

National Recognition for Mackie Academy

We thought we would start this update with some excellent news. We are delighted to announce that following our listing in the 2019 EdTech50 awards, the school has been recognised by Google for our outstanding use of technology to improve learning outcomes. Being a Google Reference School means that Mackie Academy joins a select group of schools in the UK that display exemplary use of Google Technology in the classroom and foster innovative learning environments. Depute Head Teacher, Alan Tullock, made the announcement at the University of Strathclyde whilst speaking about Mackie Academy's digital journey at the 2019 Learning through Technology conference on Tuesday, 4th June 2019.



Scottish Government Census: Parental Involvement and Engagement Survey

You are invited to take part in a national census on Parental Involvement and Engagement. The information gathered in this census will provide Scottish Government and Aberdeenshire Council with evidence to ensure our aims with regard to parental involvement and engagement are being delivered.

You can complete a questionnaire (about 15minutes) using the link below:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SecondaryPIE/>

This survey remains open until Monday, 10th June 2019. You can also ask for a paper copy by calling the Education Reception (01224) 472840 or email education@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and a stamped addressed envelope for your response.

The Privacy Notice link for the PIE Census can be found at:

<http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/education-privacy-notice>

Uniform Consultation

A reminder that the consultation will remain open until **Friday, 14th June 2019** and give you an opportunity to feedback to the school.

We hope that you will take the time to respond as your feedback, alongside that of pupils and staff, will help us revise our guidance for 2019-20.

The survey can be found [here](#) and should take no more than two to three minutes to complete.



Please note that M&S have a "Back to School" Early Bird event with 20% off from 4th June to 2nd July 2019 which parents may wish to take advantage of. There are some exclusions but many items are available which you may find useful for the academic year ahead.

Key Dates this term

Just a quick reminder of some key dates as we head towards the summer holiday:

Sports Day: Friday, 28th June 2019

Parents are welcome to come along to Sports Day and support the event, which is a major fundraiser for our PTA as they provide our youngsters with their food for the day.

Prizegiving: Thursday, 4th July 2019

A great way to finish the academic year. This year, we are going to have a special event for our S4 and S5 leavers in the afternoon prior to the evening event for which letters will be going out soon. Our guest speaker this year is Kelsey Stewart, an ex-pupil who has just successfully completed her degree with a 1st class honours whilst achieving great sporting success at the highest levels. Kelsey has already been into school to speak to our young folk about her journey and will no doubt be a motivational speaker on the night.

Term Dates for 2019-20

Please note that there have been some changes to the term dates for 2019-20 following an additional two in-service days being put in place by the Scottish Government for teachers. Dates are as follows:

2019-20 Term Dates	From:	To:
Autumn Term	Wednesday, 21st August 2019	Thursday, 10th October 2019
Winter Term	Monday, 28th October 2019	Friday, 20th December 2019
Spring Term Part One	Monday, 6th January 2020	Tuesday, 11th February 2020
Spring Term Part Two	Thursday, 20th February 2020	Friday, 3rd April 2020
Summer Term	Monday, 20th April 2020	Friday, 3rd July 2020
May Bank Holiday	Monday, 4th May 2020	Monday, 4th May 2020

Please note that the Training Days for staff in 2019-20 are as follows:

Monday, 19th and Tuesday, 20th August 2019

Friday, 11th October 2019

Monday, 18th and Tuesday, 19th November 2019

Tuesday, 18th and Wednesday, 19th February 2020

Pupils will not be in school on these days.

Mackie Academy's 50th Anniversary 2019-20: We need your memories

There will be an opportunity for anyone with memories of their time at Mackie Academy to share them with us in the final week of this term. Our S6 pupils will be on hand to welcome you and any items you may wish to bring to school which have allowed you to remember your time at the school over the past 50 years since it moved to its current location at Slug Road.

You can visit the school on the following dates and times, where our senior pupils will log any items you may wish to provide and give you a ticket so they can be retrieved after our event:

Monday, 1st July 2019: 09.00-12.00

Tuesday, 2nd July 2019: 11.00 – 14.00

Wednesday, 3rd July 2019: 14.00 – 17.00

Our aim is to create a display that encompasses the past 50 years of Mackie Academy's history alongside any particular stories, anecdotes or memories people may have. The display will then be ready for our Open Day on Friday, 30th August 2019 and will be available to see for a period of time afterwards.

If you cannot make it into school then please feel free to email the school on mackie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and we will hopefully find a way to ensure your memories are not missed out. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in contact.

We are looking forward to celebrating our anniversary with our local community and partners.

Educational Visits Handbook for Parents

This new publication will clarify for parents all the relevant pieces of information associated with their child participating in a school visit. It can be found on the school website in the "[Relevant School and Council Guidance](#)" section. We hope you find it useful and feel free to provide any feedback which we can use to improve this guide.

Online Safety: The Yolo App

YOLO, an acronym for "You Only Live Once", is an anonymous messaging App that connects with the popular App Snapchat. It allows users to add a sticker to their Snapchat story or to share it with a specific set of their Snapchat contacts. This will then alert their friends (contacts) that they are using the YOLO App and encourages others to use it as well.

The INEQE Safeguarding group have produced a short video which explains this app for parents. It can be found [here](#).

This group also produce a variety of factsheets for parents around [online safety](#) which you may find useful.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Louise Moir

Head Teacher