

### Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

At Parent Council last year a key discussion point was how best the school can inform parents about what their child is learning with regards to the World of Work and planning around future career developments. In light of this the school has been working to prepare resources for parents that highlight these key areas.

Skills Development Scotland have produced for parents a year planner for what pupils will cover in different year groups with them this year. This can be found [here](#). This will allow you, as a parent, to see what will be covered in the year ahead. We also have a notice board next to Front Reception that highlights the work that the team of advisors can offer to both pupils and parents. Please make sure that you look at this the next time you are in school.

DYW North East are holding a taster evening for pupils, parents and teachers regarding the Food and Drink industry in the north east on Tuesday, 29th October 2019 in the evening at the Thainstone centre in Inverurie. You can book a place by going to their [website](#) and it is a great way to find out about all the different types of jobs associated with this key area of growth in the North East.

[My Kids Career](#) is a great website for parents to look at the World of Work for their child and learn how best to support their decision making process as they work their way through school and education. We hope that you find it useful.

### Mackie Academy 50th Anniversary Photographs: Monday, 9th September 2019

On Monday pupils will be photographed in their tutor groups with their tutor teachers for our 50th Anniversary. The school intends to create a display out of these to commemorate our anniversary alongside our new house and whole school banners in the Main Hall. Parents will also have the opportunity to buy one of these if they wish. Further details about how to do so will come out to you in due course.

### Mackie Academy Senior Phase Pathways Event: Tuesday, 11th and Wednesday 12th September 2019

This event is for all pupils in S4, S5 and S6 to enable them to experience different sectors of work and skills that will allow them to make the right decisions about their pathways in the future. Further information about this event can be found [here](#) and parents can access the booklet of sessions so that you can discuss with your child what sessions may be best for them to attend. It will be a busy two days and pupils will get out of it what they are prepared to put in.

### Mackie Academy Sponsored Walk: Friday, 13th September 2019

We are very much looking forward to our walk this year and raising as much money as we can for two local charities that have great significance for the school. This year our fundraising efforts will be supporting Canine Concern Scotland who provide a visiting therapy service that pupils at Mackie Academy have benefitted from as well as Myeloma UK, a cancer charity that has, again, supported school members over the past year. Last year we did a sterling effort in raising £10,000 for charity which is outstanding and is only achieved through the support of our pupils walking, our parents and community supporting as well as our staff making sure it all happens in a safe manner.

Each year some pupils choose not to take part. This is disappointing but is ultimately their choice. The school will not be authorising absences on the day unless they are verified by activities we are aware of e.g. some pupils attend college on that day so their absence from the walk is authorised, some pupils may have a medical condition that makes it impossible for them to attend. We would welcome parents support in

ensuring that pupils participate and ensuring that any sponsor forms have been returned by the end of this week at the latest; if not the expectation is that they are in school where they will be accommodated for the day by a team of staff.

### Rock Challenge 2020

The school is looking for parent volunteers to help out with the organisation of Rock Challenge in 2020. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the school on [mackie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:mackie.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk), marking your email for the attention of the Head Teacher by Friday, 20th September 2019. We have some volunteers already and a very active S6 Committee of senior pupils who are well under way in their preparation. Staff from the school are also willing to give advice as and when required. The school will then support a meeting of all involved so that preparations can get under way.

The school has a great tradition with Rock Challenge and we hope to be able to continue this with the help of our school community.

### Extra-curricular activities: Sports Clubs

There is a wide range of exciting extra curricular sports clubs available for Mackie Academy pupils this term. These can be accessed [here](#). You can register your child to attend a club by signing up online at the following link. A completed application form is required for pupils to attend which you can do online by going to:

[bit.ly/ActiveSchoolsMMP](http://bit.ly/ActiveSchoolsMMP)

Please contact Robbie Kupris, Active Schools Coordinator

at [robert.kupris@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:robert.kupris@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) with any questions you may have.

### Security around School

Whilst the schools does its best to protect young people and their belongings we cannot secure all parts of the site at all times. An area of particular difficulty for us is the PE Changing Rooms which cannot be secured due to them providing fire escape paths from the Boys and Girls gym. We are delighted to announce that a refresh of this area is planned for Summer 2020 to upgrade the changing room facilities and to make them secure. This is being funded by Aberdeenshire Council.

Until then the school would like to remind parents that pupils should not be taking items of value into the changing rooms at any time. Pupils have the option to:

1. Leave items securely in their locker prior to a lesson
2. Put any valuable items into a small personal locker in the PE corridor (this requires a £1 coin) which they can then retrieve at the end of a lesson.
3. Hand a valuable item to the office staff who can lock it away until the pupil returns to pick it up

Please make sure that your child is aware of these options should they bring a valuable item or money to school.

### Help Guides for Parents about Gaming

Parents may find this guide useful around the subject of [online gaming](#).

### Our Local Community

The school is aware that there have been significant concerns raised over the summer holidays about the behaviours of a minority of young people in and around the

Stonehaven area. We work closely with our partners in Social Work and Police Scotland to support and address these issues and endeavour to improve the situation for the young people involved. Sometimes this is successful, sometimes it is not.

You may find the [Safer Communities booklet](#) useful as well as the Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership [website](#) which has a host of useful information links.

Whilst the school realises that the actions of a few impacts many it is important that we remember that the majority of our young people do exactly what is asked of them every day and are valued members of our local community. Last week we had our Open Day for the school's 50th anniversary and received some lovely comments from the people who came around the school about those pupils who served them and took them on tours. We also have lots of young people who participate in extra-curricular activities that not only show great commitment on their behalf but which also often benefit the local community. The school is very proud of all these "good news" stories that we hear and try to celebrate them where we can.

If parents have any concerns at all please do not hesitate to contact us because if we work together we are more likely to resolve any issues that arise.

Thanks for reading our monthly bulletin and we hope you find it useful,

Louise Moir

Head Teacher