

OLDMACHAR ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



Term Spring | Issue 2 | Date: March 2018

THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued support of the Parent Council. Thanks to your support we were able to raise £370 at the Christmas Market and £150 at the Christmas Concert. £150 has been donated to the music department and we've contributed £150 towards the cost of the school app.

We've been working hard alongside the school on topics like parental engagement, moving forward with the Quad project and organising a school fayre. Please do keep reading to find out more!

THE QUAD PROJECT

We are working hard to progress this project. It has been fantastic to have support from staff and parents alike. Some classes are getting involved designing the area, others practically by starting to garden. A grandad has volunteered to help us mend the shed, remove some broken seating and build us a raised bed.

We have been in touch with many local businesses looking for support and area applying for grants to fund the project.

Our morning in the Quad day will be rescheduled soon - please do watch the app for information.

If you think you, a family member or your workplace, could help in anyway with this project or if you have any ideas please please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

CAR PARKING

The car park gets very busy at each end of the school day - by keeping to the following guidelines we can ensure the safety of pupils, pedestrians and other drivers:

DO

- Use the Jesmond car park only.
- Wait for any pupils to cross
- Use the marked parking bays
- Drive slowly through the car park
- Observe the 20mph speed limit on the roads near to the school
- Be patient

DON'T

- Don't use the school car park - this is strictly for staff use only
- Stop in the main route through the car park - this can lead to cars backing up onto Jesmond Drive
- Pull up across parking bays
- Forget that the Jesmond car park is also used by members of the public

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Thank you very much to the 113 parents who replied to the parental engagement questionnaire. The school also conducted a similar questionnaire internally to get the views of school staff. All responses have been collated and we are working with the school to follow up on areas for improvement and to build on areas of strength going forward.

The school has already started on some parent suggestions by providing more regular electronic updates on pupil learning matters. There are plans to develop a parents' area and have regular drop in sessions available with senior staff in the lovely new library.

The parent council is planning a Summer Fayre event with the dual purpose of raising funds and encouraging involvement between parents, pupils and the school team.

The parent council will continue to issue newsletters and communication to help raise awareness for parents on all school matters.

Both the school and parent council will continue to promote the school app and highlight areas of the website for useful information.

If you have more ideas or there is anything you would like to feedback or need more information on, please drop us an email. We'd love to hear from you.

ACTIVITY WEEK: TOP 10 TIPS FOR PARENTS

1) Attend as many meetings as you can that the School/teacher organises ahead of the trip. They are invaluable for getting the right information about the trip. You can go alone or with your child. They will discuss all the rules, behaviour expectations, what to do about medicine, drop-off / pick up times, emergency procedures, etc...

2) Mobile phones: the School usually has a policy that they are locked away at night with the teachers and only available to the pupils during the day. This is for many reasons, but the foremost is pupil safety. Remind your child to charge their phone when they have it as it won't be able to be charged at night.

3) Spending money: the amount needed will vary for each trip. The School will provide guidance on an appropriate amount. For trips abroad, consider getting a pre-paid travel card for your child

(<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/credit-cards/prepaid-travel-cards>).

4) Headphones/Charging cables/plugs: your child will need to take headphones, all the right charging cables for their phones, etc... If they are travelling abroad, remember to get the right plug converter!

5) Your child will need to carry or pull their own suitcase / bag – think about this when packing and check that they can actually carry it themselves!

6) A day sack / backpack is invaluable for all trips. They can also keep this with them on the bus / airplane.

7) Trips Abroad: take a photo or scan of your child's passport and EHIC card and keep it somewhere safe. This information will be helpful if either get lost and you need to report it / get new ones.

8) Most of the trips involve lots of activities during the day, which means lots of walking. Sensible footwear is a very good idea even if it isn't always fashionable!

9) Check out the weather the week ahead of the trip and get your child to pack accordingly. But always be prepared for a change, so be sure they include a jumper/jacket etc. The School coordinators always include recommended lists of "what to pack" in their information notes. It is important to follow this advice – the teachers have done these trips before and the lists come from years of experience!

10) The School contact named in your information pack is your **FIRST POINT OF CONTACT** in an emergency or if you need to get in touch with your child quickly. The teachers on trips are in daily contact with the School and provide regular updates to parents.

11) **BONUS TIP:** Try to relax and enjoy the week they are away. Your child will most like be having an amazing time ;-)

GET INVOLVED!

Tips for Parents: SQA Exams

BEFORE

- 1) In 2018, the SQA exams are officially from Monday 30 April – Monday 4 June.
- 2) The full SQA Exam Timetable for 2018 can be found [online](#). Your child can also download an app to create a personal exam timetable and a personal study plan.
- 3) The SQA website has lots of useful information, for both students and parents, including past papers and sample question papers to help with revision work. Check it out! www.sqa.org.uk
- 4) Encourage your child to register at [MySQA](#) so that they can receive their results by text on Results Day. Results will be released on Tuesday 7 August 2018. The texts are sent by 8:00am and the paper results come in the post that day.
- 5) Teachers at Oldmachar often hold revision sessions during lunch and after school. If there isn't anything advertised, just ask for extra help – teachers want your children to achieve in their exams as much as you do.

DURING

- 6) Don't sweat the small stuff – bedrooms might become messier, your child might forget to do things around the house. Ease off a bit during exams, but remember it is only temporary so as soon as exams are over, they can catch up and clean up!
- 7) Talk to your kids about exam nerves – tell them it is normal to feel nervous and encourage them to talk about it and don't hold it in. There is lots of online help, including [stress tips for students](#) and BBC Bitesize "[Help to minimise stress](#)".
- 8) Help them to remember to eat well, sleep and get some exercise during the exam period. These are some of the best ways to prepare for exams!
- 9) Encourage them to set up a revision schedule and stick to it, incorporating regular breaks into their study routines. Long periods of studying without any breaks are not helpful.
- 10) Encourage them to study in an area without phones / computers / games consoles. These are very distracting and easily eat up time!
- 11) Remember: no mobile phones allowed in the exam halls! This is very important and remind your child to leave their phone at home or outside the exam hall in a safe place.

AFTER

- 12) Relax and wait until Results Day! Celebrate, reassure and continue to encourage.

SCHOOL FAYRE

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY 16th JUNE 2018

We are planning a wonderful morning with refreshments, raffles, entertainment, stalls and games. We will hopefully be in the Quad enjoying our outdoor space.

Could you or your workplace contribute a raffle prize? Please let us know. It can be handed into the school office.

Look out for requests for help, for tombolas and stalls etc and for raffle tickets to sell. If you're able to get involved by helping on the day or with the planning please get in touch. We'd love to have you on the team.

Most importantly make sure the date is in your diary and plan to bring your whole family along!

CONTACT US

We are always keen to hear from other parents. Please contact us by emailing:

pcoldmachar@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk

Chair: Sue Thomson

Vice chair: Linda Strachan

Treasurer: Helena Zeigler

Everyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings. If you have an item you wish discussed please email your request by the Friday before.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 20th March.
7pm.