

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

August 2014



Special points of interest:

Important Dates

26th Sept Holiday
29th Sept Holiday
10th October In Service Day
20th October School re-opens
28th October S1 Enterprise Event
6th November S1 Parents' Evening
13th & 14th November S5 Mock Interviews
19th Nov P7 Open Evening
1st December S4 Prelims begin
11th December Junior Dance
15th December Christmas Concert
17th December Senior Dance
19th December School Closes
5th January School Re-opens

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Dear Parent

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to Eastwood High School after the long summer break. If you are the parent of a new S1 pupil let me especially welcome you to the school. I know that your son/daughter will do well here, and you should know that we will do our very best to ensure that they achieve their full potential.

I am pleased to report that this year has been Eastwood High School's most successful ever in SQA exam results and the graphs below show how our results have been improving over the last 8 years. This improvement is down to the hard work of pupils and teachers as well as the support of parents—well done to everyone. We are now one of the very best schools in Scotland something everyone should be proud of. To continue this improvement

"Higher Standards, Higher Expectations - Greater Opportunity" is the clear message to everyone associated with the school for the coming year. If we all play our own small part, we will be confident in our new identity and have pride in the school.

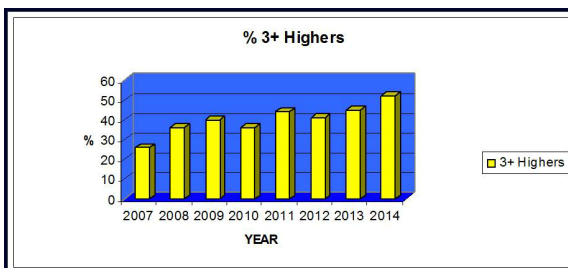
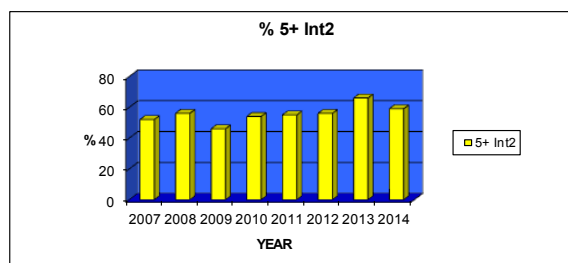
We must now make the most of the opportunities that our Eastwood High School presents.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that all pupils wear the **Eastwood HS uniform**. This is one way that we can all show our pride in ourselves and the school. The standard

of uniform has been excellent, a real positive statement that Eastwood is a force to be reckoned with! Other local schools are using Eastwood High as an example to spur their pupils on to emulate our uniform standards. Well done to everyone

I'm sure you will agree it is important that the school receives its full allocation of resources. As I mentioned in the summer mail, many parents entitled to receive a free school meal for their children do not apply, **OR RE- APPLY**, for one. Some aspects of the school's funding is allocated in relation to free meal uptake. The cashless catering system in the school means that no one knows who is in receipt of a free meal. It is therefore important that everyone entitled, **applies or re-applies for this year**. Application forms with the qualification criteria are available from the school office or East Renfrewshire Council Customer First. If you feel that you might be entitled to a free meal for your child **please apply** and help your child(ren) and all the others receive their fair share of resources.

S Maxwell



Elliot Peacock

During the summer holidays everyone in Eastwood High was shocked and heartbroken to learn of the tragic death of S3/4 pupil Elliot Peacock. Elliot died suddenly whilst on outdoor adventure trip with the Scouts in Italy.

Elliot loved coming to school and he was equally popular with teachers and pupils alike.

Forever young he will live on in our hearts and cherished memories; quite simply to many of us in Eastwood High Elliot was special. He was a credit to the school, and a credit to his parents, but most of all he was a credit to himself - a thoroughly decent young man.

As a school community we send our heartfelt condolences to Scott and Colette Peacock, Elliot's parents.

Music Honour

Well done to Lauren MacDonald of S6 who has been successful in securing a place with the Strathclyde Youth Jazz Orchestra. Drummer Lauren had to audition against the cream of jazz talent in the west of Scotland and did really well to win her place as this Orchestra is for performers up to the age of 21. Mr Fairlie our Music teacher played piano with the SYJO whilst he was at university.



European Parliament Visit

A huge congratulations to S4 pupils Rebekah Johnstone and Abigail Catterson who visited the European Parliament in Brussels during the summer after qualifying as part of the European Alliance Committee of the Regions Competition for secondary schools. The competition was an essay writing and multiple choice quiz on the European Union. Both girls had an unforgettable time.



East Renfrewshire Convenors Awards

Congratulations to the following Eastwood High pupils who received East Renfrewshire Convenors Awards for outstanding achievement during school session 2013/14. The pupils accepted their Awards from Councillors Elaine Green (Education Convenor) and Councillor Paul O'Kane (Education Vice Convenor) at a ceremony held in Carmichael Hall.

Community Services Category -

Nicole Dempster,
Tammy Reynolds
Charities Committee

Creativity (Music)

Neil Wood

Creativity (Drama)

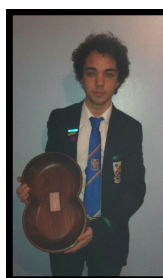
Abby McCann

Sport

Catherine Palmer

Independent Living Skills

Holly Henderson



Lest We Forget

On the 17th of August Head Boy Craig Smith and Head Girl Gillian Garbutt represented Eastwood High School at the "Drum Head Service" held at Mearns Parish Church to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1.



Let's Grow

Dr Lowe in the Biology department (Room C216) is again collecting Morrison's Let's Grow vouchers to allow the purchase of new gardening equipment. These vouchers help provide gardening tools to tend the school garden and any donations would be greatly appreciated. A collection box is located in Dr Lowe's room.



Crest Awards

The Science Club, assisted by Calum Ross and Jake Rodger from S6, have achieved bronze "Crest Awards" over the summer for their research and development work on toothpaste. They were even able to manufacture some of their own toothpaste!



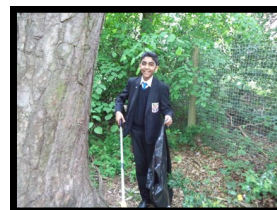
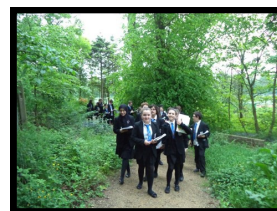
Harper Adams University Designers

Below is a picture of Martin McGuinness and Bradley Scott who along with their classmates received certificates for their "Robots of the Future" designs. Both boys were shortlisted from over 1000 entries in the Harper Adams University competition for their designs.



John Muir Awards

Fifty two of Miss McGeough's S2 pupils have just received their John Muir Award certificates. These awards followed an interdisciplinary topic involving Geography, Science, History, Maths and English. It involved carrying out environmental surveys, looking at biodiversity, measuring the age of trees, re-searching the history of the area and completing a litter clearance in the woods. The pupils wrote up their findings and included some creative writing in the form of an acrostic poem.



Top Students

As mentioned on page 1 of this Newsletter 2014 has been Eastwood High's most successful year ever in SQA exams. The S5 pupils pictured below all achieved 9 or 10 Intermediate 2 As and the S6 pupils pictured all achieved 5 As at Higher. Very well done to all.

S5 - Harris Ali, Amirah Bouzgarrou, Alice Chisholm, Neil Collingham, Joanna Dougall, Maryam Ibrar, Nadeen Ishmael, Emma McKelvie, Bhavna Mehta, Steven Munn, Billy O'Neil, Kelsey Roy, Kirsten Watson, Cameron Wilson & Neil Wood.



S5 - Daanyal Afzal, Adam Ibrahim Ali, David Borland, Gillian Garbutt, Ramandeep Gill, Ben Hume, Megan Kane, Mohsi Maqsood, Rebecca Rae, Jake Rodger, Calum Ross, Craig Smith & Hannah Wilson

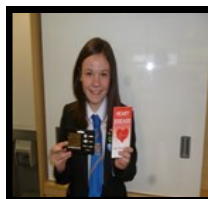
Big ShoutER

Tammy Reynolds of S5 is to be part of a group of East Renfrewshire teenagers invited to give a talk to an upcoming European Conference. The invitation to the "Big ShoutER" group comes on the back of their recent COSLA bronze award for excellence for improving the health and well being of local children. The Scottish Commissioner for Young people said "It is important that we not only hear the thoughts of young people themselves but also learn from them"



S2 Health & Well Being Project Winners

Congratulations to Zoe Sturgeon who was the overall winner of the best Health & Well Being information leaflet. Emma Denty and Emma Savage were the runners up. This interdisciplinary project encourages young people to take personal responsibility for their own health and involves work in PE, Biology & HFT.



Library News

It has been a busy summer for our School Librarian Miss De'Ath and a number of Eastwood pupils. Alice Chisholm, Erin Catterson, Hafsa Manzur and Rhadia Zahid all volunteered to help the East Renfrewshire Library Service with the summer reading challenge, a national programme to promote reading with primary school aged children. Library Service staff were very complimentary about the girls' work and commitment.



On the 22nd of August seventy S3 pupils were lucky enough to have an audience with performance poet Steve Camden aka "Polar Bear". It was a rare opportunity to witness a real wordsmith demonstrating his art. Craig Otley and Thomas McCarthy were lucky enough to meet "Polar Bear" in person and have their books signed.



Commonwealth Games Baton Bearers

On the 16th of July six Eastwood High pupils (Euan Ford, Erin Wallace, Diane Barbour, Stuart Young, Abtaha Maqsood & Morven Consedine) had the honour of carrying the Queen's Baton as it made its way through East Renfrewshire.



Chris' Homage to the Commonwealth Games

As part of his Scottish Studies course Christopher Kyle of S5 has produced a fantastic poster featuring press cuttings and web clips showing highlights and memories from the Commonwealth Games. It measures nearly 5m end to end!



Launching Paisley Town Centre

Over the summer Megan Hart S4 was part of a special performance by PACE Theatre in Coats Memorial Church to put heritage and culture at the heart of the re-generation of Paisley town centre



Sports News

Being August most of the school sports activities have yet to get underway however Eastwood's athletes have had a very successful summer. In the Scottish Schools Athletics Championships at the end of June Eastwood High had 4 competitors all performing with distinction. In the U15 400m Ross Lipp (S3) came 5th in a personal best time of 55.56 seconds, and Jamie Sturrock (S4) came 4th in the U15 800m in a time of 2.06.75 just missing out on a medal. In the U17s High Jump Catherine Palmer (S6) came second winning a silver medal by clearing a height of 1.60m and congratulations go to Erin Wallace who won gold in the U15 girls 800m race in a time of 2.13.66. However Erin's summer did not finish at the Scottish Schools Championships. In the last two weeks she has won the British U14 Triathlon title in Nottingham and three days later went on to be crowned Scottish U15s 1500m champion at the National Track and Field Championships in Aberdeen. Catherine and Ross also competed at the National Championships in Aberdeen, Catherine coming second in the U17 high jump, narrowly missing out on gold again, and Ross coming 4th in the U15s 300m.

In Karate Megan MacNair was in Madrid during the summer to take part in a coaching session led by one of the leading senseis (Karate Coaches) in the world. Megan's season is just getting underway however later in the year she will be competing in Berlin.

