



## MINTLAW ACADEMY

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### NEWSLETTER: Term 4 2017/18

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An Introduction from Mrs Duthie, Head Teacher . . .

Well, here we are at the end of yet another very full term. Staff and pupils alike are certainly looking forward to a well-earned break as session 2017-2018 draws to a close. May saw our S4-6 students prepare for and sit their SQA exams, and, as I mentioned at the Awards Ceremony, I was extremely impressed by the work ethic and commitment our seniors displayed as they made their way through the exam diet. I am confident we will hear very good news of their collective successes on August 7.

June has been a particularly busy month. On Tuesday 5 June we ran Induction Days for both the new S5 and the new S6 year groups, both of which seemed to go very well. Both groups engaged in a series of workshops aimed at supporting our young people as they make the move to the next stage in their school careers. On the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup>, the S6 group heard presentations from this year's Head Boy and Head Girl candidates, on what each would have to offer the role / Mintlaw Academy. All candidates did very well. The evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> saw Mintlaw Academy host our annual Awards ceremony and, once again, I was extremely privileged to be part of such a fantastic event. It is always very pleasing to hear of the many achievements of our young people. The week of the 18<sup>th</sup> of June and on was a very busy one indeed! Tuesday and Wednesday evenings saw the production of our School Show "Grease" a fantastic evening for all who attended. The cast as a whole were superb with a number of individual performances being of a genuinely very high quality. Well done to all staff and pupils involved.

Wednesday to Friday of that week also saw the arrival of our P7 pupils for their Transition visit. All 175 of them! Given that 13 classrooms and the library are

currently out of commission, it was a big relief that after a bit of a rainy start on Wednesday, the weather stayed dry!

The end of session always means a moving on of staff. This session is no exception. This week we bid farewell to a number of staff. At the end of this academic session we bid farewell to a number of members of staff. Mr Canning, Mathematics Faculty, leaves and is replaced by Mr David Robertson. Ms Beach, English Faculty heads South and is replaced by two new additions to our English Faculty, Mrs Ann Herridge and Miss Ruth Batchelor. Mr Coull, Support for Learning Faculty is retiring and will be replaced by Mr Anthony Sherlock. Mr Laird, currently Principal Teacher of Guidance will next session head up the newly created post of Principal Teacher of Health and Wellbeing and Mr John Campbell becomes our new PT Guidance Brucklay. We wish all these staff both leaving us and joining us, the very best. Finally, we say farewell at the end of term to Mr Murray Carnie, PT Physical Education. Mr Carnie has made an invaluable contribution to Mintlaw Academy both in terms of the PE Department and the wider life of the school. He has spent the last 30 years of his teaching career here at Mintlaw and staff and pupils alike wish him all the very best on his retirement! Word has it that playing golf, holidaying in Buckie and beyond and taking up consultative work with both the SQA and Aberdeen University will be the order of the day. All the best Murray. We will miss you!

Into next session I hope to appoint a PT Leader of Literacy and PT Leader of Wellbeing, to work with our Cluster Numeracy PT in order to further progress our attainment agenda across the school. Hopefully both roles will impact very positively on our pupils' experiences.

Our Learning Plaza project continues to go well. Work has been ongoing throughout June with works now scheduled to be complete by mid-September. Currently the area continues to be undergoing a complete stripping down but contractors are pleased with progress made and have worked hard to support minimal impact on pupils' learning. Pupils have been involved in design, selection of furnishing and colours and will be involved in coordinating a community event aimed at showcasing the finished Plaza for parents and the community. We looking forward to seeing many of you then.

This past week has been a busy one here at the school. Last Friday morning saw 17 of our pupils and 2 members of staff, along with World Challenge leaders, head for Mongolia where they will spend the next 3 weeks. All involved were really looking forward to heading off, if a little nervous as to how well they would cope. I am sure to some degree of other the trip will be one that all involved will remember for a very long time. Wednesday was "Trips Day" with a wide range of trips catering for all tastes. Once again, pupils returned extremely positive about their experiences. I was invited along on the Paintball trip and, along with 60 youngsters and 4 fellow members of staff had a fantastic time, with Mr Duffy bravely joining in the games! Thursday

was House Challenge Day and pupil battled it out to identify the winning house. I can reveal that Deer House took the House challenge trophy on the day and indeed won the annual House prize overall!

Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish our entire Mintlaw Academy community, pupils, parents and staff, a relaxing summer holiday. Hopefully the sun will continue to shine! It's been an exceptionally busy term and time now for everyone to recharge their batteries over the next six weeks and return in August, refreshed and ready to face the challenges of next session.

**Grease****J Arbuthnott**

Well Done to all the cast and crew that were involved in Grease on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June.



Health Week



Awards Ceremony 2018



## Children's University Graduation

We were delighted to have a number of S1 pupils graduate at Aberdeen University Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June as a result of their involvement with Children's University. This is a scheme which recognises pupils' efforts and achievements in learning activities done out with school time. This initiative allows pupils to gain credits for the learning time they do at a range of activities such as school extra-curricular, involvement with clubs or organisations during the evening and weekend, and visiting places of interest such as museums, science centres, and historic properties. The Graduation ceremony at Elphinstone Hall at Aberdeen University was modelled on a grown-up graduation ceremony, with our pupils dressed for the occasion in gowns and mortar boards. The Principal of the University gave a speech and pupils were called onto stage to be awarded with their certificates whilst proud parents and carers looked on with pride. Pupils and their guests then had an opportunity to get photos on the lawn and were then treated to a buffet lunch in the marquee on the grounds. The pupils involved will be able to continue into S2 and graduate again in June 2019 achieving a higher level certificate. All our new S1 pupils will have the opportunity to get involved. Please watch out for next session's newsletter for more details.



## NESCOL Taster Courses

A number of our S2/3 pupils recently attend various two day Taster Courses at North East Scotland College. Pupils attended Lab Science, Hospitality and Construction courses at the Fraserburgh campus.

The Hospitality group worked in professional kitchens at the college. On both days they prepared a two course lunch, and on the second day they served each other and enjoyed the lunch they had prepared in the college restaurant. The Construction group worked with various lecturers learning painting skills, joinery and bricklaying. Pupils on the Lab Science course enjoyed carrying out a range of experiments which included burning crisps to find out the fat content, and making and launching rockets. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their college experience. Pupils became more aware of progression routes which Further Education offers, and many now hope to opt for a school link college when they enter into the Senior Phase.



## Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

This session our S3 pupils took part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) for the third year running. This initiative is funded by the Wood Group and involves groups of pupils working alongside each other to research social issues in the community, select a charity that aims to tackle one of these social issues, make contact with the charity, do research, visit the charity and make up a presentation. The winning group receive £3000 to hand over to their charity.

We were absolutely delighted with how the 3<sup>rd</sup> years got involved in this project which has undoubtedly improved their skills in many key areas e.g. communication, organisation and presentation skills to name but a few.

Six groups made it through to the final representing the following charities: Diabetes UK, Riding for The Disabled Association, Teen Challenge UK, Cornerstone, Friends Of The Special Nursery and The Archie Foundation. All the finalists did an amazing job and should be very proud of their group work & presentation skills. It was very difficult for the judges to pick a winner.

The winners of the Mintlaw Academy 2018 Final event were the group who represented the Archie Foundation. They won £3000 to hand over to their charity and were just delighted that all their hard work had paid off. Well Done girls!



## Rock Challenge

Over 80 of our youngsters recently took part in Rock Challenge, an annual event aimed at supporting young people and them being involved in their own production from conceptualisation through to the live performance. The challenge is also to be the best that they can with no reliance on substances of any kind. Mintlaw's production, dedicated to the challenges around Ground Zero, was cited as very strong in terms of video, entertainment, costume and character, visual enhancement, set design and function and stage crew. They also took home the coveted "Spirit of Rock Challenge" voted by fellow teams, for their efforts. Well done to all pupils, staff and parents involved!



## Junior Girls Reach Scottish Quarter-Finals

The Mintlaw Academy Junior Girls' football team have reached the Quarter-finals of the Scottish Cup for the first time in a number of years. Having defeated Grove Academy 10-0 in Dundee and Perth Grammar School on penalties at Mintlaw, the girls travelled to Stornoway to play Nicholson Institute and again won the penalty shoot-out after the match ended in a 1-1 draw. The girls had a great 2 days away from home and from school. They were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. A passenger on the ferry commented on how well behaved and polite the group were. Finally and very importantly, Mintlaw Academy would like to thank LFH Engineering Ltd for their most generous £250 sponsorship to the school for the trip to Stornoway. It was very much appreciated.



## SQA Exam Results: August 2018 G Oldham (Depute)

We very much hope that all pupils who have taken National Qualifications this year experience the success that reflects their hard work and commitment throughout the session.

Pupils will receive their certificates by First Class post on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Additionally, pupils who have signed up to MySQA will receive an e-mail or text on the 7<sup>th</sup> August notifying them of their results. Exam results will be sent out by text message between 8.00am and 9.00am. Pupils can register for MySQA at [www.mysqa.org.uk](http://www.mysqa.org.uk). To do this, they will need their Scottish Candidate Number and a unique e-mail address

To receive their results by text/e-mail, pupils must sign up by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July and activate their My SQA account by 5.00pm on Wednesday 18th July.

Should you or your son / daughter have any queries about MySQA, please e-mail [mysqa@mysqa.org.uk](mailto:mysqa@mysqa.org.uk).

### Results Services

As detailed in previous correspondence from the school, there are two 'Results Services'. The first is the 'Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service' which operates over the examination period: this has now ended.

The second is the 'Post Results Service' which runs after candidates have received their certificates. This service can be used by the school if the school believes that there could have been an error in the marking of a pupil's exam paper because it does not match with other evidence the school holds of a pupil's work. In this instance the school can ask the SQA for a 'clerical check' or 'marking review'. A clerical check is a check that all marks have been totalled correctly and the correct grade awarded. A marking review involves a senior member of the marking team reviewing the paper to ensure it was correctly marked to the national standard set for the examination. It is not a remark of the paper.

If you believe that there is something wrong with the grade awarded for a particular course, please contact the school once the results have been received. All queries will be dealt with at the start of the new session.

**School Health****K Jarvis & S Robertson****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 Mrs Robertson in the medical room.

**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**

	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>Prize £60</b>	Linda Gray	Kadie Whyte
<b>Prize £30</b>	Elizabeth Forsyth	Karoline McCallum
<b>Prize £15</b>	James Sinclair	Fran Murray
<b>Prize £10</b>	Carla Ewart	Linda Gray

## Dates for your Diary 2018/19

### Term 1

- 20th August 2018 - in-service day
- 21st August 2018 - start of term 1
- 12th October 2018 - end of term 1
- 15th to 26th October 2018 - October holiday

### Term 2

- 29th October 2018 - start of term 2
- 12th and 13th November 2018 - in-service day
- 21st December 2018 - end of term 2
- 24th December 2018 to 4th January 2019 - Christmas holiday

### Term 3

- 7th January 2019 - start of term 3
- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 - Occasional Day 1
- 11th February 2019 - mid term holiday
- 12th and 13th February 2019 - in-service day
- 29th March 2019 - end of term 3
- 1st to 12th April 2019 - Spring holiday

### Term 4

- 15th April 2019 - start of term 4
- 19th April 2019 - Good Friday holiday
- 6th May 2019 - May Day holiday
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 - Occasional Day 2
- 5th July 2019 - end of term 4
- 8th July 2018 to 16th August - Summer holiday