

PARENTS’ INFORMATION SHEET

Subject: October Update

From: Ms L Menzies, Rector

Date: 7 October 2016

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It is hard to believe that we are now at the end of term one. As usual it has been a very busy one and have welcomed our new S1 Pupils into Turriff Academy. It was really good to meet our S1 parents this week during our S1 Parents’ Evening.

**Building Works**

Those of you who have visited the school this term will see that our building works have started. Preparation has taken place for a lift to be installed at the front of the building and for a platform lift in the corridor at the back of the stage. So far, two new ramps are almost complete in our Quad Area.

During the work, we have had to close corridors and relocate classrooms to other areas of the school. We are working closely with contractors to keep potential disruption to a minimum.

**A new date for your diary!**

Staff and pupils are currently planning and rehearsing for an event to showcase our musical and dramatic talent. On 15 December, our pre- Christmas Entertainment is in the form of a music extravaganza. You will be entertained in the first half by a music concert performed by our talented musicians and choirs. The second half showcases extracts from well-known musicals, with a finale which should help bring in the festive season with good cheer.

**Career Ready**

Students from our new S5 have just embarked on their two year Career Ready Programme where 9 students have been partnered with business mentors from Petrofac, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Premier Inn, Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Enterprise and Aberdeen Journals. The programme helps to develop employability skills as well as build confidence in our young people. Thank you to those companies involved for providing mentors as well as an Internship for the students at the end of their S5.

Our S6 students have completed their internships and will be looking forward to their graduations in April 2017.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Turriff Academy Staff held a coffee morning on the 30 September and raised £321.15. Thanks to all who baked, donated and enjoyed the “fancy pieces”!

**S1 Pupils – an opportunity to look forward to**

Turriff Sports Centre have invited S1 pupils to take part in Multi-Sport sessions on a Tuesday lunchtime, starting on 25 October. Pupils will have tasters of several sports during this time, and will be mentored by senior pupils. The canteen will provide lunchboxes, which can be pre-ordered and paid for in the morning, and collected at 12.25 pm before pupils go down, under the underpass, to the Sports Centre.

**S1 Accelerated Reader Certificates**

Congratulations to our S1 Readers who were presented with their Accelerated Reader Certificates this week.

**House Captains**

Congratulations to our 2016/17 House Captains

**Craigston** Natasha Cruden, Maya Chillingworth

**Delgaty** Shania Smith, Rosie Mitchell

**Forglen** Ben Mann, Kaitlyn Simpson

**Hatton** Finley McAllister, Abi Sibley

**Ragbag Collection – opportunity for a clear out of your cupboards.**

Ragbag Collection bags will be made available to pupils the week beginning 24 October and can be returned to school by 28 October. If you are having a clear out of clothes, shoes, towels, linen etc. (but not duvets and pillows) please fill bags and return. Black refuse bags can also be used if you do not have a Ragbag. Money raised will be shared between the Quad Development and Rock Challenge.

**200 Club winners**

The winners for this term are:-

£150 Julie Dawson

£75 Iain Dunlop

£25 Kate Patton

£25 Sally Britnall

£25 Lucy Mair

There are still a number of places left for membership and, of course, the more members we have, the bigger the prizes and the greater the benefit to the school.  Anyone who wishes to join should pick up a membership form from the office.

**Staff Award**

Mrs Amanda Allan who volunteers for Deveronvale Girls Football has been awarded the Peoples’ Award and received a trophy at Hampden. Congratulations to Mrs Allan on this achievement.

**Staffing Update**

Welcome to Mr Paul Grant who will be joining the English Department on the 24 October.

Welcome to our student teachers:

Ms Laura Dear (Maths)

Ms Laura Ritchie (English)

Ms Lauren Connelly (Business Ed)

Welcome to Mr Jonathon Mooty who takes up his post of Supervisory Janitor on 24 October.

**Parent Council Information**

Please take a minute to read this and take part in the survey.

Ten years ago, the Scottish Parliament passed a law to ensure that parents can be fully involved in their children’s schooling.

This was to help parents:

* be fully involved with their child’s education and learning
* feel welcomed to take part in the life of the school
* and to be encouraged to express their views, on their school and working together with the school

The Scottish Government have asked us, the National Parent Forum of Scotland, to review and Act on the government’s behalf and to make recommendations on what needs to change and how. This survey asks for your opinion on the impact, successes and shortfalls of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006. This includes looking at how well schools involve parents in what they do, and finding ideas to develop and better involve parents in the life and work of their schools. It is hoped that it will inspire everyone to look at the most effective way of helping parents support children in Scottish schools.

Could all parents/carers/guardians please log into [www.npfs.org.uk](http://www.npfs.org.uk), click on to the heading, “Parents, Carers and family members; we want your views” and follow the instructions. The closing date for this is 31 October 2016.

**Dates for your Diary**

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| **Monday 24 October** | **Start of Term 2** |
|  | **Rag Bag Week** |
| **Monday 31 October** | **S5 Safe Drive Stay Alive** |
|  | **S6 Driving Ambition** |
| **Tuesday 1 November** | **S4 SDS Career Fair** |
| **Wednesday 2 November** | **S1 LEPRA Assembly** |
| **Monday 7 November** | **Parent Council Meeting** |
| **Friday 11 November** | **Remembrance Assemblies** |
| **Monday 14 November** | **In Service Day** |
| **Tuesday 15 November** | **In Service Day** |
| **Wednesday 16 November** | **S1 Lepra Slideathon** |
| **Friday 25 November** | **Senior Phase Tracking Report Issued** |
| **Thursday 1 December** | **Senior Phase Parents’ Evenings 5-7pm** |
| **Tuesday 6 December** | **Senior Phase Parents’ Evenings 5-7pm** |
| **Thursday 15 December** | **School Music Extravaganza** |
| **Friday 16 December** | **Swimming Gala** |
|  | **S3 Reports Issued** |
| **Monday 19 December** | **Senior Dance** |
| **Tuesday 20 December** | **Junior Dance** |
| **Wednesday 21 December** | **Last day of term 2** |
| **Thursday 5January** | **First day of term 3** |