

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

February 2016



Special points of interest:

Important Dates.

21st March - Spring Fling Concert
 22nd March - ERC Dance Championships
 25th & 28th March - Holidays
 30th Mar.- ASN Parents Evening
 1st April - School Closes 2.30
 18th April - School Re-opens
 28th April - S3 Parents Evening
 2nd May - Holiday
 3rd May - SQA exams begin
 27th May - Holiday
 30th May - Holiday
 31st May - Inservice day
 1st & 2nd June - P7 Induction
 3rd June - Sports Dinner
 6th June - Timetable change
 6th June - S6 Graduation

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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 is different because the Easter holidays are a long weekend in March followed by the long holiday at the start of April. It is worth pointing out to parents and pupils alike that the 25th and 28th of March holidays fall right at the time assignments and value added units etc. are due to be sent to SQA. That means two less school days to ensure their completion. In addition this holiday arrangement means that there are now only 32 school days before the SQA exams begin! . It is vitally important therefore that pupils use the month of March to fully prepare turning things they currently can't into things they can. 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 is £6.50 per day or £3.50 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. *S Maxwell*

Developing the Young Workforce

Congratulations to Alishah Nazir, Heo Mun Ho, and Saba Mohammed (All S5) who have secured summer internships with world renowned companies.. The girls secured this opportunity through the Government's social mobility fund and it will be an opportunity for them to gain valuable work experience in their chosen career path. Mentors from the company will then assist with university application or securing a job.



UK Maths Challenge Success

Eastwood High School S4 pupils have been very successful in this year's UKMT intermediate maths challenge. The school has been unable to compete since 2009 because of a combination of school holidays and work experience however this year our intrepid mathematicians entered the fray. David Veitch qualified for the next round - "The Kangaroo Challenge" as one of 8000 out of the original 190000 competitors. Ryan Porter also did very well missing out on qualification by just one mark but still achieving a Gold award. Overall the S4 had the highest ever average score of any previous Eastwood years. Well done to all including Alan Munn, best S3 performance, and Mrs Callaghan, head coach.



On 25th February Hannah McGeogh and Sebastien Smith (both S1) and Nuvneet Kaur and David Campbell (both S2) represented Eastwood High in the Junior UK Maths Challenge regional final. (For S1 and S2). The team came a creditable 7th out of 28 teams. Thanks go to Miss McArdle for taking on the role of head coach of the team.



An Audience with Author Marcus Sedgewick

On 29th of January 16 pupils from S2 accompanied by Miss De'Ath, the school librarian, Mr O'Rorke and PC Searle visited the BBC in Glasgow for an audience with famous children's author Marcus Sedgewick. The pupils formed part of a question and answer session with Marcus as part of a children's television broadcast.



Creative Writers

Well done to Abigail Watson (S2), Charlotte Egan (S1) and Ayesha Khan (S2) who have all managed to have pieces of their creative writing published this year. Abigail has been published in 3 books (Phizz-Whizzing Words - a book celebrating the work of Roald Dahl: Poetry Rivals - a poetry anthology in which Abigail's chilling war poem "Waiting" is included: and Spine Chillers a collection of scary short stories). Ayesha also has a short story included in Spine-Chillers and Charlotte has one of her poems included in Poetry Rivals. The girls are all members of Miss Baillie's creative writing club.



Guiding Success

Congratulations to Jade Thompson (S3) on achieving her Baden Powell Challenge Award - one of the highest awards in Guiding. Jade collected her award at a ceremony in Glasgow City Chambers.



Poster Girl

Congratulations to Maryam Ibrar of S6 who was selected to feature in the national television and billboard campaign advertising courses at Glasgow Clyde College. Maryam attends the college as part of her S6 studies at Eastwood High and won through an audition process. Look out for her on television and billboards in the spring.



What an Experience

A group of 50 S3 Physics pupils recently visited "The Experience" in Hillington. In S3 Physics pupils are currently learning how to calculate velocity, displacement and acceleration. The trip provided an insight into how these factors are used in real world calculations. Graphs and charts for the electric go-kart races allowed pupils to track their performance, make comparisons and calculate their average velocity (knowing the length of the track).



By Royal Appointment

Congratulations to Zak Griffin (S3) on winning through to be one of the eight finalists in "Tycoons in Schools" competition run by the Peter Jones Foundation (one of the dragons from "Dragons' Den"). Zak is one of two finalists in the key Stage 4 category (S3 & S4) and the only finalist of the eight from Scotland. Zak's business runs computer coding (programming) clubs in local libraries and he also runs a coding club in Eastwood High School. Zak and his mum will now attend a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 14th March where the Duke of York (Prince Andrew) will present the awards and crown the overall winner. Good luck Zak.



Teacher in a Fight!!

Well done to Miss McLoskey who represented the UK at the recent European Wrestling Championships in Austria. Miss McLoskey won her first fight but was eliminated before the finals. Miss McLoskey still hopes to represent Northern Ireland in the next Commonwealth Games.



Dance Success

Louise Rafiq and Faye Speirs (both S1) have recently sat their Gold Tap and Disco exams. Both did exceptionally well with Louise achieving "commended" in Tap and "highly commended" in Disco. Faye received a "pass plus" in Tap and "highly commended" for her Disco routine.



"A Night at the Opera"

On 17th of February Mr Fairlie and Miss Hill along with 21 S4-S6 Music pupils attended a performance of the opera "Ariodante" by Handel at Glasgow's Theatre Royal. The performance was designed especially for those who had never experienced an opera performance before. The pupils really enjoyed the performance that not only showcased the opera itself but gave background on some of the themes, and characters as well as introduced some of the musicians and backstage crew to talk about their roles. The trip will be very useful if opera is one of the genre in the SQA listening exam.

Liaison Français

The Modern Languages department has set up a link with the Lycée Monge La Chauvinière in Nantes. This partnership has been set up by our French assistante, Emilie Charton. Pupils from S4-S6 are exchanging letters with the pupils from the French school and it is an opportunity for our pupils to use their language skills outside the classroom.



Arkwright Scholarship Success

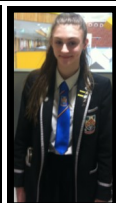
Well done to Hafsah Manzur (S4) and Robbie Walker (S4) who have won through to the interview stage out of 1477 applicants for the Arkwright Scholarships. These scholarships support young people wishing to pursue studies in engineering. The interviews are scheduled for April 19th. Good luck to Hafsah and Robbie.

Sports News

It has been a busy and successful month for Eastwood High athletes. At the Scottish Athletics Championships Erin Wallace (S4) came 4th in the women's 800m (Yes, the adult race) in a new UK U17 800m record of 2.06.59. At the same championships Jamie Sturrock (S5) won the Scottish U17 title with a fantastic run of 1.58.32.

At the Scottish Schools Indoor Championships on 3rd and 4th of February there were some notable performances by Eastwood athletes.

Erin Wallace won both the 800m and 1500m girls over 16 titles with her 800m time of 2.10.99 being a Championship best performance.



Jamie Sturrock just missed out on a medal coming 4th in the boys over 16 800m whilst Alyson Bell came 6th in the girls U16 60m despite only being 12! There were also strong performances that augur well for the future from Emily MacDonald (S2) high jump, Rhea Campbell (S3) 200m, Helen Chong (S1) 1500m, Elise Tweedie (S3) shot putt, Clare Wallace (S2) 1500m, Ross Lipp (S4) 400m, Fraser Lipp (S1) 200m and Jonathan Taylor (S4) shot putt—all of them competing against older competitors due to age groupings. In the East Renfrewshire Schools Cross Country Championships on 25th February Eastwood High had a most successful day. Helen Chong (S1), Clare Wallace (S2) and Erin Wallace (S4) all won their races; Jamie Sturrock (S5) came 2nd in the senior boys race whilst S1 boys and S1 girls won team bronze medals.

Three Eastwood pupils competed in the Scottish Schools Swimming Finals at Tollcross on 30th January after placing in the top 20 from the heats across Scotland last year. Laura Beatt competed in the 100m butterfly, Finlay Marrant competed in the 100m Freestyle and Clare Wallace competed and won bronze in the 200m Freestyle and silver in the 100m Freestyle.

February has seen a lot of netball action with the S1, S2 and S3 teams all playing Scottish Cup ties. The S1 team were knocked out 3 - 6 away against St Peter the Apostle HS in Clydebank. The S2 and S3 teams both drew Arbroath Academy away and made the long journey on the 2nd of February. The S2 team scored a thrilling overtime 15-13 win to progress to the next round, unfortunately the S3s lost 28- 18 despite playing well. Unfortunately the S2s have since been knocked out of the Scottish Cup losing to 7-12 at home to Albyn School from Aberdeen.

Congratulations to the Eastwood A Karting team of Craig MacFarlane (S5), Kevin King (S3) and Max Skillen (S2) who finished 2nd in the west of Scotland semi-final of the British Schools Karting Competition. This qualifies them for the Scottish final to be held at Raceland Edinburgh on 19th April. Unfortunately Eastwood B (Andrew McIntosh (S4), Callum Otley (S5) and Logan Rowe (S3) were knocked out.

The Eastwood High Ski team took part in the Scottish Schools' Ski Championships at Nevis Range on 25th February. The Eastwood A (Adam Inglis, Ben Hodgson, Caitlin Rae and Clark Marshall) came 3rd in the red (experienced category) whilst Eastwood B (Caitlin Parry, Ellie Marshall, Laurie Haig and Lucas Parry) were unplaced despite excellent clean runs. Caitlin Rae came 3rd in one of the individual competitions.

In football the S1 team played 2 games this month beating St Ninians B 11-5 (Kerr Scott (5), Rory Henderson (2), Keir Roberts (2) and Luke Gillies (1)). In the second game the team was knocked out of the $\frac{1}{4}$ final of the league cup 0-2 by Williamwood. The S2 team have played 3 games this month drawing 1-1 with Mearns Castle HS, losing 3-5 against St Lukes HS and winning 2-1 against Barrhead HS.

Finally in rugby the S1, S2 and U16 teams were all able to play Williamwood HS at Whitecraigs. It was a story of mixed fortunes with the S1 and S2 teams going down to heavy defeats however the U16s won again, this time 36-5 Graham Murchie and Jamie Black scoring a hat-trick of tries each.

