job of creating canapés for 160 staff who were attending the Award Ceremony. Using local ingredients a Hospitality team created a range of savoury and sweet nibbles including; Barra berries tarts, highlander shortbread made with local butter, local free range egg mayonnaise Vol au vents, Mackies chocolate coated Barra strawberries along with other items.

A special thank you to Graham Fryers from Thainstone Events for coming along and showing the girls how to decorate and garnish their canapés to make them look really appetising.

The pupils involved then went to Haddo, put on their chef jackets and served their own canapés which were well received, every single savoury canapé was eaten!

Thanks to our new S3 Hospitality pupils, Riana Burns, Imogen Freeman, Charlotte Lister, Katie Thomson and Rachel Slessor.

The photograph below shows Mr G Fryer who kindly helped Imogen Freeman, Rachel Slessor, Katie Thomson, Rhianna Burns and Charlotte Lister.

Catering for the Senior Awards Ceremony , Thursday 21st June 2018

S3 Hospitality pupils from S3 classes made a range of sweet and savoury Canapes to be served after the ceremony. Every single sweet canapé was enjoyed, including our famous carrot cakes with cream cheese frosting and hand modelled fondant carrots.

We are now looking forward to see what other events we can get involved with in 2018/19.

Well done to all H.E participants, we are very proud of all their achievements!

Mrs W.Macgregor, P.T. Home Economics



Geography National 5 River Study

On Thursday 21st June, the National 5 Geography students went on a short trip to study the Burnhervie Burn and its tributary, the Clachie Burn. At several points along the river from source to mouth we measured speed, width, depth, gradient, stone size and stone shape. The landowners were very welcoming towards us, contributing their knowledge by chatting to the group. We worked hard and gathered useful information despite a few mishaps with 'overtopped wellies'. After lunch we managed a short walk in the woodland. We now have useful data to help us with our assignments. Actually standing in the middle of a river is the best way to complement theory from text books. Thanks to Mrs Doyle for coming out to help and to the students for doing so well.

Geography S3 Urban Study

The S3 Geography classes went on a trip to Aberdeen in late June. We practised some of our urban fieldwork techniques such as land-use mapping, environmental quality surveys, sketching, traffic counts, shop surveys and questionnaires. It was a very hot and sunny day and the pupils worked very well despite some of us starting to suffer a little in the sun. The pupils represented the school very well and enjoyed a little freedom at lunchtime to explore.

Mr Robinson

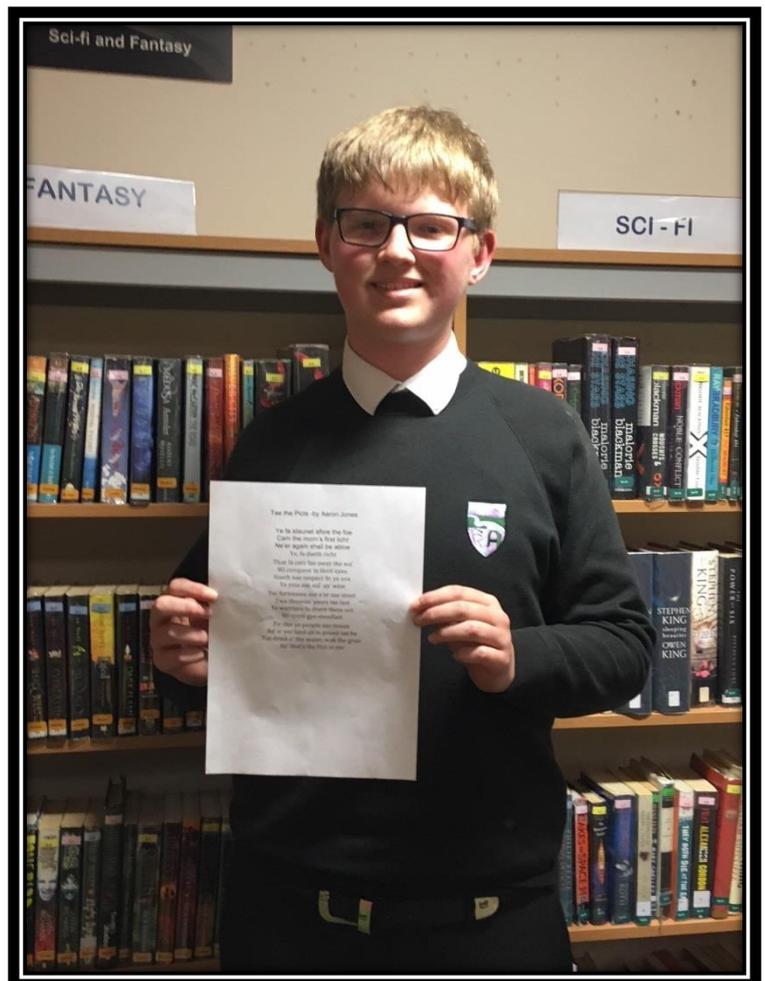
Tae the Picts

Ye fa staunet afore the foe
Cam the morn's first licht
Ne'er again shall be abloe
Ye, fa death richt

Thae fa cam fae ower the 'wa
Wi conquest in their eyes
Haeth nae respect fir ye ava
Yi yins sae aul' an' wise

Yer fortresses aur e'er sae stoot
Twa thoosan' years tae last
Ye warriors fae drave them oot
Wi spirit gye steadfast

Fir this ye people aur renun
An' o' yer land ah'm prood tae be
Tae drink o' the water, wak the grun
An' that's the Pict in me



By Aaron Jones S2

Kemnay Academy Rock Challenge

Earlier in March, over 70 pupils successfully made it to the AECC to compete in the Aberdeen event for Rock Challenge. This was initiated by a group of S6 pupils who wanted to return to the event back at the start of the school year. Pupils worked hard alongside teachers and parents to create a brand new set, costumes and make-up. With no set available, this all had to be started from scratch and thanks to a huge amount of support, we made it. Dancers created a unique dance to a story from Harry Potter with an underlying message about the negative impact of a person's greed. Each year group worked together to produce an 8 minute performance to incorporate set boards, props, dance, costume and make up. We successfully achieved a number of awards at the event for; Parental involvement, Health and well-being, Drama, Entertainment, Concept, Stage crew and Soundtrack.

S6 pupils wanted to bring Rock Challenge back as it allows pupils from S2-S6 to work together with teachers in ways they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to. This built positive relationships, confidence and team working skills. With extended rehearsals on school nights and Saturdays and a number of different fundraising events, pupils had to learn to manage their time well, ensuring all homework and studying was still complete. Rock Challenge also promotes positive a healthy lifestyle and mind set. As it is sponsored by the "Be Your Best Foundation" all participants had to abide their rules to be the best they can be on a "natural high". Rock Challenge rehearsals also gave pupils an escape from the stresses school life can bring. We had an ethos where everyone felt like they belonged and became a "family" no matter what people's differences were.

We would like to thank all the parents who gave up their time particularly Mr Scott, Mr Milne, Mr and Mrs Barclay, Mr Bennett, Mr Scott and many more for their generosity and time at our fundraisers which included a very successful Zumbathon and quiz night. Our Rock Challenge team really wouldn't have been complete without all of you and your help was invaluable.

Miss White - Science

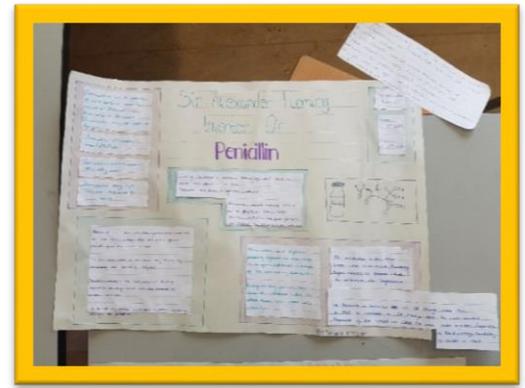
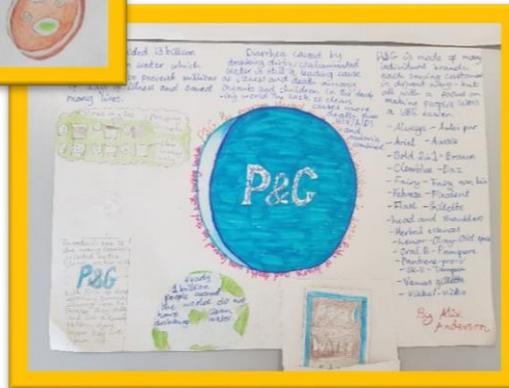
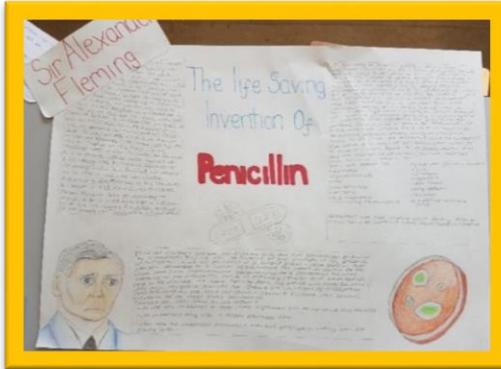


British Science Week



British Science Week ran this year from the 9th to 18th of March. The poster competition asked pupils to research a discovery or exploration that inspired them; this could be a discovery that has already been made or one that they feel should be made in the future! Many pupils in S1 and S2 Science took part in the Competition and Science staff had the difficult task of selecting 5 entries to be submitted for the competition. The standard of entries was very high indeed and although Kemnay Academy did not receive a prize, every poster was of a high quality. Some examples of posters made are shown below; some other topics covered were Gel polish, the discovery of the Emperor Penguin by Captain Scott, the explorer Captain Cook, various posters on Hybrid and electric Cars and Elon Musk and his SpaceX project.

Miss Rodwell Science



Higher Statistics

On 13th June a group of 15 pupils who have chosen to study the Higher Statistics module as part of their Wider Achievement course went to a lecture at Aberdeen University. The lecture was titled 'How statistics reveal the changes in young people's lives through the last century'. It covered some interesting points such as the changing popularity of names in the last century. The name Jack was very popular 100 years ago, then completely fell out of fashion and is now back in the top 10 for boys names. Jane on the other hand has fallen out of favour but not made a comeback. We also looked at the statistics surrounding the value of the pound, and the various ways that can be thought of; from how many bags of crisps £1 buys you now compared to 20 years ago, or how much a DVD player costs now compared to 20 years ago. Coupled with that was a series of compound bar charts detailing average income and tax brackets and a brief discussion outlining the difficult decisions behind setting these tax brackets.

The pupils were a credit to Kemnay Academy and volunteered answers to questions very well – displaying hidden depths of knowledge! It was a great morning out, and hopefully something we can repeat in future years.

Mrs Richmond - Maths



KEMNAY ACADEMY

Developing Scotland's Young Workforce

Newsletter – June 2018

Term 4

Welcome

Welcome to Kemnay Academy's summer Developing the Young Workforce newsletter 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 S5 Career Ready Pupils Dylan Cunningham and Niamh Milton have just attended their 3rd Masterclass on preparing them for their Internship which starts on 2nd July and will run for 4 weeks. Niamh will be based at Wood Group and Dylan at BP. Both are looking forward to the challenges that the internship will bring. They have met with their placement supervisors who have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure their placements are valuable and that they will learn new skills.

Our S6 pupils have just graduated from the programme. They are Kyle MacRitchie, Eilidh Morrison & Carly Cairns. Kyle has successfully gained an apprenticeship and Carly is currently at college studying health care at Nescol and Eilidh will be moving onto study Design at Nescol after the summer break.

Ctd

At the Career Ready Graduation in April, Eilidh Morrison in S6 received her award for being the Aberdeenshire regional Career Ready Student of the Year Award. She was a very deserving winner as her journey was not easy. Eilidh's confidence has grown through being on the programme and feels she has the skills to make that move on from school.



Here at Kemnay Academy, we are very proud of the achievements and the experience that Eilidh, Kyle and Carly have gained through the Career Ready programme. They have all grown in confidence and the skills required to move on from school. They have all received valuable input and guidance from their mentors whom have supported them through the programme. They have also received advice on CV writing and experienced interviews. We hope that this experience will help Eilidh, Carly and Kyle to have a successful and happy future ahead.



DYW

ABERDEENSHIRE

Developing the
Young Workforce

<http://dywaberdeenshire.org>

Business Engagement

ANM Group & Home Economics

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. The Home Economics department have been working very closely with Graeme Fryers and the chefs at Thainstone Events. They have been in school this term working with the Hospitality classes on their garnishing and presentation skills for events as well as knife skills in the kitchen.

Graeme Fryers also came into school to assist the pupils with their garnishing for the canapes the pupils made. They were asked to make and serve canapes at the Inspire Aberdeenshire Awards held at Haddo House. They have done this previously but were invited back this year because of their high standing reputation. Well done to all those involved.



ANM Group & Science

Our head of Science sought advice from the Mart side of ANM Group. Along with the school Farming Group, they put together Kemnay Academy's first ever Country Show. There were a number of Inter House events tied into the show including an Afternoon tea place setting. Pupils enjoyed making table settings and baking for this event, which was won by Caskieben House.

Plant & farming machinery and livestock were also on show for pupils to see. For many pupils this was a great opportunity to interact and find out more on farming life and their community. Colin Slessor, Head Auctioneer from AMN Group assisted with running a 'mock auction' to sell the farming vehicles.

**more on this is within the Sustainability newsletter by Ms Buchan.*

Moving forward, Ms Buchan and her Science Team will be doing work with the Environmental Science class looking at exploring the role of livestock in the North East food supply chain and its importance in the local economy. Due to the success of this year's event, she will be looking to expand on this event next year.

Ms Buchan is also looking to bring forward STEM events, working with Mrs Webster & the DYWNES team and the STEM Ambassadors on a number of activities throughout the year.



Business Engagement

ctd

Kemnay Academy have recently worked with STV. This was an initial introduction to filming for the IDL pupils and the lunchtime Director's Club.

Chris Harvey, a well-known face for STV, came into school and delighted pupils with his wealth of knowledge around the film/documentary making industry. The pupils were prepared with questions to ask around the news and filming process.



Chris then met with the Director's Club at lunchtime and showed them how to film short clips using a camera, phone or iPad. Pupils were surprised how quick different angles and shots can be filmed then edited together. Chris also enlightened them with footage he found about the opening of Kemnay Academy in the Eighties. Pupils are keen to recreate some of the footage into a promotional video.

We look to extend this work with STV into the Autumn term with the English Dept looking at constructing and editing news bulletins, etc.



Construction

Our S3 woodwork pupils had an opportunity to visit the new Inverurie Hospital/health Centre. This was organised through the Open Doors into Construction project. Morrison Construction, who are building the Centre invited the pupils along to see how the building has been constructed, the joinery work involved from interior walls to all the finishing's. The pupils who went along had a great afternoon and were interested to hear about the design of the hospital and all the fixtures and fittings used to make the design work.



Developing Scotland's Young Workforce

Newsletter – June 2018, page 4

S4 & 5 Induction Days

This year DYW took a role within the S4/5/6 Induction days.

The S4's & S5's were based at school and were treated to a day of on site events run by the Army, Tree of Knowledge and Scholar.

During their time with the Army, pupils worked on their skills for life, learning & work. The activities were very 'hands on' practical tasks which involved team work in order to achieve their goals.



These events were enjoyed by all as they had an opportunity to try new experiences, have the opportunity to work as a team, listen to each other, take on a leadership role and delegate tasks, test their reaction time, problem solving, all with a little bit of healthy competition and overall fun.

S6 Induction Day

This year our new S6 pupils had the opportunity to visit Deeside Activity Park for their Induction day. This was a first experience for the pupils at Kemnay Academy and the chance to try something new.

The experience was all about using those skills for learning, life and work. There were a number of activities the pupils could have undertaken but as this was a first, they were offered Rifle Shooting, Karting, Archery and Quad Biking.

New Business Partnership

This session saw Kemnay Academy form a new partnership with NOV in Kintore. They visited Kemnay earlier in the term to meet staff and pupils. We are looking forward to moving this forward next session.



DYW KEMNAY ACADEMY



DYW@KEMNAYACADEMY

EMAIL: KEMNAY.ACA@ABERDEENSHIRE.GOV.UK

P7 DYW Transition Event Pupil Participation

In May, we held a DYW primary transition event. Pupils from all across the cluster came together to make their own Sports Complex using the old Arnold Clark building in Kemnay. The pupils worked well in their groups, creating their own complex, designing the layout, pricing up the costs from building materials to the interior décor and sports equipment.



All pupils worked very hard on this project then had to present their idea to another group. In order to complete this task, all jobs were divided up between each person in the groups according to strengths and ideas.

The pupils then had to reflect on the skills they used to complete the task and identify when and how they were used.

Pupils had some fantastic ideas and came up with great logos and names for their sports complexes. Well done to all P7's involved.

#skillsforlifelearningandwork

Next Issue.....

Update on current projects:

- Business & Curricular engagement update
- Skills for Life, Learning & Work
- Maths Event - September
- Careers Fair - November

Forum

This term we said goodbye to some of our pupils who have represented Kemnay Academy on the Aberdeenshire Council Pupil Participation Forum. They were Sasha Brydon, Joe Reid, Katelyn Power and Lewis Mackland.

All pupils have put in an enormous amount of work on the Forum from organising and running the Aberdeenshire Youth Volunteer Awards evening at Thainstone House to working on smaller youth voice projects. We wish them well as they move on from school and hopefully they will take their new knowledge and skills with them. As a reward for all their hard work, the pupils were treated to a team building day out a Lochter Activity Centre. Well done to all involved!



SPONSORED WALK – 25th September 2018

The annual Sponsored Walk, involving all pupils, has been provisionally arranged for the afternoon of Tuesday 25th September. The walk will follow a route round the Fetternear Estate (8 km) and pupils will be accompanied by School Staff. Trained First Aid Staff will also be stationed on the route. Last year we asked pupils to wear the House colours of their own House group: Bennachie – purple, Caskieben – orange, Don – blue, Tuach – yellow.

Money raised from sponsorship will be added to the School Fund and used to benefit pupils in a variety of ways. This includes subsidising a wide range of trips and paying for bus transport. This is a very successful event and with your continued support we can raise funds to support pupils in school. Last year we raised around £6500.

P.E. Success:

Rugby

With the rugby season at a close the players have been focusing on their skills in training and also we have managed to have the start-up of a girl's rugby team again at the academy. Next year the teams will be in a conference with regular fixtures vs Ellon, Aberdeen Grammar, Turrif, Mackie, Cults, Fraserburgh and the Gordon Schools Huntly.

Also congratulations to brother Alasdair and Callum Stephen on their selection for continued pathway development rugby in the SRU academy in Aberdeen. These players have put in a lot of time and dedication into their training and it is pleasing to see it recognised.

Hockey

This year a new club was introduced at Kemnay. The hockey team comprising of mixed s1- 4 players has grown in size and enthusiasm since August. This led to a hockey tournament involving Aboyne and Alford last month where the players displayed all the skills they had dedicated themselves to practicing in training. Although the games were against experienced players the Kemnay team played fantastic hockey and demonstrated brilliant teamwork and resilience. Hopefully the club will continue to grow in size as every player has shown great commitment, potential and enjoyment.

Football

The S1 Football team has had an incredibly successful year this year. They have won the Aberdeenshire League winning 14 games out of 14 and playing some excellent free flowing attacking football. The boys were also entered into the S1 National 7- a side tournament. They won the South Aberdeenshire qualifier and progressed to the North of Scotland qualifier in Inverness. Against some tough opposition the boys lost their first two games but then fought back to go on an incredible 6 game winning





run which resulted in Kemnay qualifying as the second placed team. We then had a fantastic trip to Glasgow for the final 8 teams in Scotland. The boys came 5th overall and have done themselves proud with their effort, determination and fantastic play.

Senior Football

The senior football team had a good cup at the end of the year but unfortunately came up short in the final. After taking a deserved 1-0 lead into half time the team struggled with the physical and direct approach by Meldrum and unfortunately succumbed to a 2-1 loss.

In other news seniors Jai Dasgupta and Craig Robb represented Aberdeenshire Schools Senior Select this year reaching the national semi-finals where they unfortunately lost out 1-0. Both boys should be commended for their application and attitude this year.



Great Britain Vs Estonia

Pupils enjoyed a great trip on Friday 29th June to the Emirates Arena in Glasgow to watch the Great Britain Basketball team take on Estonia in their World Cup Qualifier. After a slow start for GB they improved their game and took their first win of the qualifiers. Pupils were a great example for Kemnay Academy and enjoy some time at the end to get some player signatures and picture



From the desk of Mrs Paul

Awards Ceremony 2018

Our Award Ceremony was held on 21 June this year. It is always a privilege to present awards to pupils, we recognised a wide number of achievements across the year groups. The Commendation awards were nominated by class teachers for effort and attitude, and our Merit awards were issued for top performers in curriculum areas. Well done to all. Our guest speaker was Mrs Isabel MacIntyre, Ms MacIntyre, a retired HT from Aberdeen City spoke warmly of her own children's experiences of success and hard work, she encouraged the crowd to value the education they receive and take all the opportunities available to them.

The services were led by the Rev Joshua Mikelson as Master of Ceremonies, Rev Mikelson was complimentary of the music played by the Ceilidh and Concert Band. The Concert Band music was rousing and 'Highland Cathedral' brought the audience together with its tragic refrain. Robert Howie played his bagpipes through the audience to make a spectacular entrance to this tune. This was Mrs Lorraine Cormack's final performance and the band responded enthusiastically to her lead.

School information:

Kemnay Academy Improvement priorities 2018/19

The school is required to identify key priorities within a framework established by Aberdeenshire council and the Scottish Government as part of the school commitment to continuous improvement. Below is the shorter version of the key themes that the school has identified. These have been shared with learners/staff and parent council.

Leadership of Change

1. Develop greater confidence in use of HGIOS 4 at Faculty level.

Learners and stakeholders involved in self-evaluation to support and improve learning.
All stakeholders engaged with self-evaluation process.

2. Vision/Values themes across whole school policies.

Implement strategic policies- behaviour & learning/anti-bullying/LGBT/peer support under “vision” umbrella

Programme as an embedded feature Key events in place. Rights Respecting Schools Award achievement of Bronze award. Greater pupil groups/focus groups to support improvement.

3. Continued development leadership opportunities for all.

Impact on learning and teaching.

More stakeholders (pupil/staff) involved in leadership roles in school. This includes all year groups of pupils.

Teaching, learning and assessment

1. To increase moderation understanding in Broad General Education (S1 – S3) to support learning.

Greater consistency with learning conversations. Improved whole school understanding of progress through BGE. Discussion with learners through year.

2. To implement revision of curriculum across Broad General Education (BGE) /Senior Phase

Greater pace and challenge through BGE.

Focus on National Improvement Framework priorities.

3. To maintain focus on learning and teaching at all levels Continued focus on teaching & learning – strategic/Faculty

Increased range of learning environments & creative teaching approaches. Review of assessment procedures across BGE.

Raising attainment and achievement

1. To make use of all data to support learners at all levels and to support increased self-evaluation.

2. Access to SEEMIS BGE tracking tools Greater use of data tracking to inform judgements about learning/attainment

3 Pupil council/focus groups in place across school to support improvements in all aspects of learning.

Improved engagement of learners in all aspects of school life.

4. Measuring impact of Pupil Equity Fund monies across school projects.

School Day Change Update

As you will recall last term, the school consulted parents on the following “Reduce the lunch break by 10mins and start school later”. The consultation period ran through February and March of 2018.

The total number of responses received were as follows. 15 responses against the proposal from a school population of 700 (not including S6 leavers). Comments were received from parents regarding the reduction and the impact it would have.

“My child attends clubs at lunch time. This will reduce the time available for this”.

“10 minutes won’t make any difference at lunchtime”.

“Lunch is already late”.

“I am concerned that my child won’t get their lunch”.

Although the feedback was limited in this instance the decision has been taken in the interim that no changes will be taken forward with the start time for school in August 2018. The school will seek to engage parents further in this discussion.

Mrs L Paul

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE.

An exciting new service, Groupcall, is now available to us - making communication between the school and yourselves easier and more effective.



A free App –**Groupcall Xpressions** is available for you to download to your mobile phone or tablet. **Using the App will save the school the cost of a text by sending free messages. The more parents who sign up – the more the school will save when sending messages!** (We will continue to send texts to those who prefer this method)

We will also have the facility to send **emails direct to your inbox**, saving time locating the document on the school website – so **please ensure we have your current email address** (you will require an email address in order to register for the App – see para below re updating your records).

This free App will be used across all schools in Aberdeenshire (in time) and means that if you have children in various schools, all messages come to the same App.

Some of the benefits of the new Groupcall system to you are:

- The Xpressions App (info overleaf) allows you to receive messages on your tablet or mobile phone
- You can text in with notifications of absence before the school day starts
- When we send Absence Texts these can be responded to with the reason for your child's absence
- We can send Timed Messages later in the evening, meaning they will appear on your phone when
 - you are with your child later in the day
- At the moment we can only send messages to the parent who is known as 'first contact', but in the
 - near future, you can choose to have messages sent to additional contacts

Some of the benefits for the School are:

- Text messages delivered via the App are **free** – potentially saving the school hundreds of pounds each year.
- Emails can be sent to individuals/groups
- Survey responses can be collated quickly and easily

Note that in order to authenticate you when setting up the App, the contact details held by the school must match those that you register with - **if you get an error message when registering your details**, please contact the school via **Kemnay.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk** with the new details and we will update your child's records.

We have our own text number (07860 029087) – When you receive your first text from us, save the number in your phonebook so you will know who the text is from in the future. You may also need to check that the first email we send is not in your 'junk' folder.

We can send three different types of text messages:

Broadcast – with no reply option; **Open** – with the option to reply and **Closed** – you will have a specific reply option (e.g. for a school survey).

Getting in touch with us – We would advise that immediate or time-sensitive information should never be sent via the app or email. Please call the school on the usual number (01467 643535).

Groupcall Xpressions App

What happens if I haven't got the app?

Nothing will change. Sending messages via the app saves the school time and money but we will continue to send texts to those who prefer this method.



Will my personal details be safe?

Aberdeenshire Council is the Data Controller of the personal data being processed and GroupCall are our Data Processor. If you sign up, your data will be used to:

- Safely and securely log you into the Groupcall products;
- Correctly identify and display information about your children from their school(s);
- Provide assistance when requested by yourself or your school;
- Analyse and improve the services offered by Groupcall and provide you with the most user-friendly experience (There is an opt-out option available for this purpose on signing-up to GroupCall)

Can I have a say in what messages I receive and how I get them?

We definitely want to know your views on what communications you would like to receive from the school, how often and at what time of day

Once installed and set up, the app offers a range of benefits including:

- Messages from the school delivered directly to the app
- Urgent text messages duplicated into the app
- Even if your children attend schools in different authorities, all messages can be received through the app
- Ability to reply to selected messages and complete satisfaction surveys via the app
- From late 2017 (date TBA) messages can be sent to more than one contact if required

To start receiving messages via the app:

- Visit your phone/tablet's apps store to download the Groupcall Xpressions app and follow set up guidance at <http://parents.groupcall.com/setup/>

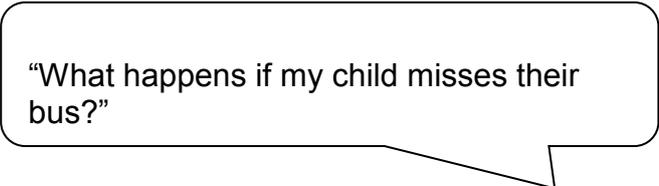
School Transport 2018/19

School transport is provided through the Public Transport Unit (PTU) within Aberdeenshire Council.

Individual bus contractors are responsible for pupil routes and safety. Where any concerns arise over bus travel, please advise the school or contact the transport unit. The details are as follows:-

The Public Transport Unit, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen AB16 5GB
School.transport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Where parents/carers do contact the school regarding transport issues these are followed up. The bus contractors are required to wait 5 minutes at the end of the school day to ensure all pupils have successfully embarked on the the bus.



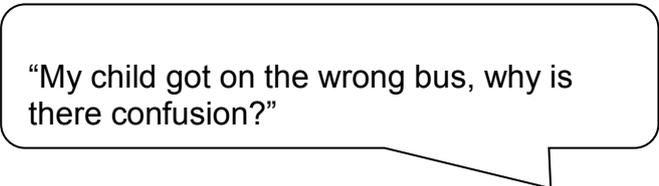
“What happens if my child misses their bus?”

Travelling to School

If your child is left waiting at the bus stop please contact the school. Pupils should not wait more than 15 mins for their bus.

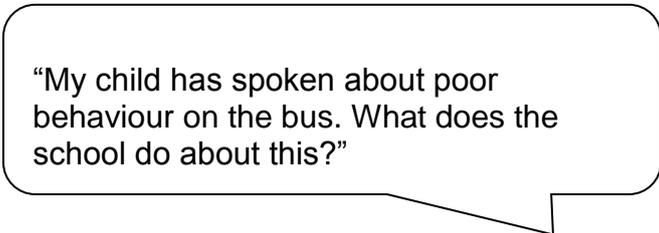
If your child misses the bus **from** school:-

The school will make contact with you to advise you that your child has not been collected. Your child would then wait in school with staff to ensure their safety, until a designated adult can collect them.



“My child got on the wrong bus, why is there confusion?”

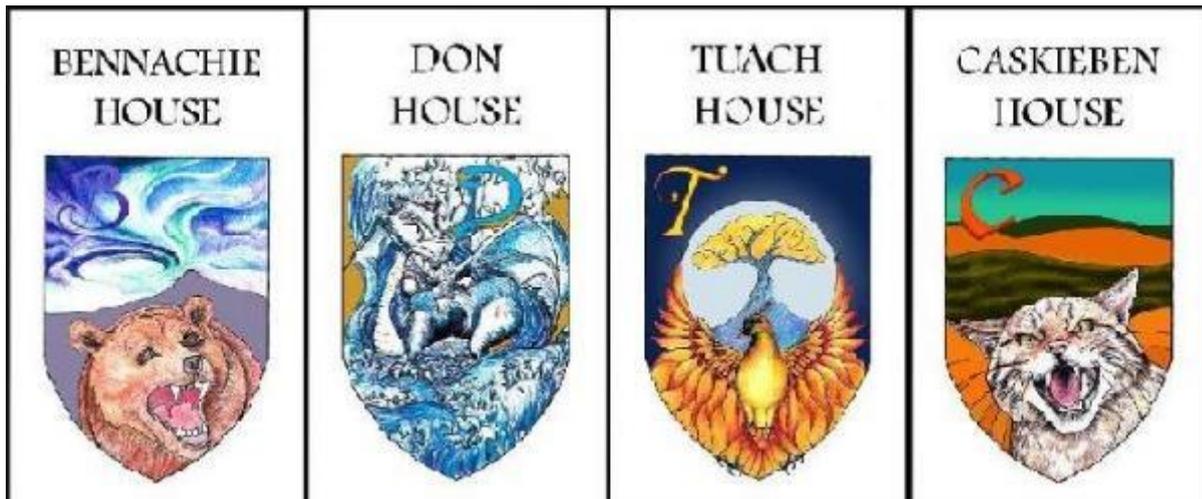
When pupils are dropped off in the morning the buses arrive at different times. At the close of day all pupil buses are waiting outside on Bremner Way. Pupils are familiar with the bus orders, but to avoid confusion all buses now display letters.



“My child has spoken about poor behaviour on the bus. What does the school do about this?”

The school encourages all pupils to pass on any ‘bus related’ issues. These are followed up and investigated by the school staff. Where appropriate parents are contacted. The bus company will also pass on details of poor behaviour.

Any young person found to behave inappropriately (smoking, vaping, vandalism) may find that they will be liable for replacement/costs or find that their bus pass is removed. Smoking/Vaping would result in parental involvement a severe sanction.



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

Important Dates:

TERM 1

20 Aug	In-service Closure
21 Aug	Start of Term 1
12 Sep	UCAS Info Evening
25 Sep	Sponsored Walk – TBC
1 Oct	S4-S6 Interim Report issued
9 Oct	Open Afternoon – TBC
1 Oct	S1 Parents Evening
12 Oct	S3 Report Issued
12 Oct	Last Day of Term 1

TERM 2

29 Oct	Start of Term 2
7 Nov	Careers Fair
9 Nov	S2 Interim Report Issued
12 Nov	In Service Closure
13 Nov	In Service Closure
19 Nov	S5/6 Work Experience Week
26 Nov	S4 Report issued
10 Dec	S5 Report issued
19 Dec	S1 Interim Reports Issued
21 Dec	Last Day of Term 2

TERM 3

7 Jan	Start of Term 3
10 Jan	S2 into S3 Course choice Info Evening
14 Jan	Prelims Start
14 Jan	S2 Parents Evening
25 Jan	Prelims Finish
28 Jan	S4 Work Experience
31 Jan	S3 into S4 Course Choice Info Evening
4 Feb	S2/3 Ski Trip – France
5 Dec	S3 parents' Evening
8 Feb	Occasional Day 1
11 Feb	Mid Term Holiday
12 Feb	In Service Closure
13 Feb	In Service Closure
14 Feb	P7 Information Evening
19 Feb	Senior Phase Info Evening
27 Feb	S4 Parents Evening
7 Mar	S5/6 Parents' Evening
29 Mar	Last Day of Term 3

TERM 4

15 Apr	Start of Term 4
19 Apr	Holiday – Good Friday
25 Apr	Start of SQA Exams
26 Apr	S3 Interim Report issued
2 May	Manchester trip
6 May	May Day Holiday
17 May	S2 Report issued
23 May	S1 Report issued
31 May	Last Day of SQA Exams
3 Jun	Occasional Day 2
4 Jun	Start of new timetable
19 Jun	S2/3 Achievement Ceremony
20 Jun	S4-S6 Achievement Ceremony
21 Jun	S1 Achievement Ceremony
26-29 Jun	P7 Link Days
1 July	Borneo Expedition
1 July	P7 Parents' Evening