

ARBROATH HIGH SCHOOL



School Handbook

2024-25

School Details

Headteacher: Ms Karen Thomson

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Website: <https://sites.google.com/an.glow.scot/arbroath-high-school>

Class Stages: S1 to S6

Present Roll: 879



Welcome from the Headteacher

On behalf of the staff and students at Arbroath High School, a very warm welcome to you.

Arbroath High School has a long and proud history providing education and learning in Arbroath for hundreds of years. We are a school where students are valued and helped to achieve their full potential. We are an ambitious school, and set high standards for everything we do. This includes the quality of our curriculum, our teaching, the support we offer students, and our expectations for student effort and behaviour.

This handbook has been written for parents and perspective parents. It contains information we think will be of interest to you. You can find out more about Arbroath High School on our school website. We look forward to meeting and working with you in the near future.

Karen Thomson, Headteacher

Welcome from the Student Head Team



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VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

[Choosing a school: a guide for parents \(Scottish Government\)](#)

Once your child has been allocated a place we will invite you to meet the staff and children, find out more about the curriculum and share information about your child.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils show their pride in the school by wearing school uniform. School uniform is simple and practical. It is no more expensive than other kinds of clothing. Items may be bought from any clothes shop - price depends on size and quality. All pupils are expected to wear school uniform in school and on educational visits.

The school uniform consists of:

- black skirt or trousers
- white blouse or shirt
- school tie
- plain black sweatshirt or cardigan, V-neck sweater, school hoodie
- school hoodie
- green blazer
-

<https://www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk/index.php?route=common/home>

For Physical Education you will need

- Shorts/leggings/tracksuit trousers (preferably black).
- T-shirt (no crop tops or vests).
- Appropriate footwear.
- Sweatshirt or hoodie – only for outdoor PE
-

We appreciate the support that we receive from parents over school uniform

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents/carers should contact the school if they have a cause for concern. It is our wish to deal with all matters as early as possible preventing them from growing into significant concerns. Please contact the appropriate Principal Teacher PCS for your child who will listen to your concerns and endeavour to find an appropriate solution. Our commitment is to listen to your concern and work with you to agree a way forward.

THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

[Angus Council complaints procedure](#)

If parents have cause for complaint they should contact the school and make an appointment to meet the Head Teacher or member of the Senior Management Team.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Becoming involved in School

A successful school depends on the goodwill and involvement of many people who are not part of the school staff. At Arbroath High School, we are very grateful for the valuable contributions of parents and friends who give generously of their time, skills and energy to enhance the pupils' experience.

Of course, the School is always pleased to receive offers of help. If you feel that you would like to help in any way, or have skills which could be of benefit to the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Two organizations, the Parent Council and the Parent Teacher Association working together as the Friends of Arbroath High School, play an important part in strengthening links between Arbroath High and parents and carers and informing decisions, planning and policy, discussing School performance or matters of interest.

Above all, however, we would encourage you to take an active interest in all aspects of your son's or daughter's education. We welcome your involvement and value your attendance at parents' nights and at the many other events organised to bring school and parents and carers closer together.

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please discuss this with staff.

Your involvement is important and valued.

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Friends of Arbroath High School

This association holds meetings on educational matters and organizes social events incorporating Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association. It is also very active in raising funds to support the school.

All parents of pupils at the school are automatically members of the Friends of Arbroath High School and will be most welcome at any Friends' function. Notices of Friends activities are issued to parents via pupils in advance of the event. Friends of Arbroath High School is a name to describe the parent, carer, pupils, staff group incorporating the Parent Council (a statutory requirement) and the AHS PTA as well as Senior School pupils representing the pupils.

SCHOOL ETHOS, VISION AND VALUES

Vision:

We are an ambitious school. Our vision is to ensure our students reach their full potential. To do this we will:

- Provide a safe and supportive learning environment
- Support, challenge and inspire our students
- Provide high quality teaching

Aim:

Altiora Petamus - We aim for "Higher Things".

Values:

Guiding us in all we do are our four core values:

- Commitment - We are committed to continuous improvement
- Ambition - We know that through hard work and positivity we can achieve anything
- Respect - Of ourselves, of others, and our surroundings
- Equity - To ensure that each student receives what they need to develop to their potential

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

Arbroath High School aims to ensure that pupils not only consider themselves as a valued part of the school community but also an integral part of the wider community. Through links with our professional and volunteer partners, the school works to promote a sense of social understanding and responsible citizenship. This is incorporated into a comprehensive Social Education programme, from S1 – S6, where partners are actively involved in the delivery of a broad range of topics in which they have particular experience and expertise.

Arbroath High School, along with Arbroath Academy and all associated primary schools, is an active member of Arbroath's Children's and Learning Partnership, covering the whole of Arbroath. This partnership incorporates a representative from all agencies who provide a service or support to young people in the area. The aim is to promote the personal, social and health development of pupils in a co-ordinated and targeted way, maximising the most effective use of available personnel and financial resources.

The Partnership also actively tackles issues affecting particular areas of the community, outside of school hours and boundaries, providing young people with the option of appropriate activities to engage them in their leisure time.

The School also fosters links with local employers, universities, colleges and a wide variety of other organisations including Angus Council as an employer and through involvement in the Angus Works programme and collaborations to build capacity in our young people, prepare them for next steps after school and so pursue the objectives of the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce initiative. Pupils are involved in work experience and shadowing arrangements, collaborative activities and business and industry sponsored

and supported competitions and events do develop their skills and wider aspects of their learning. Employers are involved with young people in school, at careers evenings and events, enterprise activities, mock interviews and a growing number of collaborations. We recognise, celebrate and encourage the wider learning and development opportunities which a community can provide and our responsibility to ensure that the School is developing the skilled and successful, responsible citizens and workforce for our future. We work closely with our partners Angus Alive to provide a variety of learning, sporting and leisure activities and linked to a Sports Centre on our Campus, close and integrated collaboration is on-going.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

Expectations High standards of student behaviour are expected at all times. Specifically, students are expected to:

- Be polite and courteous
- Follow the instructions of staff
- Show respect towards all members of our school community and the school building
- Comply with school rules, including in relation to uniform, mobile phones and movement in and around the building

Warm-strict

Our approach to working with students can be summarised as 'warm-strict': we expect staff to develop close working relationships with students, with high standards of student behaviour expected at all times.

Responsibilities

Within the parameters set out in this policy, teachers and Principal Teachers should establish clear rules and expectations in their classrooms and faculties. Students should be made clear what these are.

Recognising positive behaviour

Most of the time, we recognise positive behaviour through day-to-day interactions. We also have more formal systems to recognise behaviour which goes above and beyond. These include:

- Awarding House Points
- Awarding Student of the Month

Consequences

When student behaviour falls short of expectations, a system of consequences applies. Beyond low-level reprimands, this includes:

- Lunchtime detention (20 minutes) – can be issued by teachers
- After-school detention (30 minutes) – can be issued by Principal Teachers
- Friday afternoon detention (40 minutes) – can be issued by Depute Rector

Should a students' behaviour be persistently disruptive or sufficiently serious, they may be temporarily excluded from school.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

The school celebrates achievements of individuals and groups of pupils of all years through special achievement assemblies which are used to showcase their many successes.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school places great importance on the wider aspects of education offering a very wide range of clubs and activities including our cookery club, chess group, art club and the junior and senior choir. Sporting extra-curricular clubs are especially popular with regular attendance from all year groups. The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is well established, popular and has the highest number of school participants in Angus.

This year sees the return of a school show. Our Expressive Arts faculty is busy rehearsing their production of Legally Blonde. The cast and crew are looking forward to their performance this June.

There are also numerous opportunities for pupils to take part in educational visits and excursions, local, national and occasionally international trips including a Ski Trip in January 2026, a First World War Battlefields Trip in June 2025, a Paris Trip in September 2025.

PUPIL COUNCIL

Pupil involvement in decision making is strongly encouraged. The Pupil Council meet regularly to discuss different issues, with a special emphasis on learning and teaching issues. We are working with the pupil council representatives to prepare questions for a pupil voice focus group around theme 2 from How Good is OUR School (a quality assurance and standards document to support learner participation in school improvement). <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/HGIOURS-Part1.pdf>
<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/HGIOURS-Part2.pdf>

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Your child will learn in a variety of different contexts and groups following a Broad General Education in S1-S3 narrowing to specific choices in S4-S6. Pupils receive Social Education (PSHE) as part of their timetabled curriculum. Pupils will have regular discussions about their progress and achievements to set appropriate targets for next steps in their learning and monitor their progress during the session.

THE PUPILS AND PARENTS VOICE

Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design and children and young people throughout their education will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic and plan

together the areas of specific focus. Parents are encouraged to contact the school regarding any issues through a link on our weekly parent newsletter.

THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

Rationale

The Arbroath High School curriculum has been developed with the following principles in mind:

- We want our students to leave school with the knowledge they need to understand the world around them
- We want our students to leave school with the skills they need to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens
- We want our students to leave school with attributes which reflect our school values
- We want our students to leave school with a portfolio of qualifications which open the doors they need them to and which reflects their very best
- We want our students to love learning for the sake of learning, viewing it as interesting, exciting and empowering

For the most part, our curriculum is taught in specific subjects. However, it also extends beyond this to include learning in assemblies, clubs, sports, shows, trips, work experience and volunteering.

The S1-3 Curriculum

The S1-3 curriculum is often referred to as the Broad General Education (BGE). The content of this has been 'unpacked' from national Experiences and Outcomes. The BGE spans primary school and the early stages of secondary school. Students work through different levels in each subject, with the national expectation for most student as follows:

- Early Level - achieved by the end of P1
- First Level - achieved by the end of P4
- Second Level - achieved by the end of P7
- Third Level - achieved by the end of S3

The subjects students study in S1-3 include English, maths, science, history, geography, art, music, French, PE, home economics, and a range of technology-focused subjects. Moving from S2 into S3, students are able to make subject choices which allow them to personalise their curriculum more.

The S4-6 Curriculum

Once they move into S4, students begin their Senior Phase. The courses they study are national courses, common to different schools across the country. The different types of course on offer in Arbroath High School include:

- Nationals (National 1, National 2, National 3, National 4 and National 5)
- Highers
- National Progression Awards (NPAs)
- Skills for Work (SfW)
- Advanced Highers

In addition, senior students have the opportunity to learn in work placements and Foundation Apprenticeships. Some of the courses we offer in the Senior Phase are delivered by partner agencies, including Community Learning and Development and

Angus College.

Use of data to inform course options

The courses we offer in the Senior Phase are under continuous review. They are informed by a range of factors, including:

- The interest that students have in studying them
- 16+ Leavers Destinations data
- Local labour market data

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Main Achievements

The latest Standards and Quality report is available on request.

Some particular areas of success over the last year have been:

- Our school vision and values were reviewed and are relevant to our context
- The Lighthouse developed as support for learners at risk of not achieving
- The continuing support for the wellbeing of learners, staff and parents.

Improving Standards

The School Improvement Plan focuses on 3 main areas for improvement:

Ethos: Learning & Teaching: Curriculum

Overall our commitment is to raising attainment and continuing to give opportunities for pupils to achieve in as many ways as possible.

A key focus for curriculum development is the Broad General Education (S1 – S3) to develop a new curriculum rationale and ensure pace and challenge in the first three years of learning at Arbroath High School. This is part of a review of the whole curriculum and rationale. We are working to develop effective tracking and monitoring in S1 – S3 building on the successful work in the Senior Phase (S4 – S6).

We continue to build on our strong relationships with a wide range of partners and further increase the number and range of partners, allowing us to provide experiences which enhance our young people's learning and options and to target support for particular groups or individuals. An increasing focus of our work will be to develop resilience in our young people and care for their health and wellbeing which is right and will also improve attainment.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The full School Improvement Plan is available from the school on request.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE - Breadth & Depth – all candidates

S4

Measure	2021	2022	2023
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 5	36	50	51
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 4	82	78	85
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 3	85	81	87

S5

Measure	2021	2022	2023
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 6	18	15	23
% of pupils gaining 3 awards or more at level 6	57	45	52
% of pupils gaining 1 award or more at level 6	77	67	69
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 5	78	67	68

S6

Measure	2021	2022	2023
% of pupils gaining 1 award or more at level 7	46	61	44
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 6	59	63	51
% of pupils gaining 3 awards or more at level 6	80	86	77
% of pupils gaining 1 awards or more at level 6	94	94	93

Percentage of Leavers (S4/5/6) in positive destinations

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
93.88%	94.38%	91.30%

HEALTH CARE

You can contact your school health staff (School Doctor, School Nurse Team and Clerical Officer) at:

Community Child Health Central Office
Whitehills
Station Road
Forfar, DD8 3DY
Tel: 01307 475259

Abbey Health Centre
Arbroath
Tel: 01241 430303
(or through the school)

DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

We understand walking your child(ren) to and from school is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs. However, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, families, staff and community is paramount. Also, some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs.

So, please ensure dogs (except for service dogs) are not brought into school grounds. And if you are walking your dog to and from school, please remain at a reasonable distance from the school gate.

This will enable children and adults to enter and exit safely.

We'd ask you to pass this information on to other adults who bring and/or collect your child(ren) from school.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Angus Council
Angus House
Orchardbank Business Park
FORFAR
DD8 1AN
Tel: 03452 777 778
Email: ACCESSSchoolsLearnBSU@angus.gov.uk

ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE

Visit angus.gov.uk/schools for information that applies to schools across Angus on topics including:

- holidays
- meals
- school payments
- attendance and absence
- assessment and reporting
- transport
- drugs education
- religious and moral education
- transitions
- ...and more

FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENT DIRECT LINKS

- [Free School Meals and Clothing Grant](#)
- [EMA \(Secondary Schools\)](#)
- [Welfare Rights/Benefit Calculator](#)

OTHER WEBSITES

Find useful links to other websites at angus.gov.uk/linksforparents