



Spring 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

As always term two has been an exceptionally busy period for all connected with Kilmarnock Academy. There have been a number of really well attended parental engagement events for both progress feedback and to assist with choices around progression pathways. Our young people have been involved in many curricular and extra-curricular experiences, some of which are included in the newsletter. The Senior Phase pupils in particular have had important preliminary examinations and have been working exceptionally hard, during and after school, in preparing for their SQA examinations. The staff at Kilmarnock Academy have continued to drive forward the school's improvement agenda whilst supporting every young person in fulfilling their potential. It has been an exhausting but very rewarding term for all.

We continue to develop our partnership with local businesses. This term several S5 pupils have benefitted from a 1-1 business mentor who has acted as an inspiration to the young people to go on and realise their dreams. This has been an excellent initiative which has had fantastic benefits to the young people with some even securing apprenticeships and work experience as a result. In addition, we had over 15 business partners support the S3 Business Awareness Day which was a huge success. Many also assisted in the inter-school Mock Interview programme with several Kilmarnock Academy students finding success. I would like to thank our partners for giving freely of their time and expertise to benefit the young people in

our school, it is very much appreciated and we look forward to strengthening our relationship next term.

At Kilmarnock Academy we continue to engage with a range of partners such as Centrestage, YiP World and many more. Vibrant Communities engaged with our young would be voters recently via a series of workshops. This involved all pupils eligible to vote in the forthcoming Scottish Local Elections. The elections are due to take place on the 4th May which as a reminder is an in-service day for staff and day off for those attending school. Please note the school is still open and SQA exams will run as planned.

As ever at this time of year our senior phase pupils are working hard preparing for their National Qualifications. We have provided individualised targeted Supported Study timetables for all pupils as well as individualised Easter School timetables. Pupils continue to be mentored by Guidance staff, as appropriate, and we also aim to run 'masterclasses' prior to exams throughout May. There will be a number of exam stress workshops coming up and S4 pupils have benefitted from the Tree of Knowledge motivational sessions recently. If there is any other way you



David Rose, Head Teacher

feel we could support your son/ daughter please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Study Leave will start on Monday 1st May with S4 and S5 returning on Monday 5th June. Please note that pupils MUST wear full school uniform when attending school for support and to sit exams – this is for security purposes. All pupils are very welcome to use the school as a place to study should they wish. We wish all our senior phase students the very best of luck.

Broad General Education pupils (S1-3) will change timetable on 2nd May. A reminder that on this date, the school will have no registration therefore placing an added responsibility for young people to attend school on time at 8.50am to avoid disruption to lessons. I look forward to your support with this change which is necessary to prepare us for moving into the new Kilmarnock Academy in 2018.

Finally there are a couple of key staff changes. Mrs Snodgrass has now taken up post as Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance for Scott house and we aim to start a new teacher of Music in May, Miss McKinlay who will take over from Mrs Campbell who will soon start her maternity leave. We are also delighted to inform you that Mr Oates will be continuing with us for the remainder of the session and throughout next year, covering for Mrs Black who is on maternity leave.

All that remains is for me to thank you all for your continued support and wish you an enjoyable Spring break.



David Rose, Head Teacher

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Blog -

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/kilmarnock/academy/>

New School blog:

<https://tinyurl.com/kilmacad>



Scan the QR Code above for instant access to the new school blog

Wow, che una fantastica esperienza!!

We had a fantastic experience on our Learning, Teaching and Training visit to Vasto in Italy as part of our two year Erasmus project, 'Sharing European Values using Film and Cinema'. In February two teachers, Ms Elaine Walker and Mr Dougie Stevenson, along with four students, Eilidh Raeburn, Erin Muir, Aynsley Calder and Megan Kerr had the opportunity to travel to Italy to meet up with our European partners and to share the work that we have been doing over the last few months.



The Erasmus group, students and teachers from Italy, Scotland, Turkey, Portugal and Lithuania.

The theme for the visit was the plight of refugees across Scotland and the 4 girls worked hard before we travelled doing research and then preparing a short movie on this topic. While visiting the school in Italy we had the opportunity to not only see all the films each partner school had produced but also to watch the award winning Italian film, 'Fuocoammare' which translates to 'Fire at Sea'. The film takes a close look at the plight of refugees and economic migrants trying to make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe.

One of the highlights of the visit was an excellent workshop on film production which was delivered by a former student and award winning cinematographer. Our students were certainly gaining new skills. Of course there was time for sightseeing and socialising, for making new friends, having new experiences and for practising and extending our language skills.



Visiting Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius shrouded in cloud in the background.

We visited Pompeii and Naples, the Sangri River War Cemetery, the Punta Aderci nature reserve and the Trabocchi coast.



We had an action packed week, worked hard on our project, had a fun and exciting experience and made some very good friends.



We were sad to say goodbye but are looking forward to the next time we meet up.

Grazie mille Italia

WORK EXPERIENCE - 2017

A note was issued about work experience at the S3 Parents' Night. A couple of parents have been in touch regarding placements in September when the S4 Work Experience takes place. The army residential course has also been finalised in the interim period.

It may seem a long time until September but it really isn't and if pupils are interested in a "self found" placement, the sooner we have the details the better. The Ayrshire Chamber look for a 6 week turn around if the placement has to be Health & Safety checked so, get organised now for a stress free time in August and September. For the others relying on a placement form the Chamber database, these will be available to view in June.

BUSINESS AWARENESS DAY 2017

S3 pupils had a very enjoyable day with business mentors learning about how to work together, contributing ideas and sharing tasks in the style of the world of

work. There were 12 groups of 6 pupils who basically were in a competition to score the most points and impress chief judge – Paula Middleton – manager at Premier Inn, Newton Mearns who is a long term business partner of Kilmarnock Academy.

We welcomed business people from the world of architecture, retail, transport, hospitality, the Galleon, Social Work and a beauty therapist who is an entrepreneur. These adults advised the pupils on all aspects of the day and shared their tips for a good outcome in advertising, marketing and manufacturing. Some S4 pupils joined the groups to pass on their expertise from last year.



The winning group was group C – Erin Arthur, Morgan McCreddie, Nathan Steel, Jodie Holland, Liam Alexander and Eve Pryce. Their S4 pupil was Gemma Sweenie and their business mentor was Lynne Phillips from the Galleon who was probably more delighted with the win than the pupils.

The good news was that all the groups apart from one who shall remain nameless made a profit in the JotPad exercise. Their financial future is rosy!

MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAMME

The S5/6 Kilmarnock District Mock Interviews have just come to an end. All senior pupils from Kilmarnock Academy along with similar pupils at James Hamilton and Stewarton Academies were given the opportunity to apply for a total of 18 different jobs designed to cater for everyone. 16 KA pupils were selected for interview. These pupils attended an interview at the employers' place of work and were asked questions which would be posed to people in a real life situation.

The interviewees had to research both the company and the job beforehand so they could give a good account of themselves. The programme is designed to take the terror out of that first interview and go through the process required for success. A by product of the interviews was that some pupils were offered work experience to help them on their journey in their chosen field.

The employers were very impressed - some said that this years' interviewees were the best they had had. Others said that some of the candidates were better than some adults they had recently interviewed. One or two of our successful candidates and runners up were described as "outstanding" and "having a very promising future". The pupils have received feedback to help them on their next steps. Money can't buy what these pupils have gained in confidence for their future in what is a very competitive market. Successful candidates

Lewis Givens - ETC Engineering
Abby Hopes - Vizibility Designs
Jack Park - Kilmarnock FC
Robbie Miller - Utopia
Jessica Thomson - EA Legal Dept

Runners Up

Jennie Shearin - Ayrshire & Arran
Grant Semple - ETC Engineering
Le man Liao - Early Childhood Practitioner
Kier Duncan and Alex McCartney - UWS
Primary Teaching

We hope to repeat the programme next year with a greater uptake from pupils.

VOTER REGISTRATION WORKSHOP S4-S6

All pupils in the senior school who are eligible to vote in the forthcoming Scottish local elections due to take place on Thursday 4 May took part in a voter registration workshop run by Vibrant



Communities on Friday 10 March. This was an interactive and informative session which focused on the responsibilities associated with citizenship. All pupils engaged positively and it is hoped that voting turn-out among young people will increase at the forthcoming election.

RECKLESS DRIVING WRECKS LIVES

All S6 pupils had the opportunity to attend a presentation in Ayr which was hosted by representatives from the Emergency Services. The purpose of the event was to promote safe and sensible driving practices in our young people, to get them thinking about consequences before they get behind the wheel of a car and drive. There were excellent presentations from Police Scotland, the Fire service, Ambulance Service and NHS staff. Each presenter talked about real life examples where they have been involved in the aftermath of young people, in Ayrshire, making poor choices either before or whilst driving. It was a hard hitting but very relevant and interesting experience for our students.



PARENT PATHWAY EVENING

Over 160 families supported this new addition to our calendar which was aimed at advising on the pathways available to young people throughout their schooling. This incorporates academic, vocational and blended experiences. The session evaluated positively and we would like to thank all our parents for their support and for attending.



In addition, we had a massive 88% turn-out from our S1 parents at the recent curricular evening! This is amazing engagement – a huge thank you to our S1 parents for working in partnership with us!

S4 – TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

S4 pupils attended a Tree of Knowledge event delivering a session on exam preparation, positive thinking and study techniques.



EDUCATION GROUP ACTIVITY

Kilmarnock Academy Education Group Partnership Working

On the In-service Day in February, the staff from Kilmarnock Academy, Kirkstyle, Loanhead and Bellfield Primary as well as Hillbank and Ricarton Early Childhood Centre staff all worked together evaluating

our service and moderating teacher judgments of a child's progress through their school experience in literacy and numeracy. A really rewarding morning which will benefit all our children and young people!



LIBRARY NEWS

In February, we hosted an author visit with Scottish children's writer Barry Hutchison. In preparation for the event, the librarian and our art teachers ran a project with all S1 classes. Pupils were asked to create their own invisible friend using inspiration from Barry's book *Mr Mumbles*. Pupils from five other East Ayrshire schools visited Kilmarnock Academy to join some of our S1 pupils for the event. As usual, Barry didn't disappoint and had our audience gripped right from the start.

In March, our S2 pupils had the opportunity to take part in an author visit. A group visited St Joseph's Academy to hear children's author and illustrator Debi Gliori talk about her books. Debi explained that picture books are not just for young children – people of all ages can relate to the issues that they explore.

Right's Respecting School and School Values

On 6th March some S1 pupils led our school assemblies reinforcing two of our school values of Community and Self-discipline.

Re-enforcing the school values is part of our Improvement Plan and something the pupils wanted to take forward themselves. This also helps the school in achieving Right's Respecting School Status.



To celebrate World Book Day some members of our S1 book club visited Loanhead Primary to read to Primary 1 pupils. This storytelling project wasn't just great for the little ones, but also had benefits for our S1's who were able to practise with their reading and presentation skills. Throughout the same week all S1 and S2 English classes took part in the first round of the Readers' Cup Quiz. The top scorers will take part in the second round at the end of April. Pupils will then have the chance to make the team for the final where they'll go up against teams from other E.A. schools.



S4,5 AND 6- STUDY INFORMATION

In order to support all senior pupils as they move towards their final exams a number of different sessions are on offer. Supported study classes were being offered in all subjects and pupils received individual timetables advising them of when to attend. These sessions have been extremely well attended and we thank parents for their support in ensuring their child attended. In addition to this we have a very full Easter School programme with classes being offered every day except Good Friday and Easter Monday. Two sessions will run each day, a morning session from 9.30am to 12pm and an afternoon session from 12.30pm - 3pm. We encourage everyone to attend as many sessions as possible and pupils have been issued with their own individual timetables. During study leave there will be master classes for each subject to provide some last minutes support to those pupils who require this. Details of this will be sent out after the holiday.

To provide the 4th year pupils with some last minute exam preparation Tree of Knowledge delivered workshops on study skills, exam technique and stress management. These workshops were highly valued by the pupils.

Study leave for S4 - S6 pupils will begin on Tuesday 2nd May with S4 and S5 pupils returning to school at 8.50am on Monday 5th June

GLASGOW SCIENCE FESTIVAL - CREATING ENGINEERS K'NEX CHALLENGE

On Friday 24th March Kilmarnock Academy played host to 3 Teams of Primary 6 pupils from our Education Group.

Pupils from Loanhead Primary, Bellfield Primary and Kirkstyle Primary were involved in the challenge - **Design a vehicle for transporting a bottle of water.** Jim Johnstone (Community Skills Manager), Morrison Construction and Mr Kirkland (Principal Teacher Art and Technology) formed our judging team with Bellfield Primary chosen as winners.

Well done to all the young people involved, great ideas and teamwork evident throughout the challenge.



NEW SCHOOL

Pupils from both Kilmarnock and James Hamilton Academy have been working together designing the graphics and displays for the new building through a series of workshops with Keir Construction. The results are excellent and will now be costed by the architects.



In terms of the new uniform, badge and motto, this has been designed by pupils from both schools and is currently with East Ayrshire Council's Graphic Design team.

Watch this space for the finished product. We now have a new website/blog for the New Kilmarnock Academy where you can keep up with developments as they happen. The Blog can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/kilmacad>



ART

The East Ayrshire Schools' Art & Design Exhibition is currently on display at the Dick Institute. Work from 3 Kilmarnock Academy pupils has been selected for the gallery.

Abby Hopes and Lara Clark in Art & Design and Erin Muir in Photography.

Official photographs of the event opening on March 16th were taken by other Academy pupils: Abbeygale Bell and Natalie

Kerr. Their photo of Abby Hopes alongside her work is shown here.

Thanks to Ms Baxter for organising this.



PE DEPARTMENT

January

January was a busy month for the PE department. It started off with one of the highlights of the year, the Manchester football trip. The day started off with a behind the scenes tour of Old Trafford . The pupils had the chance to go into the dressing room, walk down the tunnel and take their seat in the dugouts. After a visit to the Manchester United Megastore we headed across the city to the Etihad to watch Manchester City play Tottenham Hotspur. Before the game Mr Stevenson and some lucky pupils had the chance to go on the “Blue Carpet Experience”, meeting and hi-fiving the Manchester City players as they entered the stadium. It was a fantastic day, enjoyed by all 45 pupils and the 4 members of staff who went. Big thanks to Mr Oates who worked very hard to organise the trip.



January also saw us host our primary cluster basketball tournament. Organised by our Active Schools Coordinator and our two Sports Ambassadors Joe Murphy and Ethan Tesfaye



We also had a group of S3 boys participate in a Basketball tournament at the new Ayrshire College. January also saw the annual Giant Heptathlon with a squad of boys and girls from S1 and 2 representing the school.



February

February was a quieter month for the PE department in terms of extra-curricular events. All of our certificated pupils did participate in a performance day where they completed their one off performances as part of their final assessments.

March

We received confirmation that our S2 boys have made the semi-finals of the football in the Ayrshire cup after qualification from the group stages. We eagerly await the draw to see who our opponents will be. At the end of March Mr Oates took his S1 girls' team and S2 boys team to a Handball festival at the Ayrshire College. All pupils in S1,2 and 3 have completed their fitness retesting to monitor their fitness over the course of the year

Still to Come!

- Athletics season. We have the Junior, Senior, East Ayrshire and Ayrshire Championships to look forward to.
- S2 Boys Football Ayrshire Semi Final
- 4 Pupils taking part in golf tuition at Loudoun Gowf Club

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Glasgow Science Centre Visit 1st March



S2 and S3 pupils enjoyed activities run by the Glasgow Science Centre's "On Tour" team. S2 pupils were able to experience a Bodyvision 3D presentation which gave them a whole new perspective on the

anatomy of the human body. They were able to see individual organ systems and see exactly where they were located in the body in 3D. Pupils found the tour of the nervous system and the brain to be particularly interesting. Our S3 pupils took part in an interactive Career into Science show which allowed pupils to see just how many interesting careers involve STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. Rockets, robots, colour changing chemicals and whoosh bottles were all used in demonstrations and were great fun to watch. Pupils were able to take part in interactive activities designed to help them see how maths and probability can help us make better decisions.



SUPPORT FOR LEARNING DEPARTMENT

Lunch Club

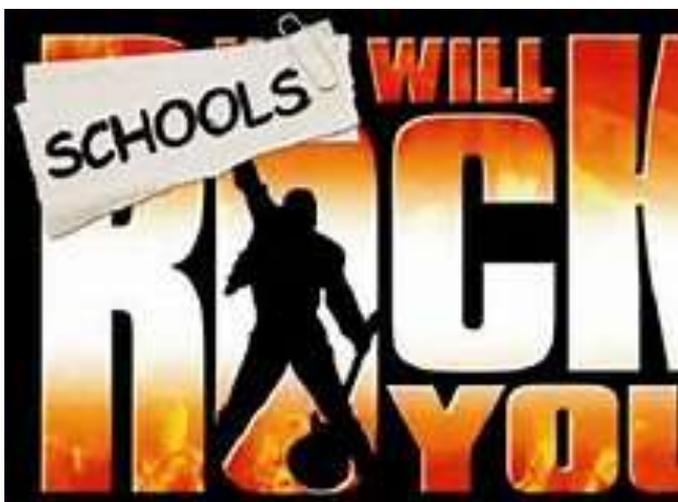
We have been trialling a lunch club since the end of February for pupils who'd like a quiet place to eat lunch and chat with staff and other pupils before spending time on a computer; playing a board game or watching a film. We have five or six pupils and two staff most days and a relaxing, fun time is had by all! Attendance has been by invitation only during the trial period, but if your child would like to attend, please ask them to see Mrs Wood in Sfl.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION

New school timetable will commence at the timetable change at the beginning of May 2017.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday	
1	8.50 – 9.40am
2	9.40 – 10.30am
3	10.30 – 11.20am
Break	11.20– 11.35am (15 min)
4	11.35 – 12.25pm
5	12.25 – 1.15pm
Lunch	1.15 – 1.55pm (40 min)
6	1.55 – 2.45pm
7	2.45 – 3.35pm

Thursday & Friday	
1	8.50 – 9.40am
2	9.40 – 10.30am
3	10.30 – 11.20am
Break	11.20 – 11.35 am (15 min)
4	11.35 – 12.25pm
5	12.25 – 1.15pm
Lunch	1.15 – 1.55pm (40 min)
6	1.55 – 2.45pm



**COMING SOON TO KA
SUMMER SCHOOL
SHOW
21ST – 23RD JUNE
2017**