



MINTLAW ACADEMY

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An Introduction from Mrs Duthie, Head Teacher . . .

A very happy New Year to you all and all the very best for 2018.

2017 ended with another very full term. Friday 17 November, saw us raise just over £600 for Children in Need, an impressive total indeed. The 22nd of November saw the school's Attainment Visit from Aberdeenshire's Head of Service and Quality Improvement Officer for Assessment, plus our Mintlaw Cluster Quality Improvement Officer and all three were delighted with Mintlaw Academy's attainment performance across 2016-2017.

The whole month was a very busy one with a very successful Careers Evening, a series of parents' evenings and, in the final weeks of term two, both our Christmas Concert - a superb evening for all who attended and, on Thursday 21st December, a Dress as You Please day, down for S1-S5 and "up" for S6 students and staff - for Charity and School Funds. We had pupil winners across all year groups with Alistair Strachan, aka "The Grinch" taking overall first prize for S6 whilst Modern Languages and Support for Learning took joint first prize for the staff! A fun day for all and all in a good cause, namely the Mental Health awareness group MIND, as well as supporting funding of extra-curricular activities across the school.

As we move toward the Prelim exams at the end of January, it is important that we all work together, with our pupils, to ensure the trend of strong attainment at Mintlaw Academy continues throughout this session and beyond. Following a survey of both S4 pupils and staff, we are hoping to trial Prelim Study Leave for S4 as well as S5-6 over

the Prelim diet. A menu of options will be available in-house for any S4 pupil studying 2 or fewer courses and, as previously, study rooms will be available in school for any student who prefers to study on campus. As in previous years, faculties across the school will be offering revision sessions and I would urge you to reinforce the importance of these in the final run up to the exams with your sons / daughters. As always, individual staff, where available will be keen to support all pupils preparing for exams with any last minute queries.

I am delighted to share that last week of term, we appointed Ms Melanie Smith, on a permanent 2 days per week basis, to join us as a Music Teacher within our Creative Arts Faculty. Mrs Ferguson, Principal Teacher of Maths, will return as of next week on a phased basis, with Mr Canning continuing as Acting PT Maths until Mrs Ferguson is fully phased back. We are all looking forward to having Mrs Ferguson back but I would take this opportunity to thank Mr Canning for his excellent work in leading the Maths Faculty in her absence.

Adverse Weather was a bit of a challenge in the run up to the holidays. We have been relatively lucky with the weather over recent years but the spell of snow in mid December, followed by significantly sub-zero temperatures and then rain certainly proved a challenging combination. Can I thank you all for your support over the period - we extended registration on a number of mornings to ensure everyone, staff and pupils, were able to get safely to school. Given how important the current period is to our senior pupils in particular, I am delighted we were able to remain open throughout. This term, we are planning an exclusively taxi drop-off zone on the road in front of the school, a pupil crossing to from the school to the road leading into the village and renewed signage to indicate both the one-way system for parent drop off plus maximum speed of 5 mph. Hopefully these will combine to support pupil safety.

As previously, this term looks to be another very busy one. I am keen to hear your views on any of the wide variety of events going on here at Mintlaw Academy and would remind you of the opportunity to attend Parental Surgeries, each Tuesday, 4.00 - 5.00 pm. It's always very helpful to hear your views on these occasions.

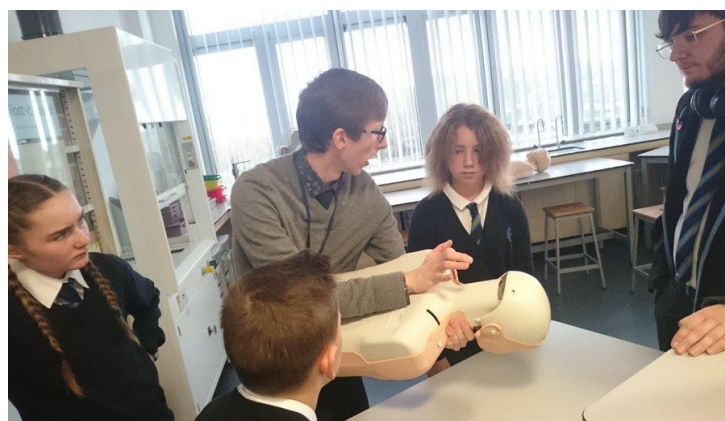
Can I conclude once again by wishing you and yours all the very best for 2018.

University of Aberdeen

K Urquhart

The Science Faculty were delighted to welcome Serena Bahn and Sam Neal, two third year medical students from the University of Aberdeen to Mintlaw Academy this term. The medical students delivered a range of excellent lessons to pupils across the school, from first aid lessons in PSE to looking at vaccines and parasites in Biology. S2-4 pupils were also given the opportunity to attend a workshop on advice for choosing a degree in the health sector and the senior phase pupils were given advice on how to write a personal statement and on how to apply to medicine.

We would like to thank them very much for all their hard work while here at Mintlaw Academy.





Driving Ambition

S6 took part in Driving Ambition on Tuesday 5th December, organised by DAB plus. The day involved workshops and full group presentations, aimed to prepare our youngsters for Driving. This was a great day that covered safe driving, reaction times, driving lessons, mechanics, first aid and other pertinent driving issues. Thank you to all the visitors who provided an excellent event for S6.





Rachel Milne

Rachel is the General Manager of Buchan Dial a Community Bus and DAB Plus Driver Training. She is also a serving Special Constable for Police Scotland and a fully qualified First Aid Trainer.

Alan Campbell

Alan has a wealth of experience as a trainer and examiner. He was Deputy Unit Training officer and a Watch Training Officer for NATS Aberdeen Air Traffic Control, being responsible for the training of graduate student Air Traffic Controllers and devising training plans. He was also an Air Traffic Examiner ensuring that the operation's standards were continuously maintained and improved. Alan was also a Commissioned Officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve Training branch where he served as Officer Commanding Peterhead and Turriff Squadrons Air Training Corps.

Ewan Innes

Ewan is a retired Police Inspector who is a Police class one advanced driver and was a Police Driving Instructor. During his 30 years Police service he spent 24 years in Road Traffic, with 3 of those years in the Road Safety Unit. As well as Driving Ambition he delivers a variety of Road Safety presentations and is also trained to deliver Minibus Driver Awareness and Passenger Assistant Training.

Constable Mike Taylor - Police Scotland

Mike is a school liaison officer in the North East Command area. With many years of service he has a wealth of experience in all aspects of policing including road traffic and community divisional work.

Jim Aitken

Jim is a qualified Paramedic Trainer with NHS National Services Scotland and is also a volunteer for the British Heart Foundation delivering Heartstart courses.

Driving Instructors

Local Driving Instructors are fully supportive of Driving Ambition and have given up their day voluntarily in order that they can participate in the event. Those involved today are: Brian Milne, Brian Milne Driving School Ltd; Irene Murray, Easy Drive; Mike Ferris, Mike Ferris Driving Tuition Ltd; Roberta Noble, Self Employed; Shirley Hutchison, Self Employed Drive-Rite Driving School; Alan Davidson, Longside Driving School.

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Developing the Young Workforce - Engineering Week

11/21/2017

NOV



As part of their 'Engineering Week', five senior pupils from Mintlaw Academy, Aberdeenshire visited NOV Kintore on November 10th.

During the visit the pupils were shown around the new facility and were given a presentation from NOV engineers who provided them with an insight into the extensive engineering offering provided by NOV Kintore.

In return, the pupils showcased their ROV project which they enter within Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) competitions around the world, building and testing during the school curriculum.

The Scottish leg of the MATE ROV challenge, co-ordinated and hosted by Robert Gordon University (RGU), saw 11 schools put ROV's they had designed and built to the test at RGU's Sir Ian Wood Building.

The Mintlaw team emerged victorious, after a panel of industry experts scored the teams on how well they completed the missions, as well as taking into consideration the technical reports, poster displays, and engineering presentations the pupils were required to produce. It is the third time the school has won the competition.

Involvement in the ROV encourages students to develop and apply technical, teamwork, and problem solving skills required to tackle missions modelled after scenes from the ocean workplace.

The pupils spoke about their ROV in great depth during their trip to NOV Kintore, with project CEO Stephanie Buchan highlighting how it has given her confidence, developed her engineering ability and that she has used this to encourage others to be part of the group.

Schools Football

Congratulations to the Mintlaw Academy under 14 girls who have won the North Region 7s Tournament with wins against Kincorth Academy (6-1) Banff Academy (1-0) and Ellon Academy (2-0). Goal scorers were Sarah Downie (4), Katie Buchan (2), Jennifer Hall (1) and Jamilah Moursil (1).

Other members of the team were Bobbi Middleton, Kaela Gray, Chloe Milne, Kadie Whyte and Nyah McCredie. The girls will go on and play in the National Finals.

Sponsored Walk 2017**A Campbell**

Donation monies have now been collected from our Sponsored Walk back in September.

Many thanks to pupils and their extended communities for helping us to raise a fantastic £9,547.19. This will be invaluable in supporting the many extra-curricular activities our youngsters have the opportunity to become involved in.

Into Term 3 we will be awarding prize winners on the following:

- House Points for the house raising the most money
- An Afternoon Tea Party for the class with the highest amount raised
- A Cineworld Voucher for the winner of a prize draw taken from pupils raising over £100.

Senior Phase Options Evening**S Noble**

The S3-5 Senior Phase Subject Choice Evening will be held in school on Thursday 18th January. The evening will take the form of a short introductory presentation giving an overview of the subject choice process. This will be followed by a Curricular Exhibition which will provide an opportunity to speak to department staff about the various courses on offer. Following on from this we have a number of workshop options and parents are asked to select three options.

- Senior Phase SQA Qualifications
- Preparing to go to University and UCAS applications
- NESCOL School Link Courses
- Foundation Apprenticeships
- ASL Support
- S5/6 Wider Achievement
- Apprenticeships
- Supporting your child in the Senior Phase
- Skills Development Scotland - My World of Work, Subject Toolkit

For further details, and to sign up for workshops, please see the school website.

S4-6 reports**G Oldham**

These reports have been issued recently. It is really important that your son or daughter acts upon the recommendations from their subject teachers contained in the reports.

Prelim examinations

Advance warning that, as indicated in the school calendar, these will take place from the 29th January to the 7th February. The prelim timetable is on the 'exam noticeboard' in school and also on the school website. If your son / daughter has any issues relating to the prelim examinations they should come and discuss this with me. Further information about study leave arrangements for these exams will be issued in the New Year.

Planning for the prelims

To help your son or daughter with this they have been issued with a paper copy of a prelim exam revision planner. An electronic copy of this can be found on the school website. This planner will help them to break down the work needed for the prelims into manageable 'chunks' and then organise their time to ensure they are ready for the exams. They should vary the subjects that they revise as well as the activities that they do when they are revising. It is important to be active when they revise - attempting past papers, making summary notes, or listing key terms and definitions are all examples of effective revision strategies.

Adverse Weather Procedures

Please be advised that the first port of call for information during adverse weather is the Aberdeenshire Council Website for School Closure information. We will also add a message to our Adverse Weather Line details follow below.

With regards to the information that goes onto the website, it will detail buses by coach number. Mintlaw Academy contracts all start with the prefix NS467 and a letter then follows which distinguishes the bus route. This information is on the bus pass so please ensure you familiarise yourself with this information from your child's/ward's bus pass.

Phone:

School Information line: **0370 054 4999**
then use the pin no: **021100**

Website:

- <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>
(you can register and subscribe to receive email alerts when the school updates its closure status.)

School Health**K Jarvis & S Robertson****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 2018.

S2

S2 girls who have consented to the HPV immunisation will receive their second dose in March 2018.

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 2018.

Pupils who have not completed their two doses of MMR previously will be offered the opportunity to receive this, if required, in March 2018.

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.

Medication

If any pupil has to take medication at school, please note that written consent is required. Forms are available from the medical room. A reminder to parents who received consent forms to update prior to summer holidays. These should be returned to school ASAP.

Online payments for school meals and consumable charges**A Campbell**

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). These codes are available from the school. Consumable charges can also be paid using this facility, allowing parents to pay online, as you do for school meals.

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

Alerts System - Aberdeenshire Council**A Campbell**

If you used to receive email alerts from Aberdeenshire Council, (e.g., school closure), "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 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.

Absence Procedure**Office**

Could parents/carers please text the Academy on **07860029120** or call the absence line on **01771 620000** to report an absence as soon as you can and leave a message at any time. Please leave pupils name, class and reason for absence. Thank you in advance.

Follow us on Twitter!**L Simpson**

A number of Faculties and Departments now have Twitter accounts, with news, photos and updates of the wide variety of activities and achievements of our pupils and staff.

Mintlaw Academy	@MintlawAcademy
Developing Young Workforce	@MintlawDYW
Home Economics Department	@MintlawHomeEc
Music Department	@MintlawMusic
Science Faculty	@MintlawSci
Social Subjects Faculty	@mintlawsocsub
Support and Challenge	@Mintlaw_SandC
Technology Faculty	@Mintlawtech

PTA Mega Draw Winners

	October	November	December
Prize £60	Martin Michie	Phil Matheson	Alex Ewart
Prize £30	Jennifer Greig	Stuart Wallace	Emma Slessor
Prize £15	Neil Sinclair	Jill Seivwright	Ginny Beard
Prize £10	Doreen Yule	Rachel Kindness	Rhanna Ali

Dates for your Diary 2017/18

Start of Term 3	Monday 8 th January
Occasional Day 1	Friday 9 th February
Mid Term Holiday	Monday 12 th February
In Service	Tuesday 13 th February
	Wednesday 14 th February
End of Term 3	Thursday 29 th March