

ALFORD ACADEMY

- Caring, Challenging, Creative



May 2015
Newsletter for the
Alford Academy
Community



Message from the Head Teacher

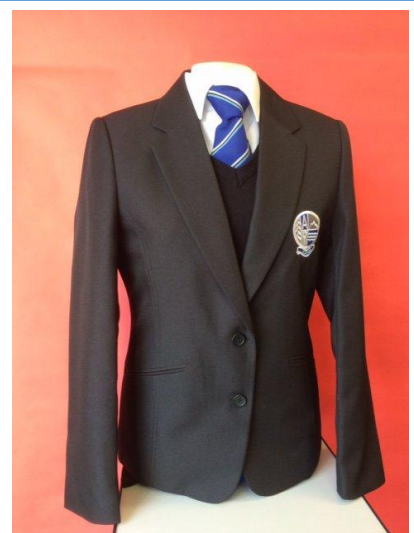
This newsletter is produced in partnership with Alford Academy Parent Council.

We are now entering an exciting period of transition prior to our move to the new campus in October 2015. Please find enclosed in this bulletin an update on the new campus, information on term dates and closure days next session and on the transition to our new school day/week from June. In addition, please find information on the revised school uniform to be introduced for August 2015. I am delighted with the level of engagement and response we have had to the consultation. The Student Council and Parent Council proposal for the revised school uniform has certainly generated a lot of debate and discussion in and outwith school. We look forward to welcoming our Senior Pupils back to school on Tuesday 2nd June following their SQA exams and also our Primary 7 Pupils when they join us for their Link Week starting 15th June.

Alford Academy School Uniform Consultation

Following consultation with parents, pupils and staff, Parent Council have considered the responses in detail and a revised school uniform will apply from August 2015. A school blazer will be introduced for S4-S6 pupils and for S1-S3 pupils the sweatshirt will be replaced with a badged fine knit V neck jumper.

Please find enclosed further details of the revised Alford Academy school uniform, a summary of the consultation outcomes and a school tie order form.



New Campus Update

The construction programme is on schedule for completion in October 2015, as planned. If you get the chance to walk, cycle or drive past the new campus, you will see that the building now closely resembles the original “artist’s impression” picture. The external fabric and roofing is complete in much of the build, many of the internal partitions are up, the wiring is well underway and work on fixed furniture and painting has commenced. Outside, the landscaping is also well on; tree planting is underway and the grass pitches have grass! We have also worked with the construction team and sculptor Helen Denerley to identify the best locations on the new site for our much-loved outdoor sculptures.

The Academy student council and the new campus pupil design group have worked on the plans and proposals for lockers within the school and the choice of outdoor furniture. There have also been wider consultations – much enjoyed by all – on the colour scheme in the pupil toilets (sunglasses will be needed!) and on the choice of classroom chair. Another reason to take a detour up past the new campus site is to enjoy our first art exhibition on the new campus. Morrison Construction invited the two schools to decorate the hoardings which frame the entrance to the site, and kindly donated the paint and the boards for the artwork. For the past few months the Princes Trust/Skills for Work groups have been hard at work on a diverse, fun and thought-provoking set of designs. Alford primary pupils also created designs for the boards, and these were then realised by the Academy Skills for Work pupils. This combined academy/primary/site team project is now largely complete, the exhibition is in place at the site entrance, and we hope you will see and enjoy it.

The current activity is a competition, open to all ages across the community, to come up with a design for a new Alford Community Campus logo. If you are interested, we would love for you to get involved. There are flyers with all the information you will need at the school reception, as well as in Community and at the Swimming Pool. The information is also on the school’s website. Please note that the deadline for entries is the end of May!

Morrison Construction post regular updates with recent photographs of progress on Aberdeenshire Council’s website, so that all who are interested in the build can keep up to date. You can see these updates, by following the link below.

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/buildingimprovements/AlfordCommunityCampusUpdate.asp>



Additional school closure days in October 2015

Please note that there will be four additional days around the October holidays, when the school will remain closed to all pupils. These dates have now been confirmed by the Scottish Government, which must approve all such additional closure days. These additional closure days will help to ensure a smooth transition to the new campus, giving council staff the time needed to pack up and vacate the old campus, and then unpack and set up in the new campus.

The additional closure dates are confirmed as:

- Friday 9 October 2015
- Monday 26 October 2015
- Tuesday 27 October 2015
- Wednesday 28 October 2015

Just to confirm, this means that Thursday 8 October 2015 will be the last day of term – and also pupils' last day in the old campus. The new term will commence for pupils on Thursday 29 October in the new campus.

Term Dates Session 2015/16

Monday 17 August 2015	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 18 August 2015	Start of Term 1 (pupils)
Thursday 8 October 2015	End of Term 1 (pupils)
Friday 9 October 2015	Transition to new Campus – school closed to pupils
12-23 October 2015	October holidays
26-28 October 2015	Transition to new Campus – school closed to pupils
Thursday 29 October 2015	Start of Term 2 (pupils)
16 and 17 November 2015	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 22 December 2015	End of Term 2
23 Dec 2015 to 5 Jan 2016	Christmas holidays
Wednesday 6 January 2016	Start of Term 3
Friday 12 February 2016	Occasional Day tbc – school closed to pupils
Monday 15 February 2016	Mid Term holiday
16 and 17 February 2016	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils
Friday 25 March 2016	Good Friday – school closed
Friday 1 April 2016	End of Term 3
4-15 April 2016	Easter holidays
Monday 18 April 2016	Start of Term 4
Monday 2 May 2016	May Day holiday – school closed
Monday 6 June 2016	Occasional Day tbc – school closed to pupils
Friday 1 July 2016	End of Term 4
4 July to 12 August 2016	Summer holidays



Transition to our new School Day / Week – 2nd June to 3rd July 2015

From the change of timetable (ie 2 June to 3 July) the existing school start and finish times will not change. However, as we move towards our new school day structure there will be an alteration to lunch times, intervals and period lengths as detailed below.

Period	Mon/Tues/Wed
Period 1	0845 - 0930
Period 2	0930 - 1020
<i>Interval</i>	1020 - 1040
Period 3	1040 - 1130
Period 4	1130 - 1220
Period 5	1220 - 1310
<i>Lunch</i>	1310 - 1400
Period 6	1400 - 1450
Period 7 <i>Mon/Tues/Wed only</i>	1450 - 1540

Period	Thurs/Fri
Period 1	0845 – 0940
Period 2	0940 - 1035
<i>Interval</i>	1035 – 1055
Period 3	1055 - 1150
Period 4	1150 - 1245
Period 5 (1 st half)	1245–1315
<i>Lunch</i>	1315 – 1415
Period 5 (2 nd half)	1415 - 1445
Period 6	1445 - 1540

From August 2015 the school day will be as follows (please note pupil day will finish at 14:50 on Thursdays and Fridays).

NEW SCHOOL DAY – ASSYMETRIC (from August 2015)	
Period 1	0840 - 0930
Period 2	0930 - 1020
<i>Interval</i>	1020 - 1040
Period 3	1040 - 1130
Period 4	1130 - 1220
Period 5	1220 - 1310
<i>Lunch</i>	1310 - 1400
Period 6	1400 - 1450
Period 7 (<i>Mon / Tues / Wed only</i>)	1450 - 1540