

CAMPBELTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



School Website: www.campbeltown.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Email: enquiries@campbeltown.argyll-bute.sch.uk

Message from Head Teacher

As I stated in my recent letter to parents and carers, this has been an exceptional year for everyone in our school community. 2018 has certainly tested our resilience. However, we have demonstrated a key strength of our school by working effectively together, providing each other with unwavering support whilst continuing to make progress in the face of adversity.

This strength has again been in evidence following the dreadful fire at Machrihanish Golf Club. Our much respected colleague, Agnes Stewart and her family lost their home in the fire and Agnes' CGS colleagues immediately leaped to her assistance. In addition, the crowdfunding website Just Giving has already raised over £10000 from the wider community. If you would like to contribute, the link is on our FB Page www.facebook.com/campbeltowngrammarschool or you can follow this link <http://bit.ly/ASCGS>.

I also highlighted in my recent letter that we continue to benefit from and make progress in our wonderful new school building with its excellent facilities and 21st Century technology. We are therefore feeling positive about the news that Education Scotland will be returning to evaluate our progress on 4 March 2019 following the publication of their Inspection Report on 24 April 2018.

Despite the challenges we have faced this year, we have made good progress. We have held regular staff development meetings to improve our learning and teaching, our assessment and moderation and our curriculum. I believe we should view the inspectors' return as an opportunity to demonstrate the progress we have achieved within a relatively short time.

As part of our continuing progress, I would go as far as *appealing* for you to participate in our latest survey. I appreciate these surveys may seem a little tiresome, but they really do help ensure that we continue to achieve effective improvements in our school and the more responses we receive, the more they help us achieve our aspirations. I assure you it will take less than 5 minutes of your time – thank you, it is very much appreciated. <https://goo.gl/forms/0OgccLzAleP33QZE3>.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see that our young people bring a huge amount of energy, talent and joy to our school. Campbeltown Grammar School aspires to be at the heart of the South Kintyre community, providing consistent, high quality learning opportunities for all our young people and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. We will continue to develop our young people's academic, social and emotional skills and ensure everyone leaves Campbeltown Grammar as responsible citizens, successful learners, effective contributors and confident individuals who are ready and eager to take on the next exciting steps in their lives.

The school will re-open for pupils and staff on Monday 7 January 2018.

I wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

David Fyfe



It's the most wonderful time of the year 🎵

Our canteen staff created an excellent Christmas Lunch for staff and pupils. A huge amount of hard work and effort went into this and we all thoroughly enjoyed it - so much so that there was not enough left over for their own Christmas lunch :-)



The Art Department now has the facility to print T-shirts. Senior Clerical Amy thought the office staff could do with a new work uniform to get them all into the Christmas Spirit. What do we all think?



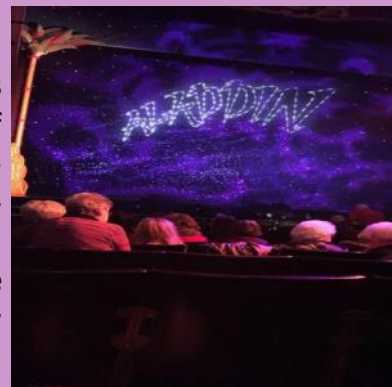
Great atmosphere being created by the band at the Christmas Market in Springbank.



A group of senior girls sang for The Elderberries Group this afternoon in the Free Church. They sang a selection of Christmas favourites and finished with a rousing rendition of 12 Days of Christmas. Well done girls!

It's the most wonderful time of the year

On Thursday 13th December a group of 47 Second and Third Years with three members of staff attended the matinée performance of Aladdin at the Kings Theatre Glasgow. The pupils were very well behaved and were in fine voice all the way there, during the performance and all the way home. The performance was excellent and all the pupils enjoyed the complimentary ice-cream at interval. There was much audience participation and a few surprises for us. A very good time was had by all. Oh yes it was!!!



Congratulations to Mr Grady who has won the CGS Enterprise group's super Xmas Hamper!

Miss Rigney drew the winning ticket for a hamper full of Christmas goodies from the Kintyre Larder on Main Street.

Even better, we have raised £115 for the Kintyre Foodbank at Christmas.



Mary Ann Stewart from Kintyre Food Bank collecting the generous donations from all our pupils in CGS who participated in the 12 days of Christmas publicised by Argyll & Bute Council. Well done everyone!

The final Healthy Me of 2018 was held last Friday. Thank you to Mandy and Nona from the Hub and John and Catherine from NHS for helping support our alcohol awareness activities and giving students such good advice to stay safe over the festive period. Ongoing support for our Health and Wellbeing provision is much appreciated by the school community and we look forward to working with you all again in 2019.

As the date coincided with Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day, we held a "Decorate your S6" competition. Special thanks to Kyle from Bengullion, Dhyllon from Kilbrannan and Evan from Knockscalbert for being good sports and all the decorators for artistic endeavour! Too difficult to choose a winner. We raised just over £30 on the day with some additional contributions still to be counted from other fundraising activities.



It's the most wonderful time of the year

Our S3 and S5 pupils have been very busy making and decorating Gingerbread Houses in Health and Food Tech. Here's some of their wonderful creations. Well done everyone!



Lisa McKellar



Erin Sullivan



Jane Scott



Caryn Kerr



Ledh Russell



Aurora Treco



It's the most wonderful time of the year

The Practical Cake Craft have been working hard over the last few weeks baking, covering and finishing rich fruit cakes. All chose a Christmas theme and selected from a variety of finishing techniques. The results are of a high standard and have been much admired in school this week. Congratulations to everyone and hopefully these made it home safely to be enjoyed over the festive season.



School Panto - Ali Baba and the Four Tea Thieves

Our recent production of Ali Baba & the Four Tea Thieves was a great way to start December. With more than 30 pupils involved in every aspect of the show, along with a good number of staff, the team worked exceptionally hard managing to make it through a full rehearsal weekend, nightly rehearsals (after school), a taster performance for the primary schools and then three full shows in just 7 days; not forgetting the months of hard work before this! We've included a few pictures for you in case you missed it, as well as a couple from behind-the-scenes...



Moira Gemmill Project

A group of pupils have been working hard with Annie Ferguson since February this year on a project in memory of Moira Gemmill. Outstanding work from all with beautiful stained glass above our Library doors and some wonderful artwork in the atrium that we'll share with you shortly. Very well done to all concerned and a huge thank you to the family of Moira Gemmill.



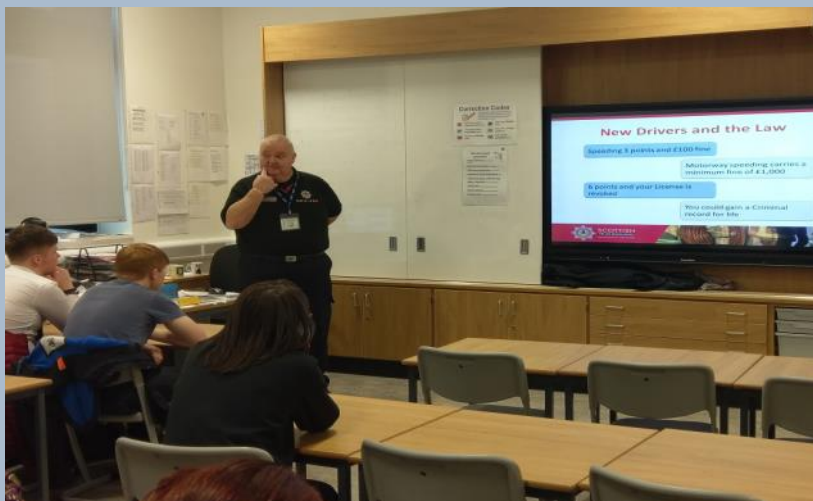
Cake Craft

In preparation for making Christmas cakes, cake craft have been busy. Here's some of the delicious items they've been making over the last few weeks, custard creams, chocolate cakes and mermaid cakes. Well done everyone.



Scottish Fire and Rescue Talk

Educational talk from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



U16 National Bowl Final

South Argyll Schools 10-49 The Royal High School

South Argyll Schools U16s against all odds, deservedly reached their first ever National Final after a path through the competition that has involved lots of ups and downs for the team. A side including four secondary schools (Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Islay & Campbeltown) was always going to be a huge logistical challenge to manage considering the large geographical area.

The team have had to deal with overnight trips away, opposition calling off at last minute and a tough trip to Marr College in the early rounds along the path of securing their place in the National Bowl Final against the Royal High School who are located within walking distance of BT Murrayfield.

Despite not having nearly as much rugby playing experience as their opponents S.A were confident of causing an upset with a number of talented players scattered around the team.

South Argyll held off the Royal High Challenge in the opening exchanges of play as Jamie Blair did well to clear his sides lines after a period of pressure. Royal High did take the lead after 5 minutes aided by some slick handling work to touchdown in the right corner 5-0. This lead was extended with a carbon copy of the first try giving a 10 lead after 8 minutes.

This early setback refused to knock the confidence of the S.A side who gained some good territory with runs from Tarberts Matthew Peden and some good defensive work from Campbeltown's Kyle Colville, Calum Cook and Lochgilphead Ruari Condie.

South Argyll launched a few attacks at the line midway in the half and were eventually rewarded with Kyle Colville diving over from a quickly taken penalty from Captain Jamie Blair. After 20 minutes it was game on at 10-5 to Royal High.

Frustratingly South Argyll lost control of the game at crucial stages before halftime conceding three tries as Royal High raced into a 25-5 halftime lead.

Despite valiant efforts in defence a tiring Argyll side, they lost a further two scores before Colville secured his second try of the day rounding off an impressive performance from the big second row.

Royal High dominated possession and territory in the closing stages and eventually ran out as comfortable 49-10 winners. Even with a heavy score line, the South Argyll coaches were left delighted with the team's efforts against a very well drilled and experienced Royal High side.

Congratulations to Royal High U16s on their National Bowl win!

Scottish Rugby Schools Finals day, 5th December 2018

Oban High School 15-17 Galashiels Academy, National U16 Plate Final

South Argyll Schools 10-49 The Royal High School, National U16 Bowl Final



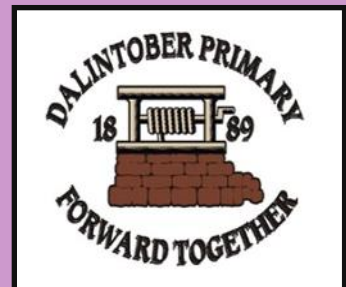
Achieve Class

Recently the S3 Achieve class took part in a programme of visits to local employers.

They visited CS Wind, Aqualibrium, Campbeltown Picture House, Castlehill and Dalintober Primary schools and Glen Scotia distillery.

The group was particularly focusing on finding out about the range of jobs available and the skills required to carry them out.

By providing evidence of their research and by recording their findings in the form of a diary the pupils will be able to qualify for a Hi 5 award.





From left to right, the Bold Girls: Alice Imelda as Cassie, Sarah Kempton as Marie and Christine Entwistle as Nora.

Bold Girls Theatre Trip

S3 and S4 Pupils who will be studying the play Bold Girls for their National 5 English qualification, visited Keswick in the North of England to see the drama at first hand. It was a very long day but all enjoyed the brief stop at Braehead and then the tour of the pretty Lake District village of Keswick, before settling down to watch the performance at the Theatre on the Lake.

The play concerns four 'bold' women in 1980s Belfast, dealing with poverty, the Troubles, the absence of their men -who are dead or in prison- and most of all, the lies they tell themselves and each other.

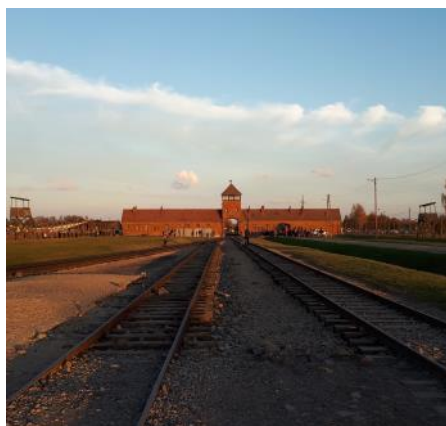
The actresses were outstanding and the production was very intimate and dramatic. All the pupils were shocked by the revelations of truth in the climax and jumped when the army raid began.

Despite the long day, the feedback has been superb including comments that, *'the storyline touched a nerve'* and *'Can we go back and see it again!'*

A bit far for that, but hopefully it will encourage the pupils to write about the play in more depth in the final English exam!

Auschwitz Trip

On Tuesday 30th October two senior pupils, James Ives and Shona Bassett took part in a thought provoking and emotional visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and Memorial with Holocaust Educational Trust (UK) #Lessons from Auschwitz. Previously to the visit the pupils attended a seminar in Glasgow to learn about the history, community displacement and the cost of human lives of the Holocaust. The Trust encouraged participants to personalise the past through the stories of individuals and families. Throughout the day the pupils were involved in discussions with their guides and had the opportunity to reflect on their experiences and at a candlelit ceremony at the Holocaust memorial in the grounds of Birkenau.



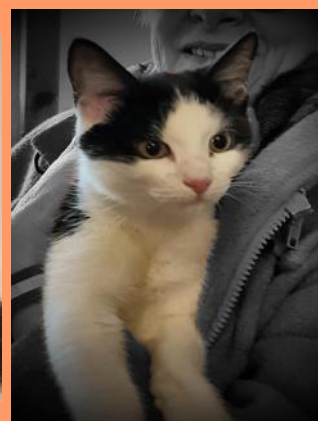
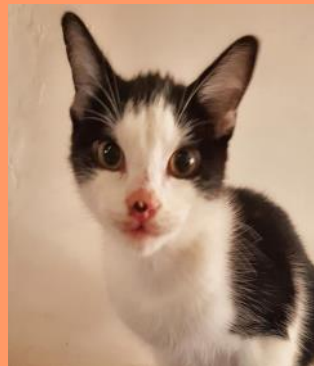
Campbeltown Cat Rescue

CGS have been in partnership with Campbeltown Cat Rescue for several years. Children in the school learn a lot about animal care, empathy and even literacy and numeracy through their visits.

It's our turn to pay back all their support by helping to rehome these lovely cats who are looking for their "furrever" home!

There have been some very successful rehoming's just in time for Christmas.

Donnie McLean would like to thank all of those who supported The Cat Rescue Open Day Fundraiser. £1,426 was raised, a great achievement. Thanks also go to CGS pupils who baked for the event.



Learning Through Work Week

As part of Learning Through Work Week, S4 took part in an Employers Engagement Day. We were very lucky to host employers from CalMac, Stewart Balfour & Sutherland, Hair By Iona, DM Fabrication and The Campbeltown Courier, all of whom took time out from a busy working day to talk about their respective jobs and the skills learnt in school that were applied in a working context.

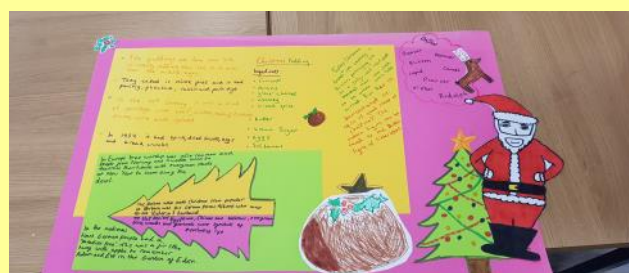
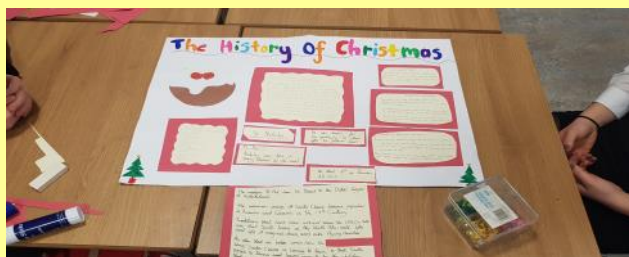
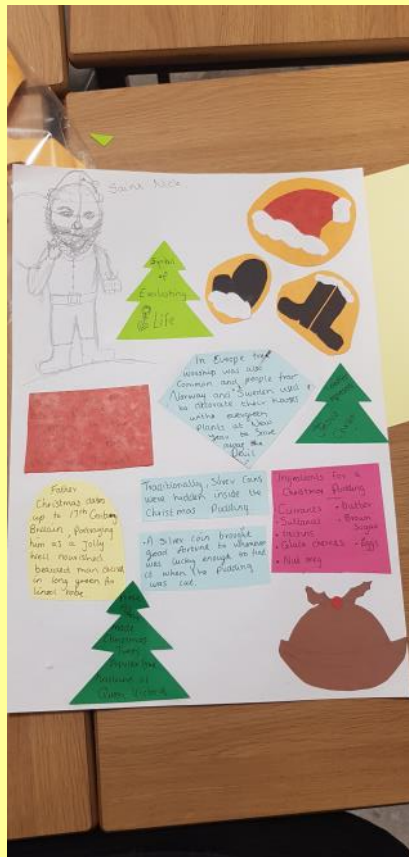
Big thanks to Kay Johnston and Caroline McWhirter of SDS along with our World of Work Ambassadors Iona McKinlay, Louise Dott (pictured) and Kyle MacLean who kept everything running smoothly.



St Andrew's Day Event



S3 History creating 'History of Christmas' posters



Scottish Parliament Trip

A group of senior phase pupils explored and asked questions at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh before getting a chance to experience the Edinburgh Christmas markets.

Pupils asked questions important to them of an MSP and seen the debating chamber where decisions are made on Scotland's future, which they all found really interesting.

At the markets pupils went on the cherry swings and big wheel, while doing a bit of Christmas shopping and trying lots of different foods.

A fun day had by all the pupils along with Miss Rigney, Mr Nicol and Mrs McGeachy!



Mission Catastrophe

Sixty One Second years have taken part in the challenge to write a mini saga called Mission Catastrophe. Using just 100 words the pupils had to tell a thrilling tale that answered the question of what would happen if an epic natural disaster hit planet Earth. We have sent all the entries off to the young writers competition and will wait to hear whether or not we have won any of the many prizes in the New Year.

Health and Food Technology

Congratulations to all our S3 pupils who have been studying for and passed The Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland's Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate. Well done everyone!



CGS wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Contact Us



Campbeltown Grammar School

Hutcheon Road

Campbeltown

Argyll

PA28 6JS

Phone : 01586 553773

Email : enquiries@campbeltown.argyll-bute.sch.uk

Visit us on the web at
www.campbeltown.argyll-bute.sch.uk/