

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

January 2017



Special points of interest:

Important Dates

1st Feb - S4 Parents Evening
 10th Feb - Inservice day
 13th, 14th & 15th Feb - Holidays
 9th Mar- S3 DYW Event
 21st Mar - ER Dance championships
 29th Mar - ASN Parents Evening
 31st Mar - School Closes 2.30
 18th April -School reopens 8.45
 20th April - S6 Graduation
 27th April - S3 Parents Evening
 1st May - Holiday
 2nd May - SQA Exams start
 26th & 29th May - Holidays
 30th May - Inservice Day
 31st May - P7 Athletics Day
 1st & 2nd June - P7 Induction Days

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Dear Parent

This is a crucial time for pupils in S5/6 as we approach the Prelim exams that start on 30th January. Along with Mrs McCartney I have already spoken to senior pupils at assemblies about the importance of these exams. By now everyone should be well into a home revision timetable in preparation. I would also like to remind pupils and parents of the supported study programme that is running in most subject areas and the positive impact that participation in this programme can have on results.. The Prelim exam timetable and supported study timetable are both on the school website. I know that I can count on parental support to ensure that all pupils in S5/6 achieve their full potential in these exams. In a similar way our S4 pupils are about to enter the most crucial phase of their education so far. During February and March many subjects at National 5 and National 4 will be working on the completion of value added units and projects that form a key part of courses. On one hand pupils will fail their courses if they do not complete these pieces of work to a high standard and secondly there is the potential for underachievement if pupils do not put in the required work to achieve their best. These projects and value added units should be seen as an opportunity to produce high quality work that adds value to the overall grade when combined with exam performance in May - It is effort and hard work that will make the positive difference. To this end all S4 pupils will be issued with targets to aim for in their National 4 and 5 courses based on their prelim performance and teachers' best judgement based on internal assessments. These targets are what the S4 pupils could achieve but they will require hard work and study; they will not be achieved for simply turning up. For 4th year the final run in to their May exams, a mere 47 school days away, starts now.

S Maxwell

High Art

Congratulations to Victoria Xu (S5) who won 1st place (age 16 -20 category) in the prestigious National Museum of Scotland's annual Christmas Art Competition. Victoria attended the award ceremony in Edinburgh on 30th January.



"Sports Direct"

As part of school DYW ongoing partnership working Mr Murray organised a seminar and design challenge for S1—S6 design pupils led by Mr Martin Graham, head designer for Addidas footwear in Germany. Mr Graham outlined opportunities in the industry through Design & Technology Education leading to a degree in Sports Design Engineering at Strathclyde University. Hannah Shields (S4) and Emma Harkness (S2) were the prize winners in the design challenge section of the seminar.



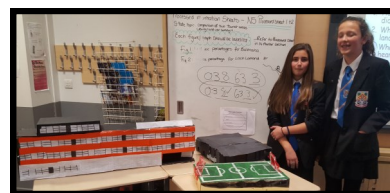
Be Smart Launch

On 11th January 40 S3 pupils were invited to Hampden to attend the launch of Police Scotland's new internet safety programme "Be Smart". Euan Chalmers and Christopher Young were interviewed for BBC News and Maryam Shabir appeared on STV News.



Model Pupils

S1 have been completing their "Landscapes in a Box" for Geography this month. Holland Bogan and Maja Cameron made a most impressive Eastwood High School model now on display in the foyer.



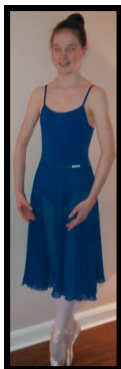
Vocational Experience

Well done to Sarah Arastoo (S6) who won a £20 Silverburn voucher for her response to the East Renfrewshire Vocational Programme "My Experience so far" survey.



Top Ballerina

Zoe Jamieson has just been awarded her RAD Grade 7 Ballet with merit. This is the equivalent of an A or B at Advanced Higher and is a remarkable achievement for a pupil in S4.



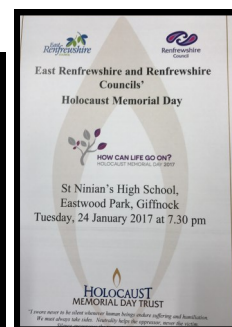
Dance Scholarship

Abigail Thomson (S3) has been nominated to compete for the BATD Bobby Barr Junior Scholarships in March. This is a huge achievement as she is one of only 100 free-style dancers from all over Britain to be selected.



Holocaust Memorial

Heather Hutchison and Sanju Kaur represented Eastwood HS at the annual East Renfrewshire Holocaust memorial event on 24th January. The girls had visited Auschwitz in September as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz programme and have been delivering assemblies to junior pupils on Holocaust Memorial Day.



Working 9 to 5

This month Senna Bogan S3 played Doralee Rhodes - a real southern belle as one of the 3 leading ladies in Vivace Theatre School's production of the popular musical 9 to 5. Senna donned a blond wig and strutted her stuff like a professional in this nod to the 1970s. She was certainly a real star. Well done Senna!



Music Successes

Congratulations go to Rachel Tait and Michael Coyne (both S4) who passed their ABRSM Grade 4 saxophone exams this month.



Christmas Cheer

The school charities committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas jumper day on Friday 16th December - especially Mrs Claus in the canteen. Along with the Christmas Fayre a grand total of £590.52 was raised.

Creative Writing Success

Miss Baillie's Eastwood High Creative Writing Club is celebrating more good news this month. Ayesha Khan, Abigail Watson (both S3) and Ellie Delahunt, David Cameron and Amy Woodburn (all S1) are to have their poems and short stories published in three separate collections titled "Busta Rhymes", "Poetry Rivals" and "Authors of the Future". Well done to all.



BBC School Report

Eastwood High has registered this year to take part in the BBC School Report initiative. Mr Ballantyne, Miss Kelly, Mr Duffin and 10 pupils from S1 & S2 are working hard to produce their first news article about the inauguration of President Trump. Between now and March 16th the pupils will investigate and report on a number of news stories with the aim of being selected to appear live on BBC News.



"Woman in Black"

Fifty S3 and Advanced Higher Drama pupils attended a performance of "Woman in Black" as part of their Drama course. The performance was at the King's Theatre in Glasgow and the pupils all commented how this live theatre experience had given them ideas for their coursework.



DYW Business Breakfast

On Monday 30th January Miss Paterson and a group of S4 pupils attended a Modern Languages Business breakfast hosted by SCILT & Edinburgh University. The event allowed the pupils to use their language skills as well as learn about opportunities for Modern Languages graduates within the Business world.



Celtic Connections

On 25th January 28 S3 pupils studying Music (performing) and Music (technology) attended performances as part of the Celtic Connections Music Festival in Glasgow accompanied by Mr Fairlie and Mrs Anderson. The group enjoyed performances from Siobhan Miller singing songs by Robert Burns and Carlos Malta from Brazil playing some samba and carimbo music.



Arkwright Scholars

Good luck to Jamie Dougall, Stephen Baird, Jonathan Rae, Bradley Scott and Hannah Shields (All S4) who will be sitting their Arkwright Scholarship exam on 1st February. The scholarship offers financial and mentoring support for pupils intending to study Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics at university. Mr Murray works in partnership with the Arkwright and hopes to emulate previous successes in securing these scholarships this year.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The first group out of more than 30 senior pupils working on their silver Duke of Edinburgh Award this year were presented their certificates and badges at a DoFE presentation ceremony. The others will be presented on completion before Easter.



Singing for Scotland

Congratulations to Liam Bothwell and Jack Kelly (both S1) on being selected to sing with the National Youth Choir of Scotland. The boys secured their places after coming through a strict audition process and will rehearse and perform with NYCOS later this year.



"When Will I Use This" Day Recognition

You may remember that during November S3 attended a "When Will I Use This?" seminar held in the school organised by Mr McCann. The idea of this was to work with partners from business and industry to highlight to pupils the importance of Numeracy Skills in the workplace. Well it has been recognised as an example of excellent partnership working in the DYW West December Newsletter.

DYW West

Helping employers to shape their future workforce

'When Will I Use This?' Eastwood High School S3 Event

DYW West had the privilege to take part in the When Will I Use This? event organised by Eastwood High School. The morning provided S3 pupils with the opportunity to develop their understanding of the importance of numeracy, literacy and transferable skills in the workplace. Employers' operating across a range of industries including healthcare, hospitality, financial services and the public sector were represented on the day which allowed insight into the relevance of vital skills across the world of work. The event was extremely successful and we would like to thank all of the employers who gave their time to participate on the day!



Sports News

Congratulations go to Euan Chalmers (S3) on becoming the Scottish National Champion for the Scottish Cycling National Youth Road Race Series (U14 boys). The series involved road races held all over Scotland from Aberdeen to Kilmarnock and culminated in a thrilling finish where Euan won the final race to clinch the overall title. He collected his leaders jersey and medal certificate at Scottish Cycling's Awards held at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow. Euan also came 6th in the Scottish 10 mile time trial and due to his success has been invited to attend coaching sessions led by the Great Britain Cycling Team Regional School of Racing. Sisters Rachel (S4) and Olivia Brady (S2) have again been playing for Scotland Girls ice hockey team in the British League. Olivia and Rachel play with Scotland based in Dumfries and travel all over the UK for games. Approaching the end of the season Scotland are sitting mid table



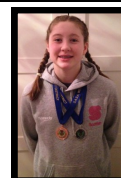
In football it has been a very successful month for the boys' senior (U18) team. They have progressed through to the last 16 of the Scottish Schools Shield. Their latest victory was 6-0 against Lanark Grammar with Calvin McGrory scoring four, and Keenan Campbell and Marcus Mandagie one a piece. The team now move on to play the winners of Trinity HS Rutherglen or Lenzie Academy in the next round.

The Eastwood High School girls football team has also been on a very good run of late. Eastwood LFC have won through to the semi finals of the U15s St Mirren Cup after a comfortable win over Linwood HS- Chloe Colquhoun and Maja Paszenda top scorers. The girls are also currently sitting second in the East Renfrewshire tournament league with one round of competition to go. On 23rd of January Glasgow City LFC Youth Academy coach, Amy McDonald, paid a visit to put the girls through their paces.



She was very impressed and gave the girls some useful insights into the professional game.

Lauren Chalmers (S1) has been producing some excellent performances in swimming over the last 2 months winning Gold in the 200m Butterfly and Silver in the 100m Butterfly at the West District Short Course Championships. In the West District Long Course Championships she secured Butterfly Silver and Bronze over the same distances. Her performance in the 200m Butterfly at the Short Course Championships qualified her for the Scottish finals at the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh where she swam an excellent personal best.



Finally in Netball the S2 girls have been drawn away to Lathallan School, Montrose in the 2nd round of the Scottish Cup having defeated Belmont House School and Castlehead HS in Round 1.