

Portlethen Academy Newsletter

Winter 2014

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Acting Head Teacher's Message



I am writing this message during the week of our house achievement assemblies. These are being delivered by the S4-S6 prefects who are sharing individual, house and whole school

successes; many of which will be included in this newsletter. As always, I feel immensely proud to be part of a school that is full of such talented pupils (and staff). Our other good news story is that Mr Morrison is expected to get home for Christmas time; he is making steady progress on his road to recovery. As the holidays approach I would like to wish you all a very happy festive season and look forward to working with you next term to ensure the best possible experience for all our young people.

Mrs L Scott

Pantomime 2014: Cinderella



The 2014 Portlethen Academy Christmas Pantomime is the much-loved Cinderella. It has already been a huge success as the tickets have quickly sold out. This year due to the high level of interest from pupils wishing to take part, the writers had the idea of adding subplots from

other pantomimes such as Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Peter Pan, The Wizard of Oz, and Pocahontas to give roles to the budding actors. This also means the show will appeal to a wide range of people of different ages. We spoke to some of the cast who agree that "It's not until you take part in the panto you realise how much talent we have in the Academy." The producers are confident that the younger year groups will carry on the high standards that have been set by experienced performers including some of the current S6 pupils who have participated in previous productions since they were in S1. They will have mixed feelings about this year's Cinderella being their final curtain call; but the future of Portlethen pantomimes will continue in the safe hands of the younger participants.



Concert Band: Gold Medal



Portlethen Academy Concert Band participated in the Aberdeen section of the Scottish Concert Band Festival, which was held on Sunday, 30th November 2014. The band received a gold medal which

resulted in the pupils getting to the regional finals. 7 bands from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire will compete in the next round on Sunday, 22nd March 2015 in Perth. It is a great achievement as it is the first time Portlethen Academy Concert Band has entered this competition.

Stewart Rennie



Stewart Rennie S5 is the first boy from Portlethen Academy to be selected to play football at national level. Stewart recently underwent many nerve-wracking trials for the Scotland schoolboys under-18 team. But it was all worthwhile when he learned he had been selected for the Scotland team. Stewart puts his success

down to training hard and putting in an extra bit of effort. Over the years, Portlethen Academy coach, Mr Cowie has watched Stewart develop as a player, "Having managed the school team for a number of years, I always knew Stewart had something special. I wish him the best of luck. I hope to see him representing the national team in the future." Stewart has played for Aberdeen FC for the past 3 seasons. He hopes to be a professional footballer in the future.



Owen Elliott: Photography Competition Winner



Owen Elliott S5 recently participated in a photograph competition. His dramatic photo "Calm Before The Storm" (above) was commended by the judges and won third place. Owen received a camera lens as part of his prize. Owen lives in picturesque Old Portlethen, so when he heard about the competition he was constantly on the lookout for a subject for a photograph. He captured this stormy scene whilst visiting Old Portlethen beach. Owen chose to study photography in S5 as his enrichment activity. He enjoys using his study time to practise taking photographs and learning about the art. The S5 pupil travelled to Edinburgh in November to attend the competition awards ceremony where Owen was delighted to learn that his photograph had been nominated and he came 3rd out of 2000 entries. Below is another of Owen's photographs that shows his eye for a pleasing image.



Erasmus



A group of senior pupils take part in the international school partners around Europe project called

Erasmus. Erasmus is designed to enable people, at any stage of their life, to take part in stimulating learning experiences, as well as developing education and training across Europe. The coordinating staff from our partner schools in Italy, Norway, Turkey, Lithuania, Madeira and France came to Portlethen Academy at the start of November 2014 to meet the Erasmus team. The Erasmus visitors received a study pack; they then got involved with junior school classes in subjects including RMPS, English and Modern Languages. The visitors also learned about the school's development aims. Portlethen Academy's Erasmus team showed the visitors around the school. The visiting group, in consultation with the Portlethen Erasmus student team, set up a schedule for work to be completed before they meet in Italy in February 2015. There students will interact in an integrated series of activities based round the concept of recycling/usage/image/purpose/etc. These activities are designed to raise awareness of environmental issues and to promote learning in secure and enjoyable ways to raise attainment and aspirations for students involved in the project across Europe.

Portlethen Academy Parents Association: Update



Portlethen Academy Parents' Association recently had a very successful Christmas Event to raise funds which will be used to support the school in a variety of different ways. Parent members of the group have a direct influence on the school by being part of the panel which recruits senior members of staff, by participating in school working groups to give the parental perspective and by supporting staff at parental information evenings. If you would like to have more of a say, have ideas to improve our school and want to be in a position to support the school then please let the office know and they will put you in touch with Nicola Harper who is currently Chairperson of PAPA.



Lego Club: Famous Building Models



Every Friday afternoon, the Lego Club create a selection of various challenging models of famous landmarks from around the world. The Lego Club received some funding from PAPA

(Portlethen Academy Parents Association) to purchase new up to date Lego landmarks. With these funds, the club was able to acquire models such as The White House, The Eiffel Tower, Big Ben and the Sydney Opera House. The club presently consists of Scott Robertson, John Rogers and Siobhan Coates.

Remembrance Sunday



On Sunday, 9th November 2014 local organisations took part in the Remembrance Parade at Portlethen Church: Portlethen Air Cadets, Boys Brigade and the Girls Brigade were all involved. Ryan Watson S2 was given the honour

of laying a wreath at Portlethen War Memorial. Money raised by these organisations and Portlethen Academy went to the Scottish Poppy Appeal. There was also a minute's silence held in Portlethen Academy later that week to commemorate those who have fallen in war in the service of their country.



Industry Trip: Visit to Altus Interventions



A group of pupils that study subjects in the Design & Technology

Department were selected to go to Altus Interventions, an oil industry company, for Oil and Gas Week on 12th November 2014. Altus Interventions is located in Badentoy, Portlethen. During the group's visit to the company they were given a tour around the design building and the yard where the tools used for drilling for oil are stored. They were also shown a PowerPoint presentation that showed the various ways to drill for oil. The presentation included pictures of some of the most famous oil fields in the world and where they are located. The group also learned about the tools used in the exploration and drilling for oil. Everyone in the group agreed that the visit to Altus Interventions and the PowerPoint presentation had been interesting.

Manchester United Vs Chelsea Football Trip



A group of S1-S6 pupils went on a day trip to Manchester to watch Manchester United Vs Chelsea at Old Trafford. The pupils also got the

chance to look around the Etihad Stadium, home to Manchester City. The group left Aberdeen in the early hours of Sunday morning, before arriving in Manchester at 2pm. The pupils then got an exclusive look into the Manchester City dressing room, press room and tunnel area. Afterwards, they boarded their bus to go to the Theatre of Dreams in time for kick off. The match was thoroughly entertaining with Manchester United equalising in the last minute to send many of the pupils on the long bus journey home happy. Pupils were then given the chance to pick up some merchandise in the club shop. Some lucky pupils were given free scarves which made the day even better. It was a very long but enjoyable day for both staff and pupils. Everyone agreed that it was an unforgettable experience.



Metaphrog: Animators Visit



Metaphrog is a Graphic novel/Illustrations company. The companies head founders are John Chalmers and Sandra Marrs. Together, they have been creating graphic novels since 1996.

Recently, they came into Portlethen Academy to give S1 and S3 pupils a chance to learn about animation. The pupils that took part in Metaphrog said it was a good experience which they thoroughly enjoyed. Katie Green S3 and Ariyel Feasey S3 reported that they enjoyed learning about animation and how designers can create memorable animated stories by using the story boards they put their initial ideas on.



Above are examples of pupils' animation artwork.

Sports Leadership Award



The sports leadership award gives S5-S6 pupils opportunities to develop skills in teaching and coaching sports. The organisers do this by setting

up games that show the course participants how to make the sports activities fun and beneficial for different age groups. The course is run by Miss Hardie and Miss Coutts (sports coordinator). The course costs £40. This fee covers the cost of first aid training and transport to associate primary schools where the course participants will use their newly developed skills to organise games with primary school pupils. There are 20 S5-S6 pupils presently taking part in the course. It takes place in the dance studio on Fridays.



Senior Football: Scottish Shield Competition



Portlethen Academy senior football team took on Millburn Academy, Inverness in the 3rd round of the Scottish Shield competition. Cameron Christie claimed the first goal

with a 40 yard cross that found the back of the net. In the second half Millburn Academy were rewarded for their good defending: they equalised mid-way through the second half to make it 1-1. Portlethen battled hard and won a corner with around 15 minutes to go; Matthew Milne then pounded a header into the back of the net to send Portlethen through to the next round of the competition. Portlethen then headed to Fife where they faced Auchmuty High School. The game finished 1-1. Shaun Morrison scored for Portlethen. Portlethen Academy again went home happy as they won on penalties kicks. The team has now reached the last 16 of the Scottish Shield competition.

Interhouse Table Tennis and Badminton



The second interhouse event was a combined table tennis and badminton tournament. There was an S1-S3 competition and an

S4-S6 competition. This interhouse event took place between 3rd-12th November 2014. In this tournament every game was 5 minutes long; whoever had the most points after 5 minutes won the game. There was a big turnout for this interhouse event: everyday there were 15-20 people taking part. The interhouse competition was won by Cookston, with Downies in 2nd place, Auchlee in 3rd place and Bourtree in 4th place.

Crombie Badminton Tournament 2014-2015



Rebecca Whyte, Lewis Sinclair, Andrew Duncan, Andrew McDonald and Ryan Watson are this year's Portlethen Academy team for the 2014-2015 Crombie Badminton Tournament. The

tournament is spread over four weekends from December 2014 to February 2015. The team will play against eleven other teams taking part to collect as many points as possible. Last year, the team played in the 3rd division and won. At the end of the tournament the points must be added up and the winners and runners up announced.

Thorpe Molloy Recruitments: Portrait Competition



Eight pupils from Portlethen Academy have had their artwork selected for a portrait competition: My Future Aspirations. The 8 finalists' artwork can be

viewed in the Tivoli Theatre, Aberdeen and in a virtual exhibition : www.thorpemolloy.com/artgallery2014/?tmr where people are invited to vote for their favourite portrait. The 8 finalists recently received certificates from Mrs Scott, Acting Head Teacher.

Newsletter Team



This Winter Newsletter 2014 was produced by pupils in Media. The team would like to thank all pupils and staff who supported the production of

this edition with articles, ideas, photos, etc. The team would like to wish all our readers a happy holiday over the festive season.