

MEARNS ACADEMY



HEADTEACHER REPORT

To all pupils, parents, carers, staff, partners, and friends of Mearns Academy, welcome to our summer newsletter. 2020-2021 – what a year this has been!

We have reached the end of an intense school year unlike any other. I am pleased that throughout June we have been able to hold our Primary 7 visits, Sports Day, YPI Finals and Prize Giving. We are also delighted that this summer newsletter can highlight some of the excellent work which has taken place this term.

Covid 19

We cannot underestimate the impact that Covid 19 has had on schools, young people and families. The challenge for us as a school has been to continue to operate to the highest possible standard ensuring all young people and members of our school community remain safe. I would like to thank all pupils, parents, carers, and staff for their understanding and continued support throughout the toughest year of my professional career. I must highlight our young people. Our young people have been remarkable, and I thank them for the respect they have shown when in school in working with us in implementing the many changes that we have had to make.

SQA Alternative Certification Model

A huge thank you to all staff for their professionalism and dedication throughout the assessment process from setting assessments/re-assessments, marking, moderation/verification and other QA activities.

A huge thank you also to our young people in senior school. The challenges of the SQA Alternative Certification Model have been discussed nationally and our young people have done exceptional well in working with staff across a range of subjects to ensure we have demonstrated attainment for each young person. We recognise how stressful and challenging this has been, well done and thank you too all.

HEADTEACHER REPORT (cont.)

Staffing

Staff we are saying goodbye to this summer:

Mrs Anderson, Maths
Mrs Mackie, Science
Mr Pollock, Maths/Science
Mrs Bryce, Social Subjects
Mrs Wotherspoon, Depute Head Teacher

Miss Docherty, Art and Design, is also leaving us for the year and we wish her well on maternity leave.

At Christmas we said goodbye to Mrs Anderson and Mr Westland. I am sure they are enjoying their retirement and we hope to see them back in school soon when restrictions allow.

This week we also say goodbye and a huge congratulations to Mrs Wotherspoon who is leaving Mearns Academy after over 20 years to take up post as Head Teacher of Alford Academy.
[Mrs Wotherspoon Alford Head Teacher - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

To all staff who have left this year we wish them all the very best well going forward.

Staff who are joining Mearns Academy or who have secured permanency within Mearns Academy:

Mrs McGlashan, Social Subjects
Ms Scott, Art & Design
Mr Blakely, Business Education
Ms Geoghan, Art & Design
Miss Langton, PE

Congratulations also to Mr Christie who this week has secured a permanent Depute Head Teacher post within Mearns Academy.

In August we also welcome back Mrs Wilson who returns following her maternity leave. Thank you to Mr Black who has been excellent as the Guidance Teacher for Conveth house since January.

August 2021

Moving forward into August we look forward to a new school session which will hopefully include activities which help bring our school community together. Activities such as class trips, sponsored walk, after school clubs, dances, sports clubs, music groups, young musician of the year and activity days. These have all been greatly missed this session and we all hope that these are activities which can take place again as we move forward.

For now, I want to wish you all a safe, healthy, happy and relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing all staff and young people back in the building in August 2021.



Gareth Campbell

Head Teacher

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

A number of our BGE pupils have successfully been chosen for publication in Young Writers SOS Sagas. The subject was a short creative piece of writing with the title "Trapped". The successful published names are-

Kayleigh Herd

Katie Leslie

Alisha Simpson

Kacey Alexander

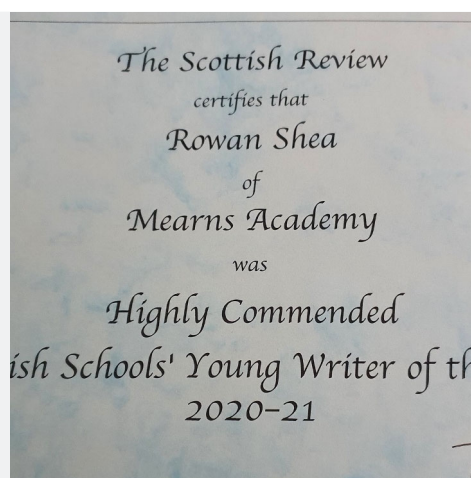
Iona Sanderson

Dylan Taylor

Jamie Watt



Congratulations to those writers but also congratulations to all our S2 who entered. Keep writing.



Scottish Schools Young Writer of the Year 20/21

Congratulations to Rowan Shea on being Highly Commended in this year's competition!

Rowan was in the top 22 entries. We are very proud of her.

English Teacher Mrs Shalini Pattabiraman won the British Haiku Society Haibun Contest. Overall UK Winner in this category. We are all very proud of her in the English Faculty.



LIBRARY

We've enjoyed seeing pupils return to a bit more of a normal service in the library this term and even though access has still been more restricted than usual, we've been a study space for seniors, a club venue for S1s and a haven for book browsers of all ages. We're looking forward to welcoming more pupils to our space, clubs and reading after the summer and we've some exciting reading and learning events planned for next session.

This summer we are opening Mearns Community Library for our public customers again for the first time since the pandemic began! We'll be open Mondays 2.30pm-6.30pm, Wednesdays 11am-3pm, and Thursdays 11am-3pm from Monday 28 June and we are keeping these hours until Monday 16 August. There's no need to book to visit but our numbers are limited to maintain physical distancing guidelines, so we may need to ask you to wait if we are full up. Visitors will also need to observe current public health guidance for face coverings and recording your visit. We're still operating our Click and Collect service over the summer too. Find everything you need to know on our Live Life Aberdeenshire web pages or by following our Mearns Community Library Facebook page. If you're not a member yet, you can join online through our website or when you visit us in person. New members are always welcome.

As part of the S1 transition this year, we enjoyed a fast and furious game of Mearns Academy Family Fortunes with the P7s during their visit to the Academy. I surveyed this year's S1's and our Academy staff to find their top answers to questions like "Name something that usually comes in pairs" or "Name something you might smell at the beach". My favourite answer was to the question "Name something people write with". It was interesting to note that not one person said "computer" or "keyboard" or even "typewriter". My favourite answer was that someone told me that people write "with love".

We hope you are looking forward to a summer that has some time to enjoy reading in the sun!
Fiona Dakers, Network Librarian



Summer Reading Fun
Celebrating 20 years of Summer Reading
(2001 - 2021)

To celebrate 20 years of Summer Reading we are delighted to bring to you an even fuller and fantastic programme this year for all ages and interests.

Over the last 20 years 105,000 customers have participated in our reading challenges and read thousands of words and books. This year our programme is full of reading fun. We are also working with our colleagues and partners to bring you a wide range of activities linked to being healthy, keeping active and getting outdoors.

Whatever your age you are sure to find something for you. You can take part in the challenge as an individual or with your family/friend group.

Check our website for details:
www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-at-home/

Starts **Monday 21st June** runs until **Saturday 21st August 2021**

ASL DEPARTMENT



Raised bed to be developed into a wildflower area.



ASL raised beds

As part of their National 2 Personal Development Award, ASL pupils have been developing a Wildflower area to provide a habitat and food to pollinators. Many Thanks to Nature Scot (<https://www.nature.scot/>) for their kind donation of native wildflower seeds for this project.



Wildflowers to be planted in.



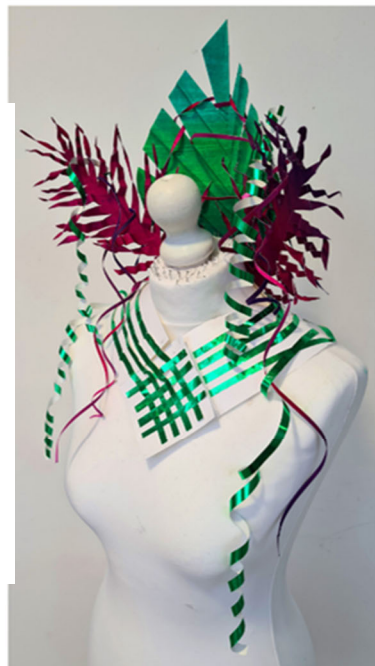
Harry the scarecrow made by ASL pupils

The overall aim for the 5 raised beds allocated to ASL in the school garden is to develop a Sensory Garden (taste, touch, sight, smell & sound).

EXPRESSIVE ARTS - NATIONAL 5 DESIGN



National 5 candidates showcased how versatile paper can be with these fantastic final designs.



NATIONAL 5 EXPRESSIVE



National 5 candidates created a range of final artwork which explored different themes. These are some final outcomes from their portfolios.

HIGHER DESIGN



Higher candidates created a range of body adornment design pieces which explored function and aesthetics. Here are some examples of their final designs.

HIGHER EXPRESSIVE



Higher candidates demonstrated great skill and control with a range of different expressive materials. Here are some final artworks from this academic year.

SPORTS DAY 2021

S1 Boys

1st – Rhys Fotheringham (J)

2nd - Callum Brown (T)

3rd - Angus Broadley (T) & Linden Faherty (T) & Kieran Will (J)

S1 Girls

1st – Amy McLeod (T)

2nd - Paige Lawson (T)

3rd - Thea Burgoyne (J)

S2 Boys

1st – Lewis Grant (D)

2nd – Dylan Taylor (C)

3rd - Gregor King (D)

S2 Girls

1st – Melina Pavlantis (D)

2nd – Willow Mackie (D)

3rd - Georgie Griffiths (C) & Faith Singleton (C)



SPORTS DAY 2021



S3 Boys

- 1st – Luke Duncan (T)
- 2nd – Rory Foster (J)
- 3rd – Callum Moore (T)

S3 Girls

- 1st – Eva Milne (D)
- 2nd – Millie Boulcott (T)
- 3rd – Millie Annal (T)



Senior Boys

- 1st – Aulay Martin (J)
- 2nd – Kyle Skene (C) & Grant MacKinnon (C) & Taine Steele (C)
- 3rd – N/A



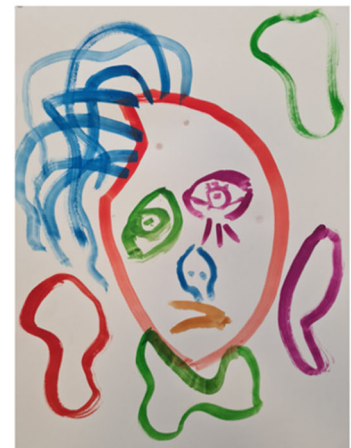
Senior Girls

- 1st – Sophie Johansen (T)
- 2nd – Evie Park (D)
- 3rd – Lucy Simpson (C)

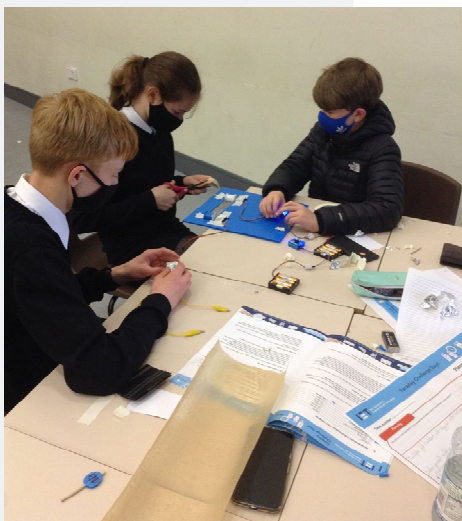


P7 TRANSITION DAYS

P7 pupils created these fantastic Picasso faces during their visit to the Art department.



IET FARADAY CHALLENGE DAY



A group of S2 pupils recently participated in the IET Faraday Challenge Day, a national competition where pupils design a solution for a real-world challenge. The groups showed excellent teamwork and engineering skills to produce working prototypes with an electronic component. The winning team will be announced shortly but well done to everyone who participated!