



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

Tel : 0141 577 2200 , Fax : 0141 577 2220,
E.Mail : schoolmail@eastwood.e-renfrew.sch.uk
Website : <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Eastwood/>
Twitter : @EastwoodHighERC

December 2021

Special points of interest:

Important Dates

22 Dec - School Closes at 2.30pm for holidays
5th Jan - School returns
6th Jan - S5/6 Parents' Evening
12th Jan - S2 Curricular Choice & Parents' Evening
24th Jan - 10th Feb - S5/6 Prelims
26th Jan - S4 Curricular Choice & Parents' Evening
4th Feb - Inservice Day
7th & 8th Feb - Holiday
9th Feb - Pupils Return
1st April - school closes at 2.30pm for Easter Holidays

Dear Parent/ Carer

As you will be aware, I took up post as Head Teacher in August on a temporary acting basis. The permanent post was advertised in October and I was successful at interview on Monday 22nd November. I am thrilled to be the permanent Head Teacher of what I knew from my acting post, is an outstanding school. The activities and achievements contained in this newsletter only confirm that judgement further. Please read it and join me in celebrating our young people's achievements.

While every day I am enjoying meeting superb young people and working with very talented staff, both inside and outside the classrooms, it has also been a term of challenges. COVID has not gone away—indeed in recent weeks the Omicron variant has brought new challenges. It is continuing to impact on all of us in the school community and that can be difficult at times. My thanks to everyone for dealing with it so positively. It is still not clear what the new year will bring but I will keep you updated on any changes. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe, healthy and restful Christmas.

Kate Sinclair



Curricular Matters

S1/S2 Rotations

As of Wednesday 5th January, the S1 and S2 pupil timetables will revert back to the first rotation. This means classes will switch back between Geography/History and Art/Drama/Music/Home Economics/Technical/IT. This will be the same timetable as pupils followed from the first day in August until the end of October. The timetables will be available on ParentPortal. Most pupils will still have a paper copy or a photo of that original timetable. Timetables will be available from the office for the few pupils who do not still have a copy or photo.

Subject Choices for S2 Pupils Moving into S3 Next Year

The S3 Curricular Choice Option booklet is now available in the S2 Google Classroom. Families can look over this during the holidays. A video explaining the process and an electronic options form will be sent out to parents in January. There will also be details of the S2 Parents' Evening which takes place on Wednesday 12th January.

S5/6 Study Skills

On Tuesday 14th December, all S5/6 pupils took part in a series of workshops to help them to develop their revision skills. Workshops included creating a study timetable, effective note-taking and managing stress and anxiety. Pupils were really positive about the experience, with many of them commenting on how much more prepared they feel for their prelims in January.



Anti-Bullying Week

During the week of 15 - 19 November, pupils spent time in classes considering this year's theme, **One Kind Word**. The message that was reinforced throughout the week was: *In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying. Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. So from the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, together our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. It starts with one kind word. It starts today.* Posters were displayed around the school reminding everyone in our community to offer kind words to one another.

ONE KIND WORD

Anti-bullying Week 2021

CfE Young Enterprise

Our CfE Young Enterprise Club took part in a COP26 Sustainable Project. The teams pitched their eco-friendly and sustainable products to the Dragons and were



successful in convincing them to invest. Well done to William (S3), Jamie (S1), Zoe (S1), Eloise (S1) and Rachel (S1).

Lessons from Auschwitz project

Three of our senior pupils were selected to represent Scotland on the Lessons from Auschwitz project—Hannah Campbell-Finnie (S5), Jessica Anderson (S6) and Jodi Keys (S5).



The pupils have completed virtual tours of the concentration camp and listened to the accounts of Holocaust survivors. They have also been working hard, giving up numerous lunchtimes to complete their online training modules and courses. They are currently completing their final steps to become qualified Holocaust Ambassadors, when they will run small workshops with pupils within the faculty to share their experiences.



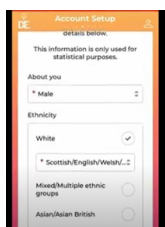
Drama Club

From August until October, S1-3 attended weekly Drama Club on a Friday after school. They were given the stimulus of Horror and had the creative freedom to create a short scene linking to this. They worked in a variety of group sizes and created wonderful, scary scenes! S3 incorporated storytelling by doing a sharing of ghost stories. S1 and S2 created characters and put themselves into weird and wonderful situations. We were able to display a sharing of our scenes in the Drama boxes for the other attendees of Drama Club. We are looking forward to welcoming Drama Club back in the New Year! Well done to all involved!



Pupils Leading DofE

Amazing leadership demonstrated by boys in S3 this week. Oscar Parker, Ben Lindsay and Nathan McSherry created and edited a how-to video for the Duke of Edinburgh Award here at Eastwood. This video will be used and shown to all S3 as a tool to show them how to set up their online Duke of Edinburgh profile. It is incredibly professionally edited and narrated like a proper TV production! Miss Kelly has given the boys a Gold merit; she was so thankful and impressed by them!

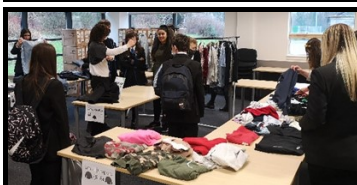


News from the Library

Scotland is the first country in the world to have lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) inclusive education embedded in the curriculum.

The library was fortunate to be the first to deliver to all S3 students a lesson to raise awareness, empathy and inclusion regarding the LGBTI community. Fiction gives us empathy: it puts us inside the minds of other people, gives us the gift of 'seeing the world through their eyes' as Neil Gaiman once wrote.

I read to the classes two favourite passages from *Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta and *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson. We then talked as a class about actions to make our school more inclusive and safe for everyone regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.



"I like what you are wearing—swap you"!!

Ms Hanvidge ran the Green Guardians 'Swap Shop' on Wed 8th Dec with pupils from the Eco-Committee. We had 6 crates of clothing swapped on the day so it was a big success! The event helped to promote sustainability and reduce fast fashion. We plan to run these again in the future.



Fashion & Textile Technology

The S3 Fashion & Textile Technology class have been learning about Garment Lay Planning by positioning fifth scaled pattern pieces to fabric. This activity has helped to consolidate their knowledge about pattern markings and fabric construction.



The same class have also been creating fashion mood boards using trend prediction websites. As part of the project pupils had to create technical drawings and come up with a fashion design based on the mood board research.



Young Enterprise

On Thursday 2nd December, our two S6 Young Enterprise teams (Archived and Tranquillity) visited Braehead shopping centre to take part in the Christmas trade fair. Both teams got to sell their products to members of the public, as well as having the opportunity to impress the judges with their trade stalls and business knowledge.

Both teams represented Eastwood brilliantly, attracting really positive praise from customers and judges alike.



To make things even better, Nicole Strachan, the Managing Director of Tranquillity, was awarded one of the 'Banter' awards after her sales and communication skills were deemed to be excellent.

Both teams will continue to sell their products in the coming months before attending the final in March, hoping to pick up the award for Best Company. Well done to all involved!



Social Subjects encourages Political Awareness in and out of school

Miss Richmond helped Ashely Kee run her campaign to become elected for the Scottish Youth Parliament. Ashley worked really hard on her campaign and obviously her dedication paid off.

Eastwood constituency MSP, Jackson Carlaw, visited the Advanced Higher Modern Studies class to help give pupils a better understanding of Scottish politics.



Health & Food Technology

Higher H&FT pupils successfully completed their REHIS (Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland) Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate. This qualification in food hygiene training could be a benefit to them when looking for a job.

Congratulations to

Ellie Anderson (S2) on passing her grade 5 ABRSM piano exam - a real achievement!



Modern Language Ambassadors

The Modern Languages Department would like to thank the S6 Languages Ambassadors for all of their hard work this term, supporting the S4 pupils to feel more confident when talking in Spanish and French in advance of their talking assessments. Thanks also to the Languages Ambassadors who have been supporting some of the S3 classes in the school in Modern Languages. We appreciate your dedication and commitment.

PTA Raffle

Thank you to our PTA for organising the online Christmas Raffle. Pupils drew the winning tickets and the raffle raised £630 for the school fund. A special thanks to Cathy Wilkie-Thompson for organising.



Santa Dash

The Eastwood HS Santa Dash took place in the afternoon of Friday 17th Dec. Over 130 staff and pupils took part in a 5K run or walk to raise funds for **Glasgow City Mission's** Christmas appeal to feed those who are homeless at Christmas.



Thanks to the generosity of our Eastwood families we managed to raise **£562.50!**

We had a great afternoon raising money for a great cause in a healthy way with lots of Christmas music and festive costumes. Well done to all involved.



Eco Committee Christmas Collection

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Eco Committee's **SSPCA** Christmas Collection. This annual collection has now been running for over 10 years and as always the response from the school community was fantastic. The collection this year was so large that the SSPCA officer almost couldn't fit it all in his van! We had a lot of second hand good donated, such as towels and blankets, giving these items a new lease of life and reducing landfill waste. A particular thank you to Lauren Chalmers, Eilidh Robertson and Eva Chong in S6 for their help in organising and advertising the collection.



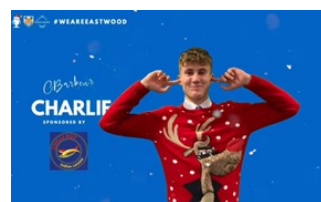
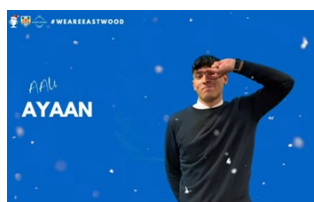
Eastwood High Staff-Pupil Christmas Cup



What started as a simple idea, grew arms and legs very quickly as the staff faced off against the pupils for this year's Christmas Cup. We sold around 400 tickets for the game via Parent Pay and, including player sponsorship, we are looking like we will smash our fundraising target for **East Renfrewshire Good Causes**.

Goals from S6 player Idrees Rauf and Mr Brown meant the game finished at 1-1, leading to penalties. 20 penalties were taken in total, with the staff missing 4 penalties to win the game. After some outstanding goalkeeping from our Student Science Technician Mr McIntosh, a winning penalty from Mr Cultera led the crowd into rapturous celebration.

It was terrific to see so many pupils enjoy the occasion after such a difficult term. A special thanks go to the local companies for sponsoring, pupils/parents who paid for a ticket and a wonderful charities committee for their support ... and a special thanks to Mr Brown for all his work organising and publicising the event.



Christmas Foodbank Collection

This year we have partnerships with **Simon Community Scotland** and **East Renfrewshire Larder** for our Christmas foodbank collection. Our pupils have been working hard across all year groups to raise awareness of the collection by making posters and helping to pack boxes in their free time. As a School we raised just under **1000 items** with S3 bringing in the highest amount of donations.



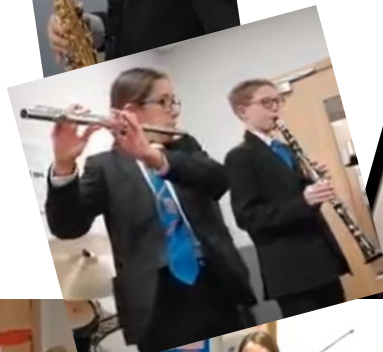
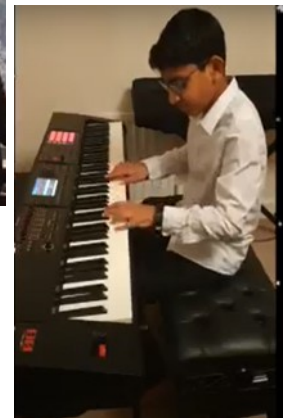
Christmas Jumper Day
Well done and Thank you!!



We Raised £294.16 for Save the Children

Virtual Christmas Concert

The Virtual Christmas Concert went live on Twitter this week. You can access using the QR code below. It featured pupils from S1-S6. A Christmas Group Performing competition ran between the S1/2 classes to see who would be featured in the Concert. The winning S2 class was 2L and the winning S1 class was 1H.



SPORTS NEWS



Active Girls Day

A fantastic day had by all.

All the girls in S1-S3 participated in a fun active day doing Clubercise, Cheerleading and Football.



Congratulations to ...

Logan Goldie (S2) who fought in the British Judo Championships in Sheffield and won bronze in the pre-cadet 50kg weight category, winning the fight with another big Ippon and making it 4 medals from the 4 big competitions since lockdown.



Hannah MacFarlane (S3) who competed in figure skating at the Tayside Trophy International. She achieved a PB and a score which allowed her to move up to level 3 whilst also securing 3rd place.



Our Junior and Senior Badminton teams who achieved Silver medals at the ERC Secondary Badminton Quach competition. Well done everyone involved.



The pupils who took part in the annual **Cross Country Championships**. All the pupils performed really well and the event was a great success. Particular congratulations goes to the following pupils for winning their race:

S1 – Angelina McGillivray / Harris Afzal

S2 – Dara Ositelo / Matthew Snowden

S3 – Millie McLean / Calan Chong



Our S3 pupils Caitlin Miller, Hiba Khan and Olivia Cuthbertson, who were all selected to play for the East Renfrewshire District Teams, winning all three of their games.

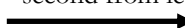


Caitlin – Back row second from left

Olivia – Back row first left.



Hiba – Back row second from left



Our Girls U15s Football team who have made it through the second round of the Scottish Cup beating Dumfries High 8-1. Great effort by all and thanks to Mr Brown for all his commitments. Good luck in the next round.