

# FORTROSE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter.

The 2019/20 session is now well under way with a focus on progress and achievement for all being evident across the school. A huge thank you to all staff, parents and volunteers for their dedicated contributions so far this session.

School Improvement: The parent summary of our school improvement priorities is attached at the end of this newsletter, and of course we are delighted to discuss any queries re this. Ideally, I would like to be able to have more parental involvement in the identification and action on priorities for our school—this will be a focus during this session.

Our school Pupil Council (small in number so far but huge in ideas!) has begun work on identifying pupil priorities for school improvement from a pupil perspective — more info to follow.

The Parent Council continue to work to try to support the school, particularly around fundraising, improvements to the fabric of the school and in terms of discussing the improvement and progress of the school. They will also be involved in the selection process to appoint a replacement Deputy Head Teacher.

Vision, Values & Aims work: Following work in previous sessions, we have draft vision statement, school values and aims which have been shared with pupils via assemblies and through register and FASE classes. We will be reviewing the wording and content using feedback from the pupils. Our working Vision and Values are—

**Vision: Positive and supportive relationships underpin our work to provide rewarding opportunities and experiences for all learners to progress academically, emotionally, socially and physically.**

**By working in partnership, we aim to develop confident individuals, who know how to progress in their learning, and who are effective contributors and responsible citizens aware of the needs of others and our community.**

**Values: Equality & Inclusion, Achievement, Respect, Support and Collaboration**

Early feedback is positive re the content of these, but further work on pupil friendly language and consideration of additional values is needed.

Staffing: Farewell to Mr Ferns who retires on Friday 11th October. Also retiring after the holidays is Moira Rodgers in the school office. Mr Meehan (PT CDT and Art) will be moving on in November to a post in Inverness Royal Academy. Many thanks to all for their dedicated service to the school.

Examination Results: Once again, Fortrose Academy pupils acquitted themselves well overall in the 2019 SQA examinations. Further information will follow in the next newsletter following school analysis using comparison data.

Data update forms and consent forms: Due to changes in legislation, S1-6 consent forms will be re-issued after the October break together with data update forms for S2-6 (S1 done) for parental checking and signing.

School will close for the October break at 12.50pm on Friday 11th October and reopens on Monday 28th October. Have an enjoyable break.

G McLean, Rector

## LOST PROPERTY

All lost property will be on display at Reception on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th October.

Unclaimed items will be bagged up and sent to Rag Bag on Thursday 31st October 2019.



## DATES FOR DIARY

7 November—S1 Drop-in (afternoon)

21 & 22 November - Inset Days

27 November—S5/6 Parents' Evening

5 December—S1 Parents' Evening

Calendar can be found on school website

November						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Active Schools Update



On 6 September, 11 Fortrose Academy pupils attended a Scottish Orienteer Young leader training day. They were coached by 2 members of staff from Scottish Orienteering. This Course was offered to support this group to: develop and extend their leadership skills; encourage

them to volunteer; and to enrol with our HLH Leadership Programme. We hope there will be another successful team entering the Invoc schools series in 2020. If any parents can help this activity in any way, please contact Active Schools.



We are looking for a SQA Exam Chief Invigilator for the 2020 exam diet. More information about what the post entails can be found on <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/35701.html>

If you are interested or want more information please contact Mrs J Ross at the school.



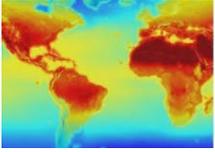
Congratulations to John Munro, S6, who achieved a High-Life Highland Award for Youth Volunteer. John was recognised for this award as he is a dedicated community volunteer, and volunteering with Active Schools and Youth Development. John leads in the Youth Café in Cromarty and has also passed his 'I can Lead Sports Leader' course. John proudly wears his High-Life Highland hoodies.

Victoria Wylie who has been nominated as Secondary Pupil of the Year for the 2019 Highland Heroes Awards. Victoria has delivered numerous assemblies in Fortrose Academy and local primary schools raising awareness of autistic spectrum condition and bullying prevention. If you would like to vote for Victoria then go to the Fortrose Academy Facebook page and click on the link!

The University of Aberdeen have been in touch to notify us of the success of former students: Ceit Seona Mackintosh, Degree of Master of Arts (2.1) in Politics and International Relations; and Corinna Reid Marwick, Degree of Bachelor of Laws (2.1)

Congratulations to both!

**Please let us know if you have updated your mobile number or changed your email address. It is really important for the school to have up-to-date contact details.**



## CLIMATE CHANGE PROTESTS IN SCOTLAND - WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE HIGHLANDS?



Thousands of people across Scotland joined the worldwide protests against climate change. Two Fortrose Academy S6 students, Martha Spence and Iona Henderson, joined the recent protests in Inverness.

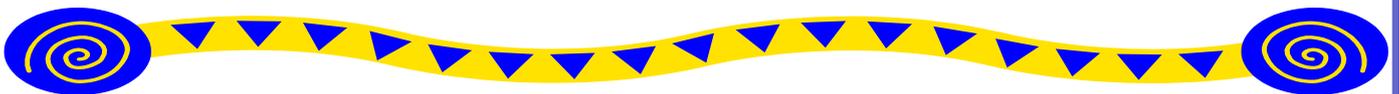
Martha was inspired by teenage Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg. She said "I think she is incredible. She has made a whole generation of people more willing to stand up for ourselves and say we need to change something. Without her confidence and her influence I would have never been interested in climate change. I don't eat meat any more and I think even cutting down on meat once or twice a week would help the environment. Meat production is one of the main reasons for the destruction of the Amazon rainforest and rainforests worldwide".



Iona said she wanted to see young people educated on climate change, starting in primary school. She said "my younger brother asked me why are you striking, why are you not going to school? And I explained to him I was striking for the climate and that I was worried about climate change".



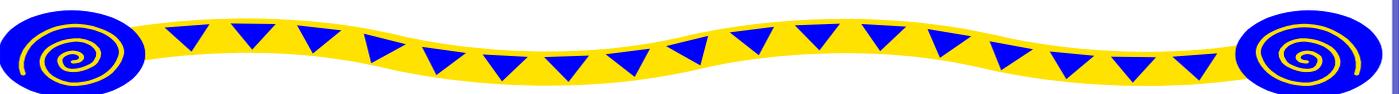
Over the past couple of weeks, Martha and Iona have been delivering assemblies to Fortrose Academy pupils.



**GIVE BLOOD**

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service will be visiting Fortrose on 29 October 2019. On Monday 3 October, Gillian McCauley, Donor Recruitment and Publicity Officer, delivered a presentation to S6 students about the work of the service and how they could get involved in the weeks running up to the Fortrose session.

The talk, including questions and answers, provided students with some interesting facts and gave an encouraging insight into how every individual can contribute towards their community. Pupils aged seventeen and older may volunteer as blood donors. Registration forms were issued to all present.



### GUIDANCE STAFF UPDATE

Congratulations to Mr Jared Simpson who has started a secondment at Grantown Grammar School as Acting Depute Head Teacher. Miss Kaela Stewart from the Social Subjects department, is covering for him (students in Houses K and M) in his absence. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Mrs Allison MacArthur has returned to Fortrose Academy and is working with pupils in Houses F and H. Mr Iain Hogg continues to work with pupils in Houses C and D.

## Let's hear these voices!

The North of Scotland Schools' Senior Debating Competition has just had its 1<sup>st</sup> round. Our team, Susie Prentice and Heather Gillman S3 competed on 3 Sept in Nairn Academy, proposing the motion "This house believes the only way is vegan." They had a very good range of arguments and came 4<sup>th</sup> overall, scoring 3 points. The next round will take place in **Fortrose Academy on Wed 2 October at 6.30 pm in room 10**. The team, Emily Grist S3 and Edie Matthewson S5 will be opposing the motion "This house believes there is no place for chivalry in today's society." **Please come along and support our team!** It's a free event! The 3<sup>rd</sup> round on 7 November at Forres Academy, will debate the motion "This house believes that "It is my body and I can do what I like with it." Aimee Ross S3 and Thomas Fox S5 will represent Fortrose. Any queries, please see Miss Meikle.



SAAS Funding Awareness Team

are offering free online sessions aimed at Parents/Carers of Senior Phase pupils considering Higher Education as a progression from school (HNC and above). It may also be useful for staff if they need to increase their understanding. Parents/Carers can go online to complete this [survey](#) to note interest, which will free up your time not having to collate responses to pass back to SAAS. SAAS will contact you directly if/when parents express interest.

Dates booked this session can be flexible, but may be more restricted after the summer holiday due to national demand. SAAS, at your request, can also attend events in person, such as parents events. It might be useful to include this opportunity in school newsletters or on your website?

All enquiries and bookings should be made directly to Derek at [Derek.Reeve@gov.scot](mailto:Derek.Reeve@gov.scot) or telephone 0131 244 5722.

## **Boost grades and bring languages to life!**

Mary Glasgow Magazines are an exciting range of topical magazines developed by native speakers for different stages of language learning. We have set up a group ordering option for Fortrose Academy. In each subscription you receive 5 vibrant magazine issues per year and access to online resources including up-to-date video clips. Click on this link to place a subscription and to make payment: [www.maryglasgowplus.com/order](http://www.maryglasgowplus.com/order)

Type in *Fortrose Academy* or the postcode (IV10 8TW) to find our group order. This will indicate the recommended magazine for each year group for French and German. Mary Glasgow Magazines are also available in Spanish and English (EAL). See Miss Adamson for more details or to see sample copies.

**Please note the closing date for group orders is 15 October 2019.**

**HEALTH FACULTY NEWS**

**PUPIL SUCCESS**

Well done to Freya Thomas, S2, who secured two silver medals at the TaeKwonDo North East Challenge Cup this month in Aberdeen. Her medals were for Special Technique and Patterns. She also recently achieved a Gold medal for Special Technique at a competition in North Lanarkshire.



Congratulations to Jack Mann in S2 who has been added to the Scottish Golf Performance Academy. Well deserved recognition for all the time and commitment Jack puts in at Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club and beyond.



**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Extra curricular activities are up and running at Fortrose Academy. The full timetable can be viewed on the school website. This will be subject to change over the course of the year depending on weather and venues. Please keep up to date with information via the Fortrose Academy Facebook page, the Fortrose Academy PE department instagram and twitter page @fortrose\_hwb and on the daily announcements.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Masterchef UK competition takes place this month. More news to follow.



**NORTH FOOTBALL TRIALS**

The following pupils were selected to attend North Of Scotland School Football select trials.



U15 - Fergus Adams, Alex Stevenson, Thomas Stevenson, Lachie Quate, Luke Ross, Josh Taylor, Cameron Neville, Ally Dibble, Carl Bishop, Lewis Munro.

Seniors - Mark Davidson, Robert Smith, Fraser Macdonald, Aaron Waugh, Stephen Kelly, Ryan Macleman, Ruadhri Nicol, Finlay McNaught.



**EXTRA CURRICULAR ROUND UP**

Pupils have been attending regular hockey, football, rugby, netball and athletics training so far this session. Also, there are a number of girls attending girls football training. They will also be playing in the North of Scotland and Scottish Cup.



Boys and girls teams will be playing in both the North and Scottish Cups this year. Look out for regular updates on social media/announcements for fixtures and results.



Also, cricket has proved to be very successful over the past number of months with more pupils regularly attending training with Mr Cronin on a Wednesday night. This will continue up until the October holidays.

# Farewell Mr Ferns



After 22 years at Fortrose Academy we are very sad to be saying farewell to our longest serving Depute Head Teacher Alistair Ferns.

Alistair was previously Head of Maths and can be seen here with his trusty team of mathematicians. He still very much enjoys a sum or 2!



Alistair has been a very valued member of SMT for a number of years and his timetabling skills are second to none.



Good luck for the future Mr Ferns from everyone at Fortrose Academy

