



3rd February 2012

Dear Parents,

I attach next week's bulletin from the Co-Curricular Co-ordinators and I provide an interim summary of the week's events.

Scholarship Success

Congratulations to Daisy Douglas-Miller who has been awarded a Drama Scholarship to Queen Margaret's School in York. We are proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing your artistic flair in this year's school play!

Workshops with Kenneth Steven

The English Department have enjoyed being inspired to write poems by national poet, author and broadcaster Kenneth Steven who visited the school on Tuesday. The children look forward to using his advice in next week's poetry writing competition.

Enrichment Programme

On Thursday 2nd February, Miss Claire McShane, Head of English at Kilgraston School, gave a stimulating talk on the origins and development of the English Language. The pupils studied words that were used and were subsequently absorbed into the Anglo-Saxon, Old Norse and French vocabularies. We noted that the French origins of beef, pork and mutton were linked to the Anglo-Saxon words of cow, swine and sheep. The pupils analysed passages from Beowulf and Chaucer and were able to gain an understanding of dialectology. As ever, the Ardvreck pupils asked a range of interesting questions and they gained an understanding that language by its very nature cannot be fixed and that they have the power to command new words.

Furthermore, we noted that an everyday sentence is derived from different sources of language. For example: Help! (Anglo-Saxon) I have lost (Anglo-Saxon) my pyjamas (Hindi) and I am terrified (Latin) that they have been (Anglo-Saxon) consumed (French) by an enormous (Latin) dog! (Anglo-Saxon). By the end of the talk, the pupils branched out into exploring dialect and discovered that one possible reason for the breadth of dialect may be linked to differences in landscape. We were informed that the Norfolk dialect tends to be very flat and were treated to rendition of its dulcet tones. This was a most 'enriching' evening and several pupils already want to follow into Miss McShane's footsteps by going to Oxford to study this fascinating subject!

Science Question of the Week

Last week's question was 'In the style of Burns, what is a scientist?'

The winner was Harry Bett's - 'A brain the size o' a hill!'

Honourable mention goes to Alec Garrett-Cox - 'A wee bonnie lassie with brains.'

Next's week's question is "How can you read someone's mind?"

Visit of Tatler Magazine

On Thursday, Tatler Magazine visited the school and met many pupils from different parts of the school. They were clearly impressed by the range of opportunities on offer and we look forward to seeing Ardvreck School on the front cover of September's edition!

Chess Tournaments

The Junior and Senior Chess Competitions are now in full flow and some excellent matches have taken place. The draw for Round Two takes place on Monday morning with pupils from Form One drawing the names from the elusive hat.

Sport

We have enjoyed a busy week of sport. As ever, full and well written match reports are posted on Ardvreck Live.

Hockey

WOSPS Hockey Trials

On Tuesday, several players went to the hockey trials where they all acquitted themselves extremely well. Emily Inglis, Daisy Douglas-Miller, Jemma Stewart, Rebecca Dye and Isla Gale have all been chosen to represent the WOSPS and we wish them every success.

Hockey Matches

On Wednesday, the Under 13 and Under 11 girls hosted Lathallan. The unbeaten Under 13 side played extremely well and scored a collation of goals. Emily Inglis, Gemma Howard-Vyse, Rebecca Wright, Isla Gale, Phoebe Dodson, Pippa Macdonald, Rebecca Dye and Daisy Douglas-Miller were amongst the scorers and Lathallan are to be commended for their spirited performance.

The Under 11 girls played Lathallan and both teams played some excellent hockey. The first half was a tight affair with both defences coming out on top. Early in the second half, Lathallan took a well-deserved lead and Ardvreck suddenly found themselves chasing the game. A well worked drill resulted in the home side levelling the score and both sides were now searching for the win. Violet McGrigor scored her second goal of the game and in the last five minutes the home side were hanging on. Lathallan created several chances and were unlucky not to score. Credit must go the defence for holding the fortress and Ardvreck emerged victorious by two goals to one. Congratulations to both teams for treating the spectators to such a splendid game.

The Under 13 boys played Lathallan and under the excellent leadership of Henry Lithgow and Ludo MacLellan, the boys were able to retain their unbeaten start to the season. Jake Oliver (4), Alec Bruce-Gardyne (2), Charlie Robinson (2) and Fergus Findlay were amongst the scorers and the team are playing well whilst at the same time they are continually looking for improvements. The Under 11 A side beat Lathallan 9-1 and once again the boys played some tremendous hockey. Rowan Spencer-Nairn (3), Laurence Kinge (2), Jamie MacMillan, Alastair Bett, Sacha Forbes-Leith and Kit MacLellan scored the goals and the entire team are to be commended for their teamwork and application. The A side also played well in yesterday's IAPS qualifier in Edinburgh and they are looking forward to their next match against Cargilfield. The Under 11 B side also played against Lathallan and they too played some fantastic hockey. James Galloway (5), Tristan Kinge (2), Euan Moncreiffe (2), Tobias Wright and James Houldsworth scored the goals and we are really pleased with the progress been made by all the boys.

Inside the Classroom

- Pupils in Little Ardvreck really enjoyed their French Breakfast and we enjoyed listening to their French songs as well as sampling the delightful food!
- Pupils in Form One have enjoyed exploring poetry and are looking forward to Saturday's Science Workshop. Without saying too much, the Form One experiment has been specifically designed by Ardvreck pupil, Lewis Gibson. On Tuesday the children in Forms One and Two enjoyed practising their throwing and catching in the Finlay Hall with some of the newly purchased balls. The session finished with a few energetic games of 'dodgeball' and this was much enjoyed by everyone.
- Pupils in Form Two continue to work on light and shadows and will put their knowledge into action by building sundials. No one in Ardvreck will ever have an excuse again to ask what the time is - assuming the sun comes out at some stage! In Mathematics the pupils are learning about 2D and 3D shapes and are busy making models using these shapes.
- Pupils in Form Three are winding up there forces project in Science and are now thinking hard about what experiments they will perform in their homes over the Easter break. Rumour has it that sales of specific sweets will increase over this period.

- Pupils in Form Four have been studying how periscopes work using mirrors and have now begun to learn about refraction of light. They have been using triangular prisms made of clear perspex to split a beam of white light into its colours to show the full visible spectrum. Mr Morgan assures me that this is shown on the cover of Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side of the Moon' album. This will lead onto more investigations into lighting effects and patterns using lenses, mirrors and coloured 'gels' like those used in stage lighting.
- Pupils in Form Five are continuing to make films on Internet safety ahead of next week's Internet Safety Week. They have thoroughly enjoyed this process and as a result they have learnt some important and valuable lessons.
- Pupils in 6G and 6T are beginning to see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel with the completion of their Common Entrance Geography fieldwork and we are pleased with their efforts. The Scholarship class continue to work hard in preparation for their scholarship examinations.

Junior House

Junior House have been busy competing in the chess competitions and the girls really enjoyed playing charades and showing 'Tatler' their modern dance routines! Tatler also joined in but this is a Junior House secret and cannot be mentioned to other journals or periodicals!

Mac House

Miss Jobson and the boys are gearing themselves up for the Great Mac Bake Sale which happens next Friday just before Half Term. Last year it was so successful we managed to buy a pool table with additional snooker balls and extra cues, with enough left over to buy an air hockey table. The boys are busy making their shopping lists for this year....! We're also enjoying the milder and drier weather recently which means the boys can spend the evenings outside on the all-weather area (once prep has been completed, of course!).

Important Notices

Form Four Workshop and Parent/Teacher Meeting

Please note that the Form 4 Workshop commences at a prompt time of 11:15am in the Crabbie and refreshments will be served from 11:00am. The Parent/Teacher Meeting begins at 12:15am and lunch will be provided for your children.

Mac House Bake Sale

Please note that this event takes place in the Library prior to the commencement of Half-Term. The Headmaster will be 'attempting' to bake a cake for this important occasion! Parents are most welcome to bring their baked produce to this event and if you require any further information then please contact Miss Jobson. All monies raised are given to Mac House and the 'Boys' and 'House Staff' decide how it can best be spent.

Prep Schools' Debating Competition

On Sunday, the annual Prep Schools' Debating Competition takes place at Glenalmond College and the teams have been busy preparing their debates. We wish them every success and a full report will be provided in next week's bulletin.

Ardvreck Gathering

On Thursday 9th February, Mr Landale and Mrs Carmichael are hosting an informal drinks party. Further details can be obtained from the school office. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend and I have been reliably informed that several pipers will be present.

With best wishes,

Richard Harvey
Headmaster