



Letter from the Head Teacher

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Dear Parent/Carer

Yet another term has flown by and as you can see from the Newsletter it has been an action packed few months in our school.

The School continues to be an exciting centre of learning with pupils, staff and parents demonstrating their considerable talents in a wide range of activities. I am also delighted to share the wonderful success of another Parent Council Quiz Night which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and raised close to £2,000. Thank you and well done to everyone involved.

I would again like to commend our whole school community for their contribution to our outstanding Charity fundraising. We had another wonderful Charities Week which, including Look Back in Laughter raised over £8,000. Pupils in our six houses met at Assemblies this week and led by our House Captain teams decided on which Charities will benefit from the money raised. Information on the recipients will be published in due course and cheques will be presented to representatives of the Charities at our House Assemblies in March.

In addition, you will be aware that we ask pupils to bring donations of dried foods and toiletries to our three Christmas Dances. The level of donations was extremely generous and this has allowed us to deliver 10 Christmas Hampers to nominated local residents and to also donate 10 further Christmas Hampers to a local foodbank. This is another wonderful effort by our school community.

You will be aware that in recent sessions we have made substantial improvements to the standards of uniform. I am confident that our high standards of uniform has contributed to improving our excellent school ethos even further. I am delighted to say that from the start of the session the standard of our school uniform continues, for the most part, to be excellent and every one of our pupils continues to wear a blazer.

I draw your attention to the current availability of our school scarf. A Mearns Castle tartan scarf developed by our Young Enterprise Team is available from the School office.

As part of our uniform arrangements we have put in place a recycling scheme. I am very grateful for the number of blazers that have already been given to the school as part of the scheme.

If you have a blazer that you no longer require we would be delighted if you could donate it to the school in which case we will try to arrange an exchange for a more suitable alternative or we will find it a new owner.

I am sure that if pupils, parents and staff continue to work together we can look forward to sustaining our excellent standard of uniform.

How to contact us
0141 577 2300
08.20am - 4.30pm

Email the school on: schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk or follow us on twitter @mearnshigh
The school's website address is: www.mearnscastle.co.uk



MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Letter from the Head Teacher

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and other members of our school community for their very generous donations of a variety of raffle prizes for school and PTA events. The impressive raffle prizes really benefit the fund raising of the school. Thank you again for your generosity.

I continue to be concerned about the traffic congestion at the front of the school at the start and end of the school day. Again, I make a plea that for the safety of our young people and staff that you help us to keep this problem to a minimum by ensuring that if you have to drop-off or pick-up your child by car that you do not enter the school carparks but that you use the drop-off zones identified for the purpose.

In addition some parents have contacted me about parents remaining in the drop-off areas after they have dropped their children off. This situation is preventing parents from accessing these areas and contributing to the general level of congestion. Can I ask therefore that when you have dropped your child off in these areas that you then leave as quickly as is safe and possible.

I have also had a number of residents contacting me about parents parking in the estate of Burnhouse Brae. This situation is causing great inconvenience to the residents and I would ask parents not to park in this area.

Can I draw your attention to our school website as an ongoing source of valuable information on events in school. The address for the website is shown on the front page of the Newsletter and below.

Finally, as always, we welcome feedback on the newsletter or indeed on any other aspect of the school. You can share your views with us via the return slip at the back of the Newsletter, via the school's email address or by any other means of communication that suits you. Can I also request that, as we are increasingly corresponding with you by text and email, should your contact details change please inform the School office to allow us to update your records.

The school closes for the Christmas holiday on Friday 21 December at 2.45pm. We open again at 8.45am on Monday 7 January 2019. I hope you and your family have a wonderful festive season and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year when it comes.

Dean Smith
Headteacher

Email the school on: schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk or follow us on twitter @mearnshigh
The school's website address is: www.mearnscastle.co.uk

School Uniform Matters

Following extensive consultation with pupils, parents and staff the uniform for all pupils at Mearns Castle High School is as follows:-

Blazers

A black blazer (woolen or polyester) with a Mearns Castle High School badge is compulsory for all pupils. Blazers should be worn to and from school. Blazers must also be worn in school at all times but can be removed during lessons.

During inclement weather, pupils can wear a black outdoor jacket over their blazer. Outdoor jackets must then be removed in school and stored in lockers. If appropriate, blazers should be correctly braided. Braiding arrangements are available on our school's website: www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/mearnscastle.

Skirts

Two styles of black skirt are compulsory: box pleat or straight.

Dependent on a pupil's height, skirts should be between 18" – 22" in length. As a rule, skirts should be worn no higher than 2" above the knee, with plain black tights or black knee high socks.

Trousers

Girls can wear black, formal boot-cut trousers. Boys must wear formal, black school trousers. Trousers must be worn up to the waist. If a belt is worn it must be all black with a plain buckle.

Shirts/Jumpers

A formal white school shirt must be worn, tucked in. A plain black v-neck jumper or cardigan, where the tie is clearly visible, can be worn.

Headscarves

If girls are choosing to wear a headscarf for religious reasons it must be a plain black headscarf.

Ties

An appropriate school tie must be worn up to the neck and properly tied with the school badge clearly visible.

The following school ties are available:

- | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| S1/S2/S3 | - | red tie |
| S4/S5 | - | blue tie |
| S6 | - | black and red tie |

Colours ties are available in all styles for pupils who have achieved School Colours.

Scarf

Two styles of school scarf are available.



Footwear

Formal all black school shoes with a black sole and black laces, if appropriate, must be worn.

Physical Education Kit

Pupils in S1 to S6 must wear a red Polo shirt. A customised version of the red Polo shirt is also available for pupils studying Higher PE. All pupils must also wear either black tracksuit trousers or black shorts. A black school hooded top is available to be worn during PE or when representing the school at sporting events.

All items of Mearns Castle High School uniform are available from:

Stevensons School Outfitters

192 Fenwick Road, Giffnock, Glasgow, G46 6UE
Tel: 0141 638 7689
Email: giffnockbranch@stevensons.co.uk

Academy Uniforms Ltd

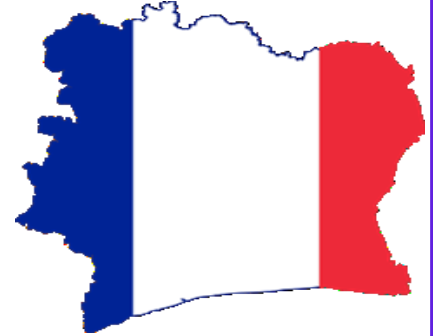
4a Rennie Place
College Milton North, East Kilbride, G74 5HD
Tel: 01355 244879
Email: info@academyuniformsltd.com

More information on our school uniform standards can be found on our website. If you wish further advice in relation to our school uniform requirements please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Tel: 0141 577 2300
Email: schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk

We look forward to working in partnership with pupils and parents to ensure a consistently high standard of school uniform for our school.

Modern Languages



S1 French Trip to Lapwing Lodge with Articulate Language Camp

In September, a group of S1 pupils spent two days on a French Immersion Camp. Pupils spent the time doing different French speaking activities and outdoor activities.

The two-day trip to Lapwing Lodge was full of fun and learning. Pupils learnt a lot of French and even had the chance to try French foods such as snails. Some of the activities were French MasterChef, high ropes, archery, capture the flag and filmmaking. During the filmmaking, pupils worked in groups to write a film script in French and then dressed up and acted it out.

In French MasterChef, pupils were given a tray of food as a group and had to make a two-course meal.

The trip was challenging and fun and all of us had a great time and we would definitely recommend the trip! We made new friends and also used lots of French.

S1 Pupils



Modern Languages

HIGHER AND ADVANCED HIGHER IMMERSION DAYS

All pupils studying Higher and Advanced Higher French and Spanish will be taking part in language immersion activities in the near future. Pupils will take part in different workshops, which will develop their oral skills on a range of topics. This will be great preparation for the final talking exams in March 2019.

ADVANCED HIGHER MODERN LANGUAGES

Advanced Higher Spanish visit to Kelvingrove

Advanced Higher Spanish and Advanced Higher History classes came together in November for a joint visit to the Kelvingrove Art Galleries and Vaults. Both classes are studying the Spanish Civil War and were enthused to do a Treasure Hunt around the Art Galleries looking for Spanish-themed relics. This was then complemented by an afternoon in the vaults of the museum, handling and examining documents and items brought back to Scotland by Scottish soldiers in the International Brigades. Reading these letters, viewing the propaganda posters, holding pictures of those involved in the war, really brought the war to life and highlighted the catastrophic impact it had on Spanish and European history, as a precursor to the Second World War. Yet again, this trip was unforgettable and the MFL Department would like to thank the History Department for their collaboration and preparation of the activities undertaken on the day.



Modern Languages

Advanced Higher French trip to the Alliance Française



LANGUAGE CENTRE - EXAMS - CULTURAL CENTRE -

DEBATE & SCREENING 'MERCİ PATRON' / FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL



As part of the *French Film Festival*, we're delighted to invite you to a competitive debate followed by the screening of the documentary *Merci Patron* on 14th November.
Merci Patron / Thanks Boss, directed by François Ruffin (2016)

On the 14th November 2018, our Advanced Higher French class had the opportunity to visit the Alliance Française in Glasgow. We were first given a tour of the library, and shown how to utilise the resources to our advantage.

We were then led to the main hall, where we were able to observe a debate between the students of Strathclyde and Glasgow University; this was incredibly interesting, as we were not only given an insight to what might await us, should we choose to pursue a similar course of study, but also into the way in which they delivered their arguments. They didn't let the fear of saying something wrong, or using the wrong tense, prevent them from expressing their opinion; and in the event that they did misuse a word, they carried on as if nothing had happened, not stumbling or mumbling over an error that, in the grand scheme of things, wasn't worth anything at all. It was inspiring!

Following the University debate, we watched a documentary entitled "Merci Patron", directed by François Ruffin, which told a true and uncensored story of corruption and disregard for the working class. Personally, I found it very insightful with a dry, mocking sense of humour that balanced out the hypocrisy of some situations, and highlighted the issues shown in the film. Overall, it was a fascinating visit, and as well as being very advantageous from an educational perspective, it was also very enjoyable, and an experience that I would highly recommend to anyone who is interested in French, whether it's in the language in general, or considering studying it later on, as this experience would be beneficial to both.

By Cinzia, S6

Modern Languages

Advanced Higher visit to the Mitchell Library



On Friday 30 November, all Advanced Higher pupils of French, Spanish, Mandarin and English had the opportunity to visit the Mitchell Library in Glasgow to prepare for writing their dissertations.

We were given a tour of the library and shown the very old book referencing system and some original rooms in the style of Hogwarts. The librarian then showed us how to search the impressive digital library and we were able to access many helpful articles and essays relating to the texts we are studying in the Advanced Higher class.

Overall, we found it to be a very informative and worthwhile trip that will prove useful when we come to research and write out dissertations.

By Sophie, S6



Modern Languages

Le Cinéclub Français

Le Cinéclub Français is an opportunity for students studying French to meet in school in the evening to watch a French Film. It takes place approximately every month and is organised by Madame Naddell.

We recently had our first Cinéclub of the year and watched "La Vie en Rose", a film about famous French singer Edith Piaf. There were pupils from S4-S6 and everyone really enjoyed the film. The school ordered pizza and drinks for us and pupils enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere.

We would love to see more people attending as it is a great opportunity to learn more about French culture and improve your French. And don't worry if you think you won't understand the film, there are subtitles! Our next Cinéclub will take place on Wednesday 12th of December at 5:30pm, we hope to see you there!

À bientôt!

Advanced Higher Spanish and RMPS - Interdisciplinary Working

You may remember the dramatic sequence that sets the scene for *Spectre*, the James Bond film in which 007 carries out his mission against the backdrop of Mexico's loud and colourful Day of the Dead celebrations, known as Día de Muertos.

This is a [Mexican](#) holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican ancestry living in other places, especially the United States. It is acknowledged internationally in many other cultures and the multi-day holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died, and help support their spiritual journey.



Advanced Higher Spanish pupils prepared a number of Mexican-themed resources and videos, which they shared with younger pupils to raise awareness of the traditions and history surrounding the Mexican Day of The Dead celebration. Additionally, the pupils endeavoured to include the occasional use of Spanish for items and traditions linked to *Día de los muertos*, and formulated a rota with the RMPS Department so that they may deliver the lesson to as many junior classes as possible. Following the presentation, pupils then completed colourful masks similar to those worn.

By Jack, S6

Modern Languages



MANDARIN

Scotland China Education Network Annual Conference

On Friday 9 November 30 pupils attended the Seventh SCEN China Youth Summit "Scotland: China - Our Future". Around 350 delegates attended the Summit representing schools from most parts of Scotland. Our pupils enjoyed listening to many other fascinating speakers who were talking about their journey of learning the Chinese language and their experience in China.

We also have Laura and Innes in S5 who gave a great speech in front of the audience and it was the only speech in the conference, which was delivered completely in Mandarin! Also six of our S2 and S3 girls - Molly, Alison, Kelly, Hannah, Aliza and Melissa performed a wonderful Chinese Umbrella dance on stage at the conference. Both of our performances received many great comments. It was a great day for our pupils to learn more outside of the classroom.



HSBC Speaking Competition

Well done to Katy, Abdullah and Heather who recently participated in the 2018-19 HSBC Mandarin Speaking Competition first round regional heat in Edinburgh organised by the British Council on 29th November. This competition greatly helped our young people to build up their confidence. Good luck to our contestants!



Maths

Maths Matters

Pupils have been engaged in a flurry of activities since the October holiday. Four of our S2 pupils, Zoe, Emma, Annabella and Saketh visited Explore Learning at Sainsbury's in Darnley to compete in the National Young Mathematician's Award. Our team did extremely well, making it through to the second round. Feedback was extremely positive, with the organisers commenting "we were astounded by the solutions your team came up with and were so pleased to see them working as a team effectively".

Thirty seven S5/6 pupils were entered for the UKMT Senior Challenge. Once again, they produced an impressive set of results, with certificates awarded as follows:

3 Gold
10 Silver
7 Bronze

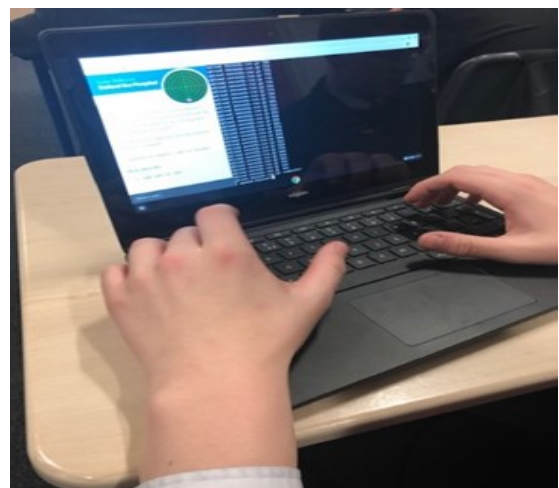
Robbie, Daniel and Siddharth were invited to take part in the next round; results to follow.

Our team consisting of Robbie, Daniel, Hassan and Anan travelled to The University of the West of Scotland, Paisley Campus, to compete in the UKMT Senior Team Challenge. Our team did particularly well. Twenty seven schools took part; we were placed eighth. An excellent result!

Advanced Higher pupils were kept busy during the month of November, answering questions posed daily in the Ritangle Competition. The winner will be announced once final solutions have been submitted.

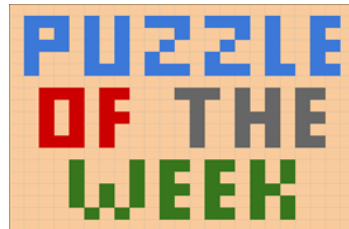
Pupils from all year groups continue to be involved in the global Puzzle of the Week competition. You will find the latest results (at the time of writing), at the end of this article.

Cryptocrackers Club members, together with some S2 pupils, took part in the second of the live Cyber Security lessons. This time, their task was to prevent a cyber-attack on a hospital. A tense, but fun, afternoon was enjoyed by all.



Finally, as we head towards the holidays, S1 are looking forward to our annual "Pointless" competition. Based on the TV programme, the format is the same, but the questions are all things mathematical.

Maths



Our pupils continue to participate in the international Puzzle of the Week competition with 315 answers submitted since the start of the contest in October. 250 of those answers have been correct, giving a 79% success rate to date.

We are currently the top Scottish school in the contest and we are climbing the global leaderboard, moving up to 7th position overall. Our next target is Archbishop Temple CofE High School in 6th position, so we are looking for as many correct submissions as possible for the upcoming puzzles!

Schools (leaderboards) 18-19 : Top 20 This Year				
Position	School	Country	Correct Answers	All Answers
1	Queen Elizabeth's Academy	England	843	1065
2	The Kimberley School	England	628	735
3	St Andrews International School Bangkok	Thailand	522	601
4	Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Sc	Philippines	490	573
5	Garden International School	Malaysia	461	608
6	Archbishop Temple CofE High School	England	295	419
7	Mearns Castle High School	Scotland	289	355
8	JESS Dubai	UAE	287	555
9	The British School of Brussels	Belgium	246	277
10	Nishimachi International School	Japan	193	278
11	Școala Gimnazială "I G DUCA"	România	160	168
12	The Cathedral School	Wales	147	225
13	Parliament Hill School	England	141	215
14	British International School Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	122	169
15	British College Brazil	Brazil	114	160
16	Royal Hospital School	England	112	193
17	Hardenhuish School	England	111	200
18	Whitchurch High School	Wales	111	141
19	The International School @ Parkcity	Malaysia	110	138
20	HELP International School	Malaysia	106	157
TOTAL			7852	11063

House points are available for participation in all puzzles, and for successful entries. The most recent awards are:

- November - S6 Kirstin (participation) and S3 Louisa (success)

We have three pupils who are currently hold joint first position globally with just 35 other participants. Given that there are currently 5442 entrants worldwide, this is a fabulous result! We wish Kirstin, Erin and Louisa luck in retaining that position for the remainder of the contest.

Parents and staff are also encouraged to submit entries as they all count towards our overall score on the global leaderboard - see www.puzzleoftheweek.com every Monday for the most up to date puzzle and entry form.

Breaking News: we have just learned that our S2 team which took part in the National Young Mathematician's Award has been selected as the Regional Winner. We wait with bated breath to find out if we will be invited to the final at Cambridge University.

English



English Department News



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

INTO FILM FESTIVAL - TRIP TO SEE 'ISLE OF DOGS'

On Friday, 9th of November our film club, accompanied by Mrs Robertson and Miss Akhtar attended a special screening of 'Isle of Dogs' at Cineworld in Glasgow as part of the Into Film festival. All pupils enjoyed the chance to study the animated film, thinking carefully about filmic techniques.



PUBLIC SPEAKING NEWS

Miss Laitano's junior public speakers Amna, Leon and Sergei competed in the Speakers' Club Semi-Final this session and won their round. Well done to all involved!

The senior team (consisting of Kirsten, Emma and Gabriele) also performed admirably in the Rotary Club Competition, placing second overall. Well done!

ADVANCED HIGHER NEWS

On Friday, 29th of November Mrs McMahon accompanied Advanced Higher English pupils to the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. Pupils enjoyed the opportunity to tour the library, used the facilities on offer and research information for their dissertations. They found the experience both enjoyable and of great value to their studies.

English



English Department News



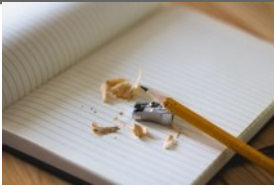
S1 POETRY COMPETITION - NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Mrs Kaliski organised a poetry competition for S1 in celebration of National Poetry Day. The theme of the competition this year was 'Change' and all pupils had an opportunity to write a poem. Three entries were chosen from each class and these are currently being judged by members of our Senior Leadership Team. Good luck to all involved!

WINTER CONCERT - PERFORMANCE OF POEMS BY ADVANCED HIGHER PUPILS

At our winter concert, members of the Advanced Higher classes wrote and performed poems they had written themselves to a very receptive audience. This was the first year that poetry has been included in the programme and was a fabulous experience for all involved. Ava, Cinzia, Sam and Qasim did themselves proud with confident performances of their own work.

English



English Department News



HALLOWEEN FUN

S1 pupils in Mrs McMahon's class enjoyed the chance to share Hallowe'en poems and stories and participate in literary related apple dooking! Great fun was had by all!



English



English Department News



PANTO TIME!

On Thursday, 20th of December the English department will be taking our entire first year along to the Citizen's @ The Tramway pantomime, 'A Christmas Carol'. We are very much looking forward to getting into the festive mood and are hoping that our first year pupils enjoy the experience as well as taking the opportunity to write a report about the production upon their return to school!



Social Subjects

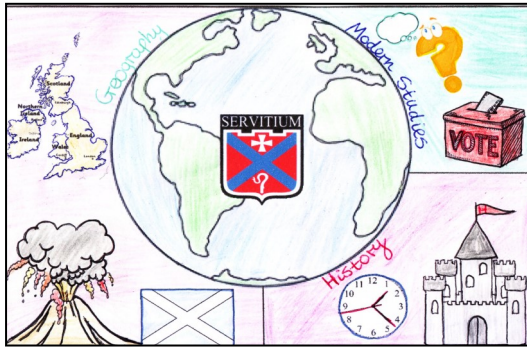
Geography History Modern Studies

S1-3 PRAISE POSTCARD COMPETITION

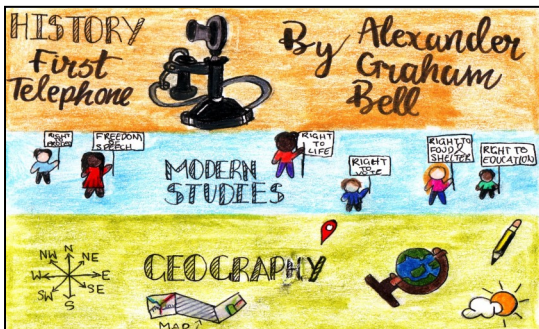
In October, S1-S3 pupils were challenged to design a new praise postcard for the faculty. We had some outstanding entries and it was a difficult decision to pick our winner. Well done to Ailah (S2), Lauren (S1) and Robbie (S1) who were our runners up, winning 10 points each for their houses. Congratulations to Sophie (S2) who won the competition and received 20 house points!

In Social Subjects, pupils are sent praise postcards to reward exceptional pieces of work and effort. In addition, if a pupil receives a praise postcard, 5 house points will be awarded to them.

Winner



Runner Up



Social Subjects

Geography History Modern Studies



AH History Trip to Glasgow Caledonian Archive

The S6 AH History class spent a useful day at the Glasgow Caledonian archive, where the pupils looked at items from the Spanish Civil War Special Collection. The archive holds a wealth of primary and secondary materials on the Spanish Civil war, including memoirs and recorded interviews with people from Scotland who fought in the war on the Republican side. Other interesting material includes Francoist propaganda magazines, Trotskyite newspapers and photos of the refugee crisis at the end of the war. The day started with an introduction from Carole McCallum, the head of the Archive, who explained to the pupils how archives work and what the Special Collection holds. The pupils were then free to look at the different materials and take notes for their dissertations. They gathered useful information, and have the option to return to the Archive themselves if they want to look at any of the sources in more detail.

AH History and Spanish Trip to Kelvingrove Museum and the Kelvinhall Museum Archive

The AH History class teamed up with AH Spanish pupils to visit Kelvingrove Museum and the Kelvinhall Museum Store. Pupils completed a treasure hunt at Kelvingrove about artefacts related to the Spanish Civil War. At Kelvinhall, pupils were able to see and handle primary sources which are not on display to the public, including war posters from Catalonia and a telegram from the head of the Barcelona museum service, pleading for help from colleagues in Glasgow during the bombing of Barcelona by the Nationalists.



Business Management



ADVANCED HIGHER BUSINESS MANAGEMENT INVESTMENTS CHALLENGE



Advanced Higher Business Management students recently took part in the Investments Challenge competition against other schools across the West of Scotland using an online simulation.

The competition, supported by BNP Paribas, Skills Development Scotland and My World of Work, promotes careers within the Financial Services Sector which continues to be a major employer and growth area for the Scottish economy.



The Investments Challenge is a simulated share and commodities trading game which improves business and economic understanding, shows mathematics in action and develops key skills such as team working, problem solving, critical thinking, analysing information and communication in a time-pressured and competitive game environment.

The simulation brought experience of working on the financial markets right into the classroom. In teams of 2, our students bought and sold shares and commodities like professional traders after first researching the market, anticipating price changes, interpreting market data and managing their fund.



Just like in real life, prices were affected both by information in the news and by the impact of investors' own decisions. Our teams navigated their way through fast-moving, constantly changing market conditions with the aim to maximise their investment opportunities based on quick and accurate analysis by both the Investment and Media Analysts.

The top 3 winning teams were:

Mustafa Raja and Michael Allan
Sally Wildman and Priya Brad
Ben Shaw and Casey Williamson



We await results from a National level to determine whether any of our top teams have qualified for the West of Scotland finals which take place on 13 December 2018 in the BNP Paribas offices in Glasgow.

Mrs Hazlett and Mrs Sloan

Business Education



BUSINESS EDUCATION

BNP PARIBAS GUEST SPEAKERS



BNP PARIBAS

S5/6 Business Education students received an informative presentation on a range of career opportunities within the Financial Services Sector by Audrey Daniels and Laura Bruce from BNP Paribas. The two speakers shared their stories of their career journeys so far and opportunities available to our students both currently and in the future in Financial Services and BNP Paribas in particular. The presentation also covered several topic areas within the Business Education courses which will allow our students to better relate their studies to real life.



CAREER AT BNP SECURITIES SERVICES

- School Leavers
- Graduate Opportunities
- Industrial Placements - 12 months, part of uni degree
- Internships – 12 week Summer Intern
- Investment 2020 – 12 months, rotate in 2 diff business areas
- Mentoring (Career Ready) – 2 years mentoring programme with S5&S6, with 4 week paid work placement



Mrs Hazlett and Mrs Sloan

Young Enterprise Team

ON THE GO - MCHS YOUNG ENTERPRISE TEAM



On the Go - the S6 Young Enterprise Team - have been working very hard since the beginning of the school year to come up with business ideas and develop products. Their products are high quality stainless steel and plastic (fruit-infusion) water bottles with the option to personalise. To generate their start-up capital they organised the school photographs and a very successful S5/6 Halloween disco.

The team are working well together and have been very busy selling their products at many local Christmas Trade Fairs and school events over the past month. They also participated in the competition Trade Fair for Renfrewshire Young Enterprise, which took place on Tuesday 4 December 2018 at Soar Intu Braehead. The night was a success with the team producing an excellent trade



stand and mastering their professional sales pitches which helped sell lots of their fantastic products. The judges were very impressed and as a result the team were awarded Runner Up for Best Trade Stand.

Also, the Finance Director of On the Go - Poppy Robinson - had such an excellent sales pitch that she was awarded the 'Banter Award' for having the best sales patter at the event.



In addition to the Trade Fair the team took part in the UK wide Logo Competition via Instagram. This competition was judged by Harvey Wilson the Director of London based Creative Agency - Reulo, their clients include Nike and Norton. The team came second in this National competition and received some very positive feedback from Harvey.



On the Go are continuing to sell their products at various events within the local community and within the school and are working towards the Strathclyde University Young Enterprise exam and the Renfrewshire Young Enterprise finals in March.



Well done team! Keep up the fantastic work!

Mrs Sloan and Miss Smith
(Business Education)

PE Department

Sports Update December 2018

Sport Scotland Gold Award

The school has been awarded the Sport Scotland Gold Award.

Rowing Scottish Championships

The following Pupils attended the Scottish Schools Indoor Rowing Championships at Ravenscraig Sports Centre on Friday 16th November 2018.

Poppy Rae S1, Beth Logan S2, Fiona Morrison S3, Lorna MacDonald S3, Kendal Armit S3, Lily Rae S3, Emma Morrison S5, Cara Henderson S5, Kirsty MacDonald S5 and Anna Baird S5.

All girls competed well with the S3 Girls team finishing second overall in the team events and Kendal Armit placed 3rd overall in the individual event.

S1-S3 Girls Football League

The S1-S3 girls have competed in 3 East Renfrewshire 7 a side tournaments and are due to compete again next term.

The following pupils represented the school on Wednesday 5th December in the tournament hosted by St.Ninians High School.

Grace McKenzie-S1, Katie Rogers-S1, Kim Gardner-S1, Tahreem Arif-S1, Annabella Rice-S2, Anna Fotedar-S2, Rebecca Wallace-S3, Felicity Rome-S3, Lily Rae-S3, Aliza Hussain-S3, Hayleigh White-S3, Louisa Crerar-S3, Aniza Asad-S3 and Emma Glover-S3.

Boys Football Teams

All teams have been performing well over the last 2 months. Three teams progressed to the Scottish Cup third round. All have competed well in their leagues.

Swimming

Mearns Castle High school pupils competed well at the Renfrewshire Area Swimming Championships on the 2nd November. Well done to all pupils who participated. Several pupils achieved top 3 finishing positions: Heather Barnes, Jack bell, Kara Blackley, Logan MacLeod, Eilidh McCracken, Lisa Miller and Euan Mullen. Excellent news.

PE Department

Badminton

The following pupils represented Mearns Castle High School at the Renfrewshire Area Schools Badminton Association - Secondary Quaich Tournament. This was on the 30th October 2018 at Barrhead Foundry

Junior Team S1-2

Boy 1: Adam Stewart (S2)

Boy 2: Noah Ling (S2)

Boy 3: Ben McAllister (S2)

Boy 4: Christian Armour (S2)

Girls 1: Jemma Moffat (S1)

Girl 2: Olivia Syme (S1)

Girl 3: Poppy Rae (S1)

Girl 4: Leah Neville (S2)

Senior Team S3-6

Boy 1: Grant Cooke (S4)

Boy 2: Bilal Asghar (S3)

Boy 3: Timmoney Wong (S4)

Boy 4: Blair Gavin (S3)

Girl 1: Rachel Miller (S2)

Girl 2: Shraddha Meti (S3)

Girl 3: Lily Rae (S3)

Girl 4: Rachael Martin (S2)

Thanks goes to the senior helpers from the school: Megan Merry, Euan McFarlane and Nicole Watson

Mearns Castle High School was placed second in the Senior event.

Gymnastics

The following pupils attended the Level 1-3 East Renfrewshire Gymnastics Championships on the 4th December 2018: Anna Mccafferty S2, Jenny Cullen S2, Jenna Ness S2, Molly McAllister S3, Megan Stuart S3, Laura Osborne S3, Eve Sanderson S3, Emma Wilson S2, Nikki Cuthbertson S1, Neve McNab S1, Ayesha Sadiq S2, G Aleeza Usmani S2, Grace Baillie S1, Carys Durrant S1, Eva McMahan S2 and Leah Thomson S4. Excellent standard of completion with two teams placed third.

The level 4 gymnasts compete on the 15th December.

Thanks to Susannah Howard for supporting and helping the teams

Social Dance

Pupils from S1 through to S5 have been practicing their social dance steps as part of the core Physical Education programme. The dances taught include both pair and set dances. These skills were used during a school event called the S factor and the school Christmas dances. These life skills I hope will be used at dances and ceilidhs throughout the year and especially over the festive period.

Up Coming Events

Athletics

The Scottish Schools' Athletic Association Rotary International SSAA Indoor Track and Field Championships will be held at the Emirates Arena on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th February 2019

Cross Country

East Renfrewshire Council Schools (Secondary and Primary) Cross Country event will take place at Rouken Glen Park on 26th February 2019. The school will enter 8 teams (S1,S2,S3 and a Senior team)

Personal Development

Personal Development

This has again been a busy term in the Personal Development Department.

S3 pupils have been involved in a STEM Workshop at Clydebank College. This was a very worthwhile trip and allowed the pupils to research different jobs they may do when they leave school. They also had the chance to meet employers and speak with them. Finally, the pupils loved taking part in the virtual reality challenge and also building the bridge, which can be seen in the photos below. Two of our S3 pupils also attended Football Memories at Mearns House Care Home, while the rest of the class are well ahead with preparations for the Maxwell Mearns Castle Church Playgroup Christmas Party on 14th December.



S4 pupils have also been busy continuing their links with Mearns House Care Home by visiting Ibrox Stadium with the Football Memories Group. This was a really brilliant trip and allowed the residents to reminisce about times when they have watched football. Everyone enjoyed this trip and the excellent inter-generational opportunities it presented. All of the class are looking forward to the Christmas Party at Mearns House on 20th December. In addition to this, all of our S3 and S4 classes were trained as Dementia Friends in October, by Richard Leckerman from Alzheimer Scotland.



Debating News

Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News

**Mearns Castle reach the final of the
Glasgow University Union competition**



Mearns Castle's GUU Debaters (L to R)

Punim, Hazel, Katie, Cerys, Emma and Vivian

On Monday 5th November, Mearns Castle once again competed in the annual Glasgow University Union Schools Debating Competition. The GUU competition is a one day event for senior debaters in S4-6 and attracts the top debating schools in the country. Mearns Castle was represented by 3 teams. The motions were as challenging as usual and included the topics: *forcing politicians to only use state services; regretting the use of feminist themes in advertising; making development aid conditional on human rights and the banning of art by people who have committed immoral acts.* All three Mearns Castle teams performed to a high level as always and all three achieved notable 1st places in the early rounds. However, congratulations go to Vivian and Punim from S6 who finished 3rd on the team tab and who therefore broke to the final. Vivian and Punim opposed a motion on whether *able bodied by-standers should intervene if they witness a crime.* In the end, the decision in the final went against Mearns Castle although both debaters put in a fantastic performance. Another great day for Mearns Castle at the GUU competition.

Debating News

The St Andrews Union Schools Competition



The St Andrews Debaters (L to R)

Vivian, Hazel, Punim and Cerys.

On Saturday 17th November, the Mearns Castle debating roadshow rolled into St Andrews for the annual St Andrews Union schools debating competition. Mearns Castle was represented by 2 teams this year. The competition was a very busy one day event with teams from across the country in attendance. All teams compete 4 times in the early rounds before the top 4 teams break to the final. The motions for the early rounds included: *This house supports tiger parenting*; *This house would ban countries with poor human rights records from hosting major International sporting events*; *This house would abolish the use of referendums* and *This house would ban cosmetic surgery*. Both Mearns Castle teams debated to a very high standard. A special mention to Vivian and Hazel who finished a fantastic 3rd and 5th on the speaker tab respectively. Another mention also goes to Hazel and Cerys who finished joint 4th on the team tab. It remains something of a mystery as to why both debaters did not progress to the final.

However, another fantastic performance from Mearns Castle's debating teams in St Andrews.

Debating News

The Edinburgh Union Junior Debating Competition



The Edinburgh Union debaters (L to R)

Naomi, Kirsten, Eva, Zoe, Zainab and Rebecca.

On Saturday, 24th November, Mearns Castle once again made the journey to Edinburgh for this year's Edinburgh Union Junior Debating Competition. This year's competition attracted a large number of teams from around Scotland and one team from Newcastle. All teams debated in 3 preliminary rounds before the top 4 teams are announced for the final. The topics for the motions included: *placing an upper limit on the age you can vote; banning the production and sale of meat and celebrities should not hold political stances*. All three teams achieved some very notable 1st place finishes in some of the early rounds. A special mention to Kirsten and Zainab (S3) who achieved a 1st and a 2nd during the day and who very narrowly missed the final. A mention also to Naomi and Rebecca (S1) who achieved a very creditable 5 team points in the final team tab. A fantastic performance given that Naomi and Rebecca were competing in their first ever competition. Congratulations are also due to Eva and Zoe (S2) who finished 4th on the team tab and who broke to the final. In the final, Eva and Zoe proposed the very challenging motion: *This house believes that items of public property that refer to people who directly profited from the slave trade, should be replaced or renamed*. In the end the judges decision went against Mearns Castle. But both Eva and Zoe came very close and were placed 2nd in the final. A fantastic achievement in only their second national one day competition. Another great day for Mearns Castle debating in Edinburgh.

Debating News

The Scottish Schools Debating Council Junior Debating Competition



The ESU Junior debaters

Zainab and Kirsten

On 22nd November, Mearns Castle's competed in the second round of the SSDC Junior Debating Competition. This is a round by round national competition for debaters in S1-S3. The motion for the second round was '*This House would ban gambling*'. Mearns Castle competed in a 4 team tie against debaters from Duncanrig Secondary, Holy Cross High School and Hamilton Grammar. Congratulations go to Kirsten and Zainab who successfully opposed the motion and who will now contest the 3rd round in January. Good Luck to both debaters in 2019.

The English Speaking Union Mace

On Wednesday 3rd October, Mearns Castle hosted the 1st round of the ESU Mace competition. This is a round-by-round competition for senior debaters in S4-6. The motion for the first round was: '*This house would support a 4 day working week*.' Mearns Castle competed against schools from Woodfarm High School and Duncanrig Secondary. Punim and Vivian (S6) successfully proposed the motion and will now contest the 2nd round in January. Good Luck to both debaters in the next round.

Debating News

The Cambridge Union Schools Competition



The Cambridge Union Debaters

Hazel and Cerys

On Saturday 8th December, Mearns Castle competed in the regional round of the Cambridge Union Schools competition. The Cambridge Union host regional heats around the UK for teams in S4-6. The successful schools in each heat are selected to compete in the Cambridge Union Finals Day in the Cambridge Union. Mearns Castle were represented this year by Cerys (S4) and Hazel (S5). The topics for the motions on the day included: *mandatory voting; introducing a 100% inheritance tax; quotas for women in parliament and abolishing trial by jury*. Both Hazel and Cerys debated to a high standard and achieved very notable 1st and 2nd place finishes throughout the day against some older and more experienced opposition. In the end, Mearns Castle narrowly missed out on finals day. Both Cerys and Hazel should be very proud to have achieved the results they did during the day against some top class debaters. Here's to next year!!!

AND FINALLY...

A huge thanks to all the debaters, staff and parents who helped to make 2018 another great year for Mearns Castle Debating. The school entered around 15 competitions throughout the year. Along the way, Mearns Castle qualified for the Oxford Union Finals Day back in March, competed in the final of the Glasgow Bar competition in June and in September qualified for the European Youth Parliament International Session to be held in Valencia in July and August of 2019. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to debating in the past year. Here's to 2019!

Duke of Edinburgh



Duke of Edinburgh Award

To mark the Year of Young People 2018, pupils participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award attended a celebration night hosted by Capital Radio in Rouken Glen Park. We had an excellent turn out from Mearns Castle High School. We remain the school with the highest number of pupils taking part in the Award. Each school played a short film highlighting all the activities and good causes the pupils have been involved in. Pupils received a Young Achievers Award badge at the event. Following the award ceremony pupils enjoyed some food, a photo booth, a band and a disco.



This year 60, S4 pupils received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh certificates and badges. The majority have moved on to start their Silver Award. A further 65 pupils are taking part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh. They are working hard to complete their Awards by the end of this term.

The Gold Award has also had 34 pupils from S6 taking part. One group had the fantastic opportunity of completing their Expedition in the Tatra Mountains in Poland. The other group ventured from the North to the South of Arran. The pupils are all working hard on completing the other sections of the Award. A special congratulation goes to Jack Loudon in S6 for completing his Gold Award so quickly. Jack can expect an invite



to
a

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)



Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

Scott Murphy - Principal Teacher (Development)

S6 Ambassadors

Congratulations to Ramlah Ali and Iman Munsha (S6 Pupils) who have been successful with their applications and will work across the school this session as IDL Ambassadors. Ramlah and Iman have started this role with a great deal of success already, by leading several aspects of the S1 Event including - recruiting and organising S6 helpers, liaising with staff to ensure all resources are available and also communicating with S1 pupils/staff leading up to and during the event - Well Done!

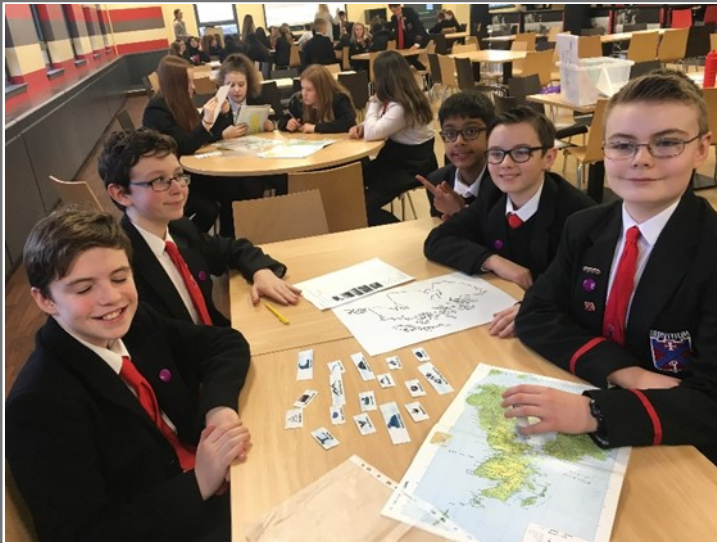
S1 IDL Event - S Factor - December 2018

As with all IDL year group events - every pupil is given the opportunity to participate in learning activities along with their peers. S Factor event embraces Scottish heritage as a theme for learning. Information is shared with S1 leading up to the event as this is their first experience of full year group learning activities. In preparation for the event, throughout various departments, lessons are planned with Scotland as a focus, and on the day of the S Factor students have a platform to demonstrate their prior learning including knowledge and understanding as well as skill development. The activity worked in a carousel style, with staff being responsible for 6 activity stations which included: Scottish Book Quiz; Scottish Inventions; Scottish Ceilidh; A French Tourist in Scotland; Scotland Map Challenge and Scottish Artists. Over 15 members of staff, all S3 junior Captains and 12 S6 helpers were involved in this event.

Final standings for the event.....

Wallace
Balmoral
Caledonia
Sutherland
Gleneagles
Ramsay

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)



Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

Previous IDL events in 2018.....

S3 IDL Event - Headliner - March 2018

In March all S3 (current S4) pupils took part in the Headliner event. The theme for this event is event planning and management. Students worked in house groups and were responsible for organising an hypothetical music gig for a HEADLINER act...including Beyonce, Stormzy, Little Mix and others! In House groups pupils created a promotional pack for their artists before agreeing to sub teams and worked in following areas - security (led by Campus Police Officers) International relations (Modern Languages), Hospitality (making healthy burgers), Sound testing (sound tests in Science), Merchandise (Art), International relations (Modern Languages) and Business Ethics (RMPS). Based on previous years suggestions from pupils, new challenges were also introduced such as Social Media Marketing (ICT & Business), Music Video/Lip Syncing (Drama) and First Aid (Youth Worker/Active Schools). Over 25 members of staff and 220 pupils were involved in this event.

The work produced during the day and skills demonstrated were of a very high standard - well done to all S3 pupils.

The final house positions (based on pupil and staff votes) were -

Balmoral
Gleneagles
Ramsay
Caledonia
Sutherland
Wallace

Each house were then allocated points based on these positions as well as individual praise cards issued throughout the day.



Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)



S1 IDL Event - Year of Young People - June 2018



2018 Year of Young People (Scottish Government) allowed IDL event scheduled in the summer term to take a slightly different format from previous years (Rapid Response).

Over 220 S1 pupils (current S2), using ICT including their own device and working with peers, researched topics including -

Celebrate Equality

Get Active, Be Healthy

Care for the Environment

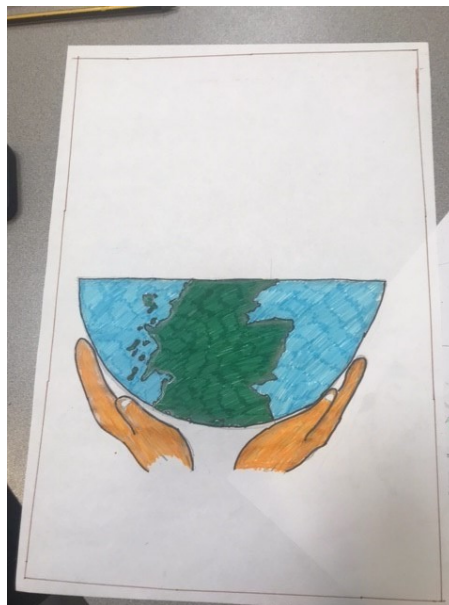
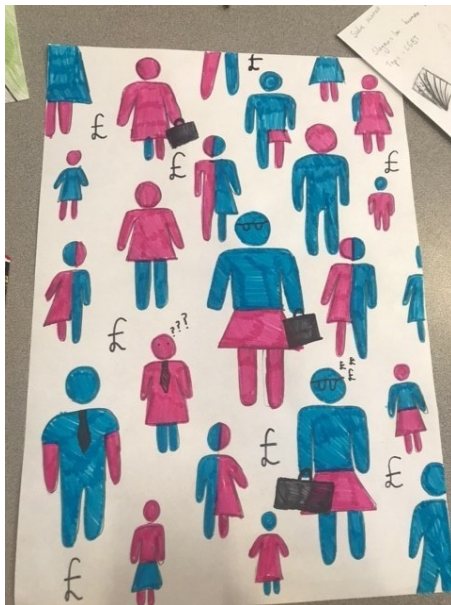
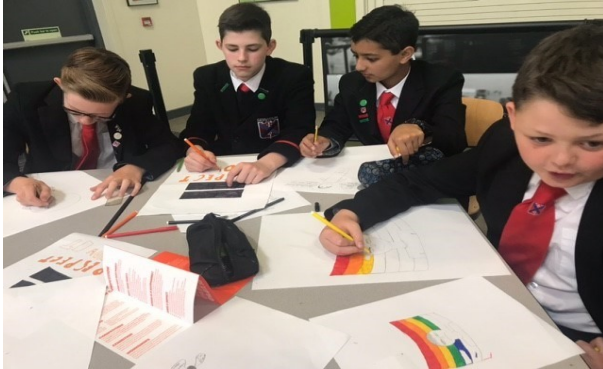
Value Education

Young Power

Improve Scotland

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

They then created topical posters to represent any of the abovementioned areas - these posters were submitted to the 'Young and Powerful' competition - results still to be announced.



Huge congratulations to pupils who were selected for their outstanding work and attended the presentation showcase - Sadie S2) won her age category!

In summary the IDL events, in conjunction with more integrated course of study that are offered throughout the school year, have contributed to the development of MCHS pupils' employability skills including - communication, problem solving, teamwork, creativity and ICT skills.

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) challenges pupils to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills that they have developed out-with 'normal' learning contexts.

2018/19 session will continue to offer our pupils with these fun, effective and worthwhile experiences to ensure that pupils are given the opportunity to develop crucial skills for learning, life and work.

Mr Murphy - PT Development

Biology Lunchtime Club

BIOLOGY LUNCHTIME DROP IN SESSION ROTA N5 AND HIGHER PUPILS.

The staff in the Biology department will continue to offer drop in sessions for National 5 and Higher Biology on the dates listed below. These sessions will be a good opportunity for pupils to get assistance with aspects of the course that they are finding difficult, to get help with homework or to carry out revision with a teacher on hand if needed. Please encourage your child to attend. If pupils require assistance at times out with these dates they can speak to any member of the department, we are all more than happy to help.

Mrs McCulloch

NATIONAL 5 BIOLOGY DATES .

DATE	LAB	STAFF MEMBER
17/1/19	A8	MISS BANNERMAN
31/1/19	A4	MRS GIROUX
14/2/19	A1	MRS MCCULLOCH
22/11/18	A3	MISS CRAWFORD
28/2/19	A5	MRS MCKISSOCK
14/3/19	A8	MISS BANNERMAN
28/3/19	A4	MRS GIROUX

HIGHER BIOLOGY DATES

DATE	LAB	STAFF MEMBER
10/1/19	A3	MISS CRAWFORD
24/1/19	A5	MRS MCKISSOCK
7/2/19	A1	MRS MCCULLOCH
21/2/19	A4	MRS GIROUX
7/3/19	A3	MISS CRAWFORD
21/3/19	A8	MISS BANNERMAN

STEAM Club

STEAM CLUB

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths club will recommence on Tuesdays from the 15/1/19. All pupils who signed up are welcome to attend. The timetable is below. Should any pupil who didn't sign up wish to attend the club they should register their interest with Mrs Mc Culloch (Science Room A1).

Thanks,

Mrs McCulloch

Week	Date	Activity Name	Subject Focus	Lead Staff Member	Specific department equipment needed
1	15/1/19	Spaghetti Tower	D&T/Art	E Bannerman	A8
2	22/1/19	Balloon Rockets	Science	J Stephen	A7
3	29/1/19	Chromatography/ Crystal Decorations	Art/Science	K Giroux	A4
4	5/2/19	Egg-stra-strong	Science / Engineering	C F McCulloch	A1
5	26/2/19	Avalanche	Maths/ Science	C McKissock	A5
6	12/3/19	Balloon Kebabs	All	J Wilson	A14

Maidenhill Trip

Maidenhill Project

Construction experiences for S4 boys



Six of our S4 pupils are enjoying the opportunity to gain valuable experience with BAM the company building the new Maidenhill Primary School. As well as site visits and talks from industry experts, the boys had an afternoon session at West College Scotland on 9th November trying their hand at bricklaying.

The pupils were instructed by a master bricklayer who gave a demonstration and then allowed the boys to test their skills.

College staff were impressed by the ability of the pupils to pick up the skill very quickly and all 6 were awarded a medal to acknowledge their success.

The session also gave pupils a chance to see around the college and get a flavour of college life.



Performing Arts

Christmas Fundraising

This year we were delighted to fundraise for both The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice and The Beatson Cancer Charity.

Our talented musicians performed a variety of Christmas Carols at a very cold Central Station on Monday 10th December. Braving the cold conditions was well and truly worth it as we raised an amazing **£527.37** for the Hospice!

Pupils then entertained crowds at Braehead Shopping centre on Friday 14th December raising money for The Beatson Cancer Charity. We will let you know the amount we raised in the next newsletter.

Many thanks to all the parents, friends and family who came to support us on these days.



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 **BEATSON
CANCER
CHARITY**
determined to beat cancer


**The Prince & Princess
of Wales Hospice**

Performing Arts

Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice

We were delighted to be asked to perform at the official opening of the new hospice in Bellahouston Park in October.

A small group of talented musicians from the Senior school were involved in this event. Once again their performances were absolutely outstanding and it was a privilege to be part of this historic occasion at the hospice.



The Prince & Princess
of Wales Hospice

Charities Week 2018

Charities Week 2018 was a fantastic event enjoyed by the whole school community, all with the intention of raising as much money as possible for charity.

This year saw a big shake up to our usual five talent shows. We had the first Mearns Castle's Got Talent and Lip Sync shows, as well as our new additions - Staff Bake Off and Take Me Out. Staff Bake Off was a massive hit, with pupils cheering on their favourite staff who were competing to become Star Baker, they even had a chance to taste the amazing showstopper cakes.

We saw the fundraising activities go from strength to strength. The daily home baking stalls were a huge success, worked off at lunchtime with the famous 5 a-side Football Tournament. Those not 'running off' their cakes at lunchtime were able to enjoy the carnival in the Open Area including a variety of games, getting a henna tattoo, or enjoying the music supplied by our S6 DJ Team. The Sponge the Teacher event saw a number of teachers get soaked in the name of charity, whilst our senior students also had to do their bit as they were put to the test acting as helpers for the day for other students.

Another first this year was the revenge on the PE teachers, where one lunchtime saw the PE staff being put through their paces as they had to do the dreaded Beep Test! Our S6 pupils also raised extra money by forming a Mariachi Band and a Gospel Choir surprising many pupils throughout the week, serenading them with a song. A special mention must go out to our Pie Mafia mob, who had the deputes shaking in their shoes as they waited to see who had fallen prey this year - step forward Mr Hale and Mrs Mitchell!

Our evening show, 'Look Back in Laughter', which took some of the best parts of Charities Week in to one amazing night was also a big hit, enjoyed by all who attended. This allowed us to increase our total further, which brings the final amount raised to an amazing **£8018!**

Too many are the people to acknowledge individually for such a magnificent collaborative effort but a mention must be made of the well organised team of S6 pupils lead by our Deputy Head Girl Iona Gibson, who made much of this possible.

Their labours, and those of many other committed and dedicated staff and pupils have allowed the entire school community to contribute to another outstanding Charities Week. The money raised will be distributed to the charities which have been chosen at the recent House assemblies. In giving, we are all the beneficiaries, the generosity of each person in the school this year will touch many other lives during the next twelve months.

Well done to all!

Mrs Khan and Miss McLauchlan

Future Chef Competiton

On Tuesday 18th December Mearns Castle were lucky enough to host the East Renfrewshire Local Finals for the illustrious Future Chef competition run across the UK by Springboard. Rebecca in S4 was our school entrant having previously won our school heat and since working alongside Red Onion Chef Patron John Quigley in the build-up, Rebecca produced two knock out dishes to win beating some tough competition from other local schools. **Well done Rebecca.**

For a bit of background on the competition, the brief was 2 main courses and 2 desserts in 90 minutes with a budget of £7.

Rebecca made a chicken and leek stuffed ballotine with crushed potatoes, carrot puree, tender stem broccoli with chicken and lime sauce for main course and apple puff pastry roses with caramel sauce for dessert.

Rebecca will now progress on to the West and Central Regional Finals held at Glasgow City College in February to represent the local authority. With an increased budget of £10 next round, stay tuned to see what magnificent ideas Rebecca can conjure up.



Rights Respecting Schools Award



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

unicef 
UNITED KINGDOM

The Rights Respecting School Group would like to start off with a big thank you for all of your contributions to the food bank drive that took place during charities week.

The group managed to collect 3 full crates of food to donate to Crookston Community Food bank so a big thank you for your donation, it will make all the difference!

The RRSA group will be carrying out future food bank drives the last Wednesday of every month in the open area- starting in January!

Please bring in all that you can. We are looking for dried food, tins and toiletries.



**EVERY CHILD HAS
THE RIGHT TO
GOOD HEALTH &
PROPER NUTRITION**

unicef 



PSYV East Renfrewshire are recruiting Adult Volunteers

for more information visit: www.scotland.police.uk/psyv

Aims of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers:

- The promotion of a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people.
- Encouraging a spirit of adventure and good citizenship amongst young people.
- Supporting local policing priorities through volunteering and giving young people a chance to be heard.
- Inspiring young people to participate positively in their communities.



Police Scotland
Youth Volunteers
Volunteering for our communities

PSYVPoliceScotland 

@PolScotPSYV 

scotland.police.uk/psyv 

Pay online...
for peace of mind



A convenient way to pay

Parents can now book and pay securely online for a range of items using a debit/credit card or through PayPoint. Paying online gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your money has reached the school safely and is used for its intended purpose.

Pay online for

- School meals
- Trips
- And more

How to pay online...

- Step 1 - Have your activation letter ready
- Step 2 - Login at www.parentpay.com
- Step 3 - Follow instructions to activate account
- Step 4 - Click on 'Items due for payment'

“No more having
to look for change
or writing cheques.
It's so easy now”

ParentPay Parent.



www.parentpay.com

Colours Referral Form



Mearns Castle High School

Celebrating Pupil Achievement

Name		Year Group	
House			

We are interested in finding out the activities/hobbies/interests you have in and out of school. Please fill out a separate form for each achievement you want to be considered.

Please tick category of application

Enterprise
 Citizenship
 Sport
 Expressive Arts

Tick up to three skills that you have demonstrated in your activities

<u>Successful Learner</u>	<u>Confident Individual</u>	<u>Responsible Citizen</u>	<u>Effective Contributor</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Enthusiasm and motivation for learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Self Respect	<input type="checkbox"/> Respect for others	<input type="checkbox"/> An enterprising attitude
<input type="checkbox"/> Determination to achieve high standards of achievement	<input type="checkbox"/> A sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being	<input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic social and cultural life	<input type="checkbox"/> Resilience
<input type="checkbox"/> Openness to new thinking and ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> Secure values and beliefs		<input type="checkbox"/> Self-reliance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ambition		

1. Please give a brief description of your success, giving details of dates of competitions, awards, participation etc

When did the activity take place?	
Where did it take place?	
Who was the activity arranged through?	
Describe what you did	

2. **References and Evidence**

To support this application please provide a reference where possible from your group leader, coach or teacher. To help provide a full picture to support your application and to help the school celebrate your success, please attach any **PHOTOCOPIES** of photos, certificates, medals or other relevant information with this form. **Originals will not be accepted.**

3. Parents or carers, please add any additional information you feel may be relevant below

--

Pupils Signature	
Parents Signature	
Date	

For Office Use Only			
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Achievement	<input type="checkbox"/> House Colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Half Colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Colours

Comments Slip

Pupil's Name: _____

Year Group: _____

We welcome any feedback on the content of the Newsletter or indeed any other aspect of the work of the School. If you wish to make an electronic reply please do so by following the link below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/MearnsCastle/contact-us/>

Comment:

Parent's Signature:.....

Parents Name (please print):.....

Mearns Castle High School

Parents' Calendar

2018-2019

W/C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
13-Aug-18	IS 1	IS 2	School re-opens 8.45am		
20-Aug-18					
27-Aug-18					
03-Sep-18			Senior Awards Ceremony		
10-Sep-18				S8 Curriculum Evening	
17-Sep-18	S5 Curriculum Eve			S4 TR issued	HOL
24-Sep-18	HOL			S4 Curriculum Evening	
01-Oct-18				S4 Parents' Meeting	
08-Oct-18	S1 Curriculum Evening			School closes at 3.35pm	IS 3
15-Oct-18	OCTOBER HOLIDAY				
22-Oct-18			Careers Fair		S2 TR issued
29-Oct-18		S3 Curriculum Evening			
05-Nov-18	S5/S6 TR1 issued			S5/S6 Parents' Meeting	
12-Nov-18				DYW Evening	
19-Nov-18				S1 Parents' Meeting	
03-Dec-18	← S4 Prelims →				S3 TR issued
10-Dec-18	← S4 Prelims →				
17-Dec-18	← S4 Prelims →				School closes at 2.45pm
24-Dec-18	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS				
31-Dec-18	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS				
				In Service	
			TR = Tracking Report		

W/C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
07-Jan-19	School re-opens at 8.45am S5/S6 TR2 issued				
14-Jan-19					
21-Jan-19				← S5/6 Prelims →	
28-Jan-19	S4/S5 Options Evening		S5/6 Prelims		
04-Feb-19		S5/6 Prelims		School closes at 3.35pm	IS 4
11-Feb-19	MID TERM HOL		S2 Reports issued	S2 Options Evening	
18-Feb-19	S2 Parents' Meeting				
25-Feb-19					
04-Mar-19	S5/S6 Reports issued				
11-Mar-19		S3 Parents' Meeting			
18-Mar-19					
25-Mar-19	← S3 Exams →				School closes at 2.45pm
01-Apr-19	SPRING BREAK				
08-Apr-19	SPRING BREAK				
15-Apr-19	School re-opens 8.45am		S3 Exams	School closes at 3.35pm S8 Leavers' Ceremony	GOOD FRIDAY
22-Apr-19	EASTER MONDAY	S4,5,6 last day in school School re-opens 8.45 am	S3 Exams	Start of SQA Exams	
29-Apr-19	← S3 Exams →				School closes at 2.45pm
06-May-19	HOL	IS 5	School re-opens 8.45am		
13-May-19					
20-May-19	S1 Reports issued			School closes at 3.35pm	HOL
27-May-19	HOL	School re-opens 8.45am			End of SQA Exam Diet S3 Reports completed
03-Jun-19	S2/S6 start new TT			P7 Ind 1, P7 Parents' Eve	P7 induction 2 S3 Reports issued
10-Jun-19					
17-Jun-19					
24-Jun-19				School Closes 1pm	HOLIDAY
	Parents' Meeting		Year Group Report		
	Parents' Information Meeting		Options Evening		