



# *Bucksburn Academy*

## *School Newsletter*

### *November 2017*

#### **Introduction**

I would like to introduce myself to all in the school community. My name is Mr Blance and I have been Acting Headteacher since Mr Mohamed left the school on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. I have worked in several schools over the last few years in various posts which allows me to agree with the common belief that Bucksburn Academy is indeed a very good school.

I have been very impressed with the attitude of staff and students. I spent my first week trying to go around the school as much as possible to get a flavour of the classroom environments. The common goal of being "*the best we can be*" shines through all that is done in the school.

I am sure that we will all be able to continue the progress made over previous sessions and to improve on the standard of education and experience provided to all students attending this school.

It is hoped that the appointment of a permanent Headteacher will be resolved prior to the Christmas break.

This newsletter will give you an idea of the wide cross section of the life of Bucksburn Academy.

#### **Staff Changes**

At the start of term in August we had four teachers join us:

Mr Ellis – English

Ms Geraghty – Art & Design

Miss Maes – French

Mr Myron – Maths

This session we have three Probationer Teachers working with us:

Mr Armitage – Geography

Mrs McRobb – English

Mrs Watt – Biology/Science.

#### **Long Service Award**

Last term Ms Marvin was presented with a 25 year service award by Aberdeen City Council. Ms Marvin has been integral in the school life both at Bankhead and now Bucksburn Academy. She has taught English to hundreds of pupils as well as influencing the extra-curricular life of the school. Many pupils have greatly enjoyed school trips, awards ceremonies, fund raising events and proms as a result of these efforts. Ms Marvin is described as a generous and supportive colleague and a caring and approachable teacher.

Well done and many thanks for this continued hard work and dedication to our young people.

## Pupil Expectations

Our school has clear visions and values that underpin our everyday work here. We often revisit and highlight these to maintain our high expectations. As a result we started off this session with a drive towards more consistent school uniform, a better school environment and healthier lifestyle choices. There are currently three posters displayed around the school reminding us all about these expectations.

The three initiatives are listed as follows:

- ✓ Dress to Impress
- ✓ Corridor Expectations
- ✓ Rethink Your Drink

After the October break we also refreshed our classroom expectations and mobile phone policy. We hope that mobile phones will be used responsibly and will not disrupt the learning and teaching taking place in the classroom or inconvenience any member of the school community.

We thank all parents and carers for their continued support in these areas.

(full details/posters can be found on the school website <http://www.bucksburnacademy.org.uk/> )

## Pupil Successes

The Children and Young People's Services Awards were held at the Beach Ballroom on Wednesday 27th Sept. One of our S2 pupils, Kirsty Muir, was nominated for Physical Achievement Award. She was one of three pupils shortlisted for this particular award from across Aberdeen City. Unfortunately, she didn't win but we are still very proud of her and all she has achieved to date!

Her latest achievements have seen her winning the Scottish Schools Indoor Freestyle Skiing Championships in Glasgow representing Bucksburn Academy.

Other notable achievements by our pupils are:

Miles Robertson-Glegg (1A2) won a gold medal at the 2017 Novice Boxing Championships in Motherwell and is the Scottish Novice Champion for his weight category (46 kilos).

Robyn Geddes (6A1) is the Scottish Under 18 Archery Champion for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

## Norma Buist Swimming Gala

Twenty six pupils from the Wing took part in a swimming gala at the Aberdeen Sports Village Aquatic Centre on Thursday 28th September. It was the first time that some of the pupils had taken part in a swimming gala and for most, the first time they had been to this pool. The pupils all swam incredibly well and they thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this event.

They won 15 Gold medals, 12 Silver medals and 5 Bronze medals. Some of the pupils have also qualified for the national final which is held at Tollcross International Pool Glasgow in November.

Very well done to all the pupils and staff involved in this event.

## What has been happening in Social Subjects?

- Senior pupils interested in a career in law attended an event run by Aberdeen University at the Sheriff Court on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Pupils were able to observe real court cases in order to gain an insight into court proceedings and the Scottish Legal System. They also had the opportunity to ask questions to court officials about their roles.
- MSP Mark McDonald came to Bucksburn Academy to meet the National 4/5 Modern Studies class. Pupils were able to ask him about his role as an MSP, challenge him on what he is doing to represent his constituency and discuss topical issues such as Brexit. This helped to improve their understanding of Democracy in Scotland.
- The Debate Club continues to run every week and has recently welcomed lots of S1s to the group. Recent motions include 'Doctors should earn more than footballers', 'The next James Bond should be a woman' and 'Social media does more harm than good'. Debating builds skills in critical thinking and confidence in public speaking – everyone is welcome.



## Music Department

After the October break we will be starting an S1 steel band. This will run on Tuesday after school from 15:45–16:30. A sign-up sheet can be found in the Music department. All other music groups will continue as below:

Monday	13:15 – 13:45 15:45 – 16:30	S3 Steel Pans S2 Steel Pans
Tuesday	15:45 – 16:30 16:00 – 17:00	S1 Steel Pans Wind Band
Wednesday	13:15 – 13:45 14:45 – 15:45	Choir Ukulele Orchestra
Thursday	13:15 – 13:45	Trad Band
Friday	13:15 – 13:45	Senior Steel Pans

Over the Christmas period most of these groups are likely to be performing around town. More information with the specific details will follow soon.

## What's Happening in PE

### Football

All fixtures are under way with the school entering teams at U13, U14, U15 and senior level this year. The U13s are improving game by game and after a difficult few fixtures earned their first draw of the season against a strong Westhill side. The U15s had an enthralling fixture with Anderson High School from Shetland which ended in a 6-3 defeat in what was a very close game.

The U14 team have also made a terrific start, winning their opening six games of the season while scoring an incredible amount of goals along the way. After the October holidays they will be placed in the top division where they hope to continue their impressive season.

The senior team have made a terrific start to their season, winning three games from three and remaining unbeaten.

Also congratulations to Lewis Brand S3 who has been selected for the Aberdeen Select Team who have two upcoming games against Aberdeenshire and Angus.

### Netball

The school's junior and senior netball teams have also begun their league campaigns. The juniors gave their all in their opening game and there has been a big increase in numbers at junior training on a Wednesday after school which is pleasing to see.

The senior team are undefeated with two wins from their opening two matches, with comprehensive wins and some quick, free flowing netball being played. Senior player Emma Joss has been chosen to represent the U17 district squad which is a great achievement. Well done!

### Basketball

This term has seen basketball boom in popularity within the school. For the first time the school has been able to enter both the junior and senior league. The seniors were narrowly defeated in their opening game while the juniors were undefeated in a tournament earlier this month.

### Bowls

Congratulations to S4 Kieran Craigen who has been chosen to represent Scotland U17s at Lawn Bowls. Over the coming months Kieran will be part of the Scottish team facing England and Wales in what is a great achievement.

### Extra-curricular Clubs

A number of extra-curricular clubs are on offer in the PE department at either lunchtime or after school. An up to date list of clubs are displayed outside the PE changing rooms. To keep up to date with the extra-curricular happenings, the PE twitter page is regularly updated:

@bucksburnPE

### Safety

#### Removal of piercings

As always, safety remains a priority in the PE department. Just a quick reminder, following on from the letter previously sent home, that all piercings must be removed for PE, not only for your son/daughter's safety but also for the safety of others. If piercings are unable to be removed alternative arrangements are in place in the form of walking, rowing or fitness to ensure physical activity guidelines are still being maintained. If your son/daughter would like to get a piercing it would be appreciated if this could be arranged for during the summer holidays. Thank you for your continued support.

### Nails

Long fake/ acrylic nails are also not allowed in PE due to the safety constraints. As above, walking, rowing or fitness will be the alternative until the nails are removed or at a safe length.

## **CLAN Donation**

Congratulation to Josh Allan, Hayley Wilson, Adam Newlands and Kieran Galbraith who volunteered to organise a dress down day at the end of the August term. Their action raised £560.30 which was donated to CLAN. This great achievement is one of many fundraising events that has taken place recently, displaying the Pride and Respect values of the school.

## Car Park Safety

We have had a couple of incidents at the front of the school this session which is highlighting an ongoing problem with parents dropping off/picking up their children. Parents are continuing to drop off pupils at the front of the school. We have witnessed several instances of unsafe driving that has endangered our school community.

Parents must not use the front of the school to drop off/pick up their child at any time. There is more than ample space at the bottom of the car park with a safe walking route. Also, only blue badge holders should park in the disabled parking spaces. We have several members of the school community who rely on these spaces to get to and from school safely.

We have been in consultation with both Aberdeen City Council and Robertsons to discuss how we can best manage the car park so that all our young people are Happy, Safe and Secure, both coming to and leaving Bucksburn Academy.

## Adverse Weather

As the winter approaches it is appropriate to remind you about the arrangements for Bucksburn Academy in case there is severe weather. The school will update the "Schools Information Line" on 0870 054 1999 (Pin Number 011010) and the website at [Aberdeencity.gov.uk/closures](http://Aberdeencity.gov.uk/closures) on a regular basis. Information will be shared as to the status of school closed/partially closed/open.

If a pupil comes by school transport the parents are advised that, if it is not running, pupils should stay at home.

Emergency Closure During the School Day - Occasionally when weather conditions deteriorate during the school day, transport may have to take pupils home early. In this instance pupils in the ASN Wing require an emergency address (as close to your own home as possible) as a safeguard.

## TASSCC Information Evening

TASSCC (Technological Assessment and Support Service for Children and the Curriculum)

Parents & Carers Information Evening – Read&Write Software

Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Time: 7pm – 8:30pm

Venue: Northfield Academy

Find out more on the following:

- Word prediction and dictionary tools to support every stage of learning
- Text-to-speech and voice recognition – Why type when you can use your voice?
- Fact finding and research tools to support emerging story writers as well as senior students completing assignments
- Mp3 audio maker – Download your notes and listen on-the-go!
- And lots more! *Find out more information at [www.texthelp.com](http://www.texthelp.com)*

## Bucksburn Academy Christmas Fayre

### **Bucksburn Academy Christmas Fayre**

**Saturday 2 December 2017**

**10am-1pm**

**Free Entry!**

Bucksburn Academy Funraisers is a group of parents and teachers who have come together with the mission to enhance the educational and extra-curricular experience of Bucksburn Academy pupils through fundraising, whilst promoting a community spirit. Our main source of fundraising comes from our annual Christmas Fayre.

Money raised from the Christmas Fayre goes directly towards helping our pupils. Over the past number of years we have helped to support and fund various clubs and activities throughout the school, including, but not limited to, Senior Prom, Activities Weeks, House Days, Active Schools Lunch Time Clubs, Netball, Football and Swimming Team kits, Steel Pans, Science Café, Board Games Lunch Time Club, Drama Oscars Nights, Art resources, French trip, Youth Achievement Awards excursion, Debating Club, and help to support the running costs of the ASN minibuses.

We appreciate your support in helping us to raise money for our pupils.

Funraisers are always looking for volunteers to help behind the scenes and on the day. For further details of how to get involved please email [JeWhyte@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:JeWhyte@aberdeencity.gov.uk).

## Dates For Your Diary

Inservice Day	Friday 17 November 2017
S5/6 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 28 November 2017
ASN Wing Open Afternoon	Thursday 30 November 2017
Christmas Fayre	Saturday 2 December 2017
Term Ends	Friday 22 December 2017
Christmas Holiday	Mon 25 Dec 2017 - Fri 5 Jan 2018
Term 3 Begins	Monday 8 January 2018
S4 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 23 January 2018
S4/5/6 Study Leave Begins N5 Assessment Week	Monday 29 January 2018
S4 Return S5/6 Study Leave Higher/Advanced Higher Assessment Week	Monday 5 February 2018
Mid Term Holiday	Monday 12 February 2018
Inservice Days	Tues 13 & Wed 14 February 2018
S3 Parents' Evening	Thursday 15 February 2018
P7 Transition Day 1 P7 Parents' Evening and Tour of the School	Tuesday 6 March 2018
Drama Oscar Night	Thursday 8 March 2018
S3 Work Experience Week	Monday 12 March 2018
ASN Wing New Pupil Transition Evening	Tuesday 27 March 2018
Term Ends	Thursday 29 March 2018
Spring Holiday	Friday 30 March - Friday 13 April 2018
Term Begins	Monday 16 April 2018