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NH/AJ

26 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of another very busy term, I am writing to give you an end of term update, share some of our successes and highlight key dates during the Summer term.

Staffing

This term we have said goodbye to Miss Johns who has moved to England to take up a new post and Miss Greene who has returned to Ireland.

I am delighted to share with you that we have made a number of appointments. Six of our current probationers were successful following interviews and have chosen to continue their career at Lochside Academy. They are: Miss Holland (Art & Design), Dr McNeil (Biology), Mrs Jones (English), Miss French (Geography), Mrs Appleton (Modern Languages), Miss Padam (Music) and Miss Smith (Physical Education).

We also have recently appointed Mr Russell (English), Mr Singh (Business Studies) and Miss MacDonald (Home Economics), who will join the staff team next term.

SQA Examinations

Our senior students continue preparing for their SQA examinations and we were delighted to share our extra revision timetable recently to ensure all our young people can take advantage of extra sessions being run by staff at various times. SQA study leave will begin Wednesday 24th April, meaning that Tuesday 23rd April is the last day before leave starts for all S4, S5 and S6 students. We wish all our students undertaking exams every success and look forward to welcoming returning students on Monday 3rd June 2019.

S2 CPR Training

One hundred and sixty-nine of our S2 pupils were trained in bystander CPR in addition to using a defibrillator by St John Scotland. Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to St John Scotland for partnering Lochside Academy. An additional training day for all our S1 pupils will take place on the 12th June to empower young people with this crucial lifesaving skill.

Parent Voice

Our Parent Voice is now in place, office bearers are in post and the constitution accepted. Dates of future Parent Voice meetings will be shared. Parent Voice enquiries can be emailed to pclochside@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk

Key Dates for next term

Monday 15 th April	Summer term starts
Friday 19 th April	Easter Friday (School Closed)
Tuesday 23 rd April	Last day for S4/5/6 before Study Leave
Tuesday 30 th April	S2 Parent Consultation Evening
Week beginning 6 th May	S1 Tracking Report Issued
Monday 6 th May	May Holiday
Tuesday 7 th May	In-service Day
Week Beginning 27 th May	S3/4 Tracking Reports Issued
Monday 27 th May	Change of timetable (new S2, S3 & S4)
Thursday 30 th May	S5/6 Return to school
Thursday 13 th & Friday 14 th June	P7 Transition Days
Thursday 13 th June	P7 Parents Information Evening
Wednesday 19 th June	Summer Concert
Thursday 20 th June	Sports Championships
Tuesday 25 th June	Annual Awards Ceremony (Music Hall 7pm start)
Friday 5 th July	End of term

Annual Awards Ceremony

On the evening of Tuesday 25th June, we will host our inaugural school awards ceremony in the Music Hall on Union Street, Aberdeen. The ceremony will feature many awards recognising pupil effort, success, endeavour and achievements. We are pleased that over 40 awards will be sponsored by businesses, universities, politicians and charities that partner with us in school. This promises to be an outstanding evening showcasing many of the inspiring individuals from all year groups at Lochside Academy.

Communication using email

Currently our main method of communication with parent/carers is by text message. To reduce costs, we are looking to contact parents/carers by email. We will therefore be sending out a text to parents/carers requesting that an up to date email address be provided for their child's records. Parent/carers can either respond to the text message or email the school at LochsideAcademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk We will continue to use text messages to contact parent/carers for any urgent matters. Thank you for your support in trying to help reduce costs.

Lou Rudd Visit

We were privileged to host explorer Captain Lou Rudd MBE in school at the end of term to speak to S2 pupils about his endurance expeditions. Captain Rudd undertook the 'Spirit of Endurance' expedition which was a 56 day, 920 mile solo unsupported crossing of the Antarctic land mass in 2018, becoming the first Briton and second in the world to complete this journey. Captain Rudd is also the first person to traverse Antarctica twice on foot. Since completing his expedition, he has undertaken a school's programme on behalf of the Army, lecturing on his military career and life of adventure. Lochside Academy was one of only 3 schools in the north-east of Scotland to host Captain Rudd and his talk gave young people and staff a fascinating insight into planning, adventure, expedition and dealing with adversity. Earlier this year, Captain Rudd was honoured to receive the Scientific Exploration Society's 'Explorer of The Year' award. Thank you to Captain Lou Rudd MBE for sharing and inspiring young people at Lochside Academy.

Unisex toilet update

During the last week of term all pupils have been invited to take part in a survey to seek their views on unisex toilets. Once the results of this are complete, the school will be working with Aberdeen City Council to take the necessary action to act on the views of pupils from the survey.

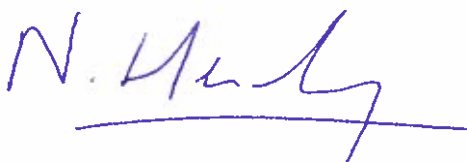
Lunch price increase

We have been asked by Aberdeen City Council to advise you on the increase in the cost of school meals. They are as follows

- Primary School Meals – increase from £2.10 to £2.20 per meal
- Secondary School Meals – increase from £2.35 to £2.45 per meal

Can I once again thank you and continue to ask for your support with school uniform. Finally, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely



N Hendry
Head Teacher

