



# Fraserburgh Academy

December 2020

Together creating positive futures

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# Rectors Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another successful term, I felt it important to send you this newsletter to inform you of some of our pupil successes and other school news. We are very proud of our young people and know that parents, carers and the wider community will be keen to learn about what has been happening in Fraserburgh Academy over the last term.

## Covid-19 Update

As a school we continue to work hard to keep everyone in the building safe and well. We regularly update our whole school risk assessment and version 9 of this document may be found on the school website.

I need to remind you again that all staff and learners are obliged to wear a face covering in situations when they cannot socially distance ie corridors and social areas of the school, and on school transport. On a daily basis a number of pupils come to school without a face covering. We issue face-coverings to all pupils who do not have one that day but **ask for your cooperation in ensuring that your son or daughter leaves home equipped with a face covering for each day.** This may be either a washable or disposable face covering which can cover the nose, mouth and chin.

We advise that learners should have a washable, sealed bag or container in which the face covering can be placed when not in use. The Scottish Government guidance for schools advises the following

- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Before putting on or removing the face covering, hands should be cleaned by washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- Avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in school at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water.
- Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically. Children and young people should be encouraged not to litter and to place their face coverings in the general waste bin.

Some learners may have a health condition which makes them exempt from wearing face coverings. Further Scottish Government information on exemptions can be found on - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-use-of-face-coverings/> This advice also contains general additional advice on the wearing of face coverings. If you believe that your son or daughter should be exempt from wearing a face covering please contact their Principal Teacher of Guidance as soon as possible.

Now that Aberdeenshire will be moving to protection level 3 from 6 pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, the following enhanced protective measures will be followed:

- all staff and S4 -6 pupils should wear a face covering in classrooms during lessons
- Parents and carers of young people with the highest clinical risk should consult their GP or clinician to determine whether their son or daughter should still attend school whilst we are protection level 3.

### **Movement in and around the school**

As has been the case since August, to reduce the number of pupils in corridors at any one time, half the school will leave class 5 minutes early before break, lunchtime and at the end of the school day. This will be organised according to their classroom number. For term 3 we have reversed the procedure again to allow learners in odd numbered classes to leave on the first bell.

End of period 4 (Before break)	Odd numbered classrooms	Leave at 11.25 am
	Even numbered classrooms	Leave at 11.30 am
End of period 6 (before lunch)	Odd numbered classrooms	Leave at 1 pm
	Even numbered classrooms	Leave at 1.05 pm
End of period 8 (end of school day)	Odd numbered classrooms	Leave at 3.20 pm
	Even numbered classrooms	Leave at 3.25 pm

Here is a reminder of the procedures to be followed in the morning.

**Pupils who travel to school on school transport** should enter the building on arrival and should go straight to their period 1 class when the first bell rings at 8.35 am. They should be in their period 1 class by the time the second bell rings at 8.40 am.

**If your son or daughter travels on school transport and arrives before 8.35 am, they may enter the school building but must not start to move to their register class until the 8.35 am bell.**

We ask that **all other pupils** arrive in school between 8.40 am and 8.45 am and go straight to their P1 class before the second bell rings at 8.50 am. This action will minimise the number of pupils entering the main pupil door at the same time.

A reminder that if you drive your son or daughter to school **please drop off pupils on Dennyduff Road and Alexandra Terrace only, and not the school drive.** All pupils will be encouraged to use the marked crossings and the designated footpath within the school grounds. Pupils with mobility issues may be dropped off at the school door.

### **Senior Phase Prelims and Exam Leave**

You should all have received a letter from Mr Buchan, DHT, containing details about the senior phase prelims which will take place over the period **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021**, and a message on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December explaining the option for S5 and S6 pupils to study at home. If for any reason you did not receive these important communications please contact the school office on 01346 417400.

In connection with the SQA we are very proud of S5 pupil Ava Simpson, who was, a few weeks ago invited to be a member of a pupil voice group for the SQA to gather learner views on a variety of topics. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December she was invited to take part in an online discussion with the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, to give her opinion and her experience around exams. Ava tells us that she was able to make all her points in the

meeting. I'm sure Ava was a worthy ambassador for Fraserburgh Academy.

## BYOD

For some time, Fraserburgh Academy has had wireless broadband in every classroom. This has allowed learners to use school laptops and iPads around the many different learning contexts of the school campus. Our stock of hardware is limited, however, and so when lessons require a quick bit of research, accessing online apps or even instant surveys or assessment through quiz apps, our learners reach for their own mobile device. As I walk through our social area, the S6 social area or visit the Library, I see many of our senior students using their own laptops for self-directed study. For the past 10 years, we have been unable to allow our learners to access the school WiFi, until now. Following extensive policy writing and surveying the students, and in collaboration with our Digital Leaders group, I am pleased to share with you that we are expecting the Council to allow us to grant WiFi access to all school users from January 2021. A letter has gone out to Parents advising of the details of Bring Your Own Device, and we are running a series of coaching assemblies in the new term to ensure a smooth start to the new WiFi enabled year. The goal here is equality; many learners have had the benefits of accessing the internet from their own device for years, but at the cost of their own data contract, this move removes that inequality. All learners will now have fair access to the power and immediacy of the internet to turbo-boost their learning experiences and fuel their curiosity.

## Dress Down Day

# DRESS DOWN DAY

## FRIDAY 18TH



Instead of bringing money for dress down day, please bring a food item from the list on the right which will be used to feed a family this Christmas



CHRISTMAS JUMPER  
OPTIONAL!

- CEREAL
- LONG LIFE MILK
- TEA/COFFEE
- SUGAR
- SOUP
- BEANS/SPAGHETTI HOOPS
- TUNA
- TINNED CARROTS/PEAS/SWEETCORN/TOMATOES
- TATTIES
- RICE/PASTA
- TINNED MEAT
- CUSTARD/RICE PUDDING
- TINNED FRUIT
- BISCUITS/SWEETIES
- SELECTION BOXES

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, in recognition for the excellent response to the wearing of school uniform, our Senior Pupils have organised a Dress Down Day, when all learners are invited to come to school in more casual clothing. Christmas jerseys are optional! As 'payment' for this privilege, all learners and staff are invited to bring an item to school for the Salvation Army foodbank. Please help our learners support this.

## Late Gate

At the end of November we noticed an increase in the number of pupils arriving late for school. In response to this we set up Late Gate again from 2<sup>nd</sup> December in a bid to reduce the number of learners arriving late to school. This is how it works.

- At 8.50 am, the time when all pupils should be in their period one class, all doors apart from the main entrance are locked so pupils arriving late have to use this door.

- In the Crush Hall any pupils arriving late are met by a team of staff who take their name, class, and reason for being late
- There are a number of sanctions in place for repeated lateness, ranging from a verbal warning to contact with parents/carers and meetings.
- Already we can see a marked improvement with the number of latecomers dropping by 66% in the first week.

Learners arriving late to class cause a disruption to lessons which have already started and result in a loss of learning time. Late Gate is manned by a number of staff who volunteer to carry out this task and we thank them for their time.

### **Funding available to support families eligible for Free School Meals**

A £100 direct payment is now available before Christmas as part of a multi-million-pound winter fund to help those struggling financially during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government has announced.

Those eligible for income-based Free School Meals will receive the £100 payment per eligible child direct to their bank account. Aberdeenshire Council will process the payment the week commencing Monday, December 14, and the money will be in bank accounts by the end of the week.

Eligible families, such as those classified as low-income and already in receipt of Free School meals, do not have to apply for this funding. Please be aware if you have recently applied for income based free school meals and your application is still being processed, the payment will be made in early January 2021.

In addition to the £100 Scottish Government payment, each eligible child will also receive £52.20 for the following:

£15.00 breakfast allowance to cover the school holiday period and £37.50 direct payment of free school meals to cover the holiday period.

Families who are on a low income but not currently in receipt of Free School Meals can check entitlement by completing the following online form:

[https://aberdeenshirecouncil.formstack.com/forms/free\\_school\\_meals\\_school\\_clothing\\_grant\\_application\\_form](https://aberdeenshirecouncil.formstack.com/forms/free_school_meals_school_clothing_grant_application_form)

The current eligibility criteria is as follows but is included in the entitlement checker mentioned above. Children are eligible for free school meals if their parents (or carers) are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The qualifying benefits and allowances are:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC), and have an income of less than £16,105
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of less than £7,330
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999  
(<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/33/contents>)
- Universal Credit with a monthly take home pay of less than £610

If you are aged 16-18 years-old and receive any of the above qualifying benefits in your own right, you can apply for free school meals.

For more information please visit the Aberdeenshire Council website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/schools-covid-19/free-school-meals-covid-19/>

### **Extra-curricular clubs**

We are delighted to announce that, as with every school year, we have provided our pupils with a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities to participate in come rain, hail or shine! A full list of all the clubs and activities can be found on the school website using the following link: <http://fraserburgh.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/sport-and-extra-curricular-activity/>

Pupils have shown their enthusiasm for sports such as football, rugby, volleyball and netball. However, we have many other opportunities for pupils to become involved in everything from Warhammer Club to various help and study support clubs during lunchtimes and after school.

We are very proud of the amount of clubs and activities we offer each year and indeed very grateful to all the staff and volunteers who dedicate their lunchtimes and after work hours to promote a culture of Health and Well-being. We know from experience that when our pupils get involved they feel much more a part of school life and are able to build new, positive, relationships with others within and outwith the school community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have to be careful to keep to Scottish Government guidelines to ensure all participants are kept safe whilst attending clubs, and risk assessments for every situation have been carried out.

We welcome and encourage even more pupil participation and look forward to beating those winter blues by joining a new club or activity and gaining the opportunity to meet new people and develop new skills!

### **Digital Options Evening**

Our first Digital Options Evening for S3-S5 parents took place last Wednesday evening. The parents and carers who attended were very complimentary about the format of the Wakelet and of the make-up of the evening, and in particular the live question and answer session during which we were posed a number of questions pertaining to qualifications, prelims, study leave and course choice. A recording of this event is now live on our YouTube channel and embedded into our Website. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niOgHuzy9Kc>

### **Employability Virtual Employer Visitors**



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November saw Fraserburgh Academy's first virtual Employer visitors to the school as we welcomed *Moray East Windfarms* to the S3 Employability classrooms.

The Moray East Project began in 2014 and is well under way with the construction of many different onshore sites in and around the Shire, including their hub of operations which is

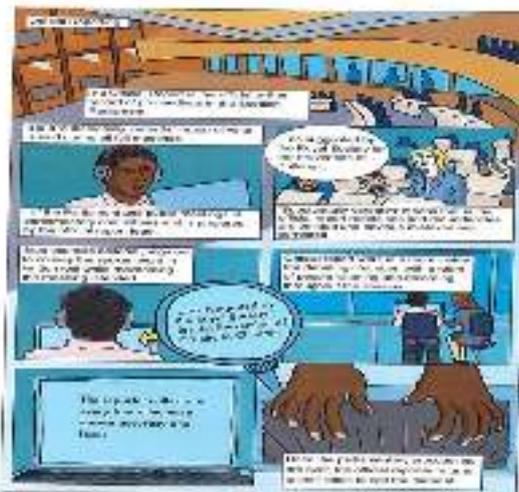
being constructed in Fraserburgh itself. This new venture will do wonders for our local economy and, hopefully, open up many new opportunities for our young people as they move closer into the world of work.

We hope to begin a new partnership with *Moray East Windfarms* that will no doubt be beneficial for our pupils: the future workforce.

<https://www.morayeast.com/project>

### Scottish Parliament Comic Project

Some of Fraserburgh Academies S5 and S6 pupils last year worked on a piece of work for the Scottish Parliament. The work was highlighting how language can be used in speechwriting to create impact as well as how Official Report turns MSPs spoken words into a permanent written record. The pupils together with Magic Torch Comics compiled the most inspiring comic which is now available to view in different formats via the link <https://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/116412.aspx>. I am sure you will agree that the work is brilliant and Fraserburgh Academy are very proud of the pupils that took part.



### Charities Week

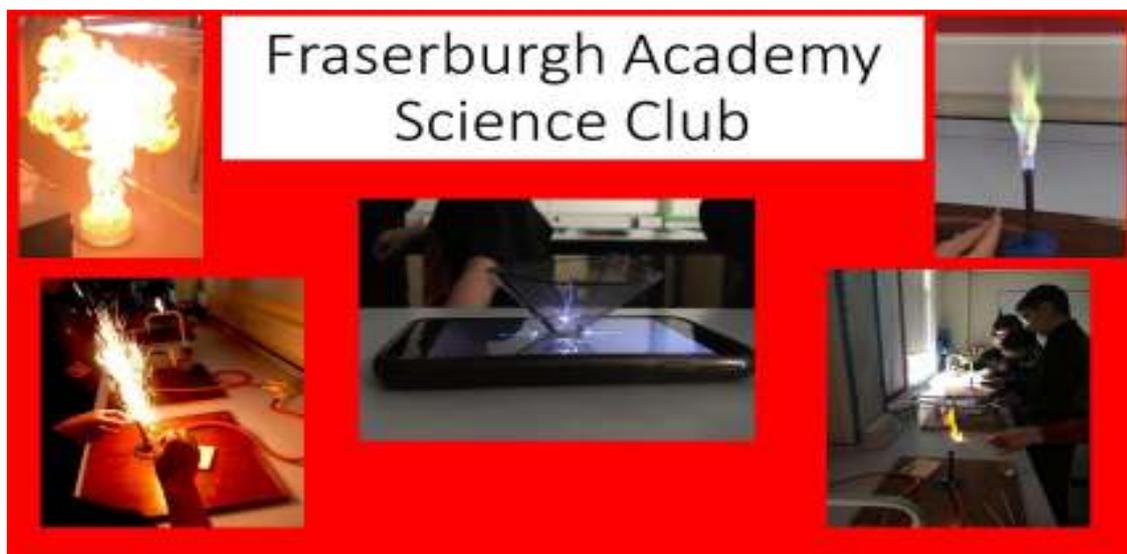
Well done to our senior pupils for a very successful charities week last week when the final total raised for the RNLI was the fantastic sum of £2429.16. Thanks to all staff who contributed in any way to this, and particularly to the staff who sacrificed much in the name of raising money – for agreeing to be gunged and for losing much facial hair. This was a very well-coordinated and organised week and we thank the seniors for their hard work both

in school and in our local primaries which they visited on Friday. The sum that was raised is considerable considering the financial constraints some of our school community are under at the moment. We also have to recognise that in order for the different events to take place safely each one had to be individually risk assessed, which the senior pupils did themselves.



### Fraserburgh Academy Science Club

It has been an exciting year so far in Science Club at Fraserburgh Academy, which is exclusively for S1 this year and is led by Mr Hill (Biology), Miss Penman (Physics) and Miss Semple (Chemistry). Uptake for Science Club has been excellent, and we are seeing the same pupils return to do exciting experiments week after week! Pupils have been working with Bunsen Burners changing flame colours, making holograms, air gliders, elephants' toothpaste, sparklers and viewing cells. Over the next few sessions, we will be making our Chemistree, DNA extraction, lava lamps, testing gases and making crystals.



### The Great Debate of our Time!

Fraserburgh Academy Senior Students recently organised a fiercely fought debate over two of the great questions of our time: the decriminalisation of drugs, and the existential question of whether Jaffa Cakes are indeed cakes or in fact biscuits. With a socially distance gathering of S1s to S6s in our school library, the arguments were aired and the votes taken. A great event well organised and well appreciated by all the competing houses of our school. (For the record, Drugs were to be decriminalised; JaffaCakes had their cake-ness

reconfirmed)



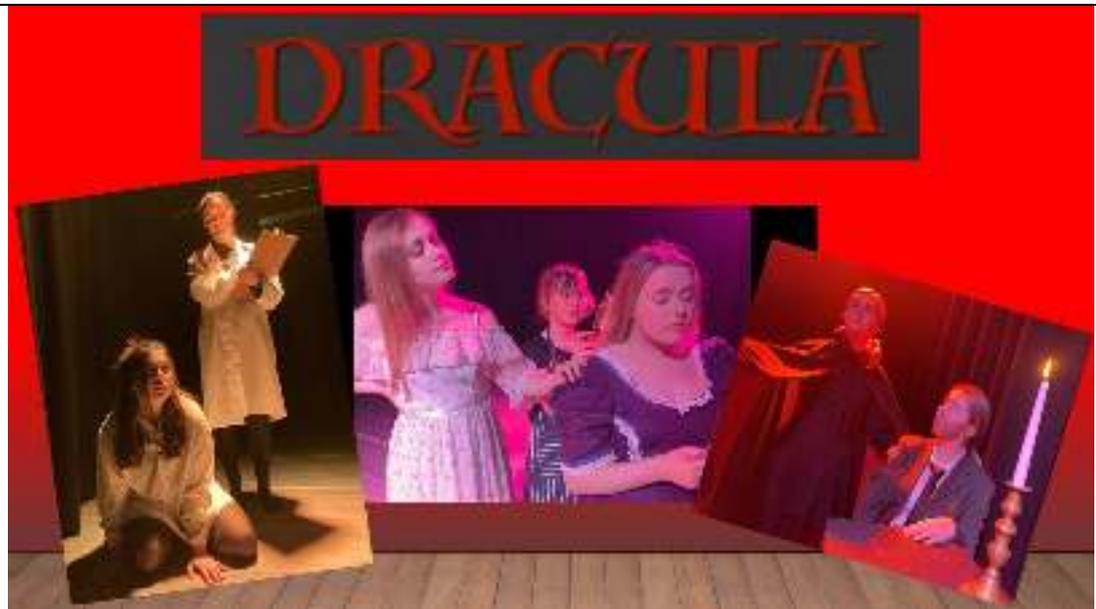
### **Aberdeenshire League Winners 2019-2020**

Fraserburgh Academy S1 Team from the 2019-2020 season won the Aberdeenshire League, remaining undefeated in the process. The players performed incredibly well and all members of the squad contributed to our success which led to Fraserburgh Academy being crowned Champions. Well done everyone.



### **Dracula Performance**

After months of rehearsals and dedicated hard work, Higher Drama pupils at Fraserburgh Academy performed to a small audience in the new Drama Studio on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. This was the School's first evening performance this academic session with invited guests; all facilitated under Covid safe measures. They certainly brought Liz Lochhead's version of '*Dracula*' to life! Well done, higher drama pupils!



### **Technologies Challenge**

Each year Fraserburgh Academy take part in the secondary schools Technologies challenge sponsored by Shell. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic last sessions final was recently completed and Fraserburgh Academy were represented by Bronwyn-Leigh Rae 3P1 and Zac Pearson 3M1. The final was designed around engineering tasks that would allow you to survive if you were stranded on a desert island. Despite not winning overall Bronwyn-Leigh and Zac were commended on their teamwork and were presented with Fitbits for being worthy finalists.



### **Interhouse events**

We are delighted with the enthusiastic and imaginative way in which this year's seniors are going about the organisation of interhouse events. Over the last few weeks we have been treated to two lively debates on the legalism of drugs to whether a Jaffa cake is actually a cake or really a biscuit. A very competitive netball event was held last Thursday and we have also had an entertaining paper aeroplane event. The seniors, like the charities team have had to modify their usual menu of events but I think have done this with great spirit and ingenuity.



### **Virtual Christmas concert**

If you want to get into the Christmas spirit but also hear our very talented pupils then I recommend you listen to the Music Department's virtual Christmas concert which you can access from the school website or Facebook page, or by clicking on the link below. All the pupils volunteered to record themselves at home and are all to be congratulated for their performances!

We are so pleased with the response we got and so proud of our young people taking the challenge of recording in their stride in order to produce an excellent showcase of our talents here at Fraserburgh Academy.

Link for Virtual Christmas concert <https://youtu.be/KNZwmo-yZAs>

### **Alex Mackie Memorial**

On Wednesday 18th November 2020 Mr and Mrs Mackie visited us at the school to receive the memorial planter made in memory of Alexander Mackie who sadly passed away earlier this year in January. The planter was a group effort from all of Alex's classmates across 3 different Practical Craft Skills classes so each component was made/contributed by each of the pupils involved.

Four of our pupils very kindly joined us to present the planter to Alex's parents – they were all in the same practical class as Alex so had an especially strong connection to the project. Sadly we were unable to present it to them back in Easter but we were delighted to finally hand it over to them. A second planter is also being built to be placed in the school garden area in memory of Alex as well.



### **Young Enterprise Scotland**

As part of her role as DYW Principal Teacher Miss Wilson has set up a Young Enterprise Scotland senior pupil team this session, the first in the school for many years. Young Enterprise Scotland's well-known and long running Company Programme for S5/S6 pupils in schools across Scotland. The pupils set-up and run their own company through the academic year with support from local business volunteers and Young Enterprise Scotland staff. Through this they develop a wide range of skills and receive an invaluable entrepreneurial experience. At the end of the academic year, the young companies can compete on a local, Regional, National and European level to be crowned Company of the Year. This year's group are currently carrying out market research for their business's proposed products to develop their product ideas.

### **Lighthouse**

Since August a group of young people from a range of year groups have been working on making a school contribution to the Light The North Clan Cancer fundraising event in the new year. Mr Robertson delivered the finished Lighthouse to Clan in Crimond this week and we all look forward to seeing it on display soon along with all the other entries.

Well done to all learners who took part and thanks also to Mr Robertson, Miss Humphreys and Mrs Barron.

Our lighthouse will be included as part of a display of artworks across the North-East in the New Year and we'll be updating with more info after Christmas when the full event takes place'

Here are some 'before and after' pictures of the lighthouse and show the great work done by our learners.



### **Staffing**

At the end of this term we bid farewell to a number of staff.

From the teaching staff Miss Hannah Penman from our Science Faculty is taking up the post of Principal Teacher of Physics and Science at Buckie High School, Mrs Zelda Mes from the English Faculty is moving to the west of Scotland and Mr Pep Bofill-Blanch is shifting his career to become a full time Physiotherapist.

Mrs Kathleen Hepburn and Mrs Jane Ellis are retiring from their posts as Pupil Support Workers after over twenty-three and twenty years' service respectively. We thank them for their work here and wish them a long and happy retirement.

Miss Susan Smith is also leaving from her post as Technical Assistant after 33 years service to the school. We thank her for her contribution in many ways to the Science Faculty and to the school.

We wish all staff who are leaving tomorrow every good wish for their future and know that we will miss them all.

### **Dates for your Diary – Upcoming Events Term 3**

The school closes for the Christmas holidays at 3.25pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and re-opens at 8.40am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Here are some more important dates for your diary. All dates listed were planned prior to Covid19 and are subject to change.

Tuesday 12/01/2021 S3 Parent & Carer Evening 5:30–7:30pm

Friday 15/01/2021 S3 Option Choices Deadline

Friday 22/01/2021 End of Senior Phase Prelims

Monday 25/01/2021 PE & Dance Single performances Wk1

Thursday 28/01/2021 S2 Parent & Carer Meeting 5:30–7:30pm

Friday 29/01/2021 S2 Option Choices Deadline

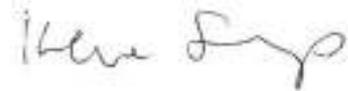
Monday 01/02/2021 PE & Dance Single performances Wk2

Thursday 04/02/2021 P7 Parent & Carer Open Evening 6.30-9.00pm

Friday 12/02/2021 Occasional Day  
Monday 15/02/2021 Mid-term Holiday  
Tuesday 16/02/2021 INSET (Staff Inset school closed to Pupils)  
Wednesday 17/02/2021 INSET (Staff Inset school closed to Pupils)  
Monday 22/02/2021 Enhanced P7 Transition Meeting  
Wednesday 24/02/2021 S1 Parent & Carer Evening 5.30-7.30pm  
Friday 26/02/2021 Deadline Senior Phase Option Choices  
Monday 01/03/2021 P7 Moving On Day; N4 Cookery Practical Exams  
Tuesday 02/03/2021 P7 Moving On Day  
Thursday 11/03/2021 Careers Fair – All day and after school  
Monday 22/03/2021 SQA Cookery Practical exams 22/03-26/03; Dance Show 6-7pm  
Friday 26/03/2021 S3 Employability Festival; College Applications Deadline  
Monday 29/03/2021 Senior Celebration Evening 6.30-9.00  
Thursday 01/04/2021 Term 3 ends

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a good New Year.

Kind regards



Irene Sharp  
Rector

Merry Christmas



from Fraserburgh Academy

Brooke Lindsay 3M1