
❖ Kincorth Academy Eagle News ❖

April 2003

School Uniform

The **results of the survey into a more flexible approach to uniform have been very positive** from both pupils and staff. In the new school year from August pupils in S1 to S4 will have the choice of wearing the traditional blazer and tie version of the uniform, or a uniform styled on polo shirts and sweatshirts (Senior Students are expected still to wear the blazer with braid and senior tie). The new items of good quality can be purchased from the school at very competitive prices, and have been sourced from a reliable supplier whose products have been endorsed by other local schools. Order forms will be issued before the end of April. Orders will be handled and bundled by the school, ready for collection by the Summer. Well done to Sandy McNaughton, Acting AHT, and senior students Sarah Paterson and Terri Fereday, who have conducted the research for this proposal.

Please note that the aim in responding to suggestions from Pupil Councils about uniform is to improve the standard and appearance of uniform, as well as to offer a variety of acceptable options to meet different preferences. I am sure that parents will support this initiative and that we will not see, for example, multi-coloured and branded sweatshirts.

A Message from the School Board about uniform

The support given by the majority of parents in ensuring that their children comply with school uniform is appreciated. However, there have been some lapses over time and it was felt by both the school and the School Board that it might be time to review the design of uniform, and explore with pupils, parents and staff support for a greater flexibility in the definition of the uniform. It is expected that this will lead, in turn, to better adherence to wearing uniform throughout the school.

Consultation has now taken place with all concerned and the school will be making available the various options. *The School Board fully supports the consultative approach taken and now seeks to gain the support of parents in ensuring that their children adopt whatever option they feel most appropriate for them. The "flexible" uniform means essentially that there is something available to meet everyone's preferences, whilst ensuring consistency of approach as far as colour and school badge is concerned.*

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Jean Marshall** who has been appointed permanently to the post of Principal Teacher of Guidance for Glamis House.

Congratulations also to **Kerry Davidson** who has been appointed permanently part-time to the Music department, and to **Cherry Elder** who has joined the Biology department, also on a permanent part-time basis.

School Inspection

We still await the draft report. When the report is finally agreed, **all parents and staff will receive a copy**, during next term. The report will highlight key strengths and points for action for the school, and these will be the main focus for our development plans for the next two years.



Work Experience

By now current **S3 pupils** and their parents/carers will have received the letter, information booklet and choice form about Work Experience. Pupils may also have taken a personal contact form if they have a relative or family friend working in a company with whom they might get a placement. **Pupils have also benefited from briefings by the Work Experience Unit staff during PSE lessons**, and should have a good understanding of the purposes and procedures relating to Work Experience as outlined in the various documentation.

Pupils will complete their placement in S4 during the week beginning 29 September, and there is a great deal of organising to be done before then. Please ensure Choice Forms are returned to school **by Friday 9 May at the latest**. A **Parents' Night** will be organised in early September, but if you have not received information or have any questions, please contact Mrs McKay, Senior Teacher, who co-ordinates Work Experience activities.

Comic Relief

Once again the school has excelled in supporting charities. **Over £1300 was raised** through a number of fund-raising activities organised by Jean Marshall and Eileen Arrol and many pupil and staff helpers. A very entertaining lunchtime concert and a dress-as-you-please day proved very popular. It was encouraging also to see the efforts made by individuals to raise money through sponsored activities.

Visit by Margaret Curran

Margaret Curran, MSP, Minister for Social Justice, visited the school on Tuesday 1 April. Fiona Alexander and pupils Laura Taylor, Natalie Pirie, Lauren Stewart and Leanne Reidford gave a Powerpoint presentation on the **aims and achievements of our partnership with Petrofac**. There was also an opportunity to visit the new Sports Pitch.

Senior Prom

A very enjoyable evening took place in the relaxing atmosphere of the New Marcliffe Hotel, where the **staff were very complimentary** about the manners and behaviour of our senior students. Well done to Jean Marshall and Mary Thom, and the organising committee of Kristina Hall, Amanda Duguid, Paula Howitt and Gemma Hayes.

"Sporting Heroes"

This unique project is the result of a three-month collaboration between a small group of **S3 pupils** working with Janet Davidson, the Arts Development Team and Citymoves, supported by Jill Rattray our school nurse. Funded by the Health Improvement Fund, the project focused on developing pupils' core skills in working with others and highlighted health issues for young people.

An eclectic mix of **dance, video and photography culminated in the production of a film which was launched at the Belmont Cinema** on Saturday 1st March as part of the exhibition showcase. As well as promoting a positive image of the young people involved, this project highlights how arts, health and education practitioners in Aberdeen are working together to address health inequalities in a unique and innovative way. During the Summer term, the **pupils will be organising their own launch in the school to which their parents and friends will be invited**.

French Correspondence Exchange

47 pupils from S2,3,4 have been taking part in an exchange of correspondence with the **College St Martial in Monmorillon**, a small agricultural town of about 7000 inhabitants near Poitiers in the Vienne area. Many pupils come from villages and farms surrounding Monmorillon. There are 190 pupils in the College, all of whom learn English. Mademoiselle Martine Cusin, teacher of English and German is the link with Doreen Gray of our Modern Languages department who co-ordinates the exchange at this end.

So far, pupils have exchanged several letters, Christmas cards and gifts. Many are communicating by email. **The correspondence is proving very popular, and this is, of course, an ideal way of using French for real!**

Staff too have exchanged school brochures and leaflets about their towns and regions.

Sport

Swimming

Well done to Nadine Beattie of 1G2 for achieving her 2000m swimming award.

David Thomson of 2G2 won a bronze medal for the front crawl on Saturday 22nd February at the Mary Duncan Memorial Gala.

Karate

Stephanie Kirk of 2G1 has achieved her Black Belt.

Hockey

Andrew Beattie of 4G1 is now Captain of the U16 District Outdoor Team and is in the squad for the U17 District Indoor Team.

Steven Beattie of 2G1 has also been selected for the U16 District Team, and is the youngest member of the squad.

Tenpin Bowling

An excellent result for Steven Ross of 3G2 in the Scottish 10 Pin Bowling Championships in Stirling. Steven came second in the U14s section.

Kayaking

A group of S2,3,4 boys have been training regularly in the pool over the Winter and are now looking forward to some river trips in the Summer. Regulars are Sean Kennedy, Jonathan Penny, Greg Leiper, Chris Petrie, Greig Masson, Lee Gibson, Tuffa Uddin, Jonathan McKenna and David Fyvie.

Football

The S1 team has made it through to the third stages of the Coca Cola Sevens at Lesser Hampden. They are now just one step away from the Finals at Hampden!

The S2 Team have won the Sportsman's Club Shield, defeating Aberdeen Grammar 7-1. This Shield was won by the school last year too!

The S3 Team have won the Gerrard Trophy after defeating Hazlehead Academy 7-0.

Russell Omond of S2 has been selected for the U15 national squad.

Seniors Ross Cowling and Bryan Robertson were selected for the Aberdeen Secondary School Senior Select.

Cross Country

Pupils have done very well in the Grampian Schools Cross Country event.

Dylan Thornton of S1 was in the top 20 in his age group.

Dean Taylor and John Riach of S2 came 7th and 18th respectively in their age group.

Michael Rust, Martin Skinner and Paul Lillie claimed the 3rd Team Prize for S3.

In the girls' events, Claire Walker, Emma Paterson and Leigh Ann Law of S2 were all in the top 20 and won the 3rd Prize for S2.

Terri Forbes, Joanne Hay and Jenna Clayton of S3 were in the top 15 and won the 3rd Prize for their age group.

Oral History Project

At the beginning of April four Senior Students, Karen Fyvie, Scott Thomson, Jordan Leslie and Victoria Leiper took part in this **exciting research programme studying the recent history of Aberdeen**. Jointly organised by the City Council and the University of Aberdeen, the event involved our students in working with students from other secondary school in sessions at the University as well as at the Maritime Museum. They contacted and interviewed senior citizens over a two-day period, and the students found this a very interesting and worthwhile experience.

Their Tutor commented:

"Their ability to pick up quickly many new concepts and skills was quite remarkable and compared favourably with many adult groups I have taken over the years."

The resulting interviews will be deposited for permanent preservation in the University archives.

Kincorth Gala

Saturday 21 June

Health Promotion

Plans are now being well-developed for **refurbishment of the dining areas**. Bill Rae has briefed pupils at Assemblies on possible lay-outs for serveries, and on the results of the survey done by the Health Promotion Committee. The results show that pupils are interested in a wider variety of foods including fruit and other healthy options.

There is also the likelihood of funds being made available to **decorate the dining areas** so that they are more pleasant and comfortable.

Security

I expect the security system to come into operation this term. Basically, all exterior doors and gates will be pre-programmed to lock and unlock automatically at set times (between

periods mainly) and visitors will gain entry through a buzz-in video system at reception. These welcome measures should ensure that the school is a much more secure environment for pupils and staff than at present.

Exams, Exams, Exams

National exams for S4,5,6 students are imminent. We wish all students well, and take the opportunity to remind parents that this can be a stressful time for youngsters when **they need all the help and encouragement you can give**. Pupils have been well briefed on successful techniques for exam preparation, and you will find in the enclosed School Board Newsletter some pointers for yourselves. This is an important time for parents as well as pupils!

Dates for your diary

April

Tuesday 22	Summer Term starts
Tuesday 22	S3 Exams start

May

Friday 2	In Service day
Monday 5	May Day holiday
Tuesday 6	Standard Grade exams start
Wednesday 7	S1 Parents' Evening
Friday 16	Higher Exams start
Monday 19	Activities Week starts

June

Monday 2	New Timetable starts
Friday 6 & Monday 9	Induction Programme for S5 students
Monday 9 & Tuesday 10	Induction Programme for S6 students
Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25	P7 Induction Day
Wednesday 25	Summer Concert
Monday 30	Awards Ceremony

July

Friday 4	Term ends
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August

Monday 18	In Service day
Tuesday 19	Autumn Term starts