

Grantown Grammar School

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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE NA GAIDHEALTACHD

Mrs Claire McGonigal, Headteacher

19 December 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Friday 22 December - Non-uniform Day and Nsobe School Trust

On Friday 22 December we will be having a non-uniform day in aid of our new partner school in Zambia, The Nsobe School Trust. Pupils are encouraged to dress as Christmassy as possible with Christmas jumpers, tinsel etc and donate £1 to the Nsobe School Trust.

I have been trying to link with a partner school for some time and, through former colleagues at Grantown, have formed links with the Nsobe School Trust in Zambia. We have discussed this at the Parent Council, Pupil Council and also school assemblies and everyone seems very keen to go ahead with this. The Nsobe School Trust is a small rural school which believes in offering not only education but education with employment opportunity. Their aim is to educate the vulnerable rural children and also to uplift and develop the community. To this end they also have a feeding scheme which ensures that Nsobe school children are given nutritious meals during the school day. The school is very similar to Grantown Grammar in many ways as it has strong links with the local community and also uses the beautiful surroundings to support Outdoor Learning and they are even doing the John Muir Award. However, there is huge poverty and this year the headteacher is hoping to be able to buy every pupil a second pair of pants for Christmas. We are hoping that money raised during our non-uniform day can do this.

Over the next few months, and years, we hope to develop these links to form a cultural and educational exchange involving letters, emails, photos and ultimately regular visits to enrich both our communities. For more information about The Nsobe School Trust, please access their website and Facebook page. We will establish a notice board in school and put updates on our Facebook page so the pupils can see the contrasts and similarities between our two schools.

This has been a busy and successful term at Grantown Grammar School. We have had great sporting successes in rugby, football, netball, shinty and swimming amongst others. We have danced at the Senior Prom and Junior Christmas Dance and are all looking forward to laughing and cheering at Peter Pan over the next three nights. In the classroom, pupils have been working hard and have been passing Unit Assessments, completing assignments and making excellent progress in their courses. In the community, pupils have achieved Saltire Awards for their volunteering in a range of areas. In the New Year, we are looking forward to building on this with successful prelims, Rock Challenge, Music Concerts and more hard work and fun both in and out of the classroom.

This time of the school year is one for reflection and refocus. Personally, I have been so proud to watch the pupils grow and develop this year, they really are a wonderful school community. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in January.

Yours faithfully



Claire McGonigal, Headteacher