

Please find below our November update for parents:

PTA Christmas Fayre: Thursday, 7th November 2019 7-9pm

This Thursday our fabulous PTA team are running their Christmas Fayre with lots of different stalls for you to get your gifts for the festive period. Please come along and support this great initiative and have a cup of tea or coffee at the same time as you shop.

The school is hoping to have its 2020 50th anniversary calendars for purchase on the evening which highlight the work of our Higher Photography class around and about Mackie Academy.

Parent Council: Wednesday, 13th November 2019 7pm in G3

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday, 13th November 2019 when we will be joined by representatives from Aberdeenshire Council to discuss ongoing concerns around school transport. As always if parents would like to attend and / or would consider joining the Parent Council more information is available on the school website [here](#).

Scottish and Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

As we head towards the exam period for our Senior pupils or subject choices for our younger pupils parents may find this publication from the SCQF useful in understanding the different types of qualifications that our young people can take these days. The guide for parents and carers can be accessed [here](#).

Homework Club

A reminder to all parents that a homework club operates in our library Monday through to Thursday from 15.30 – 17.30. It is fully staffed so that pupils can be supported and there is access to IT, both in terms of desktops and Chromebooks. The homework club is for everyone and whilst we realise that senior pupils may not require as much supervision as younger pupils it is an opportunity to work in a quiet environment with the resources you require and to get work done before heading home. If parents want to find out any more please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pupil Support and Attainment Team Leader.

Call for your views from Aberdeenshire Council

The Council is undertaking a 'clean-sheet' review of the Local Bus, and Dial-A-Bus, services that it financially supports, to assist the decision-making on how to prioritise spend. This is **not** a review of Mainstream School Transport or Music Centre Transport. A survey seeking the views of Aberdeenshire residents and communities to identify travel priorities and preferences is being launched later this month. It is vital that the consultation survey attracts not just existing passenger transport service users, but engages with as wide an audience as possible in order to help the Council understand the areas where provision of bus services is affecting people's ability to access key destinations and activities. The questionnaire focuses on ascertaining views on how best to provide supported bus services and can be completed as individuals or on behalf of an organisation.

A link to the questionnaire will be available on the Council's web site **from 28 October 2019** (<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/public-transport/policies-strategies-and-contracts/>), with printed copies planned to be available in local libraries, Aberdeenshire Council offices, Ellon Park & Ride, and Peterhead Interchange, from 2 November 2019, for those who cannot access the web site. The survey will run until Monday 9 December 2019.

Additional Support for Learning: Scottish Government Review

A review of the implementation of additional support for learning (ASL) in schools was announced in January 2019. The review is founded on a continued commitment to a presumption to mainstreaming and on the need to ensure that children and young people's additional support needs are met. This will enable them to reach their full potential, with learning provision that best suits their needs. The review will be led by Angela Morgan. Angela will gather views and experiences from October to December 2019. It is anticipated that a report with recommendations for next steps will be available in spring 2020.

If you wish to contribute to this review you can find more information about it on the Scottish Government website [here](#).

Tik Tok: what you need to know as a parent

The guide for [Tik Tok](#) on the Parentzone website is a very useful tool to help parents better understand this app. TikTok can be a great tool for self-expression and connect users around the world, so it's important that children are aware of the potential risks and learn how to use it in a safe way.

Littering in Redcloak

If your child goes up to the stores at Redcloak to get their lunch we would ask that they are mindful of their local community and do not litter the adjoining spaces. There are plenty of bins around this area and we would ask that pupils use these appropriately.

Rotary Young Chef and Young Musician Competitions

These competitions take place on Wednesday, 6th and Wednesday, 27th November 2019 respectively. We welcome both parents and community members to come and see the fantastic efforts of our young folk in these competitions with the Young Musician event starting at 7pm. The Young Chef competition takes a little longer to get to completion given that the pupils have a two course dinner to prepare but we will be ready to taste the results at around about 7.30 – 8pm.

Good News to close with.....

Our Mock Trial team were, yet again, crowned Scottish Champions on Saturday in Glasgow after a close fought final with Hyndland Academy. They now head to the national finals in March 2020 at the Old Bailey in London. We look forward to sharing lots more of our good news stories at the end of this term in our Christmas Newsletter. It is amazing all the great things our young folk are involved in and succeed at; it is important that we sing their praises as all too often it is the negative news stories about our young folk that are focused on.

Advance warning – our Christmas Concert takes place on Thursday, 5th December 2019 at 7pm. This is a little earlier than normal but we hope as many of you will be able to attend as possible and get into the Christmas spirit.

Thanks for reading our monthly bulletin and we hope you find it useful. Please remember that there are staff training days on Monday, 18th and Tuesday, 19th November 2019 so pupils are not in school on those days.

Louise Moir

Head Teacher