

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

September 2018

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Special points of interest:

Important Dates.

- 12th Oct.- Inservice Day
- 15th - 19th Oct. Holidays
- 22nd Oct.- Pupils Return 8.45
- 25th Oct. - P7 Open Night
- 6th Nov. - S1 Parents Evening
- 22nd Nov. - S3 Parents Evening
- 26th Nov. - S4 Prelims Begin
- 11th Dec. - Christmas Concert
- 18th Dec. - Junior Dance
- 20th Dec. - Senior Dance
- 21st Dec. - School Closes
2.30pm for holidays
- 7th Jan - School returns 8.45am
- 10th Jan - S5/6 Parents Evening
- 16th Jan - S2 Parents Evening
- 28th Jan - S5/6 Prelims begin
- 30th Jan - S4 Parents Evening
- 8th Feb - Inservice day
- 11th & 12th Feb - Holidays

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Dear Parent

As we enter October it is vitally important that pupils in S4 and S5 begin to put in the extra revision and consolidation work to reinforce what is being learned in the class. Too often pupils are willing to drift at this time of year letting grades slip away. Just doing enough in class will not be sufficient for your child to achieve their full potential, they must be testing and pushing themselves with additional work at home. Pupils should be completing SQA past paper questions on the topics they have already covered and talking to their teachers about which bits of the course they are finding difficult. **Now is the time to change things that they currently can't do into things they can do.** To this end S5 have just received their targets for the year, these will also be given to parents. These targets are result of a statistical process based on S4 prelim and National 5 performance. The targets are designed to be aimed for, achieved **and exceeded** - the target grade is the statistically "most likely" not a ceiling on ambition. In relation to S4 their targets will be issued after the prelims but as you receive this newsletter there are only 34 school days to the start of those S4 prelims. Again this year the mantra is "Higher Standards, Higher Expectations, More Opportunity- No Excuses".

Finally can I make one last plea to parents to apply for or **RE-APPLY for free** school meals for your children if you feel that you might be entitled. Some aspects of the school's funding is allocated based on the numbers eligible for and receiving free school meals. By applying via East Renfrewshire Council Customer First you are helping ensure that we get our fair share of resources.

S. Maxwell

First Minister's Questions

Four senior pupils from Eastwood High School, Jonathan Rae, Fatima Bari, Michael Coyne and Theo Frater, visited the STV studios to take part in a "Scotland Tonight" special "First Minister's Next Generation Questions" The show was broadcast on Thursday 13th September

with Fatima even getting to ask her question to the First Minister.



Theme Park Trips

On 31st of August there were two trips organised to reward pupils who had achieved their targets for last session in relation to behaviour, punctuality, attendance and citizenship. While senior pupils made the long journey south to Alton Towers the S2, S3 and S4 spent the day at M&D's Theme Park in Motherwell. The weather was terrific and everyone (including the teachers! - see opposite) had a great day out.



Geography Field Trip

In early September all S4 National 5 Geography pupils visited Loch Lomond National Park to collect data and information for their N5 SQA Geography Assignment



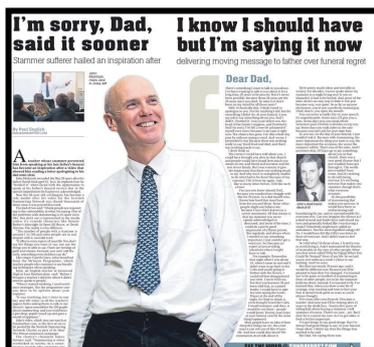
Nil By Mouth

On the 18th of September 66 S3 Modern Studies pupils participated in an interactive workshop session organised by the anti-sectarian organisation "Nil by Mouth". This was part of their National 5 Crime and Law course.



Hear the Person

Our own Mr McIntosh featured in a double spread story in the Sunday Post this month. He put together a short film #HearthePerson in which he tells of his experience of having a stammer. Mr McIntosh also appeared on Radio Scotland.



World Languages Day

A number of activities were organised by Miss Paterson and the Modern Languages Department in honour of "World Languages Day" on 26th September. Tannoy announcements were multi-lingual for the day, pupils were given badges in various languages and an eating (foreign cuisine) competition was organised at lunchtime. Not quite the "Bush Tucker Challenge" but scary enough for some none the less.



Junior Prefects

Congratulations to all the S2, S3 and S4 prefects who were elected and received their badges of office earlier this month.



Work Experience in High Places

All Eastwood High School S4 pupils were away from school for the week beginning 17th September on work experience placement. Rebecca Paton undertook her placement as a personal assistant to Scottish Government Justice Minister, Humza Yousaf. This was an excellent and relevant placement for Rebecca who had been one of Eastwood High School's "Police Service Volunteers" last session.



Advanced Higher Music Trip

On 18th September the Advanced Higher Music class attended a Scottish Chamber Orchestra lunchtime "minimalist" concert at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. Mrs Anderson and the pupils had the opportunity to listen to a variety of composers' work such as Steve Reich and John Adams.



Pupil Councils Teams 2018/19

September saw the new S1, S2, S3, S4, S5 & S6 Pupil Councils elected for session 2018/19. The Pupil Councillors play a key role in the life and work of the school. As well as being the bridge between pupils and senior staff they represent the pupils' voice in consultation exercises and contribute to school policy formulation.



Young Enterprise

Eastwood High School's Young Enterprise team this year will be called "Revitalised". They are planning to re-cycle aluminium food cans (tins) and convert them into funky industrial desk organisers. The group will be looking for your support by donating as many cleaned out cans as possible. There will be a collection point outside the school office. Watch out for the Revitalised social media campaign and sale of products coming soon.



STEM Visit to Prestwick Airport

Early in September a group of S2 pupils interested in pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics attended a STEM fair organised by the University of the West of Scotland at Prestwick Airport. The pupils were able to participate in workshops run by university students and local STEM employers.

The trip was organised by Mrs Allan and the Technical Department in partnership with Physics.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Well done to Mrs Sinclair and the staff social committee who raised £245 for MacMillan Cancer Care by holding a coffee morning for staff.

Face of the SQA 😊

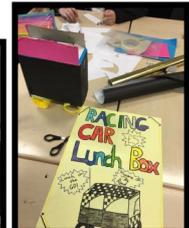
Visitors to the Scottish Learning Festival this month were greeted by a 2 metre high poster of Mrs McIlhargey and Eastwood Science pupils advertising the SQA stand!



Scottish Making Maths Count Week

Scottish "Making Maths Count Week" 10th–14th September saw a number of different learning activities for pupils organised to promote

Numeracy across the school. There was also a Cluster Numeracy Support Session for parents.



Cyrano de Bergerac

On 19th of September Higher and Advanced Higher Drama pupils attended a National Theatre of Scotland production of Cyrano de Bergerac at the Tramway Theatre in Glasgow. This updated version of the play, with the dialogue translated into Scots by Edwin Morgan, is being studied by the pupils as part of their courses. Better still however was the fact that lead actor Brian Ferguson offered to come to Eastwood High on 26th September to give the pupils an insight into the role and his performance. A truly inspiring experience that will greatly help the pupils with their studies.



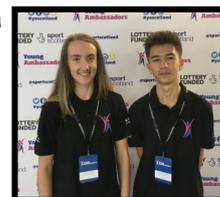
Sport Scotland Gold Award Renewed

Eastwood High School has had its Sport Scotland Gold Award status renewed 2018 -2021. This Award is given in recognition of excellence in the opportunities afforded to pupils (and staff) through school sport.



Sports Ambassadors

Congratulations to Amy McVitie and Donald Bolton (both S5) on being selected as this year's Eastwood High School Sports Ambassadors.



Sports News

September has seen the start of the Eastwood High team sports seasons and it has been a particularly busy month for our rugby players. The U13 boys started their season with an excellent 50-15 win against Shawlands Academy (try scorers Luke Stewart 3, Cameron Healy, Oliver McKendrick, Jack Tuck 2, Finlay Orr, Kyle McLean and Addison Linden). The U14 boys also played Shawlands Academy in their first game of the season losing 26-34 in a tight game (try scorers Lewis Zanforlin and Calum Macbeth, Lewis also bagged 3 conversions). The U16s played two Scottish Cup ties this month defeating St Andrews Secondary 57-22 in the first round (try scorers Jack Vershueren (3), Charlie Barber (2), Mac Thompson, Liam Bothwell, Ben Wilson & Scott Fosbury). The team however were outplayed in their second round tie away at Dunbar Grammar and now enter the Plate competition. The U18s were knocked out at the first round stage of the Scottish Cup losing to a strong Oban High School team at Whitecraigs. The team did manage four tries the best of which was by Lewis McLachlan. This defeat means that the U18s also drop into the Plate competition. Finally the girls rugby team has had an eventful month. They lost their first ever match to Oban High School at Whitecraigs before succumbing to Scottish Champions Shawlands Academy in their second game. There was however better news in their third game in the first round of the Scottish Cup tie when the girls won 66-39 away to Carrick Academy (try scorers Daniella Takon 8, Holland Bogan 2 with 3 conversions and Amy Cupples 2). Olivia Bryers was awarded "Player of the Game". The team now go forward to play in the last 16.

In athletics congratulations go to Helen Chong (S4) on winning a bronze medal at the UK Schools Games in Loughborough in the 1500m Steeplechase in a time of 5 minutes 14 seconds smashing her personal best by 9 seconds in the process!. The following week on the 8th of September Helen represented Scotland in the home nations hill-running championships in Ireland finishing 7th and helping Scotland win the team competition. Also in athletics congratulations to Clark Marshall (S4) who came 2nd overall in the sky high pole vault competition this month. The competition had over 20 jumpers and was a series of four events. To claim silver Clark had to vault a personal best. Congratulations to Leigh Edgar (S5) on achieving her 2nd Dan Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do earlier this month.

In football John Cumming (S5) has been selected, after a series of trials, to represent Paisley & District U18s in the SSFA regional championships.

Congratulations are also due to Emma Marie Taylor (S6) has been selected for the Scotland Dance Squad for the World Championships to be held in Florida in April. Emma has been selected in the "hip-hop" performance category.

Finally what a performance from former pupil Erin Wallace (last year's S6) on winning the silver medal at the World U20 Triathlon Championships held in Gold Coast, Australia earlier this month.

