

EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Parents Newsletter

January 2020



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Important Dates.

7th Feb - Inservice Day
 10th & 11th Feb - Holidays
 12th Feb - Inservice Day
 10th March - Health & Well Being Evening
 17th March - EHS Dance Show
 19th March - E Ren Dance Show
 1st April - ASN Parents Eve.
 3rd April - School closes 2.30
 6th - 7th April - Holidays
 20th April - School returns 8.45
 27th April - SQA exams begin
 7th May - Inservice Day
 8th May - Holiday
 22nd & 25th May - Holidays
 26th May - Inservice Day
 27th May - Timetable Change
 28th & 29th May - P7 Induction Days

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Dear Parent | 1 |
| S1 Prefects | 1 |
| First Aiders | 1 |
| Australian Bush Fire Rescue | 2 |
| Holocaust Memorial | 2 |
| Praise at the Highest Level | 3 |
| Young Carers | 3 |
| Sports News | 4 |

Dear Parent

This is a crucial time for pupils in S5/6 as we face the Prelim exams that started on 17th 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 assignments 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 assignments 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 in February 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 45 school days away, starts now.

S Maxwell

S1 Prefects

On the 8th of January the new S1 prefects were issued with their badges of office. The prefects were chosen following a vote by staff at the very end of last term. The pupils with the most nominations were selected. Well done to Alisha Ansari, Amber Griffiths, Erin Kinnaird, Catherine Smith, Beth Tait, Calan Chong, Lochlan Kidd, Branden McCusker and Marcus Ralston.



S2 First Aiders

Well done to the pupils from the S2 Adventure Service Challenge Class who have just been awarded their "Heartstart" certificates. This award is achieved as an integral part of their course that is run in partnership with Community Learning Development.



"Dashing Through the Snow"

Well done to all the staff and pupils (Nearly 100 in all) who braved the cold weather to complete the school "Santa Dash" 5K fun run held on the last day of term before the Christmas holidays. The run was organised by the school charities committee and overall was able to raise £154 in aid of the Glasgow City Mission Christmas Appeal.



Holocaust Memorial

Robert Brownlee and Lucy Connelly (Head Boy & Head Girl) accompanied Mr Maxwell to Eastwood Theatre on the evening of Tuesday 28th to participate in the East Renfrewshire Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations. During the day on the 28th Miss Cumming and Mrs Bell attended the equivalent youth event with a number of our S4 pupils. During their studies this group of pupils have been learning about the liberation of Auschwitz and have been part of a social media campaign to highlight 75 forgotten stories of people killed in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp during World War 2. One person for each year since the liberation of the camp.



EHS remembers: Stanislaw Kielbasinski - Polish locksmith. Represented by Annabelle (S4). Anna Smolenska - Student of History of Arts. Represented by Skye (S4). Salomea Strul - Lived in Paris & was 47 years old. Represented by Sarah (S4).



Nil By Mouth

On Wednesday 8th January forty one S3 Modern Studies pupils participated in an interactive workshop on sectarianism as part of their "Law and Order" unit led by the anti-sectarian charity "Nil by Mouth". The charity was set up following the murder of a young man following an old firm game. Its aim is to combat sectarianism in Scotland particularly surrounding football. The workshop was very relevant, interesting and thought provoking.



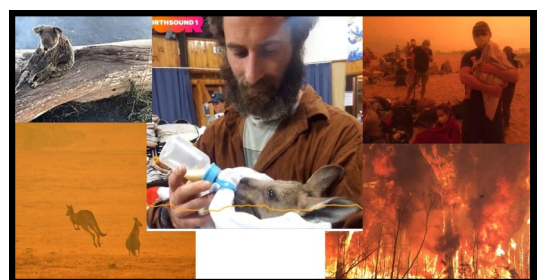
STEM Trip

On 29th January Mrs Van Veggel and nine S2 pupils visited Glasgow Clyde College to participate in the SmartSTEM Science workshops. During the day pupils attended a lecture and in three workshops were able to undertake various scientific and mathematical challenges related to their BGE coursework.



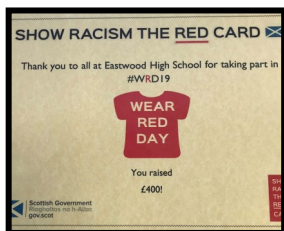
Australian Bush Fire Rescue

A massive well done and thank you to all of the S1, S2 and S3 pupils who took part in the 5k fundraiser for the Australian wildlife rescue charity WIRES (Wildlife Rescue). Mrs Miller's S3 Personal Development class organised the event after seeing the damage the recent wildfires were doing to Australia's unique wildlife. With the last money still being collected in it looks like an amazing total in excess of £750 has been raised.



Show Racism The Red Card

It was nice to receive a "thank you certificate" from "Show Racism The Red Card" acknowledging the £400 raised by the school in November in support of the organisation.



LGBT+ Bake Sale

Great cakes on sale on 15th January as Eastwood High's LGBT+ group raised funds for the Albert Kennedy Trust in aid of young homeless people. The Trust were good enough to make a positive comment in relation to the Eastwood LGBT+ group's tweet on



Anti- Bullying Ambassadors

Seven senior pupils have been trained to be anti-bullying ambassadors within the school. Sometimes pupils don't want to talk to staff/adults about their problems the ambassadors are in school and prepared to help individuals. The ambassadors will also raise awareness of cyber, physical, psychological, sexual and racist bullying with pupils in a number of different ways. Look out for the "Magnificent Seven" who can be recognised by the badge on their blazer.



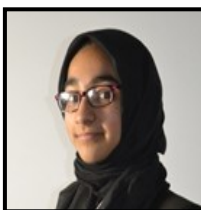
Badge



Cameron Constable (S5)



Erica Winning (S5)



Azka Chaudhry (S1)



Ben Hansen (S4)



Emma Wilkie (S5)



Louise Rafiq (S5)



Mark Thompson (S1)

Young Carers' Awareness Day

On 30th January Eastwood High School marked Young Carers' Awareness Day by showing a short video highlighting the experiences of young carers who attend the school as a starter to each lesson. Head Girl, Lucy Connelly, read anonymous statements from our young carers recognising how they struggle to balance home life with school life and how they manage to get on with every day despite some difficult challenges.

National Gallery of Scotland Recognition

Tia Noon (S1) and Robyn McMurray (S3) were at the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh on 28th January. The girls' are part of the Young Person Services "Mini-Champs Group" and their photographs from working in that group will form part of an exhibition that will open to the public on 8th February.



Praise at the Highest Level

It was a welcome boost to have the improved attainment of Eastwood High School pupils in SQA exams over recent years recognised at the highest level by John Swinney MSP (Deputy First Minister & Education Minister). During his speech at the opening of the 100th new school building funded by the Scottish Futures Trust he said the following captured in a Scottish Government press release

"Eastwood High School has seen the percentage of S5 pupils achieving five or more highers increase consistently to 40% compared with 17% prior to moving to their new building"

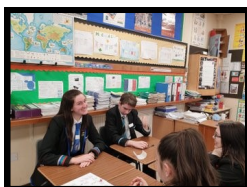
In response Stuart Maxwell, Head Teacher at Eastwood High School, said: "The new building and grounds have been one contributing factor to the success of Eastwood High's journey of improvement. We have a better environment for learning and teaching, which has benefitted pupils, staff and the wider school community. This has led to higher levels of achievement, as demonstrated in improved SQA results."

Well done to all pupils, staff and parents and let's make sure we keep improving.



Immersed in Languages

Higher and Advanced Higher French and Spanish students recently participated in the East Renfrewshire language immersion days to boost their speaking ability prior to SQA speaking assessments. Pupils from all the east Renfrewshire schools met to take part in various activities led by native speakers including our own Mr Chacon Clark.



Sports News

January has been a very busy month for Eastwood's Netball teams. The S1s, S3s and seniors all had Scottish Cup ties that resulted in fantastic, high standard matches. Our S1 team suffered an agonising, narrow defeat in the bronze league of the Scottish Cup. The final score was 15-16 to Hermitage Academy who were visiting from Helensburgh. Our girls fought hard right till the final whistle. Player of the match & captain was Hiba Khan, Coaches Player of the match - Olivia Cuthbertson. In the last 16 of the Gold League Scottish Cup the S3s were defeated 34-37 against the Glasgow Gaelic School. Throughout the match the lead switched between the teams with an unfortunate injury to our captain and player of the match, Melissa Burningham, near the end proving decisive. Finally also in the last 16 of the gold League Scottish Cup our seniors were knocked out by a very strong Mackie Academy side from Stonehaven 40-17. Maria Khan (S4) was awarded player of the match.



On 15th January the Eastwood rugby teams enjoyed a double header against Stonelaw HS at Whitecraigs RC. Well done to our S1 girls who won their very tightly contested match in the bitterly conditions. The S1 rugby boys team won a really entertaining match 38-29 against the same opposition. Oliver Glass, Fraser Cunningham, Lochlan Kidd, Craig Andrews and Max Ferguson (2) scored the tries while Oliver and Sam McGrory converted 2 each. Great commitment from both teams. On 22nd January the U14s lost narrowly 27-35 against St Andrews Academy tries from Ethan Ralston, Finlay Gordon, Ross Duncan, Steven Sands and Harry Galbraith were not enough to catch up. Euan McNaughton added a conversion. The S1s rugby boys won 48-15 against the same opposition. After a very tight first half, the boys upped their game scoring some excellent tries in the 2nd half. Oliver Glass (3), Calan Chong (2), Callum McEwan (2) and Fraser Cunningham scored the tries with Callum converting 4.



In football well done to Callum Ip, Euan Chalmers and Leigh Edgar (all S6) who completed the SFA "Introduction to Coaching" course allowing them to support coaching delivery to 100's of local football players. Well done to all on gaining your award. On the field it has been quite a quiet month for the Eastwood football teams. Mr Brown's Junior Girls lost their only game to an experienced and capable Williamwood HS side. On 28th January the S1 boys team lost 4-1 in their league fixture against league leaders St Ninians HS. This is the closest match St Ninians have had this season.



Both the Eastwood High boys and girls senior volleyball teams had matches at home against Stewarton Academy on Thursday 23rd January. Both games were really close with each going to a deciding set. Congratulations and thanks to Stewarton Ac. who won 2-1 in both the boys and girls matches. For our first game of the season there were however encouraging signs with improvements visible on system, serve-receive and character. Thanks to Mr Panayotakis and Miss Workman the coaches.



Hazel King (S1) represented Eastwood HS at the UK Schools pistol shooting championships held at Stoke Mandeville in England on 23rd January. Hazel qualified from the Scottish heat in November for the UK finals where she came 23rd. A great performance considering she is still in S1.



Congratulations this month also go to Lauren Chalmers (S4) who won silver in the 400m IM and bronze in the 200m Butterfly at the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships held at Tollcross in Glasgow on 25th January. Also in swimming this month Holly Millar (S2) was awarded girls' club champion in the age 13/14 category at her swimming club, Renfrew Baths.

Now a new sport for the newsletter but a remarkable achievement worthy of recognition. Manik Khadiya (S3) has been selected for the UK Roller Derby team that will compete at the Junior Roller Derby World Cup being held in Canada during the summer. Manik has skated since 2015 and competes for Glasgow.



Congratulations to Alyson Bell (S5). On 26th January at the Scottish National Indoor U17 Open Athletics Championships held in the Emirates Arena, Alyson produced two fantastic performances in winning the 200m national U17 title in 25.02 seconds; and despite running a personal best and championship record time of 7.59 seconds taking silver in the 60m - narrowly behind the English national champion.



Another notable sporting achievement was in cyclo-cross where Mary Bruce (S3) picked up a bronze medal at the recent youth event held at Glasgow University Garscube Campus.

Finally the latest standings in the inter-house championship are Duncarnock 161pts, Balgracy 154pts, Capelrig 117pts and Auldhouse 107pts. Still a long way to go in the competition.