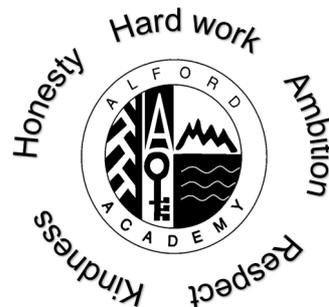


ALFORD ACADEMY



Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year to you and your family. I hope you have had a good time over the Christmas period and managed to enjoy the lovely weather. Hopefully the weather will continue to be kind to us particularly during the forthcoming assessment period for our S4, S5 and S6 pupils.

We started this new year by revisiting our school values (Honesty, Hard Work, Ambition, Respect and Kindness). Last year we worked with our younger pupils on what these values look like, sound like and feel like, in our classrooms, around our campus, on school buses etc and have some great work from pupils on display.

We look forward to another busy term. We continue to work in partnership with NESCOL (North East Scotland College), SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) and other Aberdeenshire Schools to plan courses for next session. We are increasing our focus on the wellbeing of our young people, which includes a range of Health and Wellbeing events taking place week commencing 4 February 2019 with activities for pupils at lunchtimes and a 'Wellbeing Fayre' with representation from 18 organisations. Details will be shared with pupils and be posted on the school blog in due course. As we continue to look at using technology to enhance our communications, this term we will be piloting an on-line booking system for our S4, S5 and S6 Parents' Evening appointments in February/March - further information for parents will follow. Our Student Council is working hard on their ideas about different pupil leadership roles, indoor and outdoor learning spaces and are working closely with the Parent Council on their idea to produce a 'survival guide' for new pupils and information for new parents to help them get to know the school. It's great to have staff, pupils and parents working together to plan and deliver these developments.

As always, we have a very busy school and a school with an open door to ideas from pupils, parents/carers and our many and varied partners. If you think you can share some time to enrich the learning experiences of our pupils, please get in touch via the school e-mail address (alford.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk). By working together with our pupils, parents, business partners and other agencies we can achieve amazing things!

Thank you for your continuing support. We are very proud of our young people who are a real credit to you as parents and carers and to our school. Here's to a great 2019 for all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Moira Milne'.

Moira Milne
Head Teacher

Key Dates for Term 3 (please note additional events may be added where opportunities arise and these will be publicised separately)

Week commencing 7/1/19	S2 reports issued this week
11/1/19-28/1/19 inclusive	S4-S6 assessment period (NB study leave for S5/6 pupils from 14/1/19-25/1/19)
23/1/19	Parent Council Meeting 7 pm
Week commencing 28/1/19	S3 reports issued this week
4 & 5/2/19	P7 Parent Tours
Week commencing 4/2/19	Health and Wellbeing Week
14/2/2019	S4-S6 monitoring letters issued this week
19/2/19	S4 Parents' Evening
21/2/19	Course choice return deadline for S3 pupils going in to S4 and S4 pupils going in to S5
27/2/19	'Share the Air' - Informal coffee and conversation with Parents/Carers. Focus on 'Supporting parents to support learning'.
28/2/19	S5/6 Parents' Evening
1/3/19	Course choice return deadline for S5 pupils going in to S6
7/3/19	Performing Arts Showcase
11/3/19	S2 Parents' Evening
18/3/19	Parent Council Meeting 7 pm

Term Dates Session 2018/19

Monday 7 January 2019	Start of Term 3
Friday 8 February 2019	Occasional Day – school closed to pupils
Monday 11 February 2019	Mid Term holiday
12-13 February 2019	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils

Friday 29 March 2019	End of Term 3
1 - 12 April 2019	Easter holidays
Monday 15 April 2019	Start of Term 4
Friday 19 April 2019	Good Friday holiday – school closed
Monday 6 May 2019	May Day holiday – school closed
Monday 3 June 2019	Occasional Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 5 July 2019	End of Term 4
8 July-16 August 2019	Summer holidays