

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

September 2019



Special points of interest:

Important Dates.

- 3rd Oct. - Young Musician of the Year
- 10th Oct. - S1 Parents Evening
- 14th - 18th Oct. Holidays
- 21st Oct.- Inservice Day
- 22nd Oct.- Pupils Return 8.45
- 24th Oct. - Careers Fair
- 7th Nov. - P7 Open Evening
- 19th Nov. - S3 Parents Evening
- 25th Nov. - S4 Prelims Begin
- 10th Dec. - Christmas Concert
- 17th Dec. - Junior Dance
- 19th Dec. - Senior Dance
- 20th Dec. - School Closes 2.30pm for holidays
- 6th Jan - School Returns 8.45am
- 9th Jan - S5/6 Parents Evening
- 15th Jan - S2 Parents Evening

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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 will shortly receive 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

Junior Prefects

Well done to all the Junior prefects elected to serve during session 2019/20. The pupils in S2, S3 & S4 received the most nominations from school staff with many others just missing out on the ten places in each year group. The prefects received their badges of office at a short ceremony in the school conference room on 13th September.



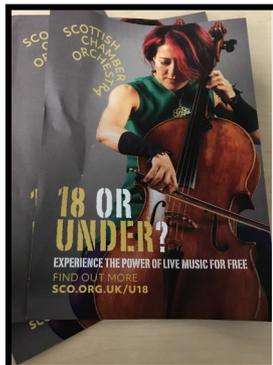
Hitting the Right Note

Congratulations to Christopher Young (S6) who appeared on BBC Television on Saturday 14th September as part of the Scottish Youth Choir performing at "Proms in the Park". The choir gave a stirring rendition of the Skye Boat Song and there performance not only appeared on BBC 1 but also across the globe via BBC World.



Music Trip

S3—S6 pupils studying Music and Music Technology visited Kilmarnock on 18th September to enjoy a performance of James MacMillan's composition "Tryst". The pupils were fortunate to witness James MacMillan actually conducting the Scottish Chamber Orchestra performing his own composition piece. Thank you to Mr Fairlie for organising.



Charity Fundraising

Well done to Misba Khan in S1 who completed the "Pedal for Scotland" in aid of the dental Aid Network, a charity that provides people in developing countries with free dental treatment. Misba had to cycle across Scotland all the way from Glasgow to Edinburgh and raised over £1000 for the Charity. A great effort for a very worthwhile cause.



Out and About

Mr Brannan's S3 English class have been studying "A Kestrel for a Knave" by Barry Hines this term and with the summer weather last week got out into the school grounds to undertake some wildlife photography. The book has as a central theme the relationship a troubled teenager develops with wildlife (a kestrel). Despite the lack of kestrels the pupils were able to enjoy the wildlife of our school grounds and a number of stunning pictures have been entered into an impromptu wildlife photography competition organised by Mr Brannan to compliment the pupils' studies.



European Day of Languages

A number of activities were organised by Mrs Kendall, Miss Brown and Miss Paterson of the Modern Languages Department to celebrate European Day of Languages on 25th September. Tannoy announcements were multi-lingual for the day and pupils were involved in a multi-lingual quiz starter across the school. The favourite activity however was the lunchtime S1 food tasting experience allowing pupils to sample exotic European cuisine.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

The staff social committee organised the annual MacMillan Coffee morning on Wednesday 25th September. Delicious home baking was again a feature and £287 was raised. This year in the interests of reducing plastic waste staff were asked to bring their own mug a positive forward thinking development.



Careers Evening

Eastwood High School are hosting a careers events for ALL pupils on Thursday 24th October 2019 from 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm. There will be a number of universities, colleges, training providers and employers in attendance. There will also be many professionals available to answer any questions you have about a particular career. Suppliers range from Jet2holidays, to solicitors; sports coaches to stage managers and many more. Please come along and support this event!

Save THE Date

Dancing at the Cowal Games

Well done to Cara Shearer (S5) who qualified for, and recently participated in, the Scottish National Highland Dancing Championships and World Highland Dancing Championships at the Cowal Games in Dunoon. Cara danced well and was placed in the top 30 in the world championships in a competition that lasted all day because of the number of dancers involved.



S1 DYW Day

On 30th August Miss McGeough organised a very successful DYW Day (Developing the Young Workforce) for all S1 pupils. The day centred around the development of skills for life and work and involved pupils taking part in a number of challenges. These challenges were focussed on leadership, teamwork and problem solving. The S1 pupils were helped by senior pupil mentors attached to each group and as well as developing the skills for life and work it was a great way for S1s to make new friends.



Pupil Councils

September saw the new S1, S2, S3, S4, S5 & S6 Pupil Councils elected for session 2019/20.

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 formation. The photographs opposite show the new S1, S2 and S3 Pupil Councillors assembled for their first meetings. Good luck to these responsible citizens.



Acts of Global Unity

A huge thank you to Mike Haines from the Acts of Global Unity Foundation who came to Eastwood High to talk with S2 and S3 assemblies. The 2nd of September, the day Mike visited, was very poignant as it was the 5th anniversary of his brother David's death in Syria. David worked for the UN undertaking humanitarian work but was captured and killed by Islamic State. Mike's message, despite this tragedy, was simple "Stand Against Hate" in all its forms local or international. His message had a clear impact on the pupils and I'm sure will have a lasting legacy. Thank you to Miss Kelly and Miss Shannon for arranging Mike's visit.



Community Service Volunteers

With the recent spell of good weather our Eastwood High School litter volunteers have been out and about in the Harvie Avenue area helping to keep the local area tidy. Great job boys. The litter pick happens immediately after lunch and is a regular feature of volunteering and positive citizenship organised by Miss Boyle. A different area is selected each day.



Busy Month for Literacy

Tuesday 24th September saw the launch night of the Eastwood Reading Challenge with S1. Award winning children's author Kerr Thomson returned to the school to help with the launch and promote the joy of reading. In addition the S3 have been tracking their reading using the Scottish Book trust's Bookzilla app.

The annual School Book Fair was also held this month to coincide with the events mentioned above. Mr Panaotakis, our school librarian, organised for a range of titles to be available to read and purchase during the Book Fair week. As can be seen from the photo opposite a real favourite was "One Shot" by Tanya Landman a bitter sweet story of resilience show by a girl in a man's world inspired by the true life story of infamous wild west sharp shooter Annie Oakley.



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

On 5th September Eastwood High's newly appointed anti-bullying ambassadors (Mark Thomson, Azka Chaudry, Ben Hanson, Louise Rafiq, Cameron Constable, Erica Winning & Emma Wilkie) travelled to Glasgow Academy to undertake some training and best practice sharing. The event involving schools from across the West of Scotland was a great catalyst for the group's work in the coming months.



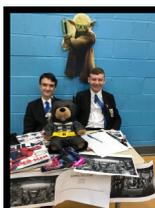
Sports Ambassadors

Congratulations to Kirsty Dougall (S5) and Callum Ip (S6) on being selected as this year's Eastwood High School Sports Ambassadors. Both seniors represented Eastwood at the national Young Ambassadors for Sport Conference at Hampden on the 11th September.



Extra Curricular Recruitment Fair

Friday 6th September saw our annual Extra Curricular Recruitment Fair held in the Games Hall. There was a massive turn out with over 70 clubs and societies to choose from. There was something for everyone with activities ranging from traditional school sports (football, rugby, basketball, netball etc) to fencing, karting and table tennis. There were also a huge number of non sports based clubs an offer including Fashion Design, Debating, Ceilidh Band and even Sci-Fi Film Club!



Sports News

Firstly congratulations to Helen Chong (S5) who was part of the 4 Woman Scotland U17 Hill running team who won gold at the Home International Championships held at Llanberis in North Wales on 21st September.

In open water swimming well done to Ayaan Qureshi (S3) who swam 300m of open water at Loch Lomond over the weekend as part of the 'Go Swim Loch Lomond' event

September has been a very busy month for our school of rugby with boys and girls matches against Shawlands Academy and St Thomas Aquinas Secondary. In the games against St Thomas Aquinas the S2 rugby boys had an excellent performance winning 79-24. The S1s continued their good start to the season winning 17-7 against the same opposition whilst our U16 rugby girls played some terrific offloading rugby winning their first game of the season running in 16 tries. The U14 boys team also played a fixture this month against Hutcheson's Grammar but despite a really good performance lost out 15-32.

Against Shawlands Academy the S2 Rugby boys were involved in an enthralling encounter winning 40-34. S1 Rugby boys had another cracking match this time narrowly losing 47-40. The U14 rugby girls played their first ever game – they lost but competed well against a much more experienced opposition scoring 5 tries.

The football season got off to a disappointing start with both the Eastwood U15s and U16s being knocked out of the Scottish Cup by Notre Dame HS (Greenock) 1- 5 and Lenzie Academy 4-1 respectively. Mr Brown's Junior Girls Football played their first competitive games in the first round of the East Renfrewshire Schools League. The girls played well winning one game but unfortunately losing three in the home leg of the league. Also in Girls Football senior players Rebecca Monaghan (S6), Niamh Gorman and Maja Paszenda (both S5) faced off against one another in the Scottish U17 League Cup final for their respective teams Gleniffer Thistle and Glasgow City - with City coming from behind to win.

Having this year moved up to the UK Junior Elite age group well done to Kate Richardson (S6) who this month came 17th overall in the UK Triathlon Big Weekend Championships at Mallory Park in Leicestershire whilst competing as part of the Scotland team that finished 5th. Finally in Netball well done to Ava Thorpe and Sophie Halliday (both S3) on being selected for the East Renfrewshire U15 Netball squad. Zara Redpath (S4) also has been selected this time for the East Renfrewshire U17 squad.

Finally sport sometimes throws up strange coincidences. Amy McVitie (S6), who is a Scotland U21 Netball international, ended up playing in direct opposition to her PE teacher Miss MacNair when their respective teams Scotstoun Storm and Bellahouston Netball met in a Scottish Premiership match. It was a "Near Miss" as Amy's team triumphed 53 - 42.

