

# EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

## Parents Newsletter

April 2014



Special points of interest:

### Important Dates

1st May - S3 Parents Evening  
 5th May - Holiday  
 23rd May - Holiday  
 26th May - Holiday  
 27th May - Inservice day  
 3rd & 4th June - P7 Induction  
 5th June - Sports Awards Eve.  
 10th June - Prizegiving  
 12th June - S6 Graduation  
 25th June - School Closes @ 1pm  
 11th & 12th Aug. - Inservice days  
 13th Aug. Pupils return @ 8.45

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Dear Parent

During the Easter holidays Eastwood HS again hosted a well attended Easter School with classes being run in the vast majority of subject areas. We are also currently running supported study after school in many subject areas to supplement normal classes. It is vitally important that all S4, S5 and S6 pupils "PREPARE, PRACTICE and PERFORM" in the next 5 weeks. This three point approach has been stressed to pupils throughout the session but it is at its most important right now. I know that I can count on parental support to ensure that everyone is studying at least 3 hours per night from now until the exams are over. IT IS TOUGH BUT WELL WORTH IT IN THE LONG TERM!

On another front I would like to take this opportunity to seek parental support looking ahead to next term. I'm sure that you will agree that is important that Eastwood HS and its pupils receive their full allocation of resources. Many parents entitled to receive a free school meal for their children do not apply, **OR RE-APPLY**, for one each summer. Some aspects of the school's funding is based on free meal entitlement and increasingly, with local authority cuts, the Council is now charging for additional services such as Easter Revision School- free to those registered for a free meal. The cashless catering system in the school means that no one knows who is in receipt of a free meal. It is therefore vitally important that everyone entitled, applies or re-applies for next session. Application forms with the qualification criteria are available from the school office or the East Renfrewshire Council website or Customer First. If you feel that you might be entitled to apply for a free meal for your child, please do so, and help the school and your child(ren) receive their fair share of resources- Over a session it is worth £389.50 to recipients as well as exempting them from Easter School payment etc.

Thank you. S Maxwell

### Presidential Visit

Eastwood High School recently entertained two national figures to see the new school. Tommy Cassells the current EIS President and Alan Munro, a previous EIS President, both visited the School to see round. During their visit they were able to meet with staff, pupils and Mhairi Shaw East Renfrewshire Director of Education.



### Carrying the Torch

Congratulations go to five Eastwood High School pupils who have been selected to carry the Queen's Baton through East Renfrewshire as part of the Commonwealth Games Relay. On Wednesday 16th July Diane Barbour (S6), Stuart Young (S5), Morven Considine (S2), Erin Wallace (S2) and Euan Ford (S1) will all play a major role in ferrying the Queen's Baton through East Renfrewshire on its journey to the Commonwealth Games.



### Levern Valley Brass

Ailsa Roy of S1 recently played at a competition in Alloway with the Levern Valley Community Brass Band. At the event Ailsa played alongside pupils from other East Renfrewshire Schools in the band. Ailsa is an accomplished cornet player and receives lessons in school from Mr Blackwood.



### Eastwood - A Fair Trade School Again

Thanks to the work of Mrs Bremner, Mrs Metcalfe, Mrs McVey and the Pupil Fair Trade group, Eastwood High has achieved "Fair Trade School" status until 2016. Well done to everyone involved.



### Interdisciplinary Learning

Mr Dickson recently organised a visit by 4 post graduate students from Glasgow University to talk to S3 Art pupils about textile conservation. They gave a presentation on the nature of preserving textiles in museums and collections. The pupils were made aware of the multidisciplinary skills that must be applied in this type of work. A knowledge of Art, History, Science and Mathematics is essential to be successful in this area. The Eastwood pupils got the opportunity to examine and identify real examples of 19th century textiles. Working with the students the pupils were able to see at first hand the connections between subjects fitting in perfectly with the ideology behind the Broad General Education stage.



### Elite Engineers

Miss Hamilton's elite engineers club has been working this month with engineers from British Telecom. The pupils took part in two workshops developing skills that they can transfer into their final project for the National Elite Engineering Competition in June. They even developed a robot Eastwood pupil!



### Visit to Grangemouth Petro-Chemical Plant

Mrs McLearn recently arranged for Higher Chemistry pupils to visit Calachem (ICI of old) an industrial chemical plant in Grangemouth. The chemical industry is the final part of the Higher Chemistry course and pupils learned first hand all about the production of agrochemicals, the research and analysis laboratories and were given a tour of the plant with a presentation by a quality assurance manager.





### The Special ONE

As previously mentioned in school newsletters Rabbiah Siddique of S4 and Max Yuill of S5 are participating in the BBC's Generation 2014 project in the run up to the referendum in September 2014. On April the 15th Rabbiah was on the BBC "ONE SHOW" asking questions of representatives of the Yes and No campaigns about Scottish independence.



### East Renfrewshire Schools Fishing

As the culmination of the ERSF programme run in partnership with our campus police officer PC Lindsay, the group visited Arran View Trout Fishery near Moscow in Ayrshire on a fishing trip. As you can see from the picture it was a very successful day with an impressive catch of fish.



### Commonwealth Games Legacy

Well done to the S4 ASDAN Silver Group for taking part in the Commonwealth Games "Game on Challenge". They have been successful in allowing the school to become part of the Game On Scotland Network. The school received a certificate from the Games organisers to recognise this achievement, and that allows us to use the Games logo on the school's letterheads.



### E -Skills Mentoring

All S3 pupils in the BECS faculty have taken part in e skills mentoring sessions run through E Skills UK. Mrs Lyn Walker, UK & Ireland Graduate and Recruitment Manager for Hewlett Packard delivered the sessions on; roles within the IT industry, skills required in the digital economy and how to produce an excellent CV.



### Literacy Pairs

April 5th saw the end of this year's literacy pairs programme. This project organised by Mrs Jenkins involves pupils from Eastwood High working with pupils from Crookfur PS to improve motivation and standards in literacy.



### Big Bang Theory

On 3rd of April Michael Russell, a particle physicist from Glasgow University, came to Eastwood High to speak with the Higher and Advanced Higher Physics students as well as those involved in the Higgs Boson competition. In the school library Michael gave a very interesting and informative lecture on



sub atomic particles and their properties.



### Aye, Naw, Maybe !

As part of the preparations for the 2014 referendum Eastwood's two MSYPs Nicole Dempster and Neil Wood organised an event for S5 and S6 to raise awareness of politics and political issues. Representatives from the Scottish Youth Parliament led fun workshops with "acti-vote" technology and pupils were given the opportunity to register themselves to vote in September with the East Renfrewshire Council Electoral Register.



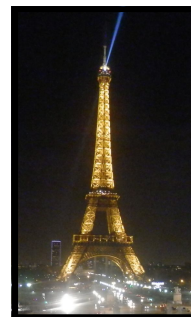
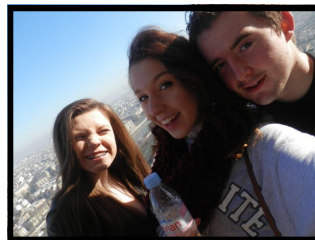
### Dancing for Joy

At the end of last term our active schools coordinator, Mr Philips, organised a major dance activity in partnership with Y Dance. It involved 30 girls in S3 and S5 taking part in a Y Dance workshop in the school's Dance Studio. This activity involved the girls working with Y Dance professionals all day before taking part in a performance period 7 to gain a dance instructors qualification.



### Paris au Printemps

Last month the Advanced Higher and Higher French pupils spent a weekend in the Paris sunshine along with Mr Hamilton, Mrs Bremner and Mrs Cameron of the Modern Languages Department. This trip is usually the highlight of the courses and has been organised and run successfully for a number of years. It is always eagerly anticipated and is timed to enhance pupils speaking and listening skills just prior to SQA speaking tests.



### Recognising Wider Achievement

At Eastwood High we believe that it is important to celebrate success both in and out of school. All our Newsletters showcase pupil and staff success each month. It is easy for us to know what pupils are achieving within school but much more difficult to know of success outside school. As a pupil or parent can I ask that any wider achievements outside school are notified to the school office or DHT Miss Boyle to enable us to properly recognise all successes.

### Lead School in Computing Science Award

Congratulations to Mrs Ann McVey who has been awarded "Lead Teacher of Computing Science" after completing a BCS Chartered Institute of IT course run in partnership with the Scottish Government. Her success means that Eastwood is now designated as a "Lead School" for the new Computing Science qualifications.



### Sports News

April has been a very successful month for the Eastwood High School teams in various sports. Firstly the Eastwood Senior Rugby 7s team won the Duncanrig 7s Plate. In the final against Cathkin HS the boys were trailing 12-0 with five minutes to go. Stuart Murchie converted his own try to bring the score to 12-7. As the final whistle sounded Stuart touched down for his second try which he then converted to snatch a 14-12 victory. Stuart went on to win player of the tournament and the presentation to the team and Stuart was made by Scottish international Jonny Gray.



In Girls Senior Football the Eastwood team lost narrowly 4-2 to St Ninians in the final of the U18 St Mirren Cup. Although a disappointment the girls have had a great season and reaching the final of the major cup competition was a fitting tribute to captains Catriona Maloney and Diane Barbour who leave school this year along with Rhiannon Beaton and Rebecca Houston. Special mention should also go to defender Hannah Blackburn Turner and goalkeeper Sophie Shields who had excellent games in the final. The girls football team rounded off their season with a great 8-1 win over Gleniffer HS



In Basketball the senior boys team rounded off their season with two great wins beating Paisley Grammar 38-33 and St Ninians 55-12.

At Easter following the inter-house handball the latest standings in the House Sports Championships are as follows Duncarnock 108pts, Balgray 82pts, Capelrig 72pts and Auldhouse 68pts.