



Kilmarnock Academy



ISSUE 22

JUNE 2023

Welcome to our final newsletter of this academic session. It has been an exciting term where we have recognised the achievements of our young people at very successful Prizegiving and Celebrating Success ceremonies. Thank you to all family members who came along to those events as it was so lovely to have families celebrating with us. We have also had our P7 pupils attending induction days and enjoying the experience of all subjects, especially Science Day which was very popular. Our outgoing S6 pupils also enjoyed their Leavers' Day with bouncy castles and Killie pies. They thoroughly enjoyed their prom at The Gailes Hotel and we wish everyone good luck for the future.

Prizegiving Ceremonies

We were delighted to recognise academic achievements of our pupils from S1-6 at our recent prizegiving ceremonies. Over two hundred pupils in S1-3 were recognised for their excellence and improvement across every subject area and around one hundred pupils from across S4-6 received awards. We had the privilege of welcoming guests including Eddie Fraser (Chief Executive of East Ayrshire Council), Provost Jim Todd and Linda McAulay-Griffiths (Chief Education Officer and Head of Education). We were delighted to welcome our honorary guest speaker, Billy Kay (writer and broadcaster), who spoke about how his connections with Kilmarnock Academy have helped him throughout his life.



Celebrating Success

We were able to recognise the wider achievements of our young people at the Celebrating Success ceremony. Our guest speaker and special guest was local businessman, Billy Bowie, who spoke about his school days and commended pupils for their volunteering work, achievements outside the classroom and for upholding the school values.

We were also delighted to present the House Cup to Fleming House for being the outstanding House group of the year.

Fleming Flyers



Aspire Together, Achieve Together

P7 Induction Days

We recently welcomed Primary 7 pupils to the school for three induction days. They spent two days following their school timetable, experiencing all subjects and meeting their teachers. On the third day, all pupils attended the Science Department and got involved in experiments and dissections. Feedback from pupils and staff has been very positive with many saying they wanted to start S1 now!



Technologies



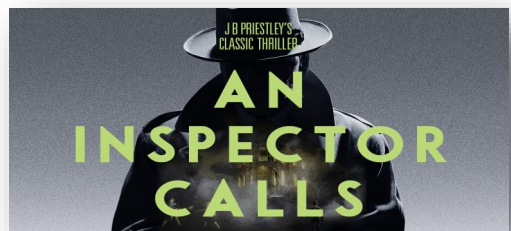
Miss Hood and Miss Northcote have been leading the CAD/CAM club where pupils have branded their own company, *Kilmac-Cutters*. They are currently designing, making and selling phone holders. Pupils will be using funds made to buy extra materials and expand what they make and sell.

The STEM Lego club meets on Thursday lunchtimes with pupils completing challenges, making fun models and making new friends throughout the year.

Mr Campbell has been supporting the STEM teams to design drones which respond to a variety of emergencies. The teams are aiming to qualify for the next round of this year's competition and their designs look amazing at this stage. We will keep you updated on their progress.



Theatre Trip



Miss Walker's S4 English class recently visited the Theatre Royal in Glasgow to watch a production of *An Inspector Calls*. The class has been studying the play in class and it was a great opportunity for them to see it live. Pupils were blown away by the spectacular production!

This experience developed pupils' appreciation of the play and provided a rich learning experience.



Youth Philanthropy Initiative

We recently held our YPI finals and the winning team won £3,000 for local charity, *Give a Dog a Bone*. The team impressed the judges so much that they were then invited to deliver their presentation at the national event in Perth. Well done to Lola, Mollie, Robyn, Robyn, Amber, Katie and Hollie.

You can find out more about the winning charity here: www.giveadogabone.net



Staff Awards

The William McIlvanney Campus has been awarded Ambassador Status by global education technology company, Promethean, in recognition of our commitment to embedding and disseminating digital best practice in education. As the first ambassador site in Scotland, this recognition will see East Ayrshire set the benchmark for local authorities to raise educational standards through the effective use of technology. Our Promethean Ambassadors received their awards at our Celebrating Success Event.

Congratulations to Samantha Torbet who received the accolade of Probationer Teacher of the Year for her commitment to delivering her subject as well as a wide range of new initiatives across the school including supporting the school to receive the MetMark Award. Well done!



Fire Reach



This term, three of our S4 pupils completed a six week fire skills course at Kilmarnock Fire Station in conjunction with SL33.

The pupils got a chance to demonstrate their new skills to their friends and family at the recent celebration event.

S6 Leavers

Our S6 pupils enjoyed their leavers' day at the start of the month. This was a chance for them to share their memories, sign yearbooks and get leavers' hoodies. Mr Cartner piped the group out of the school and the video can be seen on our Twitter page.



Le Foot et La Francophonie



Well done to Campbell, Alex, Liam and Thomas who went through to the national finals of Le Foot at La Francophonie competition run by Scotland's National Centre for Languages. Although the boys didn't win, they delivered a great performance. Well done!



Calendar Dates

Thursday 17th August	In-service Day
Friday 18th August	In-service Day
Monday 21st August	Pupils Return
Friday 22nd September	Holiday
Monday 25th September	Holiday

Pipe Band

Kilmarnock Schools Pipe Band (involving many Kilmarnock Academy education group pupils) came first in their first ever outdoor competition in Girvan.



They achieved first place in the Novice Juvenile B category at the Carrick Lowland Gathering. Well done to all involved.

Football Success

The under-16 football team has had huge success this year, getting through to the Scottish Cup semi-finals and recently winning the Ayrshire Cup. They beat Grange Academy 3-0 with a fantastic hat trick from Lenon McDonnell. Mr Rose met with the team to commend them for their tremendous achievements. The under-15 team also made it through to the Ayrshire finals but were beaten 3-2 in a hard-fought match against Belmont Academy.



Under-16 Football Team with the Ayrshire Cup



Under-15 Football Team

P.E. Update

This year, the school introduced an Orienteering Championship for S2 and S3 pupils. All pupils participated in a practice session at school as part of core P.E. with interested pupils then going on to compete in the championship at Dean Park. The day was a great success with senior N.P.A. Sports Development pupils marshalling to ensure everything ran smoothly. There were plenty of smiles as pupils tested their navigational skills around the park. All of the pupils involved enjoyed the day with David, Lewys and Robbie completing the course in the fastest time to become the first ever school orienteering champions. Well done!



June saw the first of the inter-house sports events taking place. S4 pupils participated in a hotly contested softball competition. The standard of play was excellent with over one hundred pupils taking part in the event. Fleming proved to be the best batters, winning both events. Thanks to Faye, our Active Schools Coordinator, for taking the lead in the organisation of this.



PEF 2022-23

This year, Kilmarnock Academy has continued to implement Pupil Equity Funded initiatives in order to improve outcomes and experiences for all our young people. This year we have retained our Principal Teacher of Pedagogy and Skills to support improvement of teaching and learning, our Principal Teacher of Restorative Approaches, our Principal Teacher of Raising Attainment as well as appointing our Principal Teacher of Targeted Support. Our Connect Support Hub continues to go from strength to strength and we are continuing to support literacy and numeracy through our joint campus initiative with James Hamilton Primary.

Cost of the School Day Initiatives

We had 120 responses to our *Cost of the School Day* survey. As a result of your feedback, we will continue to ensure that there are no costs associated with the school day. The school will provide stationery, uniform, toiletries, support with trips or anything else you might need. You can use the E-form below to request school uniform or stationery for the new term.

Our Summer Pop Up shop will run again this year from 1st to 11th August from 9am-3pm. There will also be staff on hand should you need support with clothing grant, free school meal or school transport applications.

Request for Uniform



Literacy & Numeracy Superstars

Our PEF funded joint campus specialist, Miss Smith, has been celebrating her literacy and numeracy superstars who have made excellent progress this year.



Accelerated Reader

All pupils in S1 and S2 are engaging with Accelerated Reader in order to improve their reading skills. On average, S1 pupils gained six months on their reading ages within a four month period. By the middle of S2, pupils had increased their reading age by an average of one year. S1 and S2 read over 8 million words! Congratulations to Rae (S1) and Cody (S2) who read the most words this year.