



# *Bucksburn Academy*

## *School Newsletter*

### *June 2017*

#### **Bucksburn Academy Celebrate Success In Style**

On Wednesday 7 June, Bucksburn Academy once again took over the Aker Solutions building for our annual end of session Celebration Evening. And what a night it was. After a drinks reception, where our award winners received their certificates and goodie bags, over 500 award winners and their families listened to a student led ceremony. Students from the junior phase and senior phase focused on what the "People & Teamwork" part of our vision and values means to them while ex pupil Jaime Robb who has just completed her third year at University gave an inspirational keynote address, full of excellent advice, to our students. Entertainment was provided by our school choir and our ukulele orchestra who put in stunning performances. Thanks go to the staff organising team, the music department, Aker Solutions and of course to our award winners and their families for demonstrating our school's values on a daily basis.

#### **Scotia Win the Bucksburn Academy House Cup 2016-17**

One way we have promoted teamwork over the last few years has been through the implementation of our House System. All of our students and staff are allocated to one of our four houses – Scotia, Alba, Caledonia and Ecosse. This year we introduced a new aspect to our House System – our House Tokens. Pupils in each house gain House Tokens for being issued with Praise Postcards and representing the school. Members of the senior management team also carry a supply while on duty and award tokens to pupils they see exemplifying the school's vision and values during these times. The tokens are on display in the foyer so that students can see them build up over time and see which house is accumulating the most tokens. These tokens contribute to the House Points. Also contributing to the points are the results of a number of Inter House Activities that have been organised by the House Captains and staff. We are pleased to announce that the winner of the House Cup this year, and for the first time, is Scotia. Well done to all the Scotia students and staff!

#### **TALE (Travel and Lifeskills Education) 2017**

On Monday 22 May, the TALE group set off on an 'adventure of a lifetime' (Sean McGee). They travelled to Greenock on the West coast of Scotland and boarded the Alba Explorer with Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. Over the course of the next week they would sail 187 nautical miles, visit islands and deserted beaches and push themselves to their limits physically, emotionally and socially. The boys visited Holy Loch, Lochranza and Lamlash on Arran, Campbeltown, Tarbert and Bute as well as sailing past other towns and sights on the way. The boys were privileged to visit Campbeltown Lifeboat Station and lifeboat where they were given a tour and now have a better understanding of the work of the RNLI. The group were responsible for cleaning the boat, from deck right down to the heads (toilets) every day. No inch of the boat went un-scrubbed! They cooked for 18 people three times a day, including baking on a boat which was tilting sideways in the wind! An amazing time was had by all and all of the group have returned with their RYA Start Yachting qualification. A huge thanks to Ocean Youth Trust Scotland for giving the group an amazing week and well done to all the boys for their hard work and determination over the last year.

## Sciences Update

### S3 Physics STEM (Science, Technology, Science and Mathematics) Day



This term our S3 pupils were introduced to the exciting world of engineering by Tom Adams of the Smallpeice Trust. The pupils were encouraged to work together in small groups to enhance their problem solving and team building skills. They had to design and build a working wind turbine out of limited (chargeable) materials. The teams were challenged to build the wind turbine with the maximum output. They had to consider the stability of the turbine, size and placement of the blades, optimum height and of course the aesthetics! Our winning team consisted of Yasmin, Ailsa, Holly, Nathan and Ryan who

built the most cost effective turbine with the highest output. Well done all of the teams involved, it was a most enjoyable day.

### S2 Visits to the HIVE (Highly Immersive Visual Environment) at BP

The S2 pupils have been learning about the life of oil, from formation, discovery, extraction, production and even sales. As part of this topic they were all treated to an excursion to BP to visit their HIVE. The visit demonstrated how the HIVE is used, starting with a visualisation of all the oil fields located in the North Sea. The pupils were then presented with 3D glasses to view some 3D models of one oil field in particular and the structure of the various layers below the sea bed. The pupils also saw a visualisation of various test drilling sites and how pipe work was put in to facilitate the extraction of oil. Pupils were able to get a feel for the different roles within BP, such as lawyers, finance, HR, engineering and geologists. They also took part in some team building activities. It was a very successful visit. Pupils enjoyed seeing the HIVE in action and hopefully we have inspired some to take on a STEM career.

### Chemistry ...our students who took part in the Salters' Chemistry competition write...

The Science competition at Glasgow University was a great day and so much fun. The day started with a train journey at 6.30am, a quick subway journey and a short walk to the university. When we got there we had a small talk about the day and then got straight into the first challenge- The Salters' Challenge. It was so much fun and it was the best thing about the day. It was a murder mystery and was very interesting. After some lunch and small tour of the university we



started the second experimental challenge of the day. We had a few talks after this about different topics including the periodic table and about the Mary Rose (Henry VIII's battleship). The ruins of the ship are getting fixed and is a big project. Next was prize giving. Unfortunately we did not win anything but we had a great time trying. Soon after that was the travel home after some food and a little look around Glasgow. It was an amazing day and definitely recommend it for the years to come.

## P7 Pupils - Transition Maths Challenge



As part of our transition programme all of our ASG Primary 7 pupils visited the school to take part in a Maths Challenge Event. Organised by our Maths Department, the pupils were divided up into mixed school groups and took part in a number of Maths inspired challenges and competitions. Each group was supported by one of our S4 pupils who provided advice and encouragement. It was a hard fought contest with very little between the winning teams.

## News from the Music Department

### Summer Concert

The Music Department had its annual Summer concert on 15 June. It featured all of the bands and musical groups in the school as well as the cheerleaders and dancers from the PE Department. The Music Department would like to thank everyone for their continued support. All money raised will go directly towards funding the various groups run by the Music Department outwith class time in the coming session.

### Bucksburn Academy Student Plays the Bolshoi Theatre

Finlay Morse has just returned to the school after taking to the stage of one of the most iconic theatres in the world – the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. Finlay, who plays the fiddle and is also a member of the school's Trad Band, travelled to Russia with the Royal Conservatoire and performed traditional Scottish music at a number of venues. Finlay said it was an amazing experience which even ended up with the group performing to passengers on the flight home!

## Sports Update

We have had a number of recent students achieve individual success and recognition:

**Greig Taylor (4C1)** - Greig was selected to play left back for the Scotland Boys Club side in an international match against Wales. The match was played at the Sports Village in Aberdeen. Unfortunately Scotland lost 2-0.

**Emma Joss (4S2)** – Emma was selected to play for Scotland's Under 17 girls' netball squad. They played against Northern Ireland in a round robin of four matches and Emma played in three, scoring 10 goals in these matches. Emma plays for Bucksburn Netball and Aberdeen District Netball Association.

**Robyn Geddes (6A1)** – Robyn goes from strength to strength in Archery. She recently competed at an international competition in Arizona, finishing in an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> place. She recently found out that she has been selected again for Scotland to take part in the British Championships.

**Kirsty Muir (2C1)** – Kirsty represented the school at the Scottish Schools Freestyle Skiing Championships in Glasgow and finished in first place for her age group. She has also been recently accepted onto the Scottish Institute of Sport programme. Finally, to cap an amazing year, she is one of six athletes shortlisted for the Ski Club of Great Britain's 2017 Evie Pinching Award. This is open to athletes under 24 who have been highlighted as "one to watch". It is decided by public vote so let's get behind Kirsty – you can vote for her at :

<http://www.skiclub.co.uk/skiclub/news/story.aspx?storyID=9994#.WTAIipLyvIU>

**Bucksburn Academy Wing Swimming Team** – the team recently took part in the National Swimming Championships in Inverness. Our six swimmers competed against swimmers from across the whole of Scotland. Jack Allan, Jack Gibb, Euan Kerr, Mohamed Khalifa, Ronan Hastings and Matthew Scott represented the school impeccably. Through months of hard training all swimmers made the finals of their events with Euan Kerr picking up a Bronze Medal for his Back Crawl, Ronan Hastings getting a Silver Medal for his Back Crawl and Matthew Scott picked up an Incredible 4 Silver Medals for Individual Medley, Front Crawl, Back Crawl and Butterfly. Congratulations to all of our swimmers.

**Team Bucksburn Cycling** – four members of staff, Mr Sherrington, Mrs Law, Mr Redford and Mr Mohamed, took to the closed roads of Aberdeen to take part in the Corporate Challenge race as part of the Tour Series that recently visited Aberdeen. The team raced against 19 other corporate teams including a team from Hazlehead Academy, with each member completing two laps in an eight lap relay. The team finished a respectful 11<sup>th</sup> against some tough opposition although they were not a pretty sight by the end of the race!



**Football** – our S1 7-a-side football team successfully retained the Aberdeen City and Shire 7-a-side trophy after winning the tournament.

Jake Buirds (2S2) and Lewis Dalgarno (2C2) took part in the final of the Green Skills competition. Jake won the competition and Lewis finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Our seniors made it to the final of the local cup competition, narrowly losing out to Cults and our U15 team also featured in their final against Hazlehead. Our

Wing team won the inaugural Bucksburn v Dyce trophy, as well as performing very well at the City and Shire Special Schools Tournament.

## Drama

Following the success last term of the Drama Department's Oscar Night, the S3 Drama classes are very proud to forward a donation to both their chosen charities, Alzheimer Scotland and Bucksburn Academy Funraisers.

The evening of Drama was organised by the S3 classes to showcase their class work along with input from other classes and the outstanding Drama Club production. The pupils are delighted to pass on £400 for Alzheimer Scotland and £147 for Bucksburn Academy Funraisers.



## What's happening in Art & Design

Some S2 students have been working on producing artwork for a competition funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust. Students researched the topic and considered how they wanted to express the themes. Winning entries will be used to illustrate a new book called "Amazing Animals, Brilliant Science" which will show how DNA technology is being used to help protect wildlife.

## Debating

Debating in the school goes from strength to strength and recently Max Hunter, Holly Skene, Yasmin Low and Victoria Martin took part in the Auld Hoose RGC competition. The two teams gained excellent points for their first time competing and Victoria finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 40 in the Best Novice Speaker competition. Well done to them all!

## Scottish Book Award Winners

As part of our involvement with the Scottish Book Awards winners, a number of our students entered a competition to put together trailers for some of the nominated books they had read. We were delighted to find out that our own Max Hunter and Julia Marshall won first prize for their trailer based on "The Art of Being Normal" and that Suzanne Hair, Rheia McKenzie, Rory Keenan and Holly Park won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for their trailer for the winning book "One". Well done to them all.

## Bucksburn Students Travelling the World

### Stavanger Visit

In February a group of students and staff took part in a study visit to a partner school in Stavanger. During a packed programme they were able to find out more about how science is delivered at the school, approaches to enabling people in Norway to live a more sustainable lifestyle and to continue to share Scottish and Norwegian culture and lifestyles.

### Sumatra

On 3 June a group of senior students and staff set off on an expedition to Sumatra. The expedition included visiting the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme, trekking and camping in the jungle to visit a jungle research station, working on reforestation projects, visiting a rubber plantation and travelling to an elephant sanctuary. The group have been fundraising over the last year to make this trip of a lifetime a reality.

### Battlefields Trip

Later this month a group of S3 pupils and teacher will be travelling to Northern France and Belgium on our Battlefields Trip. During the trip the group will visit a number of WW1 sites and battlefields, find out more about the experiences of those that were part of this turbulent time in history and will visit the Menin Gate.

### Bucksburn Student To Travel to Tanzania

Good luck to former pupil, Jonathan Adams, who will be travelling to Tanzania for 3 weeks to volunteer at the Moshi Children's Crisis Centre orphanage

## A Special New Member of the School Community

As well as new pupils starting school next term there may be a four legged addition to welcome in the shape of a Guide Dog for one of our senior students. A letter is going home about this but here is what this new member of our school community wants you to know:

I want to make sure everyone is prepared for and comfortable with a Guide Dog at school. My trainer and I will work closely with the school and Eilidh. I will have my own bed beside her desk and will probably snooze (hopefully not snore) during lessons. Please don't waken me. I will be working hard going from class to class so don't call my name as this could be very distracting and I don't want to miss my next room. It will be hard for me to ignore you, but I must concentrate. I have breakfast and tea at home so don't need to eat at school. Although I will find my way to the canteen, I can't share your food. This could upset my tummy and potentially cause problems with my weight and behaviour. Please let Eilidh know if you think there is food on the floor so I can avoid it. I will be well groomed and therefore not shed much hair but if there is anyone with allergies the teacher can locate us further away from you if that would help. I have my own personal toilet area (as I am a bit shy) and this will be maintained regularly to keep it clean and disinfected. If anyone is unsure of dogs and would like a chance to meet me please contact the school so we can arrange a personal introduction. I do hope to visit the classrooms to say hello before starting my work after summer and look forward to becoming a part of the school. I do enjoy a gentle pat on the back when socialising but not all at once! Please check with Eilidh if it's okay to say hello to me first.

## **Bucksburn Student in National Final of the Scottish Word Wizard Competition**

Congratulations to Scott Manson who recently took part in the final of the SCILT Word Wizard competition held at the Scottish Parliament. Scott competed against other regional finalists who were tested on accurately spelling as many words as possible in French within the time limit.

## **Requests for Priority Marking Reviews**

As you will be aware there has not been an appeal process for SQA exams since the introduction of the new qualifications. As part of the Post Results Service where a school has concerns about a candidate's grade they can request a clerical check or marking review. Please refer to the school's SQA Post Results Service Policy on the school website for further information about this and the criteria for requesting a review. Priority Marking Review requests can be made for students who are reliant on a grade to secure conditional university entry and who meet the criteria. Again it is important to note that this is not an appeals process. The only evidence that is checked is the candidate's examination script. The school will not be able to submit alternative evidence like course work or prelim exams evidence to support the request for a review. Decisions about the grade awarded will be made solely on the candidate's performance in the SQA exam. Please also remember that following a review the grade can be amended up or down.

The deadline for submitting a priority marking request is 18 August 2017 which falls within our summer holidays. Results day this year is 8 August 2017. Parents and pupils can contact the school between 9am-3pm during that week should they require further advice on this. Please contact the school on 01224 710700 should this be the case.

## **Post Results Candidate Advice Lines**

The following advice lines will operate to support candidates with their queries around the time of results day:

### **SQA Candidate Advice Line**

The SQA Candidate Advice Line will run from Tuesday 8 until Friday 11 August 2017, providing general information to candidates and answering questions about the Scottish Qualifications Certificate. The Candidate Advice Line operators will not have access to candidates' results. Candidates enquiring about their results will be advised to contact their school or college.

The Candidate Advice Line will be open from 8am until 6pm on 8 August, and from 8.30am until 5pm on 9, 10 and 11 August.

Candidates can telephone 0345 279 1000 or complete a Candidate Enquiry Form on our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/candidateenquiryform](http://www.sqa.org.uk/candidateenquiryform)

Candidates should also seek general information from [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)

### **Exam Results Helpline**

Skills Development Scotland will run an Exam Results Helpline from 8am-8pm on 8 and 9 August, and from 9am-5pm on 10-16 August, offering candidates impartial careers advice and information. Candidates can telephone 0808 100 8000 or visit:

[www.myworldofwork.co.uk/examresults](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/examresults)

## Car Park Safety

The car park and the entrance to the school is a very busy place in the morning and after school due to the high number of minibuses and transport that some of our students require. Can I please remind parents to avoid dropping off their children at the front door or using the school transport and emergency bays at the front of the school? We have had recent cases of cars blocking parking bays or obstructing the designated safe walk way (the red corridor) that runs through the car park. When dropping off or picking up your children please use the parking bays at the far end of the car park. As I am sure you will understand this is to ensure the safety of all of our pedestrians at these busy times.

## And a Final Word from Mr Mohamed...

As always at this time of the year can I take this opportunity to thank all members of the school community for your ongoing support of the school. For those students who are leaving us this year we wish you all the best for the future. The theme of our celebration evening was "people and teamwork" and at the event I shared the following:

This is the story about a US Air Force jet fighter pilot, Charles Plumb, who flew 75 missions during the Vietnam war. On one of these missions he was shot down. He ejected and parachuted into enemy hands and spent six years in a Vietcong prison. One day after the war he was having a meal with his wife in a restaurant when he was approached by a stranger. The stranger said, "You're Charles Plumb. You were a pilot based on the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk and you were shot down". Taken aback and surprised, Charles asked him how in the world would he know that? "Because I packed your parachute that day...I guess it worked". They shook hands and Charles told him it certainly did work and if it hadn't been for him he wouldn't be here today. That night Charles couldn't sleep, thinking about that time on the aircraft carrier, how many times he might have seen that man and not even said good morning or asked how he was. He was a fighter pilot and the other man was just a sailor. He thought about this man who packed his parachute, spending hours unseen at a wooden table at the bottom of the ship carefully packing those chutes and holding the fate of others he did not know in his hands.

So my challenge to all of our students at this time is to ask yourself – Who is packing your parachute? Who are all those unseen people who have contributed in any way to supporting you at school? Think about that team that supports you in different ways at school – your teachers of course but what about our office staff, our technicians, our pupil support assistants, our janitors, our librarians, our canteen staff? All of these people work tirelessly as a team to ensure school is such a positive experience for you and to make sure that when there are challenges to be overcome or things don't quite go to plan they are there to try and make sure you have a safe landing. So have a great summer holiday but don't forget to thank all those people who are packing your parachute.

## Dates For Your Diary

ASN Wing BBQ	Wednesday 21 June 2017
ASN Wing Awards Ceremony	Thursday 29 June 2017
Term Ends	Friday 30 June 2017
Inservice Day	Monday 21 August 2017
Pupils Return to School	Tuesday 22 August 2017
September Holiday	Friday 22 & Monday 25 September 2017
October Holiday	Monday 16 October to Friday 27 October 2017
Term 2 Begins	Monday 30 October 2017
Inservice Day	Friday 17 November 2017
Christmas Holiday	Monday 25 December 2017 - Friday 5 January 2018
Term 3 Begins	Monday 8 January 2018
Mid Term Holiday	Monday 12 February 2018
Inservice Day	Tuesday 13 February 2018
Inservice Day	Wednesday 14 February 2018
Term Ends	Thursday 29 March 2018
Spring Holiday	Friday 30 March - Friday 13 April 2018
Term 4 Begins	Monday 16 April 2018
May Day Holiday	Monday 7 May 2018
Inservice Day	Tuesday 8 May 2017
Term Ends	Friday 6 July 2018