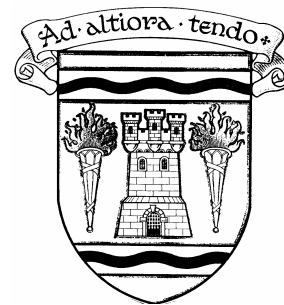


Hazlehead Academy School & Community Newsletter



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The Cuts Begin to Bite.....

With pupils returning to school after a very successful Activities Week and Senior Student Conference the new timetable came into effect on Monday. This has brought into sharp focus some of the effects of the decisions we have had to make in order to address the savings targets set for us by Aberdeen City Council. The major challenges for us have been to reduce our teaching staffing levels to 5% below formula and for the second successive year to return in excess of £130 000 from our devolved budgets. These include teaching staff costs, fuel costs, staff training, repairs and maintenance and per-capita allocations to departments.

In order to protect as far as possible the choice of courses on offer to pupils we decided to reduce the number of taught periods for any course in the senior school from seven forty-minute periods to six. This means that students will still have 240 minutes taught each week which has been the recommended minimum time for courses at this level. We are currently working with students to ensure that they make best use of the remaining time they have by providing them with private study rooms or allowing them to negotiate their way into departments, where appropriate, for unsupervised work. We would also appreciate help from parents in encouraging students to establish good habits of study and self-discipline from the start.

Former Pupils' Club Donation

Knowing our precarious financial situation the Former Pupils' Club have again increased their contribution to our annual prize fund and have also donated an additional £2000 which has been used to purchase more data projectors for installation in classrooms around the school. These will allow us to extend our use of new technology in supporting the delivery of the curriculum. We are very grateful to the FP Club for their on-going support.

Absence

We are still suffering from having large numbers of pupils off school during term time to go on family holidays. While we understand that travel operators maximise prices during the peak demand times of school holidays some pupils are missing considerable amounts of class time by being off school regularly during school time. Please think carefully before deciding to arrange holidays outwith the school holiday dates.

Staffing Changes



As a result of a number of staff in key areas retiring and by not filling vacancies left by newly qualified teachers completing their probationary year we have been able to make our staffing cuts without declaring any member of staff surplus to requirements.

The following staff changes have already taken place:

Bonita Preacher retired at Easter and was replaced as Depute Rector by Anne Bonsall. Rob Peaker left to take up a secondment with the Educational Institute of Scotland and was replaced as Teacher of Chemistry by Austin Barclay who joined us from Cornwall. Sylvia Berrow (Science Technician) and Gwen Signorini (Senior School Support Assistant) both retired at Easter and have yet to be replaced. Lisa Finnie has been appointed Acting Depute Rector and Val Simpson as Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance. Helen Mackie, Home Economics Teacher, left to take up an appointment in New Zealand. Kirsty Davidson, Teacher of Modern Languages, left to spend more time with her family.

At the end of session Chris Cowie, Acting Principal Teacher of History, Rhoda Wright, Teacher of Geography, Bill Stephen, Teacher of Design and Technology and Andy Stephenson, Technician will all retire. Alan Fraser, Teacher of Physical Education, will leave for Hong Kong and Ewen Dobbin, Teacher of Physics, is going to New Zealand.

The following teachers have now successfully completed their probationary year and will be leaving us to seek permanent appointments:

David Craig and Michelle Sands (English)
Rachel Eadie and Inge Ziegler (Modern Languages)
Scott McGarvey and Julia Barnes (Biology)
Nicola Stephen (Chemistry) and
Fiona MacInnes (Gaelic).

Joining us next session will be:

Alan Stephen, Design and Technology from Bridge of Don
Paul MacBeath, Design and Technology, Probationer
Atiya Shaikh, Biology from Northfield
Kirsty Hay, History from Harlaw
Kirsty Irvine, Geography from Kincorth and
Marie Mackay, Modern Languages from Oldmachar.

School Uniform

As usual, at this time, I would ask parents when they are considering buying school wear for next session, to check in our Prospectus or on the school website what we expect as school dress. Our senior pupils have made a great effort with almost all of them now wearing blazers and ties. Standards have unfortunately fallen in the junior years and we would appreciate the help of parents in ensuring that at the start of the new session all pupils are wearing what we expect. Uniform is smart and economical and avoids undesirable rivalries. Most items are on sale in school. If you have any queries regarding uniform please contact us.

Confucius
Classroom

China is rapidly emerging as a major world economy and much of the world's industry and employment opportunities are likely to be centred in China in the years ahead. China is keen to develop links with Scotland and the respective governments have agreed to the setting up of eight "Confucius Classrooms" or hubs in Scotland over the next two years. They are intended to raise awareness of Chinese culture and the Mandarin language. One is likely to be based in Hazlehead Academy which will provide for Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus.



Canteen Changes

As an eco-friendly school we are trying to reduce wastage and the use of disposable polystyrene containers. We have already begun to reintroduce real crockery and cutlery into the school dining areas.

E-mail addresses

In order to reduce costs and speed up communication we would hope to contact parents more frequently by e-mail. Please ensure that we are aware of your up-to-date e-mail address.

BUSINESS LINKS



Earlier in the year we developed a link with Manor Oak (Honda) in which they provided work experience for a number of S4 pupils at their premises on Lang Stracht. As a result two pupils, Sam Mitchell and Kyle Murphy, have been offered employment with the company and have now started. Both the company and the school are very keen to continue this link and another group of pupils will be involved next session. The success of the link was recognised at last week's Aberdeen City Children's and Young People's Services Awards when we received the Best Business Link Award for 2008.

We have been involved in a pilot scheme linking us with Aberdeen Football Club in which the Club has taken pupils for one day per week over the last few weeks providing them with personal development opportunities and the chance to train with Pittodrie staff.

We are also working on links with the Hilton Treetops and Dobbies Garden Centre. Our now well established and very successful link with AMEC continues and AMEC's contribution has been recognised by their Chief operating Officer, Neil Bruce, receiving the Determined to Succeed Director's Award for Developing Young People.

LTS VISITS

Learning and Teaching Scotland, the national body charged with the development of the curriculum in Scotland, have visited Hazlehead Academy twice recently to see for themselves some of the initiatives taken in moving towards implementing the Curriculum for Excellence in Hazlehead Academy. The aims of the new curriculum are to develop in all pupils the four capacities of Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.

PTA

Raffle tickets are now on sale and can be bought from school. Money is being raised for PTA funds. The draw will take place on Wednesday 2 July.

The PTA is also running a football tournament involving our four associate primary schools and our own S1 pupils. The tournament will take place on our Astroturf pitch at 6.00pm on Wednesday 2 July.

Awards Ceremony

The Annual Awards Ceremony will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24 June in the Games Hall. The guest speaker this year will be former School Chaplain, the Rev Dr Ian Maclean. Ian has left us recently to take up his new charge in Montrose after more than 25 years as our School Chaplain.

Parent Council

The Hazlehead Academy Parent Council has been collaborating with other Parent Councils and sharing experience in dealing with the Council's savings targets. If any parent would like to know more or has any observation to make please contact the Parent Council Chairman, Jim Pennington at jim.pennington@careers-scotland.gov.uk.

Congratulations

Hannah Cheyne and Aimee Dominick have both been awarded science bursaries.

Rebecca Houston was awarded a special merit prize at a ceremony held in the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh. She had taken part in the Gallery's Annual Art Competition along with 4000 other entrants.

5 gold, 10 silver and 8 bronze awards were won in the UK Mathematics Challenge.

11 gold, 7 silver and 3 bronze medals were won by our trampolining girls in various competitions.

154 DVDs were collected in aid of the ANCHOR Unit appeal

For more information of these and other successes please visit our website at

www.hazleheadacy.aberdeen.sch.uk

Under 13 Football

Our Under 13s have had a remarkable season capped off by their winning of the Scottish Cup. Over 170 schools from across the country entered the competition and the final was played out against Auchinleck Academy at Stenhousemuir FC. Lord Provost Peter Stephen visited the school to congratulate the boys in person and had a commemorative photograph taken with them.



Golf

Our Golf Team won the Aberdeen Schools' Golf League with a final victory over Robert Gordon's College.

The team members were:

- Fraser Macdonald
- Ryan Dick
- Douglas Elrick
- Michael Angus
- Calum Stirton
- Grant Joss
- Elliot Duff
- Scott Main



Our School Website



Keep up to date with all our news and events by visiting our website www.hazleheadacy.aberdeen.sch.uk.

Dates for Your Diary



June		
Tues	24	Annual Awards Ceremony
July		
Friday	4	Last day of session
August		
Monday	18	Start of new session (Staff Only)
Tuesday	19	Start of new session for pupils
September		
Tuesday	2	Parent Council Meeting – 7.00pm
Tuesday	9	PTA AGM – 7.00pm
Friday	19	September Holiday
Monday	22	September Holiday
Saturday	27	FP Club Coffee Morning – Hazlehead Academy
October		
Mon 13 – Fri 24		October Holiday
Wednesday	20	S5/6 Course Choice Info issued
November		
Friday	14	In-service closure day
Thursday	18	FP Club Social Evening – Northern Hotel
December		
Friday	19	End of term

BRIAN WOOD
(Rector)

This newsletter was produced by Hazlehead Academy