

Rector's Report

The school continues to be extremely busy. It feels like just the other day that I couldn't believe the October Break had arrived already and now here we are just a matter of 4 weeks from the Xmas holidays.

As you will have seen on the website and in the many articles in the Huntly Express we continue to be busy in and out of the classroom:

We had a wonderful Remembrance Day assembly the other week, led by Mr James Davidson our PT History, and Ian Cruickshank and Eleanor McGowan, our school captains laid wreaths at the Window of Remembrance.

Our Careers Convention was great success once more with a good turn out of parents and young people. Thanks go to our EIL group, and helpers, for making it all Happen

Preparations and rehearsals for Grease are ongoing and we're all looking forward to opening night with no small measure of anticipation and excitement.

Theme Day preparations are also well under way. We can feel the excitement build!

We are also preparing for a Quality Improvement Visit on Monday and Tuesday of next week. This visit is an important element of the Aberdeenshire School Improvement Framework. It is a key event in the improvement planning calendar, in which school leaders interact with line managers in an informed, supportive, challenging and professional dialogue about improvement activity and priorities in their establishment.

The starting point for the QI visit will be the school's own self evaluation evidence about how the school is performing and how this is being used to drive further improvements. A collegiate presentation by SMT will start things off on Monday morning prior to Interval. The programme thereafter will see officers undertake a range of evaluation activity to include classroom visits and staff, pupil and parent group discussions. SMT will receive feedback on findings on Tuesday afternoon.

Student of the Month Awards

For August/September

To Lucy Rogers

"For her contributions to the planned 175 year anniversary book"

To Joy Murray, Chloe Sim, Keirin Clark, Nicole Henderson, Scott Allan

"For good citizenship and support of others"

To Melissa Morris

"For winning the Huntly Hairst cookery competition"

To Annie Lennox

"For her selection to BBC Scotland's Generation 2014"

To Paul Paxton

"For selection to Scottish Rugby Union's elite players' event"

To Molly Williams, Josephine McLeod

"For winning the Garioch's Got Talent event"

To Adam Christie, Max McKenzie, Jamie Paterson, Gregor Whyte

"For being part of the winning team in the S1 Maths Relay Challenge"

Well done to all recipients.

Our Newsletter, put together by our S4 group is about to go to print and on website and will contain news of all our activities and successes to date.

Core business of learning and teaching in the classroom is of course our main focus. Our S1 Parents Evening was extremely well attended and first years seem to have settled well to their secondary schooling. S5/6 Reports will be completed next week and we have an S2 Parent Consultation/Information evening coming up on 4th December. These will be followed by evenings for S3, S4 and S5/6 early in the New Year

Linda Mitchell in PE has now gone off on maternity leave. Carly Raffe has been appointed to cover for Linda, but we still await her enhanced disclosure before starting. In the meantime we have supply cover in place. David Cholet was appointed to replace Helen Duncan and will start with us on 16th December. Ms Dawn Lynch has been promoted to DHT at Inverurie Academy and has already taken up post. Dawn, as you know, has been on secondment for the last 16 months or so and will now be replaced on a permanent basis. Indeed we have 12 applicants for the permanent post – most already PTG or acting – and we will begin the leeting/interview process next week.

As I said, it's quite mind blowing to think we are a few short weeks from the Xmas break and we are already making end of term arrangements for the Xmas dances and the church service on the last day of term.... Let us hope the snow stays away again