

# BUCKSBURN ACADEMY NEWSPAPER



DECEMBER 2018



Happy, safe and secure  
Can do, will do approaches

High aspirations  
People and teamwork

Inclusion  
Pride and respect

## First Edition – by students for the community



### Message from the Headteacher

I am sure that you, like I did, will enjoy reading the wonderful articles written by the young people here at Bucksburn Academy. Not only does this newsletter written by pupils for the wider community show the breadth of opportunities available in the school, but it also clearly shows the wealth of talent nurtured by dedication, hard work and obvious aspiration.

You will read from a range of pupils across the school showing the inclusive nature of Bucksburn Academy and from pupils who have a very clear 'Can do, will do' mentality. Reading this has made me smile as it truly encompasses the vision and values of the school. This is the first time that pupils have written the newsletter and I would particularly like to thank Cyprus Adams for her drive and enthusiasm in making this happen and to Ms Dinan for helping coordinate. A big thank you must also go out to all the people that contributed to this first edition – their names can be found next to the articles they wrote and to the many staff who supported the pupils through the process. I am sure that this will be the first of many pupil-led newspapers in the future.



### Basketball

The S2/S3 team finished first in the league with a score of 52-22 against AGS.

The S1 basketball team also recently played at Harlaw against Harlaw and Lochside. As well as this, Michael Wilson (3A1), Matt Shedden (2C1) and Arron Donaldson (2C2) completed Basketball Scotland's 'Make It Happen' refereeing and coaching course. They then were involved in refereeing at the S1 festival for Aberdeen City Basketball League.



### Netball

The S1/3 Bucksburn Academy netball team have done exceptionally well by holding their second place in the league with only one game to go.

All PE news by Sophie Evans  
3A1



### Swimming

Congratulations to Thomas Christie (3S1) and James Coull (3A1) who competed in the Dundee Autumn championships and the Inverness North District swim meet. James won two gold medals and one silver overall and Thomas finished with three gold medals and one silver in total. Thomas, James and Mairi (4S2) and Calvin MacDonald (1S1) also recently competed at the Scottish Schools Trials and are through to the final in February.



## POLITICIANS GRILLED BY PUPILS

*News from Humanities by Tylor Webb 5C1*

### Modern Studies

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2018, Colin Clarke, who is the MP in the Gordon constituency, came in for a question and answer session with the Higher Modern Studies class. Pupils had prepared questions on a number of topics, including Brexit and his work in the local area. One pupil reported "despite minor disagreements, it was a valuable asset to my learning about the role of an MP and it also helped with my understanding of the ongoing Brexit debate."

The following Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, the National 5 Modern Studies class also hosted a politician. This time it was Lewis Macdonald, an MSP for the North East region. The National 5 class prepared questions for Mr MacDonald about his work as an MSP and his answers gave them examples of his work which they will be able to use in their exam.

In S3 Modern Studies pupils have been taking part in the 'Street Law' programme, run by Aberdeen University law students. Pupils have been taking part in workshops which teach them about different aspects of the law and this

culminates in them taking on roles like the accused, lawyers and witnesses as part of a mock trial.

### Remembrance Day

Last month, a team of S3 pupils and senior pupils delivered assemblies to S1-S3 to celebrate remembrance. S3 pupils Dagan Rait, Ella Buchan and Fraser Wood worked together to prepare a presentation which drew on their learning in History about the First World War. S5 pupils Clarke Hendry and Sasha Mitchell also spoke about their experience visiting the WWI battlefields in France and Belgium and how this had helped them understand the importance of remembrance. Finally, S6 pupils Grace Johnston and Thomas Samuel in S6 shared their experience of participating in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project,' organised by the Holocaust Education Trust. Grace and Thomas travelled to Auschwitz in October and spoke very movingly about their visit. They shared with pupils the importance of not just remembering the soldiers who had lost their lives in conflict but also civilians.



## *News from the ASN Wing*

By Cyprus Adams

### Boccia Tournament

On the 21st of November, pupils from the ASN Wing participated in a Boccia tournament at the Sheddocksley Sports Centre. The pupils involved won all of their games and were also complimented on their excellent behaviour and sportsmanship. The next Boccia tournament will be held in February 2019.

### TALE (Travel and Lifeskills Education) 2018

In October, the TALE group completed a 10km walk from Duthie Park to Newton Dee and back. This sponsored walk was held to raise money for the TALE group's annual sailing trip in May off the West Coast of Scotland. In November, the group visited Muir College in Braemar where they cooked, went on long walks and practiced preparing their kit bags. The group's next fundraising event will be a Burns Supper in January.

### Christmas Show

The Bucksburn Academy Christmas Show was held on the 11th of December. Each ASN class performed a movie extravaganza and all of the pupils came together for a musical finale at the end!

### Letters to Rwanda

In June, pupils from ASN 4 wrote letters to 'Groupe Scolaire Kanogo' in the Ngororero District, West of Rwanda. Miss Patrigeon then brought the letters with her to Rwanda during her visit in July. The pupils in Rwanda responded to their letters from ASN 4 and even sent a banner from Rwanda made out of cool materials as a gift.

### Achievements

Jason Cobb recently travelled to Manchester for the National Para-Swimming Championships. He competed in the 100 metre breaststroke, 100 metre backcrawl and 200 metre freestyle. The competition took place over two days on the 1st and 2nd of December and Jason performed very well, achieving excellent times in all events.



## Christmas Fayre

### *1st December*

The first Saturday in December saw another packed and successful Christmas Fayre.

There were a variety of stalls and games: from beautiful Christmas wreaths and decorations to a festive selfie station. Santa Claus even made a special appearance! There was also a fantastic performance from the Bucksburn Academy Steel Orchestra.

The Christmas Fayre is our major fundraiser and money raised goes to support extra-curricular activities in the Wing and across the whole school. This year an impressive £6200 was raised. The school would like to extend a very special thanks to the staff and parents who worked exceptionally hard to make sure the event was another great success.



# Literacy News

Cameron Mitchell 2C1



## Young Writers Competition

Over sixty S3 pupils entered the annual Young Writers Competition this term. The theme this year was 'catastrophes' and pupils had to write a 100 word 'survival mini saga'. Winners will be chosen from entries received in the Autumn Term 2018 and awarded in the Spring Term 2019. There are several prizes up for grabs for both the pupils and the school they are representing. The English department were very impressed with the high standard of entries this year from all of the pupils. Here are some of their top picks.

### The Uninvited Guest (Sophie Evans, 3A1)

Almighty gusts of wind stampeded over the skyscrapers. Nobody was safe, she knew that. The spiralling abyss swept over the once proud city, causing chaos and destruction. Lunging this way then next quicker than thoroughbred racehorses competing for glory. Darting right she took cover in the miraculously unharmed hospital where sights of blood and bones, sounds of screams and crying played on repeat in her mind. The spiralling beast moaned, threw cars and obliterated buildings as if they were mere toys. Nobody was safe, she knew that. Windows shattered, doors slammed, as if they knew what was about to enter.

### Untitled (Ronin Henry, 3A1)

As Raphael looked out over Morzine, satisfaction filled his heart. "This is the life I want to live," he thought to himself. He began to push himself forwards, centimetre by centimetre. His skis tilted over the edge, sending him down the cliff faster than he would have liked. His heart was racing, he let out a scream of joy as he flew down the mountain. Something interrupted his excitement. A deafening grumble came from the mountain, he glanced back to see any skiers' worst nightmare. A thundercloud of snow chasing him down the mountain. It was gaining on him.

### Trip to Peterhead Prison (by Ms Flett's S5 class)

In October, Miss Flett's and Miss Marvin's Nat 5 classes visited Peterhead Prison. This was a real eye opener to what it was like in prison in the past. We saw the disgusting conditions and how bad the prisoners were treated. We also met and heard stories from Jackie Stuart, who was an officer taken hostage during the prison riot. This gave us inspiration and realistic information which helped us to write our creative stories for our folio.

## Debate Club

Last month, S6 Students Rami Jerrow and Jamie Robertson participated in the first round of the Donald Dewar Debate organised by the Law Society of Scotland. The motion of the night was 'This house believes Google does more harm than good' and both pupils raised excellent arguments opposing the motion. The rest of us have been busy this term debating the motion 'This house would ban school uniforms.' Debate club is held in F50 every Tuesday lunchtime. New members are always welcome to join in on the fun!



# *The Arts*

*By Laura Johnston 3A, Raphael Dang 2C1 and Nathan Stockdale 5A1*

## Music

Christmas time is always a busy time and this year has been no exception.

### Steel Pans

BASO (Bucksburn Academy Steel Orchestra) has been in high demand. We have 5 bands - a senior band, S4 band, S3 band, S2 band and a recently just started S1 band. All bands except S1s performed at the Christmas Fayre on the 1st of December to get the Christmas season well underway.

The S4 and senior band also performed as part of Aberdeen Lunchbreak Concerts programme on Thursday 6th of December. The event was held at the Citadel and the bands entertained a packed audience of members of the public, playing for 45 minutes. BASO received an excellent review which is published on the Aberdeen City website. Since then, members of the public have approached Ms Milne in the street complimenting the bands, and the Music Department has even received some lovely cards in the post from people who have seen BASO performing recently.

The following night, Friday 7th of December, the S4 band took part in the Kingswells Community Carol Service where they were the main entertainment for the evening.

On Sunday 9th December S4 BASO and senior BASO took part in the Evening Express Carol Concert at the Music Hall. This was the first event to take place in the Music Hall after being closed for 2 years due to extensive renovations. The Evening Express wrote that Bucksburn Academy Steel Orchestra was one of the highlights of the evening.

### Ukulele Band

The ukulele orchestra have been spreading festive cheer as well. They busked outside Marks and Spencers for an hour on Sunday 2nd of December. They performed a number of songs to passing crowds who were very appreciative and they collected over £150. The group will decide which charity to donate this money to after the Christmas holidays.

### Stars In Our Eyes

As we approach the end of term, the department is preparing for the Stars In Our Eyes talent show. It was first run in 2003 and ran every year until 2014 when we started to run it every second year. As usual, it consists of pupil acts and staff acts with 2 performances - one in the morning where the staff are judged and another in the afternoon, where a winning pupil act is chosen. It's a really nice way to end the year and gets everyone in the Christmas mood.

## Achievements in Music

A number of our pupils have had successes in their music outside of school this term. Nathan Li passed his Grade 5 piano exam, and Julia Marshall and Connor Hird passed their Grade 5 theory exams. Julia and Kieran Craigen were also accepted to take part in the Royal Scottish National Orchestra 'Takeover' programme, where they will spend a week working with the 'Learning and Engagement' section of the Orchestra. Emily Manson got into the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland Summer School, Scott Manson got into the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, and Ailsa Smith got into the Grampian Youth Orchestra.

## Drama

Drama Club started back at the beginning of the school year. The club meets every Thursday lunchtime to play drama related games or rehearse for our upcoming performances. We are currently working on a play called 'Into the Woods', directed by Ella Buchan and Fraser Wood. This play will be performed on the 7th of March 2019 in the school assembly hall. Tickets & further info will be sent out at a later date.

The club is open to everyone. This is a club where you can have fun and laughter and just enjoy drama as much as possible. Mya Middler (2C1), describes her thoughts on drama club: "I like Drama but most importantly I like the acting, the humour and trying out different costumes and experimenting with my voice." Another member, Dyan McLean (2C1), also stated: "I enjoy Drama Club because we get to express ourselves in different ways and act out interesting situations."

## Art

December is upon us already and much like snow, there is a flurry of activity in the Art Department. Two pupils in particular this term deserve a shout out for all of their hard work. Congratulations to Nikola Antosik in S1 for designing the winning piece of artwork for the Christmas Fayre poster and to Enara Abad in S4 who has been hard at work, alongside Mrs Brown, in designing the new Bucksburn Partnership logo.

The S3 and Higher photography classes have also been working with professional photographer Andy Hall, who specialises in local and Scottish landscapes. Most recently, S3 pupils embarked on a trip to Drum Castle and spent the day with Andy learning how to photograph patterns in the historic estate. The Highers await his return next week to cast his expert eye over their photo shoots.

## More News from the Languages and Literacy Faculty

By Fraser Wood, 3E1, Iona  
Anderson, 2E2 and Enara Abad,  
4S2.

### Modern Languages

#### S3 visit the Marriot Hotel

On the 3rd of December, a number of S3 pupils visited the Marriott Hotel in Dyce. We were given this opportunity because of the outstanding projects we had completed in class which included cue cards, translated menus and welcome packs to Aberdeen for visiting tourists from France. Once every team had presented their projects, we were given a tour of the maze-like hotel. This included access to all of the behind the scenes places like the kitchens, the boiler rooms and private offices. It was definitely an unforgettable experience. We learned a lot about how a hotel is ran and the choice of careers hospitality has to offer.

#### S2 French Penpals

In French, we have been writing letters to our penpals from a school in Salaise Sur Sanne (Collège Jean Ferrat). So far, we have received a letter from them which they wrote in English and we have sent them letters in French. We wrote about our families, our interests and about our school. My class enjoyed learning about their penpals and seeing what they had in common. It was very interesting to see how similar our schools were although we live in different countries.

#### Bucksburn Teachers Travelling Across Europe

This year, Miss Fernandez and Madame Maes both travelled across Europe as part of a language course thanks to the Erasmus Programme. Madame Maes went to Malaga, Spain, in July for 3 weeks to improve her Spanish speaking skills, and in October, Miss Fernandez visited a town called Vichy in France for 2 weeks to further her understanding of French. They both really enjoyed this experience abroad as it has allowed them to expand their language skills even further.



## What's happening in the library?

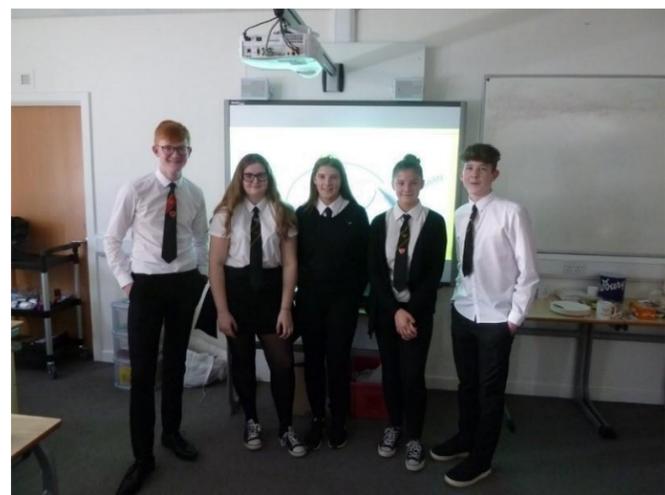
By Cara Paterson 1E1 and  
Doris Kanu 1E1

### Book Week Scotland 2018

At the end of November, the English Department and the Library worked together to celebrate another exciting Book Week Scotland. On Monday, the library hosted a Book Week Quiz. Our winners this year were Laura Johnston, Fiona Muir, Amber Low, Alliyah Giles and Cara Paterson. Tuesday saw S1 and S2 pupils dropping everything to read! This involved pupils reading for 10 minutes in every class throughout the school day. I really enjoyed this because I love reading and it gave me a great opportunity to read one of my favourite books 'I'll give you the sun' by Jandy Nelson. On Wednesday, it was a Digital Detox day. All of the computers in the library were switched off at break and lunch and only non-tech activities were allowed. Finally, on Friday, pupils watched Paddington II in the library. Pupils voted all week for their favourite film adapted from a book. I can't wait for next year to see what great book related activities there will be!

### Accelerated Reader

The library recently launched the Accelerated Reader program. This is a computer program which helps improve pupils' reading abilities. All S1 classes are involved, half of the S2s and some of the senior phase ASN pupils. Ms McGrath is currently running a competition called "Who wants to be a Word Millionaire?" This has proven very successful with James Spiteri in 1C1 taking an early lead in the most words read this term. He is quickly followed by Ryan Torrance (1C1) and Jakub Dabrowski (1C1).



### **Business Breakfast (page 8)**

Picture left – Martin Simpson, Managing Director of Deeside Water

Picture above – pupils who organised the Business Breakfast from the Higher Business Management class.

## Update from the PE Department

By Jack Gerrie, 3S1 and Sophie Evans, 3A1.

### Football

This year our school football teams have gone from strength to strength. The S1 football team have reached the cup final and will play Bridge of Don after Christmas. The S3 team also competed in the Scottish Cup where they got to the second round but were knocked out by the Nicholson Institute from Stornoway. The seniors recently beat Harlaw 4-3 and are now through to the President's Trophy Cup final.

### Outward Bound

A group of S2 pupils went on a five day trip to Loch Eil in Fort William as part of their S3 leadership course in November. The trip consisted of abseiling, kayaking and camping along with loads more team building activities. We learnt about different leadership styles and what makes a good leader. We also had to work on our problem solving skills. We are now working on our projects that aim to benefit the community.



### Youth Games

After being very successful at the athletics Youth Games last year, Bucksburn will enter again this year to defend their title. The sports that have been chosen this year are table tennis, dodgeball, basketball, girls football and boys football.



### Boxing

Well done to Jack Goudie (5S1) who won a silver medal in the Scottish Novice Boxing Tournament.

### Swimming

Congratulations to Thomas Christie (3S1) and James Coull (3A1) who competed in the Dundee Autumn championships and the Inverness North District swim meet. James won two gold medals and one silver overall and Thomas finished with three gold medals and one silver in total. Thomas, James and Mairi (4S2) and Calvin MacDonald (1S1) also recently competed at the Scottish Schools Trials and are through to the final in February.

### Skiing

Kirsty Muir in 3C1 has been selected to compete in the Junior Olympics in February 2020. Well Done Kirsty!

### Taekwondo

Mathew Irvine in 2S1 has been dominating in the world of Taekwondo. He recently won the British Championships for the second year in a row and will be competing in the World Championships next year.



## THE PUPILS' NEWSPAPER

### John Muir

Since we have started our John Muir class, we have tried our best to make the environment around us as nice as possible. We have gone out litter picking to clean up the area and we also have done some gardening. We began by weeding the garden at the start so we had plenty of space for our bulbs. Our class went around the school grounds, memorial garden, the grass at the entrance of our school near the trees and the underpass.

The herb garden near the memorial has been planted by Brighter Bucksburn, but our class made sure that it stayed tidy and free from weeds. There's a really big variety of herbs you can use in your kitchen. There are herbs like; curry plant, rosemary, oregano, mints, sage, coriander, chives, thymes, lavender, basil, tarragon, bay leaves, fennel, dill, parsley. You are welcome to pop in with a bag and take some herbs for your dinner, but please leave some for the other people living in Bucksburn. You can use some of these herbs for your Christmas dinner. You can use Rosemary for roasted chicken or your glazed ham. You can use sage for your turkey sausages, sage rubbed roast turkey and your stuffing. Mint will flavour your peas and you can make your hot chocolate festive by adding mint into it too!

## Outdoor Learning

By Martyna Huzarska (3E1),  
Ella Buchan (3S1) and Darcy  
Walker 5A1

### Duke of Edinburgh

Recently the S5/6 Duke of Edinburgh classes embarked on a practice expedition. This involved hiking for approximately 10 miles around Ballater, camping overnight and doing the same again the following day. Before any of this could take place, the groups had to undergo training. This included learning to cook using a Trangia stove, assemble tents and navigate through difficult terrain using maps and compasses. Despite the cold winds and steep inclines, the trip was very successful. The pupils involved feel that they have gained valuable life skills from the trip and are looking forward to completing the final expedition next year.

## Elsewhere in the school ...

By the YAA S4 class, Katy Thomson, 3S1 and Chloe  
Arnott 5S1

### **Youth Achievement Award**

S4 YAA have been working on employability skills with Kirsty from Shmu FM, one of our local radio stations. The YAA class will be using what they have learned to present a live radio show on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 1-2pm. We will be revealing live on air about what we wanted to be when we were younger as well as giving tips on interviews, what to wear and the barriers to getting a job. We are really looking forward to it and we are happy that Shmu were able to work with us.

### **Young Leaders of Learning**

The Young Leaders of Learning is an Education Scotland initiative where pupils are given the opportunity to visit each other's schools in their area. The three schools currently involved in the program are Bucksburn Academy, Bridge of Don Academy and Harlaw Academy and the aim of the program is to improve pupil voice within schools. 'Relationships' is the focus for this session and we have been busy visiting and observing positive relationships in our schools. In October, 8 pupils from both schools visited Bucksburn Academy and in November our 8 Young Leaders of Learning visited them. The information we have gathered will soon be shared with the Senior Management Team to help improve our school and we also gave advice to the other schools on how they could improve. We also helped train P7 pupils from different primaries in Aberdeen to become Young Leaders of Learning in their own schools.

### **Business Studies**

Earlier this month, the Business Studies department held their first formal business breakfast at Bucksburn Academy. Our first guest speaker for this event was Martin Simpson, the Managing Director of Deeside Water. Martin Simpson attended our business breakfast meeting during break time where we gave a short presentation to the class, the Technologies Faculty staff, Mr Paul and Mrs Stephen about the purpose of the business breakfast. Following on from this, Martin then gave a presentation to the class about his company. Martin spoke about the history and background of the business and how he got into his chosen field. There was a question and answer session at the end of Martin's compelling presentation which was very useful to us as Higher Business pupils. It allowed us to find out more about his business and gave us the opportunity to do some networking. We plan to run future business breakfast meetings over the remainder of the academic session. We would like to thank Martin Simpson for firstly, attending our business breakfast and secondly, for taking the time out of his busy schedule to deliver a very informative and engaging presentation to us. We would also like to thank our class teacher Miss Simpson for giving us the opportunity to take on a senior leadership role within the Technologies Faculty in organising these events. (see pictures on page 6)

## FILM CLUB

By Euan Hao 2C1

On The 21st of November, Film Club went on an organised trip to see the movie 'Goosebumps 2' at the Vue cinema in town. Afterwards, the film was reviewed by the young critics who went to watch. However, going on extra-curricular trips is just one small part of what students do at Film Club. A now frequent member, Raphaël, describes why he goes to Film Club: "I enjoy going to Film Club because I can see interesting films that I like and also to practise and improve my literacy skills by writing film reviews." Members of Film Club also take part in many competitions and movie festivals. So far, Euan Brechin (2C1), Euan Hao (2C1) and Raphaël Dang (2C1) have won the Nationwide 'Review of the week' competition for IntoFilm. Film Club is on Mondays and Fridays from 1:15.

## Breaking News

Bucksburn Film Club have become finalists for Film Club of the Year and Euan Hao has also become a finalist for Club Member of the Year in the UK IntoFilm Awards. The Film Club will travel to the world famous Odeon Cinema in Leicester Square, London to meet film actors, directors and critics in March, and hopefully win the coveted award for our school.

## Aberdeen Science Centre By Eilidh Morrison, 6A1.

The Aberdeen Science Centre has moved its premises temporarily to 107 George Street, opposite John Lewis. CSI is the current theme at the centre. You can get hands on with some of the techniques and equipment used by forensic scientists as they analyse evidence found at crime scenes. On the 15th Dec, the 'you are what you eat' theme will take over. You can find out what the best eating habits are and also the science of what happens to your food after it's been eaten.

## Bucksburn Academy GSA

By members of the GSA.

Bucksburn Academy GSA (Gender/Sexuality Alliance) have been meeting for 9 weeks and are developing our ideas for the Group's activities and purpose (besides taking over the world one Uno card at a time).

In this short time we have attended a Citywide conference of GSA Groups from City schools. The conference helped us find others facing the same social stigma and make new friends. Most of those we met there we are still in contact with. Our group currently meets on a Wednesday lunchtime and are hoping to expand to bring in new faces.

In the photo is Colin Lemmon, our Youth Worker, whose role is to facilitate the group. In the background a sample of the flags that represent our growing community. We are about helping pupils who need support and educating those who need to be informed so that everyone gets the same opportunity to feel safe and supported.



## Dates for next term

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	- First day back
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	- Parental Course Choice Information Evening for S2, 7pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	- S4-6 Live Reports issued
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	- start of S2 Outward Bound courses at Loch Eil, Fort William
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	- Assessment fortnight begins (S4-6)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	- S2 reports issued
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	- mid-term holiday
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	- in-service day (staff only)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	- in-service day (staff only)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	- S3 Parents' Evening (and Valentine's Day!)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	- Senior Phase Parental Information evening (for S3-5)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	- 'Oscar Night' in the Drama department
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	- S4-6 Live Reports issued
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	- holidays begin 2.45pm (pupils return on Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April)

Finally, here's one to think about

MISTAKES ARE  
**PROOF**  
YOU ARE  
**TRYING**

*James Anderson*  
writer • editor • creator

CORRECTING  
MISTAKES ARE  
**PROOF**  
THAT YOU'RE  
**GROWING!**

[jamesanderson.com.au](http://jamesanderson.com.au)