



LATHALLAN SCHOOL

Brotherton Castle, Johnshaven, DD10 0HN

Tel: (01561) 362220

E-mail: office@lathallan.org.uk

Website: www.lathallan.org.uk

Headmaster: Richard Toley BA (Hons), MPhil, PGCE, FRSA

25th March 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Spring Term really has gone in a flash! I hope the below catches a flavour of it for you and then there are a few notices and upcoming events for the Summer Term for your attention.

Some reflections

Despite the speed of the term, we have been able to pack in a whole range of events and activities to complement and support the core curriculum. A clear highlight has to be the Celebration of the Arts Afternoon Tea in aid of Vuyani that allowed so many of our pupils to showcase their talent. Wow! The final tally is not yet in but as a community we raised over £650 on the day which is a great start for our S5/6 fundraising appeal ahead of their trip to Vuyani Safe Haven in South Africa this July. It is easy to get too familiar with how good our pupils are but the medals achieved at the Arbroath Music Festival, the NE Burns Federation Schools Festival - three firsts, a second and third - the Junior Pipe Band's performance and the excellent fifth for the Senior Pipe Band at the Scottish Schools Championships emphasise our strength and breadth.

Our cross-country teams have excelled this term, with impressive team and individual placings at at Merchiston, St Leonards, Belhaven and Albyn meetings. Our netballers have also had a strong showing with the S2 team reaching the Quarter-Finals of the Scottish Netball National Cup. This was an amazing achievement and hopefully the sign of things to come as they move up through the school. The U14 rugby team have matched this with an undefeated season coming away as winners of the North Caledonia Schools Challenger Series. Dean and Arabella in S5 continue to set the sporting world ablaze with new British and Scottish records for Dean, and a 4th place against adult elite athletes in the point to point and a team GB first place for Arabella in the World Series. That said, the Junior Swim Gala proved just as competitive!

J7 have been awarded the Ocean Friendly Award for the first time for their sustainability work completed along our coastline. They shared their journey with the rest of the school, inspiring others to make a positive impact on the environment. The Junior Lights and Literacy event was held indoors offering a wide range of literacy work exhibited throughout the corridors, classrooms and library, and the J5 trip to Bannockburn certainly brought the battle to life.

The Boarders have also been busy during the school week and at weekends. Lambing, ice-skating, and a visit to Blair Drummond Safari Park, not all at the same time, are some standouts. The fact that the Boarding House is now full for the Summer Term says a lot about the adventures and fun that they have!

Congratulations to our S6 pupils who have all now secured offers for their choice of university. A really positive position to be in as they head into their final exams and last term at school.

Future Events

Looking ahead, the fun has already started with a junior/senior school trip currently in Italy where the snow is providing excellent snowsport conditions, and in the Lake District where our Junior School pupils are enjoying lots of activities. Many of you will have this in your diary already but our annual Lathallan Rugby 7s tournament - sponsored by IACS Consulting - takes place on 20th April, and I hope to see as many of you as possible on the day cheering on our teams, watching the Pipe Band and soaking up the atmosphere.

S4 to S6 will then get the chance to showcase their efforts during the academic year with the start of the SQA examination diet at the end of April and LAMDA exams in June.

The summer also provides the chance for our outdoor education programme to crank up to full speed. To give you a glimpse: J5-7 will have a mountain day during our first week back, J5 three days of mountain biking, S1 and S2 climbing and NNAS days, S3-S6 a mixture of Bronze, Silver and Gold practice and final expeditions, and then a climb and surf trip to Wales come the end of term. Also just after the end of term is our annual trip to South Africa for S5/S6 pupils. Their engagement and fundraising efforts thus far have been exemplary (coastal path work to offset their carbon emissions during travel and the delivery of the Celebration of the Arts). I cannot wait to hear what they experience and achieve come July. Further details on other day trips will be sent out during the course of next term and don't forget you can see all events listed in the online calendar - lathallan.org.uk/school-calendar.

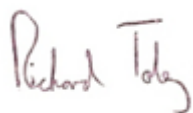
Two key events to keep in mind are the 60th Anniversary of the Pipe Band celebrations on the 27th June and Presentation Day on the 29th June.

First Day Back

I am sure you are all looking forward to the return of school on the 15th April already. As well as it being the first day back we also have our school photograph on that morning so please could I ask all pupils to be appropriately dressed in formal uniform. Our parent coffee morning will be taking place as usual and I look forward to seeing many of you at this time.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter with your loved ones.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Richard Toley".

Richard Toley
Headmaster