



The 'Head'- lines (from the Head Teacher)

Dear Parents / Carers

The End is in Sight!

With Easter now past, there is very little time left before we go into the "busy-ness" of the end-of-year activities – S6 Leavers' activities, the visits of next year's S1 pupils, the SQA exams, the S3 exams, the awards ceremonies and school trips.



We have seen significant increase in pupils attending Easter School this year and we hope that is an indication of the work being put in, both in and out of school, in preparation for the exams. Can I wish all pupils all the best for the coming exams.

This year we will see the first presentations for the new National 5 exams. The National 4 courses do not involve external exams so that had led to some significant changes in how we use the time during the exam period particularly for pupils not sitting any or many National 5s (see below).

As usual, much of the news on a week-by-week basis is appearing on the school website and some of the items below will have been aired there already. Please keep an eye on the website.

As usual, also, we are issuing a paper summary copy of the newsletter and the full version will be posted on the website. Go to <http://www.barrhead.e-renfrew.sch.uk/> or contact the School Office for a paper copy of the full version if you prefer.

Andy Sinclair, Head Teacher

News in Brief

SQA Exams and Study Leave



The main exam period will run for 4 weeks from Tues 5th May until Friday 29th May, although a few exams are scheduled for the week before and the week after this period.

As all the new National 4 courses and a few of the National 5 courses no longer have a final examination, a

significant number of our S4 pupils will sit few or no exams and therefore would only require limited study time.

It is our aim to provide an appropriate experience for all our pupils, both to help prepare them for their exams and to provide a worthwhile educational experience. To achieve this we are working with a number of partners as well as our own staff to provide a variety of options including Work Experience, taster courses at College, a variety of workshops in school delivered by teachers or outside partners, directed study sessions aimed at exam preparation led by our own staff as well as individual study to prepare for exams, in school or at home.

The details of how this will work in practice have been issued to S4 pupils and there will be different arrangements to suit different pupils depending on how many exams they will sit. Pupils in S5 and S6 will continue with the previous arrangements for study leave. Provision will be made in school for pupils who prefer to study there and we have arranged some targeted study sessions and all pupils are encouraged to attend these.

All pupils sitting an exam will be allowed to use the day before it to study - at home (with their parent's agreement) or in school.

The new S5 & S6 will start their new timetable on Monday 1st June 2015.

If you require any further information, please contact me at the school.

Easter School

Once again a number of staff gave up some of their holiday time to offer study sessions to help pupils prepare for their exams.

We ran 78 1.5 hour sessions over the two weeks, up from the 60 run last year. A total of 819 pupils attended the sessions, with an average of 10.5 pupils per session and a turn-out of 85% of those who had signed up in advance. This is a marked increase on the number of pupil-sessions for the past 2 years - 695 pupils in 2014 and 410 pupils in 2013.

Thanks to all staff who offered their time to make this such a success this year – the pupils clearly appreciate it and have voted with their feet! We hope that they found it very worth while in their preparations.

East Renfrewshire Study Weekends



Once again, our pupils were given the opportunity by East Renfrewshire Education Department to attend special study weekends which focussed on Higher Maths, Chemistry and Physics. Pupils joined together with other ERC pupils to split their time between studying with teachers on hand to lead the sessions and to take part in a variety of other activities.

Pupils who receive free school meals have the costs met in full and other pupils have their costs subsidised.

Uniform

We have been emphasising to all pupils that with the start of the new term, and hopefully some better weather, we are looking for a full turn out in full uniform again – please assist us in ensuring that the young people are coming to school wearing their blazer, black shoes and appropriate trousers or skirts – we have been seeing some black denims and skinny trousers creeping in recently.



The New School

It has been very encouraging to hear that things are back on track for the new school with the building work expected to start this summer and a completion date of December 2016.

As you may be aware, the proposal now is that the new school building will sit at right angles to Aurs Road on the red blaes pitch area where the Johnny Kelly pavilion and the new skateboard park currently sit. The new football pitch and running track will sit at the front alongside Aurs Road. As part of the build, a new Johnny Kelly pavilion and skateboard park will be included.

While we were all disappointed when the original plans fell through, it is good to know that the new proposals are giving us almost exactly the same internal plans and facilities and with an entry date less than 2 years away.

Car Park Issues



Can I ask again, for your own safety and the safety of all the young people, that all parents who drop-off or pick-up pupils at the start or the end of the school day do that without entering the school grounds unless there is a physical need for this. I would also warn of the difficulties caused by cars stopping immediately outside the school gates. Please consider stopping at a point slightly further away and letting the young folk walk the last few hundred yards for their own safety and that of others.

Head Boy & Head Girl

Our Head Boy and Head Girl - Alan Watson and Claire Dickson – had their hard work recognised and rewarded last month.

Alan and Claire joined the other East Renfrewshire Head Boys and Girls for a presentation and buffet lunch. Head of Service, John Fitzpatrick made the presentation and Mhairi Shaw,



Director of Education, and Elaine Green, Convenor of the Education Committee were also in attendance.

Our own thanks go to Alan and Claire as well.

Rotary Young Linguist of the Year



Once again the local Barrhead Rotary Club sponsored the Young Linguist of the Year contest, involving St Luke's High School and ourselves. For Barrhead High, Iain MacCuish, was the winner, with Aimee Long the runner up.



The pupils received the awards at a ceremony in the Dalmenny Park Hotel last month, where a meal was also provided for the pupils, their families and some staff representatives from each school.



Also present were Calum Ferguson, runner up in the Rotary Euroscola competition and Craig Trench who represented ERC in China last summer.

We are very grateful to the Rotary Club for their ongoing support of the school in a variety of ways.

Cooking Up a Storm

Kieran Adams (S6) participated in the ERC Vocational banquet last month. Kieran has been part of the vocational Hospitality course this session and as usual, the course concluded with a Banquet for parents, guests, councillors and education staff, including Ms Potter and Mr Sinclair. An impressive array of culinary skills was on display and the food was served in a very professional manner. Kieran's positive participation on the night was commented on by a number of those attending – not just his mum or his teachers!.

Barrhead Artists Share Success

East Renfrewshire schools were invited to submit designs – both clothing and jewellery - for the Up Cycle Fashion Show. This was an event held in Parklands in Newton Mearns, organised by staff and pupils involved in various aspects of the vocational programme. Emily Richie, Morvin Studding and Matthew Weir all had entries and Nathan Grieg (S2) was the overall winner in the Jewellery Competition.

Sophie Lyon and Ceri-Ann Grant (S6) also submitted a winning jacket design for the show.

Well done to the pupils and thanks to the Art staff for their support and help.

Girls Basketball

The basketball club runs every Monday after school from 3.45 – 4.30 pm. Any girls who want to build up their fitness and gain some new skills, are invited to join the group. All ages and abilities welcome – even if you have never played before. See Miss Walker in Geography room 37 for details.

Girls' Football

Congratulations to the girls' football team who finished second in the Glasgow football league. An outstanding performance throughout. Well done!



Johnathan Gilmour
Bronze in Poland for Junior Team
Kumite. #wkwf #sctland

Karate Kid Goes from Strength to Strength

Johnathan Gilmour (S5) has continued his successful advance through the world of karate.

He won a bronze medal for individual kumite, and a bronze for the team in Poland.

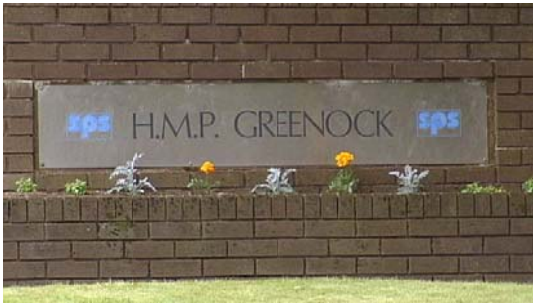
Barrhead Physicists Go into Orbit

Adam Innes, Iain MacCuish and Andrew Miller 'deflected' stiff competition from several Glasgow schools to win a competition on 31st March, at Strathclyde University.

The whole project was about Asteroid Detection and Deflection and feeds into the new Higher unit, Researching Physics. There were experts and PhD students present to give presentations on how the university is participating in this exciting field. It is called the Stardust project and is a collaboration between several European countries. During the second half of the day, school pupils took part in a small project linked to asteroid motion. The boys had to answer physics questions relating to the motion and, using computer software, produce a unique graph describing orbital motion. The judge commented that our team's graph was "the most intuitive as well as unique" in comparison with all the graphs produced.

A team from the university plan to come to our school now to highlight the Stardust project to potential Higher physics candidates and to present a prize to our winning team. They will be in touch very soon with potential dates.

Visit to Greenock Prison



On Monday 16th of March the Higher RMPS Class visited HMP Greenock. One of the key aspects of the Higher Course is the Morality Topic. In class pupils have been exploring the possible causes of crime and the key aims of punishment. This was reinforced with a visit from Deputy Governor Colin Brodie of Greenock Prison who came to discuss his experiences. We were then invited to visit the prison which gave learning about Crime and

Punishment a real context. Prison officers conducted us on a guided tour which provided an insight into prison life.

The most thought-provoking aspect of the visit was the opportunity to speak with a prisoner serving a life sentence. Stevie, who was most articulate in telling his story, was 18 (the same age as some of our pupils) when he was given his life sentence for murder. This had a clear impact on the pupils who were also touched by the fact he will soon be meeting the victim's family. Stevie spoke with emotion as he described how the victim's family have forgiven him and, indeed, have since requested to meet with him. The pupils were moved by his story and the fact that Stevie still has two years of his fifteen year sentence left to serve. Stevie has shown real signs of reform and a genuine desire to live a law-abiding life.

As a result of the visit, pupils have been able to transfer knowledge they have acquired to the classroom.

Did Emily Take the Panda Home or Did the Panda take Emily?



The S2 check-in group raised £45 for the Brightest Star Charity by organising a "Guess the Panda's Birthday" competition.

The lucky winner of the panda is Emily Wallace S6 who guessed correctly December 19th.

Emily was asked to come and take the panda home – but as she left the school, the real question was:

"Who was taking who?!"

The S1 Adventure Weekend

On Friday 27th March, 46 S1 pupils and 5 staff attended the adventure trip to Hexham. The 4-day trip was crammed full of activities and everyone found something which they loved. A wide range of activities, from the blindfolded assault course to rock climbing, was on offer.

The weekend was designed to develop confidence and teamwork; it was fantastic and enjoyed by all. As you can see from the photographs this is an experience that the S1 will truly never forget. The weekend's activities concluded with pizza and disco where Mr Maybury taught the slosh in a dancing competition.



Right on Target - Erin McMillan takes aim.



Mr Maybury seeks refuge from the excitement in a shelter the pupils constructed.



Don't look down! Pupils scramble across the elevated confidence course.

Hollie Rintoul swinging into action on the assault course team challenge.



I would recommend this trip for anyone who takes an interest in adventure type activities or has a love of the outdoors. As you can see from the big smiles in the pictures- you won't regret it!
Mr Gillespie

Keeping in Touch with School Trips

On the last two school trips – The Ski Trip to Italy and the S1 Adventure Weekend – we have gone hi-tech in our methods for keeping those at home involved. Both trips set up a twitter account which allowed parents, staff and other pupils to stay informed about what was going on in the trip, with various tweets and pictures being posted.

Both trips also took the school's new GoPro camera and pupils took turns wearing it and taking video clips of the action. On their return, our multi-media technician, Matthew Mathieson, then produced a short film which has been posted on the website – check it out!

**S2 SCIENCE TRIP TO EDINBURGH ZOO
RZSS GLOBAL CLASSROOM CONFERENCE – “ECOSYSTEMS: RECHARGED!”**



The science department accompanied the following S2 pupils to a Global Classroom Conference at Edinburgh Zoo Ecosystems: Recharged!

Erin Brown	Morvin Sudding
Hollie Campbell	Jade Kennedy
Stuart McCard	Stuart King
Emily Ritchie	Emily Grant
Josh Quinn	Kirsty Flynn
Lucy Connor	Cara Stevenson
Nathan Greig	Callum Hepburn
Charlotte Graham	



Pupils investigated the vulnerability and the importance of ecosystems, and what we can all do to conserve them. They did this through a series of case studies and interactive activities around the zoo. Throughout the day pupils considered:

- How plant and animal species depend on each other.
- How we can repair the damage already done to our own ecosystem.
- How we can begin to reconnect with the natural world.
- How we can help stop further damage to global ecosystems by making simple changes to our own behaviour.



The group had a fabulous day and were excellent ambassadors of Barrhead High School. Well done! Mrs Ross



Eco School Green Flag Award

Barrhead High School has just received its second Green Flag Award in recognition of the outstanding eco-work taking place in the school. We were recently invited to an Eco School event to share with other schools what has been taking place in Barrhead High. Congratulations to all those – staff and pupils – involved in this achievement.

S1 Pupils Working Towards their John Muir Award

First year pupils are well on their way to achieving their John Muir Discovery Level Award this session. They have completed 2 days of volunteering, 1 at the former waterworks site, where they prepared the land for the winter, and 1 day at the Young Enterprise Scotland Training Academy at Rouken Glen where they planted almost 20,000 seeds. The seeds will be replanted in the waterworks site and in the school wetland area.

Pupils will soon be studying John Muir and his legacy in History and learning about the importance of conserving our green areas, both locally and globally, in Geography. They will also be studying ecosystems and biodiversity in Science. We will celebrate the achievement of our S1 pupils at their forthcoming awards ceremony on Friday 29th May – details to follow.

S1 Visit China ... or at least a Panda in Edinburgh Zoo!

To develop their understanding of Chinese language and culture all S1 pupils have been taking part in an interdisciplinary project between the Modern Languages, Social Studies and Expressive Arts Faculties. They have been making traditional masks in Art, learning Mandarin in Modern Languages and will soon be learning about Chinese culture in Social Subjects.

Pupils also had the opportunity to visit Edinburgh Zoo to see the giant pandas, after learning all about them in workshops provided by the Royal Scottish Zoological Society. The workshop consisted of a range of problem-solving activities allowing pupils to understand threats facing the giant panda and the need to conserve and protect panda habitats which fitted nicely into our John Muir work too.



BARRHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

REMAINING DATES for 2014/15 and HOLIDAYS for 2015/16

S1 DATES

S1 Full Report
Fri 29th May 2015

S1 Awards Ceremony
Fri 29th May 2015

S2 DATES

S2 Tracking Report
May 2015

S2 Awards Ceremony
Wed 20th May 2015

S3 DATES

S3 Exams
Tues 5th – Fri 15th May 2015

S3 Awards Ceremony
Mon 18th May 2015

S3 Full Report
12th June 2015

S4 DATES

S4/5/6 Awards Ceremony
Tues 28th April 2015

SQA Exam Period
Start Tues 5th May 2015
End Fri 29th May 2015

S5/6 DATES

S4/5/6 Awards Ceremony
Tues 28th April 2015

SQA Exam Period
Start Tues 5th May 2015
End Fri 29th May 2015

S6 Graduation and Prom
Wed 3rd June 2015

HOLIDAYS

May Day

Close – Fri 1 May 2015

Re-open – Tues 5 May 2015

May Holiday

Close – Thurs 21 May 2015

(In-service – Tues 26 May 2015)

Re-open – Wed 27 May 2015

Summer Holiday

Close – Wed 24 June 2015

Reopen – Thurs 13th August 2015

PRIMARY 7 DATES

P7 Parents' Meeting
Mon 15th June 2015

Primary Taster Days
Tues 16th & Wed 17th June 2015

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2015/2016

TERM	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	
First	Teachers return	Tuesday 11 August 2015
	<i>In-Service</i>	<i>Tuesday 11 August 2015</i>
	<i>In-Service</i>	<i>Wednesday 12 August 2015</i>
	Pupils return	Thursday 13 August 2015
	Close	Thursday 24 September 2015
	<i>September Weekend</i>	<i>Friday 25 September 2015</i>
	<i>September Weekend</i>	<i>Monday 28 September 2015</i>
	Re-open	Tuesday 29 September 2015
	Close	Thursday 8 October 2015
	<i>In-Service</i>	<i>Friday 9 October 2015</i>
Second	Re-open	Monday 19 October 2015
	Close	Tuesday 22 December 2015
	Re-open	Wednesday 6 January 2016
	Close	Thursday 11 February 2016
	<i>In-Service</i>	<i>Friday 12 February 2016</i>
	<i>Mid Term</i>	<i>Monday 15 February 2016</i>
	<i>Mid Term</i>	<i>Tuesday 16 February 2016</i>
	Re-open	Wednesday 17 February 2016
	Close	Thursday 24 March 2016
	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 25 March 2016</i>
Third	<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 28 March 2016</i>
	Re-open	Tuesday 29 March 2016
	Close	Friday 1 April 2016
	Re-open	Monday 18 April 2016
	Close	Friday 29 April 2016
	<i>May Day Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 2 May 2016</i>
	Re-open	Tuesday 3 May 2016
	Close	Thursday 26 May 2016
	<i>May Weekend</i>	<i>Friday 27 May 2016</i>
	<i>May Weekend</i>	<i>Monday 30 May 2016</i>
<i>In-Service</i>	<i>Tuesday 31 May 2015</i>	
Re-open	Wednesday 1 June 2016	
Close	Friday 24 June 2016	