

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

February 2015



Special points of interest:

Important Dates.

1st April - ASN Parents Evening
 2nd April - School Closes
 20th April - School Re-opens
 27th April - SQA Exams Begin
 30th April - S3 Parents Evening
 3rd 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

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Dear Parent

February has seen the completion of the S5/6 Prelim Exams and the focus is now very much on the drive towards the SQA Exams in May. This year the SQA Exams start particularly early and it is worth pointing out to parents and pupils alike that S4—S6 pupils will have only four school days in class after the Easter holidays before the SQA exams begin - That is less than 5 full school weeks away. It is vitally important therefore that pupils use the month of March to fully prepare. To assist pupils with this preparation and to achieve their full potential in the SQA exams the school has a number of initiatives running. Firstly a full programme of after school Supported Study classes will be running through March and April, details of the schedule for these classes is available on the school website. Secondly each individual S4 and S5 pupil has been issued with target grades for the final exams. These target grades are not predicted grades but are based on prelim and SQA Unit results, and are something that with hard work and study can be achieved. Finally Easter School will again run during the Easter holidays. In line with other East Renfrewshire schools there is a small charge levied for Easter School classes. This charge remains at the same level as last year (£4.50 per day or £2.50 for a morning or afternoon session). Easter School is free to any pupil in receipt of a free school meal. An information leaflet will be issued in mid March giving details of the Easter school programme.

Finally please note on the adjacent calendar that the dates of Prizegiving and the S6 Graduation Ceremony and Ball in June have been swapped round. The S6 Graduation will now be on Tuesday 9th June and Prizegiving on Thursday 11th June. This is the result of the "Prom" venue moving our booking because of a bigger event on the 11th of June !

S Maxwell

Junior Dux Winners

Congratulations to Laura Shoveller (S4) and Kerr Miller (S4) who have become Junior Duxes of the school 2015. The Junior Dux is awarded for overall academic excellence and based on performance in the S4 Prelims held in December. Laura and Kerr will be presented with their award at Prizegiving in June and their names will be added to the Junior Dux Board located in the Atrium between now and the summer.



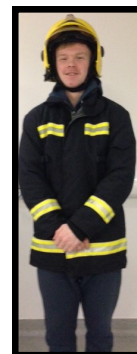
Simpsons Competition Winner

Well done to Hannah Shields S2 who had her entry selected by the Simpsons Magazine as their star picture of the month in a recent competition.



Darren On Fire

Darren Anderson (S6) recently had the rare opportunity to undertake a day's training with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue. Darren secured this opportunity after impressing at a training day held in the school in partnership with the SaPHire Training Agency. The leader of that course, Helen Salt, was then able to secure Darren this training in his chosen career path.



Congratulations Mrs Allan

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Avril Allan, the Principal Teacher of Technical and Home Economics in Eastwood High, has been awarded the Subject Leadership Design and Technology Award at the UK Design and Technology Association's Annual Excellence Awards. This prestigious national award is true recognition for the excellent work that Mrs Allan and her colleagues do everyday in Design Technology and Home Economics within the school. The judges were particularly impressed by Mrs Allan's leadership and willingness to embrace and develop new ideas in her department. Mrs Allan will collect her award at the annual awards dinner of the Design and Technology Association in London on 20th



Senior Saltire Awards

A group of senior pupils have been presented with their Saltire Awards for undertaking voluntary work. The pupils have all undertaken voluntary work either in the school eg. acting as peer mentors; or within the local community eg. Volunteer working in Isobel Mair School



Благодаря ви и довиждане

"Thank you and goodbye" to Daniel Tsvetkov a final year Glasgow University Computing Science student from Bulgaria who has been assisting S1–S4 Computing Science pupils through leading workshops on algorithms and how search engines work. Daniel was able to increase pupil motivation and enthusiasm in Computing Science.

Bebras Competition

Pupils in S1, S2 and S4 recently took part in the UK Bebras Thinking Challenge. Originating in Lithuania, it is a problem solving contest focussing on computational and logical thinking - a key aspect of National 4, 5 and Higher Computing Science courses. With entries from over 20 English speaking countries the Eastwood pupils did very well, many receiving distinction certificates. Congratulations to Usmaan Karim S4, Carys Mitchell S2 and Michael Coyne S2 who won best in school in the senior and intermediate categories respectively.



Pulse Radio Stars

Rebecca Smith S3, Megan McBride S2 and Rebecca Carmichael S2 were interviewed on Pulse Radio about their Broad General Education Style Academy course on 19th February. The girls were also able to talk about the upcoming Style Academy Fashion Show where Rebecca Smith is the artistic director and both the other girls will be participating as models on the evening.



Storytelling Festival

On 16th February Eastwood High School and Crookfur Primary took part in a joint "Storytelling Festival". The event was organised by Miss Graham from Crookfur, Miss Baillie from Eastwood High's English department and Miss De'Ath Eastwood High's librarian. The event involved over 60 pupils drawn from P6 in Crookfur, S2 in Eastwood (many of whom had been involved in an ongoing paired reading initiative with P6) and some S3 prefects assisting as workshop leaders. Two professional storytellers, Ron Fairweather and Fergus McNicol came along to share their expertise and entertain the pupils. It was a memorable day that more than achieved its aims of improving communication skills, improving story structures and developing teamwork and leadership amongst the pupils.



Bright Sparks

On the 12th of February forty S1—S3 pupils visited Glasgow Science Centre to learn more about electronics and electrical engineering. The S1 and S2 pupils involved were members of the school elite engineering club whilst the S3 were there as part of their National 5 course in Design and Manufacture. One of the challenges was for the pupils to design and build a robot moon buggy! All the pupils learned a lot about the application of electronics in the real world.



Dramatic Stuff

Abby McCann (S4) and Megan Hart (S4) will be performing with PACE Theatre the new play "Remote" by Stef Smith as part of the National Theatre Connections project 2015. The Connections Festival showcases new writing and youth theatre as part of the National Theatre's outreach programme. The girls will be performing at the Wynd Centre in Paisley on 5th, 6th and 7th of March before performing at the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh during week beginning the 1st of June.



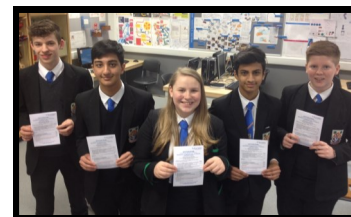
Gone Fishin'

Eight S1 and S2 boys recently completed a ten week fly fishing course run by the Campus Police Officer, PC Lindsay, and tutors from the Scottish Angling Association. The course is designed to develop skills in groupwork, patience and perseverance. The course has a proven record of improving self confidence and promotes positive partnership with Police Scotland. It culminated in a trip to a fishery in Ayrshire where the pupils could try out their new skills.



Arkwright Scholarship

Well done to Emily Green, Ewan Keir, Saym Hussain, Ibrahim Gondal and Scott Dempster who have qualified to sit the aptitude test for selection onto the Arkwright scholarship programme that supports the learning of aspiring engineers



Dancing Success

Congratulations to Eve Herd and Zoe Devon of S3 who have just been presented with their Royal Academy of Dance Grade 4 certificates for ballet. Not only is this an excellent achievement in ballet it is also the equivalent of a National 5 pass in Dance.



Intergenerational Quiz

A number S1 pupils from Eastwood High received their certificates recently from Young Persons Services for helping to organise and run an intergenerational quiz between Primary 7 pupils and senior citizens from the local community. The purpose of the event was to improve intergenerational communication and perceptions and has since been used as a template for such activity by other Councils.



Sports News

Eastwood High athletes were well represented at the recent Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships held at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow with some excellent performances. Erin Wallace (S3) achieved two gold medals winning the U16 1500m and the U16 800m titles.—remarkable considering Erin is still only 14. Jamie Sturrock (S4) won a silver medal in the U16 800m another significant achievement. Ross Lipp of S3 qualified for the final of the U16 400m but missed out on a medal. Catherine Palmer (S6) came 6th in the O16 High Jump whilst Emily Macdonald (S2) competed in the U16 girls High Jump and despite still being 12 years old on the day of the competition came a creditable 12th overall 10cm below the winner. Following her double triumph at the Scottish Schools Indoor Championships Erin went on to win the U17! 800m and 1500m at the National Indoor Championships the following week at the same venue, and the week after that she went on to win the Scottish U15 Cross Country Championships at Falkirk.—Wow.



Congratulations also go to Laura Shoveller (S4) who won a gold medal in the west of Scotland small bore shooting championships. This victory means that Laura will be part of the West of Scotland team in forthcoming regional competitions.



In Basketball the Eastwood High senior boys team continued their good run during February making it three victories in a row in 2015 with a thrilling 29-25 victory over Johnstone High in the $\frac{1}{4}$ final of the Renfrewshire Cup.

The Eastwood High rugby teams have also had a busy month. The U14s took part in the East Renfrewshire Tournament at Whitecraigs Rugby Club losing 0-17 to Mearns Castle HS in the first game but this was followed by an excellent 12-7 victory against Williamwood HS including tries from Ben McCann and a successful kick by Luke Barber. The U16s were finally knocked out of the Scottish Plate away in Apr 32-7 by a strong Belmont Academy side.



The team played well with Robbie Walker scoring an excellent try and picking up "Man of the Match"

Well done to Caitlin Roberts (S3) who has qualified in the S3/4 Female (bottom rope) category for the Grand Final of the Scottish Schools Climbing Competition. The Finals will be held at the Glasgow Climbing Centre in late March.



The football the season has started up again with the U16s winning their last 16 tie against Inverclyde Academy in the League Cup. The Eastwood team fought back from 0-2 down with goals from Greg Young and Calvin McCrory to be level at full time. The game went to penalties with Marcus Mandagie, Calvin McCrory and Marc Low all scoring, and Scott Johnston saving two, but with Eastwood missing two of our own penalties the shoot out went to sudden death. With it 3-3 Harris MacLean coolly stepped up to score for 4-3 win on penalties. Finally in martial arts TJ Henderson (S6) has been selected to represent his Jiu Jitsu Club, Gracie Barra Glasgow, at the UK Championships in Birmingham in mid March.

