



## MINTLAW ACADEMY

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NEWSLETTER: Term 1 2016/17

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### Introduction

Can I take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. I took up my new post as Acting Head Teacher at Mintlaw Academy as of Thursday 6 October, having previously worked as Depute Head Teacher and Principal Teacher of English Faculty at Ellon Academy for the past eleven years. Prior to Ellon Academy I worked at Mintlaw for fourteen years as both Assistant Principal Teacher of English and Acting Principal Teacher. Currently I live in Newburgh with my husband and two sons, both currently at university in Edinburgh, my youngest having started at Heriot Watt in September of this year. I am absolutely delighted to be returning to Mintlaw Academy and I look forward to meeting pupils, parents and staff over the next few weeks.

Mrs Linda Duthie  
Headteacher (Acting)

**Happy Café Business Enterprise****H Richards**

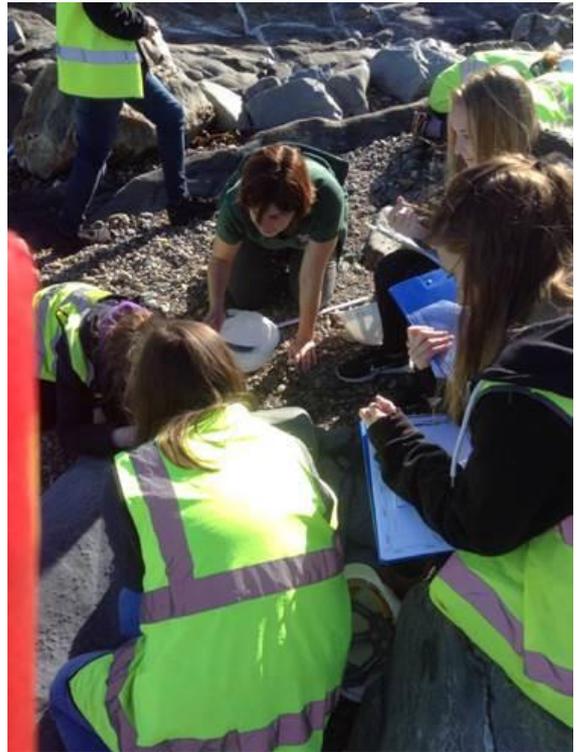
The Happy Café Enterprise project is part of the Wider Achievement Programme for S5/6 pupils. Pupils can gain a Saltire Volunteering Award as well as an insight into running a business and developing very useful employability skills. Jobs include project manager, accountant, waitress, chef, supervisor and many more. Roles are interchangeable so that pupils have the opportunity to develop a wide skill set. There are two teams within the Happy Café Enterprise. The first team provides a bacon butty service and bakes for the café alternate weeks. The second team runs the café. The team hopes that community groups will patronise the café with P7 pupils from Pitfour being our first guests after the October holidays.



## Geology Fieldtrip

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September the Geology class went to Banff, Whitehills, Macduff and Portsoy to study the geology of the coastline. They worked along with the Geobus team, Mr Oldham and Mrs Lawson to carry out a number of geological gathering techniques and the data they collected will be used to produce a report. It was a bright sunny day which provided great lighting for the pupils to recognise the minerals in the rocks! They all looked the part with their hard hats and high-vis waistcoats as you can see!

R Lawson



**Katies 'Pop Up' Soup Kitchen****E Bailey**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September Katie (a 5<sup>th</sup> year pupil) held a Soup Kitchen and invited staff to lunch. On the menu was Potato Soup and Courgette Soup made with vegetables and herbs grown in the school courtyard garden. Other groups of pupils from S1 and S3 helped to make the soup and to serve as 'quality control'. Katie was joined by two other 5<sup>th</sup> year pupils who helped set up her tables complete with café style cloths and flowers. Lunch was free but the many donations given resulted in her raising £47.97. Katie is donating the proceeds to 'Uganda Aid Person to Person' which supports pupils at Bunono School, Uganda. The ASL department have been supporting this charity over the last 12 months and already donated over £200. Well done Katie!



**Photography Success****H Richards**

Photo Attached. Craig Gillanders and Lauren MacLean display their winning photographs with a very proud Mrs Richards.

Fifth Year pupils Lauren Maclean and Craig Gillanders recently won 2nd and 3rd prize respectively in the photography section of the Visual Art Exhibition and Competition held at Kemp Hall, Old Deer. Other pupils in partnership with the Additional Support for Learning Department also submitted their work and were complimented on the high standard of their photographs. Our thanks go to Mrs Heather Reid and Mr Derek Jennings.



## Making A Difference Group

P Rawson

The Making A Difference group have just completed a 125ft abseil at Longhaven Quarry to raise funds for CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland). This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> activity that the girls have taken part in to raise funds for the charity. With their successful coffee morning, P7 disco and abseil they will have raised in excess of £1000. The group recently visited the hospice, Rachel House, in Kinross where they got to see exactly what their fundraising would do to support the lives of the young people and their families.



## Euan Thoirs - Basketball

N Grant

Euan Thoirs played for Scotland u15's in all 7 matches on the way to them winning the gold medal match 17-8 against East Midlands. And also scored in the semi-final against a very good North West team who had previously won a close game against Scotland in the group stages.

There were 11 teams taking part from all over Britain and Ireland, and some of team GB's Paralympic wheelchair basketball team presented the medals.

Euan's selection started way back at the beginning of the year, where he had to attend trials in Bathgate in April, and 3 further training sessions in Livingstone. He played in the regional finals in Stirling in June for Grampian / Highlands where they came a respectable 4th place.

Euan continues his Wheelchair Basketball every Monday and Wednesday evenings in Aberdeen where he trains and plays for the Grampian Flyers.



## Lauren Towns Highland Dancing

N Martin

Lauren Towns recently travelled to Cowal to compete in some Highland Dancing championships. She did really well. Out of 47 dancers in the Scottish Championships, she came 1<sup>st</sup> Runner up (effectively 7<sup>th</sup> place) and in the World Championships, out of 47 dancers from right across the Globe, she came 3<sup>rd</sup>! She was awarded a Cowal Gold Medal as part of the World competitions as she actually came first in one of the dances.

## Mintlaw Academy - Activity Week

All Mintlaw Academy pupils were involved in the school's first Activity Week which ran the last week of term. The Activity Programme started on the Tuesday with most year groups being involved the following themed workshops; S2 Skill Development, S4 STEM, S5/6 Teamwork. Workshops were led and delivered by staff, representatives from industry and the Army Outreach Team.

On Wednesday all 740 pupils were bussed off to various locations throughout the country. Furthest afield a group visited the Scottish Parliament, whilst another enjoyed some summer skiing at Snow Factor, Glasgow. Other trips included Landmark, Lochter Adventure Centre, Surfing at Banff, Golfing at Peterhead, Ice Skating, Codonas, Aberdeen Arts Centre, Paintball, a local farm visit, and a walk and BBQ. Needless to say trip day was the highlight of the week.



Finally on Thursday all pupils were involved in House Challenge. Pupils competed against other House Teams in a wide variety of activities to win points for their House. Activities included; designing and making a House flag, preparing an afternoon tea, football, dance, dodgeball, painting challenge, languages challenge, play in a day, debating, making a table tennis server. After fierce competition Deer House, led by Mrs Grant won the House shield.



**Young Savers Club****R Sneddon**

On Tuesday 16 August some of our S5/6 pupils received training from the North East Credit Union of Scotland on how to set up and run a Young Savers Club at Mintlaw Academy. North East Scotland Credit Union encourages pupils in school to learn about the importance of saving money and that no matter how little that amount may be, even the smallest sums can grow in time i.e. for a school trip. The senior pupils have a collection in school operated by NESCU and run by senior pupils from S5 and S6 with a teacher (Mr Sneddon) overseeing the collection. Every pupil who becomes a Junior Saver or Member will receive a deposit book, which will be kept in the school and deposit slips, which will go home for your information.

Pupils will be able to deposit their money during Wednesday lunchtimes in B4 between 12.40 and 1.10pm which started on 24 August 2016. North East Scotland Credit Union is your local credit union and their purpose is to encourage people throughout Grampian to save money and plan for future events such as school trips.

If you would like more information please contact NESCU's Head Office on 01224 899688 or e-mail: [infor@nescfu.co.uk](mailto:infor@nescfu.co.uk). Web address: [www.nescfu.co.uk](http://www.nescfu.co.uk). Pupils can keep an eye on their savings and can withdraw their money via NESCU by completing a form, giving a weeks notice for the transaction to be completed.

**Charities****R Sneddon**

At the time of going to print the charities group have been busy organising prior to the school break 'Wear Jeans for Genes' when pupils could come to school wearing Jeans instead of school trousers to raise £200 for the charity 'Jeans for Genes'. They are baking and organising the sale of cupcakes to staff and pupils on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning appeal which they are looking forward to doing. At the end of term prior to his departure Mr Horberry agreed to allow pupils to wear something red in support of the national 'Show Racism the Red Card' appeal, with pupils being allowed to come to school in a non-uniform day with everyone encouraged to wear something red in support of this worthy appeal and at the same time put their £1 donation in the bucket collection at registration. Watch out for future charity work - Poppy Scotland, Children in Need and Guide Dogs for the Blind in term 2. Thank you for your continued support of the pupil's and schools charity work.

**Careers Fair****E-J Whitehead**

The Mintlaw Academy career's fair will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November and will be open for all pupils throughout the day. In the evening parents are invited to attend from 4.30 - 6.30 pm. This will allow pupils and also parents to see the opportunities for their child through different companies. If you, or the company you work for would like a stall, please email: [emma-jane.whitehead@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma-jane.whitehead@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) We hope to see everyone there.

**"Learning Together"**  
**Save the date!**

**Parent Conference**

**G McCluskey**

We plan to hold the second annual Mintlaw Academy Parent Conference on the evening of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The purpose of this unique event is to give parents and carers the opportunity to find out ways in which we can all work together to better support pupils in their learning. You will have the opportunity to hear a keynote address by Linda Duthie, Acting Head teacher, and attend workshops on a wide variety of themes such as

|                        |                                       |                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| NESCOL                 | Teenage Mental Health                 | Internet Safety         |
| Study Skills           | Skills for Work - What Employers Want | National Qualifications |
| Modern Apprenticeships | Skills Development Scotland           | Parents as Partners     |
| Wider Achievement      | National Qualifications               | Volunteering            |

In addition there will be information available from every Department and Faculty in school, as well as representatives from the Parent Council and the PTA. Performances from pupils from the Drama and Music Departments will take place, as well as a display of work from the Art Department.

More information about this exciting event will be available soon, including information about how to sign up and make workshop choices.

Please check the school website for further details.

**Work Experience**

**N Robertson**

Work experience provides pupils with first-hand experience of the world of work. This year, around 90% of pupils went out on work placement the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> September. There were lots of placement opportunities arranged by pupils from a variety of sectors and this will probably have been the first experience of working life for many.

Here are some of the comments from 54 pupils about their work experience week:-

"My week at the Vets was really busy as I helped with vets calls in the morning and helped with operations, then after lunch I would learn and help prep for night emergency operations. Throughout the day I would also help clean kennels, feed dogs and learn how to test animal's blood. I really enjoyed all my work experience but I would say the best part of my experience was watching a dog that was in a serious operation at night. Then coming in the following morning and seeing it jump around in its kennel, all recovered and healthy. ...it has made me more determined to become a vet."

"My work experience week took place at Arts Centre and Theatre Aberdeen on King Street. The skill I used the most during the week was communication, when I did the Front of House shift as I was there to assist any customers that were unsure about something. Also I expanded my knowledge of theatre terms and learnt a lot about how much commitment you need as working in theatre requires a lot of hours; especially people in the crew or technical team."

"I went to Cummings Joinery. I was doing all sorts of things that will give me skills to use in later life such as measuring, cutting, household and cleaning. My favourite part of the week was when I was fitting windows in the garage."

"The skills I used during this week were customer service/people skills and self-confidence. It has made me more interested in doing hairdressing as a career. I have learned that hairdressing involves chemistry and knowing your ph scale."

Feedback from one of the providers, Anna Ritchie School:

"Aaron has had a really good week here at Anna Ritchie and we are all sorry to see him go. He has been supporting a class with pupils from S4 to S6 with a range of additional support needs. He has interacted well with staff in the class and in the staffroom also. He has encouraged and supported the pupils with various tasks and they have related well to him. We would welcome him back again if there was another opportunity."

Work experience is an excellent opportunity for pupils to gain an early understanding of the importance of working practices and attitudes, and can help contribute towards decisions about future career choices.

S3 pupils will be informed about work experience after the Christmas holidays and be provided with information about finding a placement for their work experience week in September 2017.

If you are an employer who is interested in offering placements then please get in touch with the Work Placement Unit: [workplacementunit@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:workplacementunit@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or call (01224) 664905.

### **Parents' Evenings**

All parents' evenings will be held from 4.30-6.30pm on the following dates:-

S3 - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

S1 - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

S5/6 - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016

S4 - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017

S2 - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**S1**

As part of the core health programme for schools, S1 pupils will be offered an introductory health assessment appointment with the School Nurse. This includes a distance vision test and a colour vision test. Details of the assessment can be found in the leaflet "An introduction to your child's named school nurse" which was issued earlier this term.

S1 Girls will receive an information pack and consent form for the HPV immunisation prior to the session in March 2017.

**S2**

S2 girls who have consented to the HPV immunisation will receive their second dose in March 2017.

**S3**

S3 pupils will receive information and a consent form for their Teenage Booster of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and Meningitis ACWY immunisations prior to the session in January 2017. Pupils who have not completed their two doses of MMR previously will be offered the opportunity to receive this if required in February 2017.

**All pupils**

Can we ask that parents remind their children of the importance of good hand hygiene to prevent the spread of illness. We also advise that children remain off school for at least 48 hours after symptoms have settled with any vomiting and diarrhoea illness.

If any pupil has to take medication at school, please note that written consent is required. Forms are available from the medical room.

**Cashless Catering - Online payments for school meals****N Robertson**

Pupils use their National Entitlement cards to make purchases at catering counters and can put money on their card via the Revaluation units at the Academy. Parents can also top up or credit pupil's cards online (and view what pupils have purchased), using the online payment facility via the Aberdeenshire Council web page Pay option. Parents are required to register onto the facility using the "MyAccount" portal, instructions are available on the Aberdeenshire Council School Meals web pages. Once successfully done this will take you to the iPayimpact facility, where you will require the unique reference code to link to pupil's accounts (separate codes for each pupil). Please contact the school if you require this.

For more detailed information, please view this web link - <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/meals/cashless-catering-in-secondary-schools/>

**New Alerts System - Aberdeenshire Council****N Robertson**

If you used to receive email alerts from Aberdeenshire Council, (e.g., school closure), a new improved service using "MyAccount" has been introduced which will allow you to receive notifications but also provide access to other public services using a single username and password. To continue to receive notifications you must register at <https://mygov.scot/myaccount/> and then select the alerts you wish to receive. If you pay for school meals online then you will already have a "MyAccount" setup and can use the same login details to access the new system. This service is designed to keep your details as secure as possible and, if you live in Aberdeenshire, will also provide other information such as your bin collection dates, nearest recycling centres and local councillors.

**Absence Procedure****Office**

Could parents/carers please call the academy to report an absence as soon as you can that day. You can call **01771 620000** and leave a message at any time. Please leave pupils name, class and reason for absence. Thank you in advance.

**mySchoolApp - Mintlaw Academy****G Oldham**

Pupils can download our Mintlaw Academy app from either the Apple App Store or Google Play. Look for 'mySchoolApp'. You then need to sign in with your name, email, phone number, and your own PIN which you make up yourself. Login and type in 'Mintlaw Academy'. The daily bulletin is issued daily on the app - so if you want to keep informed about school info, check it out.

## PTA Mega Draw Winners



|                  | <b>September</b> |
|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Prize £70</b> | R Sanderson      |
| <b>Prize £35</b> | K Dargie         |
| <b>Prize £20</b> | J Ritchie        |
| <b>Prize £10</b> | K Dalgarno       |

### Dates for your Diary 2016/17

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Start of term 2       | Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October     |
| S3 Parents' Evening   | Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November   |
| S1 Parents' Evening   | Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November  |
| In Service            | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November    |
| In Service            | Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November   |
| Parents' Conference   | Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November  |
| Careers Fair          | Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November   |
| S5/6 Parent's Evening | Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December   |
| Christmas Concert     | Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December |
| End of Term 2         | Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December |