

October term 25-26

3rd October 2025

Newsletter



Welcome to our Term 1 Newsletter!

It has been a joy getting to know our pupils, staff and families this term. From Prizegiving and Pupil Council elections to CPR training, Careers Fayre, Forest Schools and the launch of our polytunnels, our learners have embraced every opportunity to grow, lead and thrive. We've introduced new initiatives in reading, film and screen, and outdoor learning and celebrated achievements across the campus.

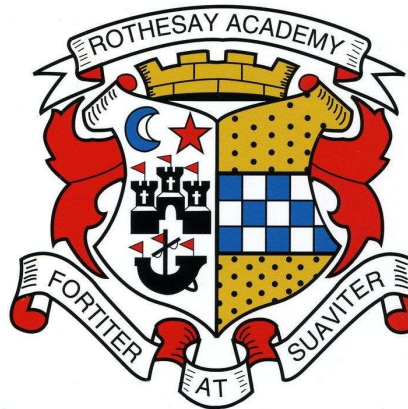
We hope you enjoy reading about some of our stories! Thank you to our Pupil Communications Team for designing, collating and writing this newsletter.

Ms Kirsty Campbell

Acting Head Teacher

Produced by:

**Pupil Communications Team -
Lynsey Martin, Grace Wallace
and Amelia Harrison**



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LAST TERM

LEAVERS CEILIDH

Before the holidays we celebrated our 2025 leavers ceilidh at Mount Stuart. It was a fun filled night with music and calling by Jim Bicker and the Bute Ceilidh Band. Our former S5-6 pupils loved joining in with the dancing and all looked fabulous dressed up. We would like to thank Mount Stuart for providing us with their lovely space, The Bute Ceilidh Band and Jim Bicker for keeping us entertained throughout the night. All staff who attended and helped set up and Grace Wallace for the photography.



SCHOOL SHOW

Our pupils put on another fabulous school show for us. They had been rehearsing for months and it really showed. They put on their first dress rehearsal for the Phoenix Centre who very much enjoyed the show. A lot of effort from staff and pupils goes into these shows and we would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved in bringing this together.



AS A CAMPUS...

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK—wk beg 29th September

All staff wore dyslexia awareness ribbon to raise awareness of dyslexia. Thank you to our pupils that volunteered to hand out these ribbons .

MATHS WEEK SCOTLAND—wk beg 22nd September

We participated in maths week Scotland with the theme 'Wild Maths!'. We took on their challenges and celebrated maths in the outdoors!

IMAGINE IF.....

As a school we took part in an "Image If" activity where we got the chance to share our opinions and ideas for what would improve the school through creative prompts that got us thinking creatively and answering confidently. This will help shape our new Vision, Values and Aims.

CAREERS DAY

The Careers Fayre took place on Wednesday 1st October in the Games Hall. We encouraged the pupils to engage with the employers and further and higher education representatives to make the most of their time there. Some of our pupils also attended short lectures hosted and delivered by different companies that operate on the island.

We thank the Hospitality pupils for catering and all the staff and pupils that helped the event run smoothly.

RESTART A HEART TRAINING

On Wednesday 1st of October our school participated in the 'restart a heart' training provided by Save A Life Scotland. We all learned how to do CPR and got to try it on toys, bags and jackets. This is very important as it prepares our young people for a real life situation where they could play a key role in helping save a life.

AS A CAMPUS...



HEARTSTART TRAINING



MATHS
WEEK
SCOTLAND



BIKE-ABILITY



CAREERS FAYRE



DYSLEXIA AWARENESS



AS A CAMPUS...

Contact Information

Named Person

ELC



Ailsa Dominick & Jayne Lamont
Acting Heads of Centre

P1 - 7



Mrs Milani
Depute Head Teacher

S1 - 6



Mr Erskine
PT Guidance (Kilchattan)



Mr Walker
PT Guidance (Straad)

Year Heads

ELC—P7



Mrs Milani
Depute Head Teacher

S2 & S5



Mrs Somerville
Depute Head Teacher

S3 & S4



Ms Campbell
Acting Head Teacher

S1 & S6



Mrs Sullivan
Depute Head Teacher

Faculty Heads

Languages



Mrs O'Connor

Maths & Technologies



Mr Miscandlon

Social St, Science & RME



Mr Lowe

PE & Expressive Arts



Mr Tyley

Pre-5



We had a lovely morning for “walk a mile” to support one of our children and her family who walked a mile every day in September for Cancer Research. We had our friends from Apple Tree Nursery join us and some older siblings and class mates. We raised £60 for their fundraising!

The primary and pre-5 Eco Committee visited Rothestay beach to understand more about litter pollution and life in our sea. The pupils worked hard and enjoyed exploring their local environment. Their learning links to sustainable development goal 14 which emphasises healthy oceans.



We visited the library to find some new genres of books. The children helped the younger ones to find books they would like, taking on the role of being responsible citizens. We like to thank the library staff for having us and being so welcoming

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

A big thank you to one of our families for bringing in Nugget, the bearded dragon. The children were very excited to meet him and loved learning all sorts of cool facts about how to care for him.

WILD MATHS WEEK!

For maths week Scotland, the children have been busy exploring shapes and numbers through a variety of experiences. Developing their curiosity and early maths skills through sensory fruit shapes to number songs.



Our older children have been developing their maths skills through play; they have been practising their counting, problem solving and learning about shapes and their properties all through play.



PRIMARY

The primary Pupil Council have gathered information and feedback from their classmates about what they have been doing in their classes.

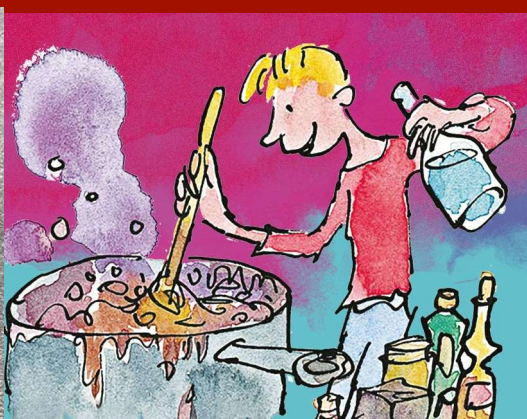
P1 - We have been settling into our new school. We have started learning some sounds 'a, s, n, d, t, p and g'. We use our magnet boards to help us. We are learning numbers ... Today's new number was 6. We have been learning how to brush our teeth and joined in with Maths Week Scotland!

P2-1 - **P2-1** have been learning about shapes. We used the iPads to play a shapes game. We have been experimenting with paint.

P2 - We've been learning upstairs and downstairs sums and takeaways! "I like them!" My class learned about hedgehogs and made nice pictures." We like BSL and have learned some animal names!"

P3a - **P3a** love baking! We baked bread with Mr McKale. We also baked apple and bramble cake. We got the brambles from Windy Hill and Mrs Poole sent us in some apples from her tree. We have been learning about place value and time in Maths. We are reading *George's Marvellous Medicine* by Roald Dahl. "Grandma grew tall and got really skinny!"

P3b - We've been learning to keep our letters on the line. We've been reading *George's Marvellous Medicine*. "My favourite bit was when Grandma took the medicine."



P4 - We have been doing some cool artwork. We made Minecraft self-portraits. "We were all made of squares" - "mine has red hair like me". We've been learning about place value in Maths and we've started to read *Charlotte's Web* as our class novel.

P5 - We have a new topic called Scotland through the decades. We've just started but we're looking forward to learning about how Scotland has changed over the years. We also had the Grab Trust come to speak to us about Fast Fashion.

PRIMARY

P6-5 - We've been learning about angles like acute, obtuse, right, straight and reflex. "I like using the angle measurer". We've been doing Bike-ability with Mr McCluskey and Mrs Turner. We do our lessons on our bikes and we're learning about being safe cyclists." "I know how to brake safely! I'm like an official cyclist now!"

P6 - We've been doing corner football in P.E. We like invasion games. We have been enjoying film and screen. We've been working on stop motion animation.

P7 - In BSL we have been signing Robert Burns poems. Signing in Scots is interesting! We have enjoyed Forest School, especially the first week when we built dens and also a mudslide! We're reading Wonder as our class novel, learning not to judge a book by its cover. We did probability in maths and really loved a lesson where we watched racing ducks. It was so exciting! We've been doing Live Lessons in French online and playing new French games. We also had the GRAB trust who came to teach us about the dangers of litter in the ocean.



Vice Captains - We had Jackie from the GRAB Trust who came to work with us. We discussed fabrics and what we were wearing with a view to thinking about eco-friendly fabrics in fashion. We know that cotton can be sustainably sourced. Places like Primark, Shein and Boohoo don't use sustainably sourced fabrics and so we should try to shop less at those stores and more at stores which use eco friendly materials.

Captains - "We've had a good start to our new roles. We have changed our line up routines. We've all got jobs; some of us make sure the back of the lines are ok, some of us are stationed on the stairwell and some of us are in the corridor". We held a Guess the Elephant's Name fundraiser to raise the money for our animal mascots! We can't wait to pick our animals! We are also now giving golden tickets out with every certificate. Our golden ticket box has had a glow up too! "We've been so busy!"

Primary Dates

School re-opens	20th October
Parent Council AGM	23rd October 7pm
Primary Halloween disco	30th October
Individual & sibling photos	3rd & 4th November
Anti-bullying week	10th November
Children in need	14th November
Flu immunisation	19th November
In-service day (pupils off)	24th November
Primary Scottish art exhibition	28th November
P1 nativity for parents	11th December
Christmas party (p2, p3a & p3b)	15th December
Christmas party (p4 & p5)	17th December
Christmas party (p6)	18th December
Christmas party (p1 & p2/1)	19th December
School closes	19th December
School re-opens	5th January

ACADEMY

FILM AND SCREEN LAUNCH

We were incredibly proud to have four of our Academy pupils attend the Film and Screen Curricular Launch in Dundee. They had a great time exploring the city before making their way to Dundee Contemporary Arts. The pupils had the opportunity to learn about the process that Screen Scotland went through to make this subject possible and the progress they have made since the first draft of the curriculum. They heard from multiple different people ranging from school teachers to Scottish government officials.

Included in the presentation was also student work from across the country from all different ages. This gave our pupils a chance to see what other schools were doing and was an inspiring day overall for them.

We want to say a massive thank you to Screen Scotland, Education Scotland and the Scottish Government for inviting us to this event. It was an amazing opportunity for our students and teachers to be a part of and we can not wait to see what the future has in store for Film and Screen.



We are very glad to announce that the *Star Crossed Writers* is officially open to join for teachers and students. This is a writing club open on Thursday lunches in F22. We will welcome anyone who likes to write or illustrate. The club is a safe space, and you may write about whatever you wish as long as it is appropriate for school and doesn't target or attack people. If you are interested, come see our club on Thursday lunches or see Mr McKay.

PUPIL COUNCIL

We are pleased to announce that school Captains and Vice Captains have been elected. The new School Captains are Nuala Duffy and Eilidh McTaggart. Mariska Silkowski and Grace Wallace are the School's Vice Captains. We wish them all the best for a successful year and can't wait to share what they get up to.

Our Pupil Council is looking forward to meetings starting back up again. This year we will be having Senior Pupil Council meetings held in the conference room for S5-S6 Pupils during period 3 and a Junior Pupil Council meeting on a Thursday at lunchtime, held in Mrs Somerville's Classroom F20 for anyone in S1-S4. The junior meetings will be accompanied by senior members of the pupil council.

Interested in organising events and making a difference in the school? Come along on Thursday.



ACADEMY

Prizegiving

On the 11th of September we were overjoyed to welcome our students, their families and the wider community to celebrate our pupils achievements from throughout the last academic year. We were also pleased to welcome back Jamie Murry, one of our former pupils, as this year's guest speaker. Jamie shared with us his inspiring journey through school to creating his own business and gave uplifting messages of encouragement and resilience to our pupils.

The entertainment for the night was provided by our Academy Jazz Band that played: 'Smooth Operator', 'I wish' and 'Take 5' which we all loved. Leneve Booth and Derry O'Byrne also gave a performance of 'Hall of the Mountain King' on the Xylophone. Their synchronised playing was very impressive.

We would like to thank everyone involved in setting up and organising the night, our hospitality students for catering and everyone that joined us to celebrate.



The pupils in the Learning Centre class have been learning about the importance of healthy eating. They have studied the Eatwell Plate, created their own healthy meal and researched the cost of items in the local shops. They found out that it is much cheaper to shop in the Co-op in person. Placing an order online is convenient but can be much more costly. Some of the class also went shopping for healthy ingredients to make fruit smoothies.

Everyone had a go at preparing the fruit and blending the ingredients. Most of the class liked the taste of it and asked if they could make smoothies again, experimenting with different ingredients.

ACADEMY

CLUBS!

It's that time of year again when all of our different clubs are back up and running! See below information for what's on this year and how to get involved!

SPORTS CLUBS

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	S4 – 6 Volleyball (Mr Strawhorn - GYM)	S1 – S6 Badminton (Mr Lowe & Miss Small – GAMES HALL) S1 – 6 Boys open gym (Mr Tyley)		S1 – S6 Indoor Shinty (Dean and Reagan GAMES HALL)	*Coming soon* Pickle Ball S1 – S6 (GAMES HALL)
After School		S1 – S6 Girls open gym (Mrs Gillies)		S1 – S6 Girls Netball (Mrs Timms – GAMES HALL) S1 – S4 Boys Football (Mr Strawhorn Bute Shinty Club U14&U17 Shinty 5 – 6pm (Shinty Pitch)	
Community					Bute Badminton Club 6.30pm – 9pm (GAMES HALL)

LUNCH TIME

Club	Day	Lead	Room
Jazz Band	Tuesday	Mr McGrinder	G66
Darts League	Wednesday	Mr Miscandlon	G55
Film Club	Thursday	Mr Canale	F21
Star Writers Club	Thursday	Mr McKay	F22
Pupil Council	Thursday	School Captains	F20
Computer Games Club	Friday	Mr Walker	G59

PILA SKI TRIP

Ski Supreme will be holding an information evening for all parents and carers of the pupils going on the Pila Ski Trip. This will be on **Thursday 13th November** at **5:30pm**. Additional information regarding the evening will be shared closer to the time.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Tyley in the PE department.



Academy Dates

School opens	20th October
Parent Council AGM	23rd October
Academy Halloween disco	29th October
Academy photos– S1, S3 & S6	31st October
Anti-bullying week	10th November
Children in need	14th November
Flue immunisation	19th November
In-service day (pupils off)	24th November
Senior phase prelims begin	1st December
Academy Christmas dance	16th December
School closes	19th December
Schools re-open	5th January