



Bucksburn Academy

School Newsletter

May 2018

Introduction

It has been a very busy time in the Academy since I joined in February. Senior pupils have been focused on their SQA exams and I wish them all the very best as they now await their results on August 7th. Staff have been busy preparing for the change of timetable for all our pupils during the week beginning 28th May and we hope that all young people are ready for a new challenge that will mean they are one step closer to meeting their aspirations.

All staff have been working together to plan our school improvement journey. The focus this year will be around striving for excellent learning and teaching, closing the poverty related attainment gaps, improving the health and wellbeing of all the community and continuing to develop the employability skills of all.

You will read about the excellent work our young people and staff are doing and I would encourage you to engage with your young people in the work they are doing at school. We know that parents have the most influence on their child's outcomes and we value your views and opinions in ensuring that we get it right for all young people in the Bucksburn Academy community.

Mike Paul, Head Teacher

Staff Changes

A number of staff changes have taken place this year

Ms Rosaleen Shanley, RMPS - retired

Ms Janet Wendes, Music and ASN teacher - retired

Ms Fiona Duncan, HE – moved back to the Central Belt

Ms Karolina Feeney, Pupil Support – moved school

Mr Fraser McLachlan, PT pupil Support – seconded to Ellon Academy as DHT

New staff who have joined or will join before the end of term

Mr Peter Page, Modern Studies

Mr Andrew Byrne, Maths

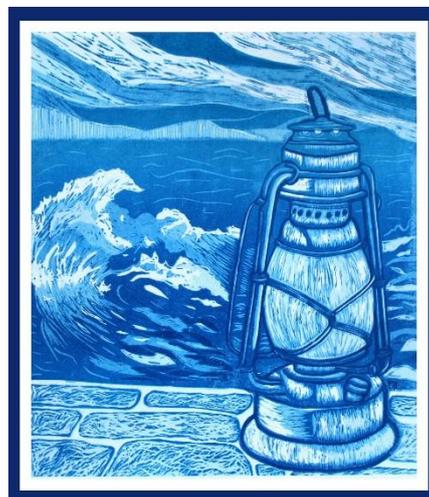
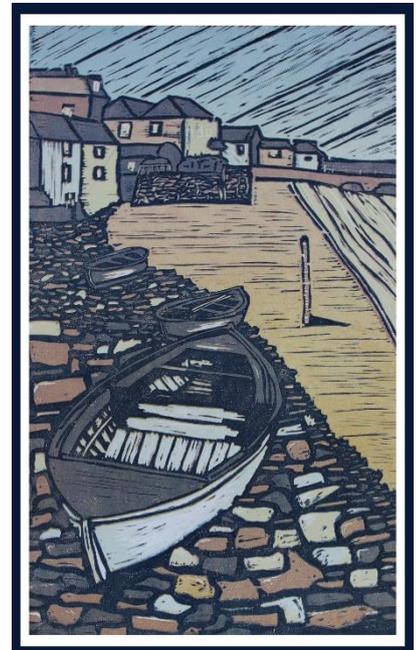
Ms Jayne Davidson, Wider Achievement

Mr Billy Burnside, Wider Achievement

We have also made a number of appointments to start in August and we will communicate these to you nearer the time.

Art and Design

In Art and Design we have been busy completing folios for National 5 and Higher exams. Well done to all pupils for your hard work. Here are some examples, good luck to everyone!
Work featured from: Tylor Webb S4, Amber Dempsey S6, Aaron Reid S5, Kelsey Richen S4, Summer Mapplebeck S5.



Music

BAS Bucksburn Academy Steel Orchestra

Forty members of BASO will depart on the Music Department Steel Pan Trip to London on **Sunday 24 June**. It's the sixth trip to London that the department has run and it still proves to be as popular as ever. For the first time we will be taking part in a workshop run by Ebony Steelband (current UK champions) and we will also be working once again with Croydon Steel Orchestra. These bands are amongst the best in the UK and both regularly take part in the UK Panorama Competition as well as the Nottingham Carnival.

Music groups and ensembles

We are pleased to announce the addition of a further music ensemble, Bucksburn Brass Quintet (BBQ), set up by our brass instructor Mr Gregory to challenge the most able brass pupils.

Other music groups continue until Summer (check twitter or department notice board for any cancelled rehearsals due to exams).

S3 BASO	Monday	13.15 – 13.45
S2 BASO	Monday	15.45 – 16.30
S1 BASO	Tuesday	15.45 – 16.30
Wind band	Tuesday	15.45 – 17.00
Choir	Wednesday	13.15 – 13.45
Ukulele orchestra	Wednesday	14.45 – 16.00
Trad. Band	Thursday	13.15 – 13.45
Senior BASO	Fridays	13.15 – 13.45

Summer concert

The Music Department has its annual summer concert on **Wednesday 13 June** starting at 19.00. It will feature all of the musical bands and groups (see above) in the school so please check schoolbags for ticket order letters and get them in to the department asap. The dress rehearsal is on **Tuesday 12 June until 16.15**.

Grade exams

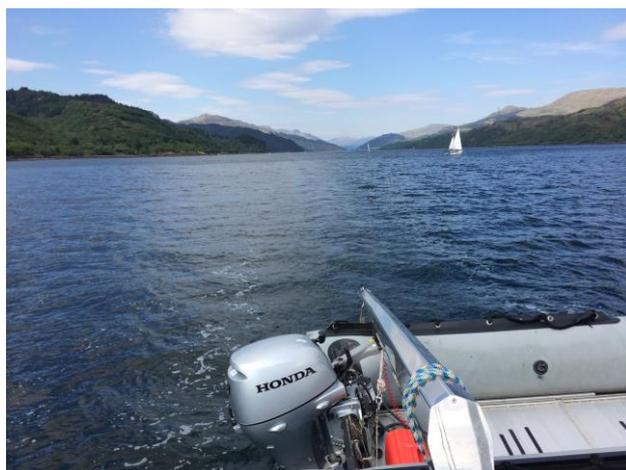
Well done to the following woodwind pupils who passed grade exams this term – Holly Park, Patrick Davies, Alistair Smith and Hamish Bruce (grade 2), Kyle Morrison and Eve Smith (grade 3), Scott Manson (grade 5).

TALE

The Travel and Lifeskills Education (TALE) group came together last August to work towards a sail training trip with the Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. Over the course of the year they have developed the skills they needed for the trip as well as developing skills for life. The group have cooked up a storm in the flat, been on residential trips to Muir Cottage, learned to tie knots, developed personal skills such as hygiene and how to fold clothes. We even learned how to clean the toilets! As part of the course, the group had to raise £10,000 to cover the cost of the trip and their training. Parents and other family members have worked hard organising events to raise money and one of the group even wrote to AABi accountancy firm who gave us a huge donation. One of the shining moments of the year was the Burns Supper organised in February.

Every member of the group had to leave their comfort zone in order to run a very successful evening.

The final trip began on Monday 21 May when the group travelled to Greenock to board the Alba Explorer, their home for 7 days. The initial challenge for the group was working out how to manage in an incredibly tight space! The trip took the group from Greenock to Campbeltown via Arran and then back up to Greenock via Portavadie and Bute. The group cooked for 18 people three times a day, cleaned the boat from top to bottom each day- including the dreaded toilets, manned the deck raising and dropping sails several times a day and even had to contend with sea sickness at points. They worked hard in small teams and all achieved their RYA Start Sailing certificates which is a huge achievement. Well done to all involved for taking on such a huge challenge and meeting it head on with smiles on their faces.



Drama

OSCAR NIGHT 2018: Drama department's celebration of achievement. Pupils proudly presented their work from both the classroom and Drama Club in this year's evening of fun and achievement. S6 pupils had been running S1/2 Drama Club and the pupil's final performance lived up to expectations with a scenes from "Oliva" with set and props created and made by pupils too. A range of scripted and improvised work from Drama S3 classes, iMovie trailers from Drama S2 alongside a S3 Music class and the Cheerleaders added to the mix. Lewis Poole and Lee Davison topped the evening with an extract from their NAT5 practical exam. A great evening that with a fantastic input from all those who took part.



Humanities

Geography

In the classroom, pupils have been working in groups to create presentations on renewable energy and aid agencies, and have worked on ICT projects including Tsunamis, Hurricanes, and Chocolate. S3 have also been showing off their acting and production skills by creating stunning Fairtrade TV adverts, while S4 were treated to a guest lecture by BBC TV presenter Professor Iain Stewart. Well done to all pupils in Geography for working so hard throughout the year as individuals, and as a team.



History



Throughout the term our S1 classes have worked cooperatively sharing ideas and working together. They have recently finished the unit on the Scottish Wars of Independence. Pupils got busy re-enacting key battles, learning about the gory details of executions and thinking critically about whether William Wallace was a terrorist or freedom fighter.

Our S2 classes began the term studying the topic of the Holocaust. We were honoured to have a visit from a Holocaust Survivor, Mala Tribich who shared her experiences of being a Jew during the Nazi occupation of

Poland. We were very proud of the mature way our pupils dealt with this unique experience and the questions they asked.

S3 classes have been learning about the rise to power of Adolf Hitler. They have worked individually and in groups to create timelines and news reports to enhance their understanding of this critical period in the twentieth century. Pupils have continued to develop their skills of source analysis.

Mala Tribich

As a keen student of higher history, I have always had an affinity to learning more about the past and becoming educated on why our history is such a vital part of life. This is why I felt so fortunate to have the once-in-a-lifetime experience of meeting Mala Tribich, a survivor of the Holocaust. Mala was just a girl when the wrath of Hitler began to impact her life: beginning with laws targeting and persecuting Jews, to her ending up in three different concentration camps which almost took her life. Stereotypically, a teenager's life is fundamentally carefree and supposed to be the best time of our lives. For Mala, this was not the case. She was stripped of her teenage years and her identity as a Polish Jew by an evil dictator who faulted her religion. Mala was forcefully moved from concentration camp to concentration camp, including Bergen-Belsen.

During her speech, Mala explored what she perceived to be her closest moment to death. Waiting in a line consisting of Jewish mothers and their children, Mala realised that her and her little cousin had been separated from her father and brother - the only family Mala had left after her mother and sister were killed by Nazis. With more bravery than imaginable, Mala approached a Nazi, asking to return to her ghetto to reunite with her family and reluctantly, she was granted permission to do so. Mala later discovered that this act of bravery was what saved her life as every child in that line was murdered by the

monstrous Nazis, who showed no remorse.

This wasn't just a documentary or a jumble of words on a page from a textbook in a history classroom. This was real. This was someone's first hard encounter of nazism and the trauma that this entailed. No matter the vast amount of statistics and facts we learn about the holocaust, processing these numbers is virtually impossible for the human brain to do. But when a real life survivor is standing before your very eyes, only then does the realisation and devastation hit. Seeing and speaking to a person who was impacted, rather than just another statistic, is what really puts historical events into perspective.

The only way this experience could be summed up is humbling. Being fortunate enough to meet such a fearless woman acted as a reminder of how lucky I am to live in a country where fascism and anti-semitism are less prominent than they were in the 20th century and how proud I am to live in a time in which anyone who has these bigoted beliefs are drowned out by love and support for all of our differences. Mala's courageousness continues to this day, as by choosing to share her heart wrenching story, she keeps the tragedies of the holocaust relevant to those who may have become desensitised to such heartbreaking issues. This experience was enlightening as it helped me to realise the significance of never forgetting historical events like the holocaust, for as long as we empathise with the holocaust, the Nazi's will never win.

Grace Johnston

Modern Studies

S1 classes are currently working on the topic of 'Democracy and Dictatorship'. As part of learning about democracy in Scotland they took part in a class mock election where they came up with a political party and created a campaign poster, leaflet, rosettes and a party political broadcast. Many of them made for fine politicians, maybe we have a future First Minister in there somewhere!

S2 classes are covering a unit on Terrorism. They have recently been learning about the ISIS 'Beatles' cell and creating profiles of the members.

Working alongside law students from Aberdeen University we have been running the 'Street Law' workshops with the S3s again this year. This recently culminated in the pupils working as prosecution and defence teams and taking part in a mock trial.



RME

All RME classes were sad to bid farewell to Miss Shanley who retired at Easter. S1 and 2 are working on a unit which focuses of making moral decisions. S3 classes have been completing the 'Inspiring Purpose' project. This challenges pupils to reflect on their values, purpose and future goals.

Technologies

Just newly coming out of our assessment week exams we were extremely fortunate for our teacher to invite Martin Simpson, Managing Director of Deeside Water Company to visit the school to speak to our Higher Business Management class.

Settling us in with a free bottle of water, Martin introduced himself and began his talk then he asked us what we wanted to do career wise when we leave school. The majority of us told him we had an interest in business and this led him to question our motives for this – was it the money aspect? Did we want to one day be our own boss? What did we want to achieve in life? This was good food for thought!!

Martin spoke about the history and background of the business and how he got into it, which was interesting for us as if we were to make a career out of business we would have to make our own path in life. While he was talking, I wondered to myself, what makes this water different to other brands of water? Before I had a chance to ask he delved into this exact question. Deeside Water's unique selling point lies within its health benefits, it has been scientifically proven to slow down arthritis (but he reminded us that it is not a cure for arthritis). This led to Martin advising us that we as potential future business people must have a unique selling point if we were to think about setting up a business of our own in the future.

After his presentation, we had the chance to ask him several questions. The pupil interaction was great here and a variety of questions were asked ranging from what his future plans are for the business as well as any advice he would give us if we were to think about setting up our own businesses later in life. The key message he was giving us was – find something you enjoy doing that is fulfilling and feels right for you. If you are not sure it is the right thing to do, you may want to reconsider your options!

We would like to thank Martin for giving up his time to come to speak to us and wish him all the best for the future.

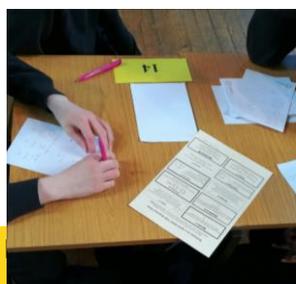


Maths



Over 30 S1 and S2 pupils taking part in the UK Maths Trust Junior Maths Challenge in April. Results aren't in yet but it is a challenge so it's no mean feat to get a certificate. Pupils who persevere and gained a certificate at either Bronze, Silver or Gold level should be well chuffed.

Four pupils - Anania Bedru Babulo, Euan Hao, Dylan Jack and Adithya Kumar - did a great job of representing Bucksburn Academy at the UK Maths Trust Team Challenge at Elphinstone Hall at Aberdeen Uni in March. The event was composed of four rounds - Group Round,



Crossnumber, Shuttle and Relay – and while our team missed out on a podium ranking were still please to place fifth out of 18 teams from across the North of Scotland.

Breaking news! Maths challenge winners!

Bronze:

Keira Thompson 2S2, Anania Babulo 1S1, Kirsty Muir 2C1, Ella Buchan 2S1

Silver:

Andrew Stewart 1A2, Fraser Wood 2E1, Euan Hao 1C1, Michael Wilson 2A1, Rhys Stephen 2A1, Hamish Bruce 1A1

Gold:

Adi Kumar 2S2, Neil Campbell 2S2, Dylan Jack 2C2.

- Hamish and Adi were also acknowledged as best in their respective years in our school.
- Having achieved a Gold award, Adi, Neil and Dylan have been invited to take part in a more challenging follow-on round.

Swimming Gala

19 ASN pupils too part in the North east qualifying swimming gala at Fraserburgh swimming pool. Every pupil conducted themselves impeccably and came home with an impressive 27 medal haul. 19 Gold's, 6 Silver and 1 Bronze. Every swimmer pushed themselves and showed great determination during every race.

Celebration Evening

Celebration Evening 2018

Our annual Celebration Evening will again be held at Aker Solutions (one of our business partners) on **Wednesday 6th June** at 7.00pm. This event will be led by our pupils and will celebrate their successes and achievements. More information will follow closer to the event.



Film Reviews

Our Film Club has been going strong this year and pupils have written reviews about the films they have watched. These have been shared with the Belmont Picture House who have kindly donated free tickets for our pupils. Here are a couple of the reviews – if you would like more, please contact Mr Armitage at the school.

Euan Hao – 1C1

The Martian (2016)

4.5 out of 5 stars

“The Ultimate Mars Survival Movie”

Have you tried growing potatoes with your own manure? Or maybe destroying billion-dollar NASA equipment? Or... possibly trying to survive more than 500 Sols on Mars? Well Mark Watney/Matt Damon has done all of that, and much more! The Martian is about Mark Watney, an astronaut part of the Ares 3 mission crew to study Mars, who had been stranded like ‘Robinson Crusoe’ except for the fact that he had to worry about dying from storms, equipment failure and starvation for every second of his life. As well as that, he has to cope with the fact that he is about 50 Million Kilometres away from his home, Earth. This Science-Fiction movie is packed with thrills, humour, tension and relief. Also, award winning movie can be enjoyed by teenagers and adults alike. Overall I especially liked the book adaptation (except for the surgery part) and the filming location in Jordan. I give it a solid ‘4 and a Half Star Rating’.

Raphael Dang – 1C1

Warhorse (2011)

5 out of 5 stars

“Most mind Blowing film ever”

This film really touched my emotions as far as they can go. Such a deep connection between a human and a horse is unbelievably beautiful to watch.

As Joey, the horse, is being forced to pull a train, a catapult and heavy weapons, I can see the thoughts about his master in his two forlorn eyes. I watched as, not just Joey, but all the other horses too pushing themselves to the absolute limit.

A really close friend of Joey's, Tophorn, helps him get his master, Albert, who was fighting in World War 2.

By the time Joey arrived to the battlefield, as he ran, his legs got tangled up in barbed wire and the wires digging deep inside his flesh.

Steven Spielberg's masterpiece has blessed the world with one of my absolute favourite film, Warhorse. If you love horses then this is the ideal film for you. This film contains really sad scenes and moments, so if you want you can skip those scenes. I like this film because it has: courage, bravery, and adventure.

Science – STEM Day

This term the Physics and Design & Technology department had a visit from Tom from the Small Peice Trust. He



delivered a whole day event, where the pupils had to work as part of a team to develop, build and pitch a water recovery system. This water recovery system was to be used to collect and filter rain water for use in buildings, for things like flushing toilets. We have a system like this in Bucksburn Academy. The



winning team were the ones who had the most cost effective, fully working model with the best sales pitch. During the design process the pupils had to figure out how to use materials to make a water collection unit (with no leaks!) and filter. They also had to use their soldering skills to make a

moisture detector and pump system to recover the water from the collection unit. All the system were fully tested to make sure that they worked and check for leaks. The teams also used their maths skills to keep track of the total cost of their water recovery system. After producing a poster, they presented their ideas and Tom announced the winning team. A brilliant day was had by all!

Well done Max, Julia, Cameron, Moryam, Euan and Niall!

Football Team

The ASN football team competed in the third North East tournament of the year. The tournament was played in great spirits with a high level of sportsmanship shown throughout. Bucksburn came third on the day and showed great teamwork throughout the whole tournament. Well Done to Mr Davidson and all of the players for their efforts.

Health and Wellbeing

Extra-curricular club success

Active girls

The introduction of the active girls group has been hugely successful. S4 Tyler Webb, who is part of the active girls committee, has contributed hugely to the success of the group by helping manage a variety of activities from rock climbing at transition extreme to yoga. The group currently has the highest participation rate in the city. Well done girls, keep it up!

Basketball

Congratulations to both the S1 and S2/3 basketball teams who remained undefeated with both age groups taking part in various tournaments and friendlies against other Aberdeen schools

throughout the course of this year. The school also entered a senior team into the basketball league for the first time this year with the team finishing the league in 5th.

Football

It was another successful year for the school in terms of having teams representing the school at all levels. The senior team made it to a semi-final before being edged out by a strong Cults team. However, a huge congratulations to the S2 football team for their tremendous season. They reached two finals and secured the league title. This was a huge achievement as it was the first league title the school has secured in a long number of years. Well done Mr Hardacre and the boys. Also a special mention to Lewis Brand who was selected and played a pivotal role in the U15 district select team.

Netball

Junior netballers Alex McKenzie, Eve Smith, Lauren Wood and Grace Thomas are currently taking on leadership roles through helping lead netball sessions with our feeder primaries. The girls have been doing an excellent job in promoting netball and being role models for pupils in the local primaries.

What else has been going on?

Youth Games

Bucksburn ran out victorious at the Aberdeen Youth games which saw 10 other schools participate. S1/2 pupils manage to come 1st in the basketball, football and dodgeball and come 2nd in the table tennis event. Well done to all that participated and represented the school in an exemplary manner.

Dance Show

The department held its first dance show in March which was a huge success. The show showcased a mixture dance styles as well as cheerleading routines and musical entertainment. All participants put on a great show with some tremendous performances. Well done girls.

Premiership Experience

The school ran its second successful football trip in February which saw 45 pupils from S1-6 head to Manchester for a weekend of football. Fortunately the game between Manchester United v Liverpool didn't disappoint. Throughout the weekend tours of the Etihad and Old Trafford were given as well as a training session with Blackburn Rovers coaches. The weekend was fun filled and all pupils represented the school very well.

Removal of jewellery and length of nails

Finally a reminder that all jewellery must be removed to allow safe participation in PE. It would be appreciated that if your son/daughter is to get a piercing that this is done at the beginning of the summer holidays to allow the piercing to be removed upon return to school. Also if fake nails are to be worn that these are put on at the beginning of the summer holidays so they can be removed prior to returning after summer. If piercings cannot be removed or nails are not a sufficient length alternative activities (rowing or running) will be put in place.

Wider Achievement

This term the S2 Wider Achievement classes were tasked to raise money for local charities. Each class chose a different charity these were; CLAN, Mrs Murray's Cat and Dog Home, Charlie House and Friends of Anchor. Each class came up with an idea on how to raise money for this charity, organised the event themselves during class time. The total raised by the classes was £550.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Duke of Edinburgh participants went on their practice expedition where they battled the elements and successfully camped for two nights on the banks of the River LUI and at the entrance to the Lairig Ghru. All pupils showed great resilience and effort in walking and camping over the two days. It was also the first ever time ever that Bucksburn Academy has had pupils undertake the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. Good luck on the final expedition!

News from the Library

PAWS Event

To help pupils relax and de-stress, the library was able to hold some “PAWS against Stress” sessions during both the estimate and actual exam period. Canine Concern Scotland Trust were able to send along 1 dog in February and 3 dogs in May. A number of pupils came along to the sessions and were able to cuddle and relax with the help of their four footed friends. We hope to run similar sessions again during the new academic year.



Reading Dog

Since September Bruno the reading dog has been coming into the library to help the pupils gain confidence in their reading. A number of pupils have had the opportunity to read to Bruno every fortnight. They read for about 15 – 20 minutes while Bruno relaxes and listens beside them.

Bruno will continue his visits to the library in the coming session.



Languages and Literacy

We are very happy to announce that Scott Manson achieved second place in the French Intermediate Word Wizard Competition. The Final took place at the Scottish Parliament of Edinburgh, where pupils from all over Scotland gathered to spell as many words as possible in foreign languages in one minute. We are all very proud of his hard work and his achievement. Also, we need to mention Cyprus Adams who made it to the semi-finals at University of Aberdeen. Well done!

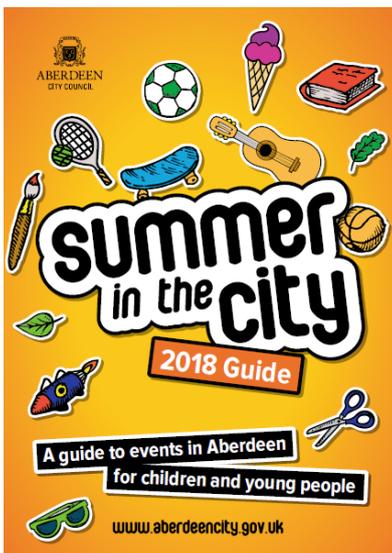
Grampian Children's Book Awards

On the 16th Of May, 2E1 and 2E2 visited Aberdeen University to attend this year's Grampian Children's Book Awards. Prior to the event, both classes read the six shortlisted books and each student entered at least one of the competitions; book posters, reviews and movie trailers. Students then voted for their favourite book. Several authors attended the event and students were given the chance to engage in a Q+A with the authors. This year's chosen winner was "Between the Lies" by Catherine Macphail!

Bucksburn Academy Debate Club

The school debate club has continued to demonstrate success this year. Rami Jerrow and Noah Martin made it through to the second round of the Donald Dewar Debate Tournament organised by the Law Society of Scotland. The motion of the night was 'Democratic countries should boycott the 2018 World Cup in Russia 'and both students raised excellent arguments proposing the motion. The club meets every Tuesday at 1.15 in room F39. All new members are welcome!

Summer in the City



We are happy to share the Summer in the City Guide 2018 with you!

Stuck for things to do this Summer – this guide will help plan family activities to keep all amused! This publication is a comprehensive guide of a number of activities and events taking place in Aberdeen City. This year's Summer in the City will be available online at the following links;

Aberdeen City Council

Website: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2018-05/Summer%20in%20the%20City%20guide%202018.pdf>

Dates For Your Diary

Celebration Evening	Wednesday 6 th June 2018
Summer Concert	Wednesday 13 th June 2018
ASN Wing Celebration Event	Thursday 5 th July 2018
Term Ends	Friday 6 th July 2018
Summer Holiday	Mon 9 th July – Friday 17 August 2018
SQA Exam Results	Tuesday 7 th August 2018
In-service Day	Monday 20 th August 2018
Pupils first day	Tuesday 21 st August 2018
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY TO BE CONFIRMED	
ASN Parents' Evening	Tuesday 25 th September 2018
S4 Parental Engagement Event	Tuesday 2 nd October 2018
S2 Parental Engagement Evening	Thursday 1 st November 2018
S5/6 Parental Engagement Evening	Tuesday 27 th November 2018
S3 Parental Engagement Evening	Thursday 14 th February 2019
S1 Parental Engagement Evening	Thursday 23 rd May 2019