



Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you up-to-date with the wide and varied work of Fraserburgh Academy and to provide you with a range of information regarding Term 4.

I am very pleased to say that we very much look forward to having all year groups back in the building every day from Monday 18th April and thank all parents and carers for their cooperation over the last six weeks. I also publicly thank all members of our staff for their cooperation, support and resilience over this very difficult term.



Covid Update

Over the last weeks we saw a rapid rise in the number of positive COVID cases amongst learners and staff. Thankfully over the last few days this has begun to decline and we sincerely hope that this reduction continues.

The First Minister announced on Wednesday 30th March that the requirement for face coverings to be worn in communal areas in school will be withdrawn from Monday 18th April, our first day back after the holiday. If any learner or member of staff would prefer to continue to wear a face covering they will be supported to do so.

From Friday 1st April learners and staff are no longer required to carry out twice-weekly lateral flow testing.

We await updated Scottish Government guidance on the other mitigations we currently have in school and will update you accordingly.

Staffing

We continued to have staffing difficulties caused by a combination of staff absence for various illnesses included Covid and due to vacancies throughout this term. We are fortunate that for most posts we have received a number of applicants and have been able to make a number of appointments for the fourth term and next session.

- In early March we welcomed Miss Jackie Coghlan to the Health and Wellbeing Faculty as a Home Economics teacher.

- Miss Lesley Wilson has been appointed as Principal Teacher of the Faculty of Performing Arts.
- Mr Alex Clark and Miss Meghan Carey have been appointed to acting Principal Teacher of Guidance posts
- Miss Corinne Douglas is currently Acting Principal Teacher of the Faculty of Maths
- Miss Mattie Downie starts today as a Teacher of Biology
- Miss Lynsey Milne joins us on Monday 18th April as a Teacher of Art. An additional Teacher of Art joins us in Aug 2022
- Mr Stuart McAdam joins us as Teacher of Creative Interventions on 18th May
- A further two Teachers of Physical Education join us in August 2022 as do two additional Teachers of Geography
- We welcomed our new Work Placement Coordinator, Craig Rodger, earlier in the term
- Our new School Librarian, Emma Thomson, starts with us on April 11th and will be joined by a Library Assistant, Julie Allan, soon

I'm sure you join me in extending congratulations and welcome to all new staff.

- A few weeks ago Mrs Bethany Buchan began her maternity leave and we wish her and her family well.
- Miss Megan Lawrence, Teacher of Art moved to a new post at February mid-term
- Mr Chris Royle, Teacher of Maths, leaves us today
- Miss Sarah Hunt, Teacher of Art also leaves today
- Mrs Shirley Clunie, Teacher of Additional Support for Learners, leaves us today to take up a new role as Area Librarian for the Peterhead Area
- Mrs Kohot, a supply teacher who has worked with us this term will no longer be with us in term 4
- Mrs Kirsty Barron will be starting her maternity leave at the beginning of May and we send her and her husband every good wish with their new arrival.

We thank all staff who are leaving for their contribution to the life and work of Fraserburgh Academy and wish them well in their new posts.

Staffing changes have resulted in a reallocation of Principal Teachers of Guidance. From week beginning 4th May the following staff will be in place as follows:

Mr A Clark – Corbie House
 Mrs S Washington – Dundarg House
 Mrs S Gardner – Faithlie House
 Mrs G Buchan – Kinnaird House
 Miss M Carey – Mormond House
 Mrs L Tila – Philorth House



SQA Exams 2022

As per our letter/email home of last week, there is every intention that there will be a full SQA Exam diet in 2022 with some modifications to the content of certain exam papers and revision materials being published by the SQA addressing the many issues faced by our learners during this school year. The letter contained details of Exam leave, Exam Practice, our Exam timetable, Additional Assessment Arrangements, Learner Conversations, Change of Presentation, Estimate Grades and details of Study Clubs and SQA Support Materials and I would recommend that you

and your child read this letter ensuring you are fully aware of our Exam processes and procedures for this year.

In addition to this, two Assemblies regarding SQA Exams and Study Guidance have been posted onto the school You Tube site and it is our intention to have another Assembly for our Senior Learners regarding our exam arrangements.

Please discuss all exam arrangements with your child and if you or your child did not receive a copy of the letter or indeed have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact the school regarding this very important matter.



P7/S1 Transition events update

We are looking forward to our first transition event in term 4 on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th April. P7 learners will visit for one of these days and take part in an enterprise event. The event will be led by a team of S3 Employability learners and Academy staff. The activity around which the day is centred is designed to introduce learners to Enterprise Education in a fun and interactive way. Learners will be challenged to set up and run a mini business in groups of ten to produce merchandise based on a theme. Each learner will assume a role within their company and the objective is to make and market merchandise which is then 'sold' to buyers. Prizes will be awarded for the team on each day with the highest profit and the team who work best together. Information relating to which schools are attending on which day has been sent to Primary schools.

In May we will also start our evening transition sessions led by Community Learning Development. These sessions will involve getting to know one another activities, shelter building, flit and steel camp fire to cook popcorn, and hammock building amongst other activities. On the 17th may we will hold our Outdoor transition event at the running track in Fraserburgh. All P7 learners who will be joining us in August will attend this day and

Our induction days are in June and P7 learners will follow part of a typical S1 timetable during these days. Our 2nd Parents information evening for P7 parents and carers takes place on 22nd June.

Our P7 cohort will start with us in S1 on Tuesday 23rd August.

Clothing Bank

This term we were delighted to officially open our new clothing and resource bank, A2 Studio, thanks to the combined effort of many pupils and members of staff. The bank has been stocked up with generous donations from the local community and has already been really well utilised by learners. A2 studio is open to all learners every Thursday and Friday lunchtime and can also be accessed on request through the guidance team.



Partnership Working News

This term Fraserburgh Academy have undertaken some remarkable strategic change projects within our on-going development area of **Partnership Working**.

In February, we led a collaborative training event where the Secondary, Further and Higher Education sectors met to explore many themes, but fundamentally **to build our capacity in creating Positive Future pathways**. This project was in direct response to a 2021 national policy paper on **Co-Authoring the Learner Journey**.

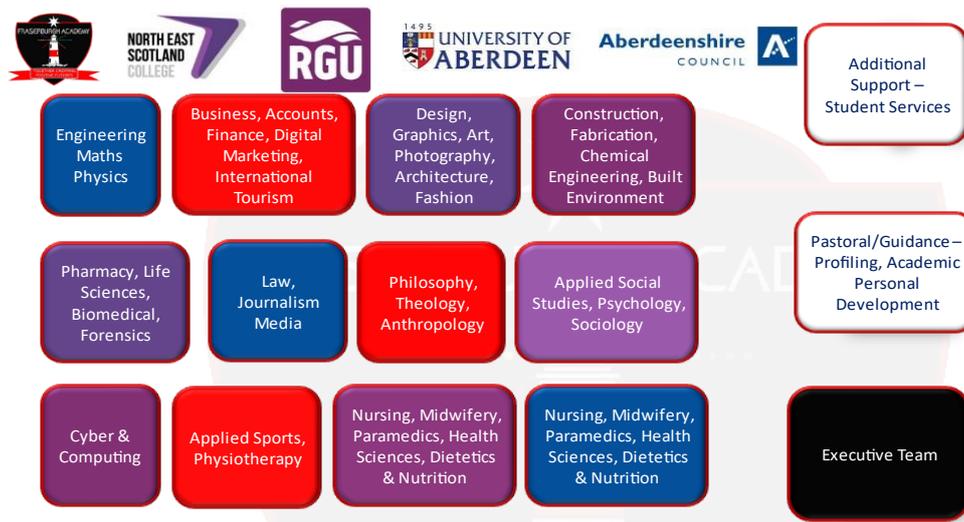
In March, we celebrated the return of our Employers in the first **Careers Fair** in 3 years.

And recently we have been **looking outwards** to other High schools across Scotland, supported by our Education Scotland advisors to find examples of next practice in **our Curriculum innovations**.



The **Positive Future Pathways** event was a 'Scotland First'. Our entire academic cohort of **80 teachers** split into groups defined by future pathways and industry sectors. They were joined by their equivalents from **NESCOL, RGU and UoA**. Prior to the discussion we had a series of keynote speeches and presentations: we were welcomed by the **Principal of NESCOL**, and good friend of Fraserburgh, Neil Cowie; then we heard from Jamie Hepburn, the **Minister for FE and HE**, who saluted our excellent practice and encouraged all to follow some key themes; we heard from **SDS Careers Coach Mrs Elizabeth Bruce** on the role of

classroom teacher in influencing pathways and career choices; and finally we heard from **RGU Innovations** on the urgency of developing **future skills** in young people that will transcend careers.



As you can see, a fantastic range of quality professional dialogue took place. These discussions really captured the imagination of our teachers and inspired them to engage more actively in the coaching of our young people, empowered by the latest information on the skills that matter and the pathways that exist to success. On the right you will see we also had two discussions focusing on support and guidance, alongside a high level meeting of the executive teams involved from all 4 institutions.

A month later, Mr Walton was also involved in a Joint Board seminar between **NESCOL, UoA and RGU held at Kings College** – at which we made the strong case for the three institutions to collaborate to train North East Teachers in rare subjects, currently unavailable for would be teachers to study in Aberdeen.

Already we are seeing successful developments for our school stimulated by this event:

- The introduction of a **Scots Language and Local Journalism Course** into Senior English [NESCOL]
- Collaborative work **on E-Portfolio sharing** excellent practice from Aberdeen Business School & our own Business & Computing Faculty [RGU]
- A collaboration between the **Scott Sutherland School of Architecture** and our Higher Graphics team [RGU]
- A planned **Engineering Science Validation** visit in May 2022 by the University of Aberdeen [UoA]
- **New Meta Skills publicity** in Business & Computing [SDS & RGU]
- Formal Recognition of **Craft & Tech Maths** by all partners [ALL]
- New Collaborations between **NESCOL and RGU partners** [External benefit]
- A planned **family Learning experience** for P7 parents [RGU & NESCOL]



On March 10th, we were delighted to throw our doors wide for **Careers '22**.

Our employers and institutions did not disappoint, we had fantastic reports from all involved, one student responded that the day had given **them 'The thought of what I want to be'**.

The average rating by students was **4 Stars**.

The employers were very complimentary of the school and our amazing students. We had seniors helping guests park, and providing porter services for those with equipment. The senior executive met the guests at the door, registered them and assigned a senior escort to get them to their table. We had fresh coffee and homemade tablet on the go all day, and all guests were delighted to be here.

"I have supported many School Career Fairs over the last 25 years and in my opinion Fraserburgh Academy event yesterday was the "best" and most "inspiring" for everyone involved"

Colin Black of
SPE.





"The pupils I spoke to were all really engaged and a credit to the school"

Anna Johnston, UoA





"The whole day was first class"

Craig Fyvie, Baxter Design





"I was very impressed by how well the younger years presented themselves in a setting that might be quite intimidating."

Horn Arnarsdottir, RGU





Some immediate benefits of our careers fair '22:

- Score Apprenticeships – we have had a follow up talk from Score Group as they look to recruit 30-40 new apprentices this year.
- IFC evening employment – International Fish Cannery have recruited many students for evening shifts, helping the household incomes of our students as well as gaining real world experiences. IFC and Score have also benefited from the Careers fair in help apprentices gain extra income during the first few years of training. **Fraserburgh Academy is becoming a hub for improving the whole community.**
- DYW Employer School Coordinator Networking – our new colleague **Ms Sam Foley** from DYW North East has now met with a great number of our young people and our employers.
- New Partnership Coordinator **Mr Craig Roger** – Fraserburgh Academy is leading the way once again in having our in-school coordinator to help ensure we make the most of all partnerships with employers, College and Universities.



In order to learn of the best practice from across Scotland, we have been meeting with Education Scotland advisors to discuss our ideas on a **new Curriculum for Fraserburgh Academy**. With Education Scotland's high level view across schools we have had some excellent collaborations.

Recently one of these has been **Castlemilk High in Glasgow**. A small secondary with learners from only the most deprived 4 deciles. Yet a school with high attainment and excellent engagement.

One lesson we have taken is the idea of **Wider Achievement time in the S1-S3 curriculum**, with Vertical Classes (mixed age groups). Their Skills Framework leads such electives and young people grow through being in multi age groups led by their interest and skills demand.

Castlemilk also explained how they base their qualifications offer on the interests of cohorts.

In all, a busy term of together creating positive futures!

School Prom

Our school Prom had to be moved from its customary date in February this year to Thursday 2nd June. This date was chosen as it is part of the Jubilee holiday and so our learners can make themselves ready without affecting learning and teaching.

Celebration Evening

Our annual Senior School Celebration Evening took place on Monday 28th March. This is an extra-special occasion as it is the first face-to-face event we have had in over two years. It meant a great deal for our learners to be supported by their parents and their teachers at this event and there was a good turnout of adults. Our guest for the evening was Stevie Wilson from Score who gave an address to our senior learners and presented the prizes.



Some of our Senior Phase Prize Winners

Dress down day

The HALO group

This term in HALO pupils have been working on developing Explorations and have been talking about sources of information. They have also been learning about study skills, organisation skills and goal setting. Their creative activity was developing short skits. The group wanted to raise money to support refugees coming from Ukraine and organised a raffle, gunging of learners and teachers and a bake sale of goods they made themselves. The students did this with very little support from teachers and worked exceptionally well as a team, which is a testament to their drive



and compassion towards others. The main part was a dress down day on for which learners were asked to contribute money for the privilege of coming to school in casual wear

The amazing sum of £1156.45 was raised. Well done to the S1s who worked so hard on this. The money will be sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee for their Humanitarian Appeal.

ENHANCED PROVISION

Hub pupils have had a busy term where they have taken part in a range of activities. First up as part of their class project on The Ocean was a visit to a local fishing boat. Pupils were able to explore what the inside of the boat looked like from the living quarters to the wheel house to below deck. The next big event was a trip to their very first Boccia tournament in Banff. All their hard work and training certainly paid off as they came joint 2nd. What a great achievement! Their term is finished off with their weekly session in the local pool.

Beacon pupils have also had a busy term. In addition to literacy and numeracy they have been looking at media/film studies where they have studied films such as Jaws and Jumanji 1 and 2. They have looked at film techniques such as use of music and sound and also camera angles for particular effects. They have also used film as text where they encourage close listening skills as pupils answer questions about setting, plot and character whilst the film is in progress. The pupils have also enjoyed health and wellbeing with gardening, ecology, yoga, art and creative lessons where they have designed things like robots and theme parks.



ASDAN

Pupils are currently looking at health and wellbeing and how physical and emotional activities can improve their mental health. This week they tried out a few different activities such as yoga, mindful breathing, walking, and finding out about the teenage brain.

Nurture Group

On Shrove Tuesday, the Nurture Group made pancakes using a modified recipe supplied by one of the members of the group. The group enjoyed mixing the ingredients and frying the pancakes in the pan. The favourite topping was chocolate spread with squirty cream and sprinkles. One of the group showed us how to toss pancakes.



Synergy

A highlight this term was the Synergy event held a few weeks ago.



The senior executive team and house captains have contributed well to the house ethos of the school this session. To allow our learners to reflect on their progress as well as review what could be improved, we looked outwards in a session involving both Peterhead and Mintlaw Academies attending Fraserburgh Academy. Each school presented what they have done this session to develop a house identity, promote a positive ethos and demonstrate school values. From there, all learners discussed the areas of strength as well as a plan for improvement for the next session to involve a more community spirit. We look forward to being involved in this event again next year.

Senior Executive Award

Every year we give the Senior Executive – School Captain and Vice-Captains – the opportunity to take forward an initiative which is important to them. This year, the Senior Executive feel strongly that they would like to introduce an award for learners who follow The Fraserburgh Way but do not always gain recognition for doing so.

Faculties were asked to nominate four learners from S1, 2 and 3 per faculty who consistently

- Arrive on time
- Wear school uniform
- Always try their best
- Work hard
- Always give 100% effort
- Behave positively
- Are always Ready, Respectful and Safe

The nominated learners were presented with a Fraserburgh Academy and pen, awarded a Merit mark and treat them to a film afternoon on Thursday 31st March. Snacks were donated by Tesco.



Gardening Club

This year at Gardening Club, we have been very busy brightening up our school and helping the environment. Since the holidays, we have filled big planters in the courtyard with various flowers and trees (one of which was donated by Aberdeenshire's Apple Trees for Schools Project). We have made bird food balls when the weather was bad and learnt about what gardening activities are done during the winter months. In addition, the daffodils we planted last year have newly started to bloom on the front drive. We have tried our best and our results are amazing because we have made the courtyard.



It's been a great term in the PE Department for our pupils & staff at Fraserburgh Academy! Despite the COVID challenge staff have worked hard to provide time & space for our pupils to enjoy re-connecting with friends & building new relationships with others during the following:

- Twitter & Instagram
- Participation Sport
- Extra-curricular Sport
- NASSA (i.e., Aberdeenshire sporting events where pupils compete with other secondaries)
- Active Schools & Rugby Club Links
- ASN Boccia Event
- SQA PE Performances

As a team we launched a HWB Faculty Twitter & Instagram page in Term 3 and have been posting each day to share what goes on within PE, HE & RMPS. We want to be a department that celebrates and shares good news of our pupils & staff. Join us on Twitter (@HWBFraserburgh) or Instagram (hwbfraserburgh).



Some of our learners enjoying participation sports at lunchtime

Our 'Participation Sport' was very well attended, ran every lunchtime and pupils enjoyed a wide variety of sports. For example, badminton, basketball, football, volleyball, netball & table tennis. All our pupils needed to do was come along, join a game, and start playing.



Extra-curricular Sport gave opportunity for our football, netball & basketball players an opportunity to develop their skills, play games, with the football teams playing matches against other schools in various league and cup games.

NASSA events ran for swimming at Peterhead, X-Country at Huntly & Badminton at Meldrum. It was so good to be able to get these events back up and running as they add a fun yet competitive side for our pupils. In the NASSA swimming event we came 2nd out of 6 schools.



Our

Swimming Team

During X-Country Alycia Mackay, Fraser Stewart (S1) 7 Israel Noble (S2) all came 2nd in their age group race! Our S1 girls came 2nd overall as a team! At the NASSA badminton event our seniors represented well and enjoyed a great day out.



Our Cross-Country medal winners



During Term 3 we linked with Active Schools & Fraserburgh Rugby Club to offer our pupils specialist coaching. Pupils enjoyed working with Davie who had a great way of relating, engaging and encouraging our pupils to try Rugby during core PE lessons. A favourite was when the tackle bags came out! Great fun.

Pupils from our ASN Department had a great day at Banff competing against other pupils from Mintlaw Academy & Anna Ritchie in the annual Boccia competition. Pupils enjoyed the training sessions leading up to the event and had a brilliant day out.



SQA PE Performances ran at the end of Term for all pupils in N5 & Higher PE. Our pupils worked hard during these practical assessments, and it was so good to see their talents on display. A special thanks goes out to PE & Dance staff for offering such a wide variety of performances so that our pupils have the best opportunity for success.

We are all looking forward to Term 4, summer sports and hopefully a Sports Day!

School Football

Our school football teams have had another very busy term fulfilling both league and cup fixtures. Particular highlights include the S2 Boys' convincing wins over Peterhead and Ellon, our S1 Boys

team producing a much more competitive performance vs Banff and a good away win at Ellon and the re-introduction of our Girls teams, who have started playing some friendly matches. Our S3 Boys team reached the last 8 of the Scottish Shield after wins against Turriff, Alford and Graeme High School which matched their cup run in S1. Unfortunately, they fell at the same hurdle, with St Ninian's High School progressing to the semi-finals.

We are looking forward to a strong league finish for our teams so we can finish as high up in the league tables as possible. We have now played the majority of our away matches so lots of games to come next term on the academy pitches for any parents or carers who wish to watch.



S3 Boys Football Team at Alford



S3 Boys Football Team



S1 Boys Football Team



Girls Team



S2 Boys Football Team

Important calendar dates

Friday 1 st April	Term 3 ends
Monday 18 th April	Term 4 begins
Tuesday 19 th & Wednesday 20 th April	P7 Transition Events
Tuesday 26 th April	SQA exam diet begins
Please note there is no May Day holiday this year, it has been added onto the Jubilee Celebrations by the Authority	
Monday 16 th May	S2 NESCOL Transition Days Week 1
Tuesday 17 th May	P7 Outdoor Transition Event
Friday 20 th May	Sports Day
Monday 23 rd May	S2 NESCOL Transition Days Week 2 S3 Work Placement Week
Monday 30 th May	Change of timetable
Wednesday 1 st June	SQA exam diet ends
Thursday 2 nd & Friday 3 rd June	Holidays for Queens Jubilee
Monday 13 th June	Junior Celebration Evening 6.30-9pm
Wednesday 22 nd June- Friday 24 th June	P7 Induction Days
Friday 1 st July	End of term 4

I do hope this newsletter has been of interest to you and has provided you with examples of some of the great work going on in Fraserburgh Academy on a daily basis.

I wish you all a great holiday and look forward to welcoming back our learners on Monday 18th April.

Yours sincerely



Irene Sharp
Rector