

Menzieshill High School

Newsletter

Name:

Class:

September 2009

Welcome back

We have made a very good start to the new term with pupils in uniform and getting down to work.

S4 SQA Standard Grade results have shown a great improvement with our best set of results in 11 years. Awards are up at Foundation +13%; General +26% and Credit +11%. - 41 pupils gaining 5 or more credit awards. Girls have outperformed boys at all levels.

64 pupils returned in S5 (41%) our lowest return rate in 11 years As the majority had left school, we were unable to improve on some poor S4 results. However some individuals did very well.

S6 (61) pupils produced some of our best sets of Highers ever and Advanced Highers were also good.

Congratulations to all pupils had high achievement in the 2009 exams:

Laura Gorman: achieved 100% in Higher Grade Modern Studies. Laura has been put forward by the SQA for a special award.

To those who achieved 5 Highers or 7/8 Standard Grade Credit awards - well done!

We hope some will receive special SQA awards at the Dundee Focus on Achievement awards. They will be listed in our next newsletter.

HPV vaccinations: Dose 1

All 2nd, 4th and 5th year girls who wish HPV vaccinations are asked to return completed consent forms. Pupils or parents with any questions please contact Janice Coull, School Health Nurse (443539) or come along to the Health Drop-in on Mondays at 1.30p.m. in the Health suite. Dose 1 will take place on Tue 17 September.

Planners

"... learners learn best when they know what is expected of them." **LTiD key principle**

Using A School Planner

Dundee City Council supports the use of Planners in all schools. In MHS we recognise the planner is a vital part of raising pupil attainment. Pupils are expected to use planners every day in every lesson.

Purpose of Planners

- Help pupils think about, talk about and improve their learning
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning
- Promote learning both in and out of school
- Help pupils set realistic learning goals.

Aims for learning out of school

Our primary purposes in using of planners are to:

- Support learning out of school (homework)
- Develop study habits & value learning
- Improve communication between pupils, parents and staff with regard to homework, supported study and setting effective targets
- Provide help and praise from teachers; and pupil responsibility for own learning

The use of planners last session increased dramatically and made a difference. Guidance has been issued with this newsletter. Pupils are encouraged to use them regularly.

S3/S4 & S5/S6 Targets

Pupils are currently discussing targets for the new session with teachers. Once the process is complete, the targets will be issued.

Together we can...

Menziesshill High School Parent Council MHS Festival 2009

Sat 19 Sept : 2 - 4 p.m.

Bric-a-brac & Books Cadet climbing wall
Cake & candy Face painting
Games & Music Primary football
Refreshments & BBQ Street football
...and more!

How can you help ?...

Donate : We need items for the stalls: books, Music CDs, bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts of any value; items or prizes for our games/raffle/tombola – wine, chocolates, a holiday for two in the Bahamas... no reasonable offers refused! Drop items off at the school office or contact Kerri Abbott - Pupil Support Worker.

Menziesshill Festival provides an opportunity for cluster schools (nursery, primary and secondary) to raise funds and have a good time.

Parent Council

The Parent Council are very active. We have 11 parents and 4 Staff on the Parent Council, healthy, but we can still welcome more!

We hold 4 Council meetings this year. We discuss staffing, parents' evenings, SQA results, improving attainment and ideas to celebrate pupils' successes.

All parents are members of the Parent Forum and are welcome to meetings. Meetings are held to involve and inform parents in partnership with the school. Two sub-groups have been formed to assist the school in taking forward areas of priority. Current areas are Fund Raising/Events and Partnership. Parents are welcome to join.

If you would like more information please drop off a note to the school office c/o Chair of Parent Council. Up to date information can be found on our website.

<http://menziesshill.ea.dundeeccity.sch.uk>

Parent matters

Spree Books

This year the Parent Council are selling Spree Books to support the Behaviour Rewards system in the school and to assist school events. Buy your Spree Books from us...and your children will get the benefits!

The Sale starts on Wed 2 September when our pupils will bring home books for you to buy at just £22 each. The Book has over £4000 in savings, and it lasts for one year!

You not only save a lot of money but you also support our school (the school earns a percentage of each book sold, and every penny is spent on our pupils).

**Cluster Parent Forum
Menziesshill High School
Mon 21 Sep : 7 - 8.30p.m.**

Parent Council 2009-10

Chair: Lesley Mays

Parent Representatives: Steve Dalton, Pam Fowlie, Lynda Glashan, Wendy Jackson, Janice Leitch, Lesley Nicoll, Robin Paterson, Barbara Porteous, Isobel Shepherd.

Staff: Kerri Abbot, Iris Thomson

Clerk: Pauline Crosbie **Treasurer:** Morag Reid

Headteacher: George Laidlaw

Calendar of meetings & events Autumn

Mon 14 Sep Sub-group meeting

Mon 21 Sep Cluster Parent Forum

Sat 19 Sep Menziesshill Festival

Winter, Spring & Summer meetings are listed on our website. Agendas, notes of meetings and feedback are also available on our website.

The **Cluster Parent Forum meeting** is to discuss Curriculum for Excellence and will be held in MHS.

A leaflet and guide for parents has been distributed with this newsletter.

Information for parents

Reminders of some whos, whats, hows and whens ...

Who to contact in your house?

House staff to speak to as a first contact:

Aberfeldy Head: Mr T Stewart **PT Guidance:** Mrs V Dillon Mr R Brown (for Mr Millar) Mrs N Seith

Fortingall Head: Ms S Smith **PT Guidance:** Mr R Thompson Mrs M Reid

Weem Head: Mr M Doherty **PT Guidance:** Mr J Watson Mrs Y Hay Mrs N Seith

School Text Messaging

Our automated text messaging system will alert you if your child is not in school when he/she should be. Your response will ensure that the reason for your child's absence is known to us as soon as possible. The system can only contact one person, so the main contact's mobile or home number will be used for this.

Our text messaging system allows us to reassure you that we are meeting the Government's recommendations in contacting you on the first day of your child's absence. It also provides an early warning system should your child truant from school. As always, your child's safety is our main concern. Please ensure that we are notified of any future changes in contact details as soon as possible.

Parent Contact Evenings

4:30 - 7:00p.m. unless stated



S1	Mon 30 November
S2	Mon 1 March
S3	Mon 18 January
S4	Mon 14 September
S4	Mon 22 March
S5/S6	Mon 16 November
P7 Information	7pm Wed 4 November
New S1	7pm Thu 17 June

Illness

Mrs Hirons, our school auxiliary, deals with minor medical issues in school. She will contact you at home, or at your place of work, if your child needs to be sent home, or requires to go to hospital for treatment. However, she is not a nurse and cannot provide treatment or prescribe medicines. If your child is ill at home, or suffers an accident at the weekend or in the evening, please take him/her to your own GP or to the Accident and Emergency Department at Ninewells Hospital. Do not send him/her to school in the expectation that our school auxiliary will be able to deal with the problem.

Dundee City Council policy states we will only accept medicines from parents/guardians which are in their original box with the pupil's name and amount they should receive. Parents are responsible to inform the school if a child has a medical condition.

Thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Lockers

Lockers are available for hire to all pupils. Money charged is put towards repair and maintenance of lockers.

- Pupils may only visit lockers first thing in the morning, during interval, during lunchtime and at the end of the day.
- This protects teaching time.
- Do not visit your locker at the start of a period or at period changeover.
- Get to class on time... 10 minutes wasted at the start of every period adds up to 50 minutes in a week and would waste 8-10 hours you could be working!

News via e-mail.

Send an e-mail to

menzieshill@dundeecity.gov.uk

with your child's name and class.

We will then email you school publications.

Session 2009-10

September

Mon 14 S4 Parents evening
Tue 17 HPV Vaccination dose 1
Mon 21 S4 Work Experience week 1
Mon 21 7p.m. Cluster Parent Forum
Mon 28 S4 Work Experience week 1

October

Fri 2 Term ends (3:40p.m.)

Autumn Holiday

Mon 5 Oct - Fri 16 Oct

Winter Term

Mon 19 October Term starts
Thu 27 HPV Vaccination dose 1

November

Wed 4 Nov P7 Parents evening
Mon 9 (for three weeks) S4 Prelims
Thu 12 INSET 3
Fri 13 INSET 4
Mon 16 S5/S6 Parents evening
Mon 30 S1 Parents evening

December

Wed 9 Christmas Concert & Market
Tue 22 Term ends (12 noon)

Christmas Holiday

Wed 23 Dec - Tue 5 Jan

Supported Study

Supported study classes for S4/5/6 pupils commence ... on Tue, Wed and Thu, 3.45-4.45pm to support school work. Classes will run weekly, if sufficient numbers. Classes are particularly important for S4 pupils in the run up to their prelim exams in November and for S5/6 pupils in preparation for their NABs and their prelim examinations in February. Where appropriate, S3 pupils will also be given the opportunity to attend some S4 supported study classes.

Menzieshill High School

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Tel: 435677 Fax: 435664

2010 Spring Term

January

Wed 6 Jan Term begins
Mon 18 S3 Parents evening
Mon 25 (for two weeks) S5/S6 Prelims

February

Fri 12 Feb Mid term: Holiday
Mon 15 Mid term: Holiday
Thu 25 INSET 4

March

Mon 1 Mar S2 Parents evening
Mon 22 S4 Parents evening

April

Thu 1 Apr Term ends (3:40p.m.)
Fri 2 Good Friday: Holiday

Easter Holiday

Fri 2 Apr - Fri 16 Apr
Easter Sun 4 April

Summer Term

Mon 19 Apr Term begins
Wed 26 S4 SQA exams start

May

Mon 3 May May day: Holiday
Wed 12 S5/S6 SQA exams start
Fri 28 May INSET 5
Mon 31 May Victoria day: Holiday

June

Tue 1 June New timetable
Thu 17 New S1 Parents evening
Mon 28 Prizegiving

July

Fri 2 July (12.00) Term ends

Summer Holiday

Fri 2 July - Fri 13 August

Session 2010-11

Autumn Term

Mon 16 Aug INSET 1
Tue 17 Aug Pupils begin

Glow Report

We are encouraging all pupils to use their Glow account to access school information, homework and course revision materials. Each pupil also has a personal school email address which we will use.

Email: menzieshill@dundeecity.gov.uk
Web: <http://menzieshill.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk>