

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

April 2015



Special points of interest:

Important Dates.

4th May - Holiday
 22nd & 25th May - Holidays
 26th May—Inservice Day
 28th & 29th May - P7 Induction
 4th June - Sports Awards
 8th June - Timetable Change
 9th June - S6 Graduation
 10th June - BGE Graduation
 11th June - Prizegiving
 17th & 18th June - School Show
 24th June - School closes at 1.00pm
 11th August - Inservice Day
 12th August - Inservice Day
 13th August - Pupils return 8.45

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Tel : 0141 577 2200 , Fax : 0141 577 2220,
 E.Mail : schoolmail@eastwood.e-renfrew.sch.uk
 Website : www.scottishschools.info/eastwoodhigh

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 currently running Supported Study after school and on weekends in many subject areas to supplement pupils' learning. It is vitally important that all S4, S5 and S6 pupils "PREPARE, PRACTICE and PERFORM" over the next 5 weeks. I know that I can count on parental support to ensure that everyone in S4—S6 is studying at least 4 hours per day from now until the SQA exams are over. IT IS TOUGH BUT WELL WORTH IT IN THE LONG TERM.

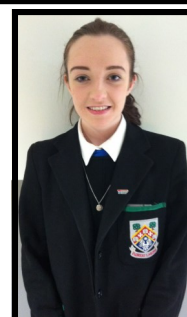
On another front I would like to take this opportunity to seek parental support looking ahead to next term. I'm sure that you will agree that it is important that Eastwood HS and its pupils receive their full allocation of resources. Many parents entitled to receive a free school meal for their children 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 School - free to those registered for a free meal. The cashless catering system means that no one knows who is in receipt of a free meal. It is therefore really important that everyone entitled, applies or re-applies, for next session. Application forms with the qualification criteria are available from the school office, the East Renfrewshire Council website or Customer First. If you feel that you might be entitled to apply please do so, and help the school and your child(ren) receive their fair share of resources. Over the session it is worth nearly £400 per child to recipients as well as exempting them from Easter School payments etc.

Finally , the school office can no longer supply plastic cups for children to access the water dispensers. Pupils must bring their own refillable water bottle

S Maxwell

Out Of This World

Congratulations to Hannah Kerr of S5 who has been successful in gaining a place at the Scottish Space School to be held between 14th and 19th June at University of Strathclyde. The Space School selects 100 pupils with career aspirations in Science and Engineering from all over Scotland. Hannah's application had to be of the highest standard and pass the set criteria to win through.



On Her Majesty's Secret Service

Well done to Jamie Dougall of S2 on being one of the three winners on CBBC Blue Peter's "Project Petra". Project Petra was a mini series built into the Blue Peter programme where the contestants from all over the UK were asked to code break, and overcome mental and physical challenges, with the best three being selected to become CBBC Intelligence Officers. Their performance in these challenges was judged by renowned children's author and creator of boy spy Alex Rider - Anthony Horowitz, Professor Christopher Andrew, the official historian of MI5, and Blue Peter presenter Sonali Shah.

The programmes aired during the last week of March and the first fortnight in April. The series culminated with the three winning contestants, including Jamie, being allowed to visit MI5 Headquarters in London - Thames House—featured in the James Bond film "Skyfall". There they met the Director General of MI5, Andrew Parker. This was a historic occasion as it was the first time that television cameras had ever been allowed to film inside Thames House and as such it made news all around the world. Jamie appeared on BBC Breakfast News and the NBC Good Morning programme that airs coast to coast in the USA - Project Petra even got a mention on "Have I got News for You". Jamie is pictured with his winning certificate, his MI5 ID pass and his Blue Peter badge.



General Election Hustings

Billy O'Neill, Raabiah Siddique, Kirsten Watson, Lewis James and Andrew Edgar, all S5, attended a pre election hustings meeting on Friday 24th April at Newton Mearns Baptist Church. This was a community meeting where selected members of the 220 strong audience were able to put questions to all the candidates standing in the East Renfrewshire constituency at the forthcoming General Election. All five of the Eastwood High pupils were able to ask their questions to the candidates and were complimented by both the audience and the politicians. The organiser of the event thanked the school and commented on "how engaging and well informed" our senior pupils were on the night.



Ahoy!

Well done to S4 sisters Holly and Lucy Smith who have succeeded in getting through to interview for inclusion on the Jubilee Sailing Trust Tall Ship voyage from Glasgow to Belfast at the end of June. The 9 day voyage will visit the Hebrides finishing at the Tall Ships Festival in Belfast on 4th July. Good luck to the girls.



On the Road to Morocco

Congratulations to Craig Yates and Robbie Raeside of S4 on being selected to take part in the East Renfrewshire Challenge to Morocco in June 2016. The challenge has been organised in partnership with East Renfrewshire Community Learning (the same people who deliver Duke of Edinburgh in the school) and will involve the boys in 10 days trekking in the Atlas Mountains.



Community Spirit

Well done to Dr Lowe, Miss Bannerman and their intrepid team of ECO Schools volunteers who undertook a "Spring Clean" litter pick around the local community on Thursday 2nd of April. The areas that they concentrated on were the route from the back of the school to Patterton Station, the woods opposite the back gate of the school and the school end of Harvie Avenue.



Scottish Education Award

The school has reached the final 3 in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths "School of the Year" at the forthcoming Scottish Education Awards. The judges made their visit on 1st April and the winner will be announced at a ceremony on 10th June.

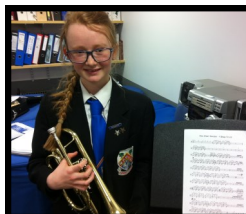


Musical Achievements

There have been a number of notable achievements in music this month. Emma Gatheral (S5) has once again been selected for the West of Scotland Schools' Symphony Orchestra and her brother Ross (S2) has been asked to join the newly formed West of Scotland Training Band along with Esme Johnson (S1). Well



done to all and good luck.



"Far From The Madding Crowd"

After visiting Professor Phillip Mallett at St Andrews University for a tutorial on Thomas Hardy Sophie Shields, Beth Eadie and Rebecca Rae (All S6) have secured the following mention in the latest edition of the Thomas Hardy Society Journal.

"On a further matter I was delighted to welcome Sophie, Beth and Rebecca, three very able sixth formers from Eastwood High, to St Andrews for a tutorial on the "Return of the Native" and "Tess"

Inspiring Authors at the Yay!Ya Festival

Miss De'Ath, our school librarian, and Mr Coyle of the English Department accompanied fourteen S1 pupils to the Yay!Ya Literature Festival at Cumberland Theatre on 24th April. The group were able to meet authors shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards and the Carnegie medal as well as attend talks Lari Don, Keith Charters and Linda Strachan. The quality of the speakers was excellent and they certainly inspired the Eastwood pupils to develop their literacy skills. There was, of course, time for book signings to be completed and selfies to be taken with favourite authors.



Higher Maths Study Weekend

Eastwood High S5 and S6 Higher maths pupils attended a Higher Maths study weekend along with Miss Russell and Mr Mekwi at the end of March. The weekend consisted of a series of Higher Mathematics workshops interspersed with a number of outdoor activities.



Mary's Meals Backpacks

The backpacks collected by The Human Rights group were picked up by the Mary's Meals on 20th April. The backpacks each containing pencils, a rubber, a small notebook, a small ball, soap, a towel, a toothbrush & toothpaste, shorts, flip flops and a T Shirt will be sent to Malawi to help alleviate Poverty in the developing world.



GLOW Information Night for Parents

There will be a short Parents Information Evening about GLOW in the school on Wed. 6th May at 8pm. GLOW is the Scottish Education network and can be accessed via a password. It contains material to assist pupils' learning as well as allowing free and up to date versions of Microsoft Office to be downloaded.

The Voice

Dylan Langfield (S3) has been selected to do a "voice-over" for a forthcoming TV advert for "Perfect Home". The advert will be aired on STV during the months of May and June.



Higher Drama Showcase

On Tuesday 31st March the Higher Drama students performed a showcase of the practical work that they had prepared for their SQA Practical exam to an appreciative audience of around 100 parents and friends. The standard of performance was extraordinarily high and a reminder of just how talented many of our Eastwood pupils are. The various groups of students performed extracts from classical and contemporary plays by Tennessee Williams, William Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde and Thomas Beckett. Special thanks to Mrs Bryce, Miss Workman and Mrs Shaw for all their hard work in supporting our Drama students.



Sports News

Congratulations go Claire Wallace of S1 who has become the Scottish 50m freestyle swimming champion in the Age 13 category. Claire won the title at the Scottish Schools National Swimming Championships held in Aberdeen on Saturday 28th March. The photograph shows Claire with her race medal and Scottish Championship medal.



Congratulations also go to Caitlin Roberts (S3) who came third in the Scottish Schools Climbing Championships (S3/4 Bottom Rope category) held recently at the Glasgow Climbing Centre.

The football season has now come to a close with the U16s playing the final game. Having qualified for the Paisley and District league play offs semi final the team got off to a great start leading league winners St Ninians HS 0-1 at halftime through a goal from Marcus Mandagie.



However slack defence at the start of the second half saw Eastwood fall 3-1 behind. Ten minutes from time Marcus scored again to set up a grandstand finish. As the team threw everything at St Ninians to get an equaliser unfortunately they were picked off on the break and lost 4-2. It was a great game and to get to this stage (contested by the best 4 teams in the league) was a great achievement. The U16s now move up to the U18 seniors next session.

Finally news of British Jiu Jitsu Number one TJ Henderson. After winning the UK <80Kg title in March TJ travelled to Manchester over the Easter holidays to compete in the Manchester Grand Prix. Despite carrying an injury from the UK Championships TJ won again consolidating his position as British number one.

