



Letter from the Head Teacher

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How to contact us
0141 577 2300
08.20am - 4.30pm

Dear Parent/Carer

The daffodils at the front of the school are in full bloom and the clocks are about to 'spring' forward heralding the approach of Spring Break as yet another busy term in our school draws to a close.

Another packed Newsletter, featuring a number of new activities - particularly in relation to Equalities - is a measure of the continued high levels of success in our school. I am sure as you read the newsletter you will continue to be enormously impressed by the talents of our pupils and staff in a wide range of fields.

We have continued to maintain our high standards of school uniform throughout this term, even during spells of inclement weather, and I thank you for your support in this matter. It is vitally important, as we move through next term and start to focus on our preparations for the new session in August that we persist in our combined determination to maintain our current high uniform standards. I have again included an extract from our Uniform Policy in the Newsletter for your information. I am confident that if pupils, parents and staff continue to work together we can look forward to sustaining our current excellent uniform standards.

As part of our school uniform arrangement we have in place a blazer recycling scheme. If you have a blazer which you no longer require we would be delighted if you could donate it to the school in which case we will find it a new owner or alternatively try to arrange an exchange for a more suitable alternative.

We recently had another round of House Assemblies and after another close race I am delighted to congratulate everyone associated with Wallace House on again winning the Dalgleish House Cup. The race for the next House Cup has already begun and I am sure everyone in our other five Houses will be working as hard to try and win the Cup as Wallace will be to retain it.

Each House also presented cheques to their favoured charities using the money raised during Charities Week. A total of £6,000 was presented to six different charities. In addition a further £2,000 will be donated to our main partner charity the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice.

Email the school on: schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk or follow us on twitter @mearnshigh
The school's website address is: www.mearnscastle.co.uk



MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Letter from the Head Teacher

Congratulations to our whole school community on a wonderful fund raising effort.

Our S5 Prefects again this session organised our annual Christmas Hamper Project. Many packets of biscuits, tins of food, boxes of sweets and small gifts were handed in by pupils on the nights of the Christmas Dances.

The goods were then packaged into 15 Christmas Hampers and were delivered to people in our local community and the East Renfrewshire foodbank who thanked us and told us that the food collected by pupils amounted to 111.4kg - enough to feed 11 single people for three days or 5 large families for the same period. They asked me to convey their thanks to the pupils, parents and staff for their kind gesture in supporting the project. This was again a wonderful effort by our whole school community.

Things never stand still in our school and we are continuing to work hard to prepare our S4, S5 and S6 pupils for their forthcoming SQA exams, which this year start on Thursday 25 April 2019. Our S2, S4 and S5 pupils have completed their course choices for next session and we are already gearing up for the start of the new timetable for all pupils in early June. In addition, as our S6 pupils get ready to leave us we are also starting to prepare the Transitions Programme for our new S1 pupils for the next session.

I will again take this opportunity to request that parents help us to ensure the safety of our young people by doing everything you can to reduce traffic congestion at the start and the end of the day and use the drop-off areas appropriately. As the weather improves could your child walk or cycle to school? Hopefully we will soon see bikes in the bike shed - it would be wonderful to see it full.

Can I draw your attention to our school website and Twitter account as an ongoing source of valuable information on events in the school. The address of the website and our Twitter account are shown on the front page of the Newsletter and at the bottom of this page.

We always welcome feedback on the Newsletter or indeed on any other aspect of the school. You can share your views with us via the return slip at the back of the Newsletter, via the school's e-mail address or by any other means of communication that suits you.

Finally, school closes for the Spring Break on Friday 29 March at 2.45pm. We re-open at 8.45am on Monday 15 April. I hope you and your family have an enjoyable Spring Break.

Dean Smith
Headteacher

Email the school on: schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk or follow us on twitter @mearnshigh
The school's website address is: www.mearnscastle.co.uk

School Uniform Matters

Following extensive consultation with pupils, parents and staff the uniform for all pupils at Mearns Castle High School is as follows:-

Blazers

A black blazer (woolen or polyester) with a Mearns Castle High School badge is compulsory for all pupils. Blazers should be worn to and from school. Blazers must also be worn in school at all times but can be removed during lessons.

During inclement weather, pupils can wear a black outdoor jacket over their blazer. Outdoor jackets must then be removed in school and stored in lockers. If appropriate, blazers should be correctly braided. Braiding arrangements are available on our school's website: www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/mearnscastle.

Skirts

Two styles of black skirt are compulsory: box pleat or straight.

Dependent on a pupil's height, skirts should be between 18" – 22" in length. As a rule, skirts should be worn no higher than 2" above the knee, with plain black tights or black knee high socks.

Trousers

Girls can wear black, formal boot-cut trousers. Boys must wear formal, black school trousers. Trousers must be worn up to the waist. If a belt is worn it must be all black with a plain buckle.

Shirts/Jumpers

A formal white school shirt must be worn, tucked in. A plain black v-neck jumper or cardigan, where the tie is clearly visible, can be worn.

Headscarves

If girls are choosing to wear a headscarf for religious reasons it must be a plain black headscarf.

Ties

An appropriate school tie must be worn up to the neck and properly tied with the school badge clearly visible.

The following school ties are available:

- | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| S1/S2/S3 | - | red tie |
| S4/S5 | - | blue tie |
| S6 | - | black and red tie |

Colours ties are available in all styles for pupils who have achieved School Colours.

Scarf

Two styles of school scarf are available.



Footwear

Formal all black school shoes with a black sole and black laces, if appropriate, must be worn.

Physical Education Kit

Pupils in S1 to S6 must wear a red Polo shirt. A customised version of the red Polo shirt is also available for pupils studying Higher PE. All pupils must also wear either black tracksuit trousers or black shorts. A black school hooded top is available to be worn during PE or when representing the school at sporting events.

All items of Mearns Castle High School uniform are available from:

Stevensons School Outfitters

192 Fenwick Road, Giffnock, Glasgow, G46 6UE
Tel: 0141 638 7689
Email: giffnockbranch@stevensons.co.uk

Academy Uniforms Ltd

4a Rennie Place
College Milton North, East Kilbride, G74 5HD
Tel: 01355 244879
Email: info@academyuniformsltd.com

More information on our school uniform standards can be found on our website. If you wish further advice in relation to our school uniform requirements please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Tel: 0141 577 2300
Email: schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk

We look forward to working in partnership with pupils and parents to ensure a consistently high standard of school uniform for our school.

Maths

Many pupils from S1 - S5 have been engaged in various competitions over the past couple of months.

Euan, Mika, Annabella and Sadie travelled to the University of the West of Scotland in Paisley to take part in the UKMT Junior Team Challenge. Twenty seven schools took part, with our team being placed 9th: an excellent result.

Seventy five pupils in S4 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge. Forty two certificates were awarded as follows:

5 x Gold
14 x Silver
23 x Bronze

Euan, Jamie M, Ali and Jamie B have been invited to take part in the next round of this competition, called the Pink Kangaroo round. Due to their outstanding performance, Ali and Jamie M have been invited to Leeds in August, to take part in a week long Summer Maths school. Well done to everyone, and particularly to Ali and Jamie M.

Two classes in S4 and S5 once again entered the ever popular Mathématiques sans Frontières competition. Results will be announced in May.

The Cryptocrackers Club continues with its weekly meetings. Ten pupils are preparing for the annual trip in May to Manchester University, to take part in the Alan Turing Code-Breaking competition.

All in all, a busy term for our pupils.



The international competition "Puzzle of the Week" is still going strong in the Maths department. In fact, a local rivalry has developed with Strathaven Academy, and we're submitting more solutions than ever before!

We have entered 1136 answers since the start of the contest in October and 971 of those answers have been correct which means we have increased our success rate to 85% over the course of the year. Good work everyone!

We are currently 3rd on the Global leaderboard but it would be great to achieve more so please continue to enter solutions to as many puzzles as possible.

Maths

Schools (leaderboards) 18-19 : Top 20 This Year

Position	School	Country	Correct Answers	All Answers
1	Queen Elizabeth's Academy	England	2156	2490
2	Strathaven Academy	Scotland	1032	1190
3	Mearns Castle High School	Scotland	971	1136
4	St Andrews International School Bangkok	Thailand	800	917
5	Garden International School	Malaysia	785	995
6	The Kimberley School	England	777	922
7	Archbishop Temple CofE High School	England	598	935
8	Nishimachi International School	Japan	552	714
9	JESS Dubai	UAE	543	957
10	Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Sc	Philippines	494	586
11	Walthamstow School for Girls	England	403	464
12	Parliament Hill School	England	397	711
13	The British School of Brussels	Belgium	387	433
14	Ralph Allen School	England	284	338
15	Royal Hospital School	England	246	351
16	Bryn Celynnog	Wales	241	261
17	The International School @ Parkcity	Malaysia	215	269
18	The Cathedral School	Wales	210	320
19	Hardenhuish School	England	194	319
20	St Albans Girls' School	England	193	251
TOTAL			16621	22263

House points are available for participation in all puzzles, and for successful entries. The most recent awards are

February - S6 Emma (participation) and S1 Grace (success)

Two of our pupils continue to hold joint first position globally with just 10 other participants worldwide. The competition has grown to 9087 entrants across the globe and we wish Kirstin and Erin the best of luck in retaining that position for the remainder of the contest. The department's Puzzle of the Week shield is awaiting its next recipient(s)!

Parents and staff are also encouraged to submit entries as they all count towards our overall score on the global leaderboard - see www.puzzleoftheweek.com every Monday for the most up to date puzzle and entry form.

English



English Department News



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

It has been a very busy term in the English department as senior pupils have had the chance to reflect on recent prelim results, finish off SQA folios and prepare for SQA examinations. As well as all this, we have had lots of fun and inspiring activities going on in classes across the department.

BURNS' DAY IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT!

On Monday, 25th of February, Mrs McMahon's classes had the opportunity to experience a traditional Burns' Supper complete with vegetarian haggis, irn-bru and songs and poems from the Bard. Much fun was had by all and the pupils reported that, as well as enjoying themselves immensely, they left feeling much more confident in their understanding of Scots poetry.



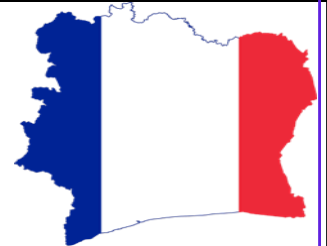
CRUCIBLE COURTROOM

Pupils in Mrs Batchelor's Higher class had the opportunity to participate in a courtroom style debate to enhance their knowledge of Arthur Miller's play "The Crucible". Pupils reported feeling much more confident in their understanding of the central concerns of the play as a consequence of being able to interrogate the characters - and, indeed, the text as a whole - in an innovative and in depth manner!

Modern Languages



S3 Exams



For the S3 Modern Languages Exams all pupils in National 4 and National 5 classes will sit a reading comprehension paper. All National 5 pupils will also complete a listening comprehension paper, a talking exam and a writing exam paper, which is a prepared job application letter. All pupils have prepared both the talking and writing in class and should be spending time learning in preparation for the exam. They will form the basis of their National 5 final writing and talking exams so it is very good practice to get in to the habit of learning this now.

S4, 5 & 6 Modern Languages Talking Exams

Congratulations to all pupils in S4, S5 and S6 who have recently completed a final talking exam in Modern Languages. This can be a daunting time for many pupils, but the standard has been very high this year. All pupils have performed very well and should be pleased with their performance.

S4 National 5 - Pupils should now be spending time on a regular basis learning their job application letter. A document of common and useful exam vocabulary for French and Spanish has been uploaded to GLOW and to the Modern Languages page of the school website. Pupils have been advised to use this document to support their revision.

Higher - Pupils should be learning phrases for their writing exam paper and doing regular reading and listening exam practice.

All levels should be accessing SCHOLAR , GLOW, SQA Past Papers and also the Modern Languages page on the school website for further practice for reading, listening and grammar skills.

A reminder that there is Easter school on offer for pupils in French and Spanish at National 5 and Higher level.

The Modern Languages Department would like to wish all pupils in S4-S6 who are sitting exams in French, Spanish and Mandarin the best of luck!

Modern Languages

My Experience in Scotland from our Language Assistants

My name is Jeanne and I come from Honfleur, a small town in Normandy. My experience in Scotland was unforgettable and rewarding for me. I had an adaptation time at the beginning, mostly due to the Scottish accent and for the weather conditions, but in all honesty, this experience was the best that could happen to me. The teachers and pupils gave me a warm welcome and I learnt a lot from them both. I was able to discover a new way of teaching and to notice the difference between two education systems, which was very enriching. During my stay, I was given the opportunity to teach my own language to highly motivated pupils. I was fortunate to witness the different teaching styles of many teachers who shared their skills with me through open discussions. This helped me improve my teaching skills and focus on a new professional project, the French teacher as a Foreign Language Teacher. One of the best experience for me also was to discover a wonderful country that is Scotland. I had some amazing trips and hikes that allowed me to see how beautiful Scotland really is, despite the weather. I gained a lot from these experiences. I will always remember my time here in Glasgow thanks to all the people I met during this year. Cheers.

Jeanne - French Assistant

My experience in Scotland has been, and continues to be, very positive and exciting for me. However, it was very difficult at the beginning as I struggled to understand the Scottish accent! Since being here, I have fallen in love with this country for its beautiful landscapes and scenery. I have also met many exceptionally kind people inside and outside of the school, with whom I have enjoyed spending time. Teaching in Mearns Castle High School has been amazing. I feel privileged to have worked with a great department from whom I have been able to learn. Being able to teach my mother language and share my culture is extremely rewarding for me, it has given me the opportunity to improve my skills as a teacher as well as my English. In my time here, Scotland has come to feel like home to me, so much so I believe it will be difficult for me to leave such a place when the time comes.

Karen - Spanish Assistant

Modern Languages

Advanced Higher French and Spanish

I have found sixth year to be very rewarding for me, and being a Modern Languages Ambassador has been one of the main reasons for this. Organising and hosting Multi-lingual events such as the European Day of Languages event was enjoyable not only due to working in a team with the other ambassadors, but also in that I was able to share my passion for languages and promote the learning of modern languages to younger pupils. Working on the certificates for Pupil of the Month as well has been really great, as I believe that rewarding pupils for their hard work is a great way to promote further learning. Such as in the European Day of Languages event, myself and my fellow ambassadors had the opportunity to show younger years how beneficial languages can be in later life, and incorporated several languages, not just the ones taught in school! The skills I have developed thanks to this role, such as teamwork and leadership, will undoubtedly prove useful for me in later life, and I would recommend languages to everyone, and definitely encourage younger pupils to consider thinking about taking languages or perhaps applying to be ambassadors once they reach S6, as the skills acquired will prove useful in every career field.

Sophie S6

For my National 5s I could not decide if I wanted to go down a science route or a language route so I chose French, Spanish and Biology and Chemistry. This allowed me to realise how much I loved languages and the skills they gave me. Over the years I have loved studying both French and Spanish and this year, doing Advanced Higher French has been incredible. Studying languages has allowed to me develop my communication skills as well as have amazing experiences through speaking to people in their native language whilst travelling. I would recommend languages to every pupil as they have a plethora of transferable skills and have brought so much joy into my life.

Eilidh S6

Modern Languages

Higher French Immersion Workshops

S5 pupils studying Higher French recently took part in a Language Immersion Day with native French teachers.

Pupils took part in different workshop activities and developed their oral skills on a range of topics. The pupils heard and spoke only French in all of the workshops all day, and we were very impressed with their level of comprehension.

Some comments from the pupils:

'I understood more French than I thought I could.'

'This was very beneficial for my talking skills.'

'Hearing native speakers has helped to develop my listening skills.'

L'année dernière en décembre notre classe de français est allé a "Eastwood House" pour faire des activités avec les autres classes des autres écoles à East Renfrewshire. Nous avons voyagé en bus et le bâtiment était très vieux et joli. Nous étions mis en petits groupes de cinq ou six personnes et on a fait des différentes activités pour améliorer notre français: par exemple speed dating. Ça a duré jusqu'à midi et à 12:15 on est retourné à l'école. **Jacques S5**

The French immersion day allowed students to take part in a series of activities hosted by French teachers and French language assistants. To start we were greeted and put into groups by the teachers. We were mixed into groups and I felt that it was good that we were split away from the people that we knew and were given the opportunity to meet new people from other schools across East Renfrewshire. One of the main advantages of this was that we could pick up some new vocabulary that our teachers may not commonly use but teachers in other schools do. The first activity that we went to was intended to enhance our pronunciation as we were given a list of tongue twisters. I found some of these quite challenging and it was a good way of breaking the ice with the other people that were there, as everyone was making a fool of themselves. Another activity that was well done was the blind dating activity. It allowed us to practice a range of tenses for example the present, imperfect, perfect and the conditional. It was great fun putting all of our grammar work together that we spent so long working on in class to be able to use it in a practical situation. An activity that I personally found quite interesting was the idiomatic phrases activity. This was particularly interesting to me as they are quite good to use effectively in the discursive essay. I felt that it was great to know that if I go back to France, I would be able to sound more authentic. Overall, the experience was quite enjoyable and it was great to meet new people and learn new things. However, I wish that the groups would have been split into sizes that were more even because in a large group it could sometimes be hard to engage with the activities. **Scott S5**

Modern Languages

Ciné-club Français

Once a month pupils from fourth year up studying French have the opportunity to come and watch a French film. This year we have watched films ranging from comedies to biographies. Being part of the ciné club has helped improve our language skills and at the same time we have been able to learn more about a different culture.



Netflix

In recent years, Netflix has really transformed its offering in terms of foreign language content, in particular in the past year. Netflix has now become a very useful tool to students of foreign languages. By no means is it a replacement for studying the language and completing homework tasks, but instead a compliment to the pupils' studies in moments of relaxation; it offers a window to the language in use and the cultures of the countries where it is spoken.

Netflix has become particularly strong in the supply of Spanish-language content offering a wide array of Spanish and Latin American content of all genres, reflecting in turn global viewing on this platform. Of course, it is entirely up to parents and the young people to decide what is appropriate in terms of certification, but regularly following a show in the foreign language really can improve pupils' listening skills and give them an insight into the cultures where the language is spoken. From reality TV shows like Made in Mexico, big-budget Spanish dramas such as Velvet, and up-to-date box-office hits like Holy Camp, or the Oscar-winning Roma, Netflix really does offer a wealth of content. Once pupils' start to view one show they will then have others suggested to them on their homepage with introductory trailers facilitating the selection process. These trailers also come with the appropriate certification. It is recommended that pupils initially start to view these shows or films with the English subtitles, eventually transitioning to subtitles in the target language in order to follow the audio.



Modern Languages



MANDARIN



Big congratulations to Abdullah for representing Mearns Castle High School in the British Council Mandarin Speaking Competition Final in London. Thanks to Abdullah for sharing his unforgettable experience in class.

"It's a very difficult competition. I think I did really well. It's really great to see there are so many other students from different schools across the UK who are learning Mandarin and compete together. I really enjoyed the experience."



Congratulations to Laura, Iona, Abdullah, Innes, Ross, Megan, Katy and Gurleen who are all secured their 2019 partly funded China trip places. They are heading to China this October for two weeks to learn the language, to experience the culture and to visit some famous historical places in Beijing and Tianjin. Looking forward to hearing about all their exciting experience!



PE Department

New Additions to our Fitness Suite

The young people at MCHS would like to thank the PTA who have kindly funded two new Concept 2 Rowing machines for our fitness suite. These are a great addition for; classes developing their fitness, pupils attending school sports clubs developing their general fitness and for our elite performers, who currently compete regularly in the sport of rowing. These machine will help the rowers prepare for the Scottish Schools Indoor Rowing Championships next November 2019 at Ravenscraig.

Girls 5-A-Side Football

Mrs Little's team have competed in a range of games at different venues over the past 3 months. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed their games against other local schools. They are currently second in the league.

National 5 and Higher Rugby Performance assessment event

Adam Smith, Clark Gray, Ross Sutherland and Roan Fotheringham performed very well at the East Renfrewshire performance assessment event which took place at Whitecraigs Rugby club on 13/3/2019. It was attended by Williamwood HS, Eastwood HS, Smithy Croft HS, Belmont House, Woodfarm HS, St Ninians HS and ourselves. Thanks to coaches and teachers involved with this event.

Challenge Basketball Match

Our seniors boys basketball team challenged the teachers team. Youthfulness was not on all the teacher's side. The game was played in good spirits. However, with the hours of practice the senior boys "put in" during lunch times honing their skills the game went to them at the end of the day 82 -62. A re challenge match will be planned for the summer term.

Senior boys football team

A massive well done to the senior boys football team who made it all the way to the Scottish cup 6th round this year. Unfortunately they were put out the cup by St John's RC high school, Dundee, who are actually a performance school and a large percentage of their squad are signed onto youth academies with professional teams. They lost 4-2, but did themselves proud, especially being 4-0 down at half time! Overall they have performed brilliantly this year and enjoyed their day out of school to attend the away tie.

PE Department

Physical Education Athletics Programme (S1-S3)

Our athletics programme starts when we return from the Easter fortnight holiday with S1-S3 pupils developing their skills in both field and track events. This will help prepare the pupils for our own Athletics event, again at On X, in Linwood on the 21st and 22nd May 2019. From this event pupils will be selected for the school team who will compete at the East Renfrewshire Athletics meet (30/5/19) and potentially the Inter Authority Athletics meet (TBC) and the Scottish Schools athletics meet (7/6/19 & 8/6/19).

Fitness Lunchtime Club (S1-S6)

The Monday and Friday fitness club meets in the fitness suite 12.25. The club has been well attended with many regulars and some new members to the club. Please remember to get changed and meet in the fitness suite promptly. Packed lunches can be eaten after the club finishes at 12.55pm. All welcome.

Girls Rugby

The Scottish Rugby Development Officer, Caitlyn Haldane, based at Whitecraigs Rugby Club has supported the development of our curricular rugby in both the PE Core programme and National programme. This was also a valuable in-service training event for staff. Pupils developed their skills and knowledge of the sport. Some girls have since joined Whitecraigs Rugby Club. We thank Caitlyn for her support.

Badminton Club (S1-S3)

The Monday after school badminton Club has over 60 members. They have been developing their skills for both singles and doubles play. The club will again be offered to pupils, with a start date after the Easter break. There are limited places due space, since the games hall being used to accommodate the SQA exams.

Inter House Sports Competition

During the summer term a series of planned inter house sports competitions will take place during PE. A variety of sports will be included. Please keep your eye on the inter house sports notice board situated in the PE department main corridor.

Inter Primary Sports Competitions

Eglesham, Kirkhill, Mearns and Calderwood Lodge primary schools have competed in a range of sports at Mearns Castle High School and Rouken Glen over the past 4 months. These include; football, badminton, cross country and netball. Thanks to Brandon Wamberg (active Schools) and Primary staff who have planned and organised these events. They have been well attended and the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

PE Department

Calderwood Lodge and St Clare's Primary Campus

Gavin Fry, the PE specialist, kindly invited and accompanied PE staff from Mearns Castle HS on a tour of the school's sporting facilities which included a visit to watch a movement class develop their skills.

News about Recent Sporting Performances

East Renfrewshire Schools Cross Country Championships

Senior Boys Cat

Duncan Robinson finished 1st

Ben Shaw finished 2nd

S3 Boys Cat

Harris Paterson finished 1st

The Scottish Schools Athletic Association National Cross Country Championships

Under 16 Harris Paterson finished 8th in Scotland

Senior Boys Jack Bell finished 10th in Scotland

The SSAA National Indoor Athletics Championships

O16 High Jump Sam Young finished 5th 1.85m

O16 High Jump Emma Barbour finished 4th 1.65m

U16 800m Harris Paterson finished 8th 2.07.55

O16 400m Ross Veitch finished 4th 51.60

U16 1500 Harris Paterson finished 1st 4.15.62

O16 60 m Scott Wylie finished 3rd 7.18

Individual Performance Update

Hamish Armitt at the Emirates, currently the 2nd fastest under 20 year old in Britain for the 3k, time 8.29. Won the British Cross Country series of events around a variety of venues in England including Loughborough.

Lisa Miller (swimming) Scottish School Finals finished 6th 200m Fly finals.

Jack Bell (swimming) Scottish School Finals finished 7th 200m Fly finals.

Daniel Sabba (gymnastics) Scottish Champion on the floor and apparatus and selected to represent Scotland as part of the home nations team 2019

Crystelle Lake (gymnastics) Scottish Team selection for Home Nations Championships next month

Mark McKee (boxing) Scottish Novice champion 44 kilos (cont'd overleaf)

PE Department

Individual Performance Update

Isa Akram (boxing) Current British champion at 48 kgs

Jamie Hamilton (football) Scottish FA U17 Team. Played 6 games at this level

Laura Bailie (volleyball) Scottish Volleyball Team

Thea Leitch, Mindy Ward, Alana McMillan, Beth McKee and Maisy Leitch competing at USASF Dance Worlds in Orlando Florida April 2019

Greg Merrill (Basketball) Scottish National team

Basketball St Mirren Club players (Craig miller, Calum Morrison and Jamie Sweeney)

Excellent news and well done to all mentioned above on their outstanding achievements.

Upcoming Sporting Events

East Renfrewshire Inter School Games 14th May 2019

Inter Authority Games TBC

Scottish Schools Athletics Championships on 7th and 8th June 2019

S1-S3 Mearns Castle High School Athletics Championships at on 21st and 22nd May 2019

East Renfrewshire Athletics Championships on 30th May 2019

East Renfrewshire Summer Netball Tournament 9th May (S1 to S3)

The Shirley Roberts Invitational 5 a side Football Tournament on 13th May 2019

Personal Development

Developing the Young Workforce



Maidenhill Primary Project visit

As part of our Developing the Young Workforce Strategy a group of 5 pupils all with ambitions in the construction industry, visited the site of the new Maidenhill Primary School. Callum, Lewis, Lewis McG, Robert and Clark were able to see the progress that has been made since their last visit to the site in October as well as watch joiners at work and have a talk with the Building Services Manager. The project organised with school by BAM Construction is giving the pupils an excellent insight into the opportunities available in the construction industry.

Personal Development

S4 completed their Heartstart First Aid qualification in conjunction with East Renfrewshire Young Persons services. I am glad to report that everyone passed this training, which involved - amongst other things - caring for a casualty; dealing with an unconscious person who is breathing; dealing with a suspected heart attack casualty; giving rescue breathing and performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The pupils were very responsible when completing this task and understood how vital these skills can be. While we hope to not use any of this training because it would mean someone is unwell, everyone understood how this is a great skill to possess, and may save someone's life.

S3 have been working on how best to tackle discrimination and hatred, by reflecting on Holocaust Memorial Day. We contributed to the school poster display and discussed in class how we can make sure discrimination does not exist in our community. Some pupils have also been twice to Mearns Care Home to play Boccia with residents. These afternoons were fantastic, involving everyone in this inclusive game. It's fair to say that the residents lost the first time we played, but the second game was much closer!



Debating News

Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News

Mearns Castle debate at the Oxford Union Finals Day



Mearns Castle's Oxford Debaters

Punim and Vivian

On Saturday 11th March, two Mearns Castle debaters travelled to Oxford to compete at the 2019 Oxford Union Schools Debating Competition Finals Day. Punim and Vivian from S6 qualified from the Regional heat held in George Heriot's school back in February. A total of 120 teams from across the UK and around the world contested this year's finals day. The motions on the day were challenging and varied and included the topics: *the legalisation of the sale and purchase of human organs; whether convicted political terrorists should be allowed to stand for office; whether the glorification of motherhood is good for feminism and the pros and cons of colonial power increasing immigration from countries that they previously colonised.*

Debating News

Punim and Vivian debated to a high standard and achieved 10 team points after the preliminary rounds. They very narrowly missed breaking to the semi-final stage for the top 8 teams on tab. However, both debaters were in the top fifth of the team tab and finished higher than many of the top schools around the UK and the world. A fantastic performance.

Mearns Castle qualify for the International Competition for Young Debaters Finals Day.



Mearns Castle's ICYD Debaters

Eva, Zoe, Sarah, Louisa, Zainab, Kirsten, Rebecca and Naomi.

On Saturday 26th January, four Mearns Castle teams travelled to George Watson's College in Edinburgh for the Scottish heat of the 2019 International Competition for Young Debaters (ICYD). This is a competition for debaters up to 16 years of age and is organised in alternate years by the Oxford and Cambridge Unions. This year's competition is being run by Cambridge. Mearns Castle competed against teams from around the country over 4 debates. The motions were debated included: banning private schools, stopping all financial, military and other aid to Saudi Arabia, paying stay at home parents and the legalisation of human organs. All four of Mearns Castle's teams competed to a very high standard and all were in contention of qualifying going into the last round. In the end, Zoe and Eva (both S2) and Louisa and Sarah (S3/S2) narrowly missed qualification. A special mention also goes to Naomi and Rebecca (S1) who debated so well against many pupils who were up to 3 years older. All of Mearns Castle's teams achieved notable 1st place finishes in at least one of the preliminary rounds.

However, congratulations go to Kirsten and Zainab from S3 who qualified for this year's final. Both debaters will now contest finals day against the best teams from around the UK and the world at the Cambridge Union at the end of April. A fantastic achievement. Good Luck to both debaters.

Debating News

The European Youth Parliament Competition



The EYP debaters

Grant, Leon, Menaal, Cerys, Emma, Sam, Sarah, Katie, Zainab, Eva,

On Tuesday, 12th March, two teams of debaters competed in the West of Scotland Regional Forum of the European Youth Parliament competition. This year's regional heat was held at Douglas Academy. The EYP competition attracts many of the best debating schools from around the country. The winners of the regional heat then progress to the National Forum in Liverpool. All the topics debated are on European issues. The topics debated in the regional heat this year included: *the repatriation of cultural objects by former colonial powers, the issue of Gibraltar's status in the EU, the EU response to anti-semitism in Europe and the fuel tax riots in Paris.*

Both of Mearns Castle's teams competed to a very high standard during a long day's debating. In the end, Mearns Castle narrowly missed out on qualification for this year's National Forum. However, both teams can be very proud of their performance on the day. Mearns Castle had the youngest teams present and 9 of the 16 debaters participating from the school were competing in their first ever EYP competition. All have a very bright debating future. Here's to next year.

Debating News

The Scottish Schools Debating Council Junior Debating Competition



The Junior debaters

Zainab and Kirsten

The 3rd Round of the SSDC Junior Debating Competition took place at the High School of Glasgow at the end of January. Mearns Castle are being represented this year by Zainab and Kirsten from S3. Both debaters came up against teams from Douglas Academy, Holy Cross and the High School of Glasgow. Mearns Castle successfully proposed the motion: 'This House Would Ban Cosmetic Surgery'. Good Luck to both debaters in the next round which will take place at the end of April.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

Since taking over the remit for Equalities in Mearns Castle High School, and working with several teaching and support staff, Mr Sorley has been working with three different Improvement Teams, looking at three different strands of Equalities during this session.

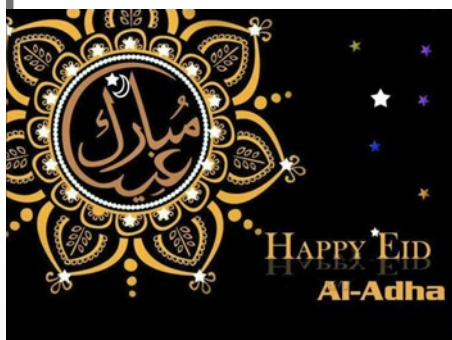
Faith and Culture Improvement Team

Working with young people and staff of various faith and cultural backgrounds, we have been acknowledging and celebrating various festivals and events throughout the session.



This has included:

Eid al-Adha



Eid al-Adha ran from Tuesday 21st August until Friday 24th August 2018. This was the second of the two Islamic holidays celebrated worldwide each year. We provided young people of Muslim faith, space for reflection during breaks and lunchtimes and delighted that both Mr Moghul and Mrs Khan offered their support to supervise the young people.

As always during these two festivals, we continue to support young people of Muslim faith to have permission to be absent to attend the Mosque on Friday afternoons.

Working with young people and staff of Muslim faith, we wanted to ensure that we wished everyone **Eid Mubarak!** and posted messages on the front doors of the school entrance.

Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur



Similar to **Eid al-Adha**, young people and members of staff who are of Jewish faith, celebrated their New Year from the 8th September until the 10th September in a festival called **Rosh Hashanah**. Working with young people and the staff, we wanted to acknowledge what the key moments in **Rosh Hashanah** are, including different foods eaten and the sounding of a

special horn called the **Shofar** in the Synagogue. The sounding of the **Shofar** starts the ten-day period known as **Yom Kippur**.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year and is considered the day on which people of Jewish faith are closest to God. During this time we ensured to post messages such as **Tzom Kal** and **G'mar Hatimah Tovah** in a similar way to those posted on the entrance doors for Eid al-Adha.



Hannukah

During **Hannukah**, which took place from Sunday 2nd December until Monday 10th December 2018, young people produced posters to wish people **Happy Hannukah** and to give details of what happens during **Hannukah**.



Advent

From Sunday 2nd December until Monday 24th December 2018, the period in the Christian faith calendar known as **Advent** took place. The young people and staff who form the Scripture Union group in the school, produced posters to give more details about what **Advent** meant to them and what happens during this period.

New Display Boards

Using the windows in the foyer, has proved very beneficial for the process of acknowledging faith and cultural events throughout the session so far, but we are delighted that four moveable display boards have been purchased to display pupil work and posters to help acknowledge and celebrate events.



Holocaust Memorial Day

January 2019, saw the Improvement Team work on events to acknowledge and commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2019.

On Monday 28th January 2019 Mr Sorley accompanied a group of members of the Senior Pupil Leadership Team, to the National Holocaust Memorial Event, held in Eastwood Theatre.

**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST**

The theme **Torn from Home** was well supported by East Renfrewshire Council having both the privilege of hosting the national Holocaust Memorial Day event and welcoming Martin Stern, a Holocaust survivor. We were delighted that Martin was able to be our guest speaker at two special events in the school on Wednesday 30th January. Our second year pupils had been working on questions to ask Martin during Citizenship classes for Third Year and Fourth Year prefects to ask Martin during the year group events.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

Martin didn't only speak about his experience of the holocaust from a Jewish perspective, but about the continuing shocking genocide that is taking place throughout the world, including Rwanda, Cambodia, Iraq and Syria. The young people who attended the events along with the staff felt that Martin's approach, to ensure that our young people gave much more than a passing glance at posters, meant that they left thinking about the future of our society and what part they may want to play in shaping the future.



During the two special events, we were delighted to be joined by David Gordon QIO East Renfrewshire Council who is responsible for Equalities and the Young People's Ambassador from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

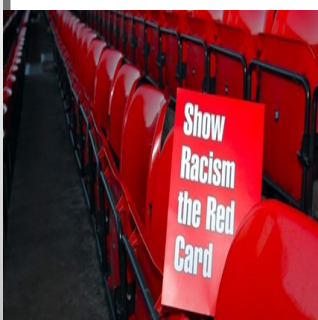
Chinese New Year 2019 - The Year of the Pig



Mrs Zhang, our Mandarin teacher, and the young people who are studying Mandarin in our school, prepared large posters to wish people who celebrate Chinese New Year, a very Happy Year of the Pig.

The posters were displayed on the foyer windows before and after Chinese New Year which took place on Saturday 25th January.

We hope that we are able to continue to celebrate and acknowledge cultural and faith events as the year moves forward, especially as the multi-faith calendar starts to get very busy in term three.



The Witches of Glum

The pupil leadership team worked with Mr Sorley to prepare an installation in the foyer windows that focussed on our hidden prejudices.

The installation was based on a part of training that some of the staff had participated in with **Show Racism the Red Card**.

The Witches of Glum was a fairy tale told in eight sections using a piece of advanced software called **HP Reveal** that used something called **augmented reality** where members of the pupil leadership team 'popped up' on short videos telling their section of the fairy tale. The installation continued with several questions, again on 'pop-up videos' which asked the audience to challenge what they had heard and what their minds were filling into potential gaps in their knowledge of the story.



Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

A QR code was also available for people to answer the questions and nearly 100 people tried the questions out and were challenged by, what they soon realised were, our in-built prejudices often created by our minds filling in the gaps of missing information.

The Senior Leadership Team took time to explore the use of technology and the ways in which it helped to enhance the thinking of our school community.

We hope to use more of this type of technology to support learning in the future.

Future Plans

Some very straight forward ideas have been raised, the main one which is looking at the languages that are spoken in the school and use signage that supports all of our school community and promote the variety of languages spoken. So look out for this in the coming months.

As part of the Equalities development work, **Promoting Positive Language in Mearns Castle HS** posters have been created around the areas of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, and we are currently working on posters to encourage positive language around faith and culture of the people who make up our school community.



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The eight members of this improvement team have been working very hard to help improve the Equalities agenda in this area.

Pride!

Mearns Castle's LGBTQI and Allies Group

On Friday 23rd February 2018, we held our very first meeting for young people and staff who were keen to develop a LGBTQI and Allies group. We stressed that this would be a social group as well as an active group, looking to break down some of the barriers about sexual orientation and gender identity.

We were delighted that over thirty young people came along to find out more, and for a variety of reasons, questioning either their sexual orientation or gender identity, or as friends or family members of the LGBTQI community. Nevertheless, for whatever reason they attended, we were absolutely delighted to have the doors open for the first time on Mearns Castle's LGBTI and Allies group.

The staff who work on the improvement team wanted to develop posters for **LGBT History Month 2018** and several posters showing iconic members of the LGBTQI community were posted in the foyer. And for the whole month of February, we were delighted that young people and staff within our school community were reading about these icons and more importantly, that the posters remained intact.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

Promoting Positive Language Posters

The young people continue to meet every week on Friday lunchtimes to talk about issues, have guest speakers, and work on our **Promoting Positive Language** posters.

The first poster created was based on work created by Stonewall and LGBT Youth Scotland about the phrase, "That's so Gay!"



that's so gay! has become the first of a series of posters which are displayed in corridors and classrooms around the school, that talks about that phrase being one of the most homophobic pieces of language that has been adopted by society, but yet demeans anyone in the LGBTQI community. The feedback from the young people and staff has been amazing so far, especially now that they have been framed in A2 size and place in prominent parts of the school.

genderbread person is the second poster created. This is based on a piece of American literature. The group felt that the original material used language that was too complex and wanted to simplify the language so that it would challenge views and thoughts on gender identity. Once again, A3 framed colour posters have been placed in prominent places around the school and we have been amazed by the feedback from staff and young people, especially about the conversations that are taking place around the school, high quality and positive conversations, about gender identity.



Three more posters are being produced at present as part of this series on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. These include:

Non-binary

A poster to help dispel the myths surrounding non-binary genders

Bi-phobia

One of the biggest challenges facing people of the Bisexual community, is the bi-phobia within the Lesbian and Gay community. The staff and young people wanted to raise awareness of Bisexuality and what it means and again to dispel some myths

Families = Love

A variety of family units have been explored and studied over a number of years by educationalists and psychologists and the improvement team wanted to approach this topic through a poster to help get our school community talking about positive views of various family units

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities



World AIDS Day- 1st December 2019

For the second year, we have been supporting the work of Waverley Care, a Scottish Charity that support and educate Scottish communities about HIV, Hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections.

Waverley Care take the traditional red ribbon of World AIDS Day and give it a Scottish twist by presenting red tartan ribbons.

As part of this year's **Rock the Ribbon - World AIDS Day** campaign, we were delighted to raise nearly £100 through the sale of the red tartan ribbons (almost twice the amount raised last year) in support of Waverley Care.



Waverley Care
making a positive difference

Guest Speakers

Since September 2018, we have had a guest speaker almost every second Friday for PRIDE! to hear about a variety of approaches that several organisations and individuals have taken to develop their acceptance of the LGBTQTI community including employment.

14th September - Reba Martell

The staff and young people reached a room popping level to meet Scotland's Best Drag Act, Reba Martell. Reba is a long standing friend of Mr Sorley's and has appeared, written, directed and starred in several Pantomime performances and one 'woman' shows around Scotland including the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Craig, the creator of Reba, showed a series of photographs charting his journey through what is fast becoming a main-stream cultural art form, thanks to RuPaul's Drag Race.



The staff and young people loved hearing from 'Reba' and were amazed by her journey for the past fifteen years since starting his theatre arts degree in London, to his love and passion for writing and directing.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

26th October - Armed Forces LGBT Affiliation

Johanne Mundie, Staff Sergeant in the Regular Army and a colleague from the Reserve forces, came along to PRIDE! to share their experiences of the changes of approach taken by the Armed Forces in the twenty years since they had both signed up.

We were amazed by the approach by the Royal Navy to Transgender issues and certainly hope that Johanna and her colleague will return to chat more to the group next session.



9th November - Patrick Harvie MSP Green Party

Patrick is an old friend of Mr Sorley's and we were delighted to welcome Patrick to the school to talk about his journey from being involved with the Strathclyde Gay and Lesbian Youth Group, to PHACE West, an HIV and AIDS education programme in the west of Scotland to his decision to stand as a member of the Scottish Parliament.

The wonderful young people and staff who attended the LGBTQI and Allies group in Mearns Castle amazed Patrick. He fully recognised that this was a major change to previous policies like those that were in place when he was a secondary school pupil.

Patrick attended the day following the outstanding vote in Scottish Parliament to include LGBTQI education in all Scottish Schools.

23rd November - Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF) - Marc Jacobs



SCOTTISH
QUEER
INTERNATIONAL
FILM
FESTIVAL

By making connections, the improvement team were delighted that the founding member of the SQIFF, Marc Jacobs, wanted to come along and talk about this four-year-old ground breaking film festival.

Many of the young people were very interested in the film making process and the script writing and got great insight from Marc about the film making process.

As part of Marc's presentation, we were delighted to see a premiere of a short movie about a Lesbian relationship. This was rated PG. The short movie was written, directed and shot in Edinburgh. It focussed on the breakdown of a relationship between two teenagers and the impact that it had on the filmmaker, who also played the lead role.

The staff who attended the viewing commented on how being Gay, Lesbian, Trans or Bisexual, had no difference on how people felt in the breakup of relationships and it is this message that we want to continue to address in the work we do.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

14th December - Festive Season Conference

Many of the young people who attend the PRIDE! in Mearns Castle, know of LGBTQTI and Allies in Williamwood and Eastwood High Schools, and had asked if we could host a conference with the other two groups.

We were delighted that Mr Smith and the SLT thought it was a great idea to forge links with the other two schools.

So during lunchtime, the young people and staff prepared home baked goodies and welcomed around fifty members from both Eastwood and Williamwood High Schools along with their staff.



This was an amazing event and created links between the three groups and plans were forged for a further conference in the second term.

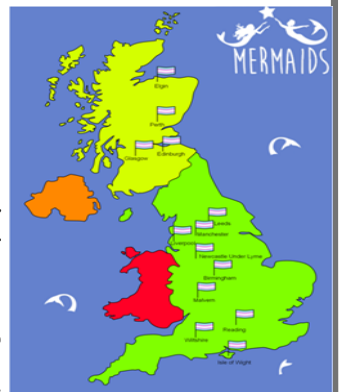
25th January 2019 - Hidayah, the Gender and Sexuality charity for people of Muslim Faith

A few of the young people who come along the group are of Muslim Faith and had asked if there were any guest speakers we could get who would be able to talk about LGBTQTI members who are of Muslim faith. We were delighted to welcome Osman, a volunteer for the newly formed Glasgow office of Hidayah.

1st February - TransParentSees (Transparencies)

We were truly delighted to welcome Allison, the leader of a parental support group for parents of this Trans young people. TransParentSees is a group that is unique to Scotland and supports parents from around Glasgow, Edinburgh and the north of Scotland. Allison originally got involved, as she had contacted **Mermaids** the Parent support group based in England, when her daughter came-out as a trans-female.

Allison was absolutely superb and we couldn't have asked for a better start to our LGBT History Month celebrations for 2019. We hope that Allison will return to do some staff training on transgender issues in the very near future.



15th February - Our Story, Scotland

When we first contacted Jaime Valentine, the director of a quiet background charity called Our Story Scotland, we had no idea about the impact that this contact would have. Jaime had organised for a volunteer member of the charity to come and give us some insight into the work that they are doing.

Dom, an amazing man who informed us that as well as this role, he was also the carer for his very sick husband.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

Dom talked about how **Our Story, Scotland** has been tracking down stories that have appeared as negative reports on the LGBT Community through things like tabloid newspapers, and gathered stories to re-tell the truth about the actual events from the people involved.

He talked particularly about an event held by a community LGBT group called **Out on Sunday**. This group had organised an excursion for members of the LGBT community who didn't like the gay pub and club scene. The excursion involved a trip down the Clyde on the Waverley, the only remaining paddle steamer in the UK. The event was reported very negatively in a Scottish tabloid newspaper and painted a very perverse view of event, which was actually a very enjoyable day out for members of the LGBT community who didn't enjoy the more commonly associated gay scene.

We were also delighted to hear that the work of **Our Story, Scotland** is kept within the **National Museum of Scotland** as part of the **LGBT Lives, Scottish Life Archive**. And as part of this history, Mearns Castle High School's LGBTQI and Allies group, PRIDE! will appear as part of this national archive because of the link made with Jaime, Dom and Our Story, Scotland.



22nd February - Police Scotland LGBT Association

We were delighted to finally welcome, Louise Beale from Police Scotland's LGBTI Association and hear about how this organisation has changed its approach to recruitment of LGBTQI Police Officers.

Louise and her colleague Steven also used two Police Scotland videos: the first entitled **It Get's Better** featuring the stories of LGBTQI members of Police Scotland; and the second called **Policing Pride**, which talks about the approach of Police Scotland to providing support for the LGBTQI community at many of the Pride events throughout Scotland.

22nd March - Glasgow Women's Library - Decoding Inequality

Glasgow Women's Library have formed a large part of the LGBT Community in Glasgow and the West of Scotland for many years and we were delighted that Jazmin Hundal and Samantha Pepin presented a workshop from Glasgow Women's Library based on their most recent work, **Decoding Inequality**.



This took place in the Conference Room and took the form of a small exhibition and we invited all of our staff and young people to come along and participate in the exhibition.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

LGBT History Month



This year's theme for LGBT History, the second time that we had participated in the national celebration events, was **peace, reconciliation and activism**.

The young people and staff created A3 colour posters, which were displayed in the foyer windows. These posters were very well received by our school community and covered the two window walls of the foyer.

Along the top of the foyer windows, we used materials created by T.I.E. (Time for Inclusive Education) to create a timeline of LGBTQI iconic moments in history from 1869 until the present day.

purple friday was celebrated for the first time in MCHS during this year's LGBT History Month. Purple Friday has become an international celebration of the moments in the LGBT community that have brought about positive change for the LGBT community.

Normally people are asked to dress in something purple for Purple Friday, but instead of having a non-uniform day, the MCHS team successfully bid for money from the school fund, then designed and purchased badges to sell for the last week of LGBT History Month 2019.

Almost £50 was raised through the sale of the **purple friday** badges and the money raised is being donated to **TransParentSees** as the group felt that this was the guest speaker who has had the biggest impact on them so far, and think that the work Allison and her team are doing to support young Trans people is wonderful.

T.I.E. Teacher's LGBT Training Awareness Day



On Saturday 29th September, Mr Sorley and Miss Elliot participated in a full day of training at Glasgow Academy organised and led by **Time for Inclusive Education (TIE)**, the political activist group who have been lobbying Scottish Government for change in provision for LGBTQI education in Scottish Schools.

They met with other colleagues from across the west of Scotland, from the Primary, Secondary and Special sectors, to discuss programmes of education and ways to enhance the experience that young people who identify as LGBTQI have in Scottish Schools.

This provided opportunity for reflection of the work that our Improvement Team have been doing and validated so much of the positive work we have been doing in Mearns Castle High School.

Mearns Castle High School and Equalities

Future Plans

For next year's LGBT History Month, we hope to launch a Film competition for members of the LGBTQTI community and Allies. We have made connections with SQIFF, the BBC and a former director of the British Council and helping us organise the event and hope that young people will work together to produce, what we hope to launch as, an online LGBTQI and Allies Film Festival for LGBT History Month 2020.

Disability Awareness

On Monday 4th March, Mr Sorley met with Mrs Bonini, Mrs Thomson, Mr Gibson and Ms Godolphin to talk about an event for next session around the area of Disability.

A **Differently-abled Awareness Week** will hopefully focus on activities within Physical Education, Citizenship and ICT subjects for the first time, along with guest speakers coming to all year groups' Citizenship assemblies to talk about a variety of disabilities.

We hope that this will be a successful event that will continue each year and gain access to more curricular areas, so that our young people and staff gain more knowledge about the community we live in and some of the visible and hidden disabilities that people live with every day.

Young Enterprise Team

S6 Young Enterprise Team - On the Go

It has been a fantastic year for Means Castle High School's Young Enterprise Team - On the Go. The team of 10 S6 pupils was led by Managing Director Jemima Dover and included Emma Blair, Priya Brad, Nicola Cole, Poppy Robinson, Adam Rose, Hannah Rose, Brad Wildman, Casey Williamson and Gemma Woods.



The team have worked tirelessly all year to fund and operate their business. They have been selling their products (Stainless Steel and Fruit Infusion Water Bottles) at events including Christmas Fairs, Parents Evenings and at the Avenue Shopping Centre.

In February the team took the decision to sit an optional Young Enterprise exam set by Strathclyde University Business School and eagerly await their results in May.



All of their hard work and dedication to their business paid off at the recent Young Enterprise Renfrewshire finals which took place on 14 March at the Normandy Hotel in Renfrew. This event required the team to showcase their products and the experience they have gained to enterprise leaders from Hewlett Packard and 3 local authorities including, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire. The team performed magnificently, winning 5 awards including East Renfrewshire Company of the Year and Renfrewshire Area Team Overall Best Company.

This success means they have now qualified for the Scottish Finals which take place in the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh on Wednesday 5 June 2019. We wish the team the best of luck in this competition.



Well done On the Go!

East Renfrewshire Netball Championships

East Renfrewshire Netball Championships

A group of 14 S1 girls will be travelling to Williamwood High School on the 19th March 2019 to take part in the East Renfrewshire Netball League. They will play against other teams from Williamwood HS, Eastwood HS and St. Ninian's HS. The girls are all looking forward to this tournament as it will be their first time playing as a team against other schools in the Authority.

The following week on the 26th March 2019, a group of 8 S2 girls will be travelling to Eastwood High School to take part in the East Renfrewshire Netball League for their year group. They will play matches against Eastwood HS, Williamwood HS and St. Ninian's HS. This is an excellent opportunity for the girls to represent the school and gives them a chance to re-play some of the teams they faced in the Scottish Cup Tournament.

East Renfrewshire Summer Netball Tournament

The S1-3 school netball teams will be attending The East Renfrewshire Summer Netball Tournament at St. Ninian's High School on Thursday 9th May. The girls will get to play against all of the other schools within the Authority and the winner of the S2 competition on the day will be put forward to represent the Authority in the Inter Authority Games in June.

Eastwood V Mearns Castle Football Match Report

First Half

Nice steady start from Mearns Castle and within 15 minutes Robertson played a tidy pass through to Innes who took a powerful shot that the keeper couldn't hold but the defence scrambled away. This was the start of things to come.

Minutes later the goalkeeper sliced a clearance making it easy for Wylie to put the ball in the back of the net from a couple of yards.

Robertson was involved once again in the second goal after striking a powerful drive from just inside the 18 yard box, the keeper spilled again but this time Innes followed in and scored from the rebound for his first of three goals.

Unfortunately for Eastwood their Goalkeeper made a third error and again Innes reacted first to score his second from close range.

Second Half

Eastwood scored first in the second half with a cross into the box which the Mearns defenders couldn't deal with.

After this lapse in concentration Wylie responded with a magnificent solo goal after gliding past 3 defenders and hit a good strike above the keeper from around 20 yards out.

Unfortunately Eastwood grabbed a headed goal from a corner. But it wasn't long after O'Donnell was spilt through and slotted the ball past the keeper for our 5th.

Clokey came on with 20 minutes left and made a positive impact and used a lovely bit of skill to beat a man and played it through to O'Donnell who similarly to his first slotted it once again above the keeper.

Another two goals followed for Innes and Lewis McC close to the end to complete the rout.

Mearns Castle are now on a 4 game winning streak and hope to continue this on the 5th March where their opponents will be league contenders Park Mains.

Wylie-2

Innes-3

O'Donnell-2

Lewis Mcc-1

Written by Ethan

Rights Respecting School Group Human Rights Week



We recently had an extremely successful Human Rights Week! We had many great entries to the poster design competition from S1 and S2. Congratulations to the winner Aliah Afzal in S2 who designed the winning poster



All pupils participated in Human Rights Week from 18th-22nd March and learned about the rights of the child through a variety of activities. One right that we explored was connected to World Water Day. This was Article 24 - "The right to the best healthcare, safe water to drink and nutritious food". Pupils got to take part in discussions and other tasks surrounding these issues, hopefully meaning that throughout this week all young people were inspired to think more deeply about the rights of themselves and other children around the world.

Thank you from the RRSA Ambassadors!

**EVERY CHILD HAS
THE RIGHT TO
GOOD HEALTH &
PROPER NUTRITION**



PSYV East Renfrewshire are recruiting Adult Volunteers

for more information visit: www.scotland.police.uk/psyv

Aims of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers:

- The promotion of a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people.
- Encouraging a spirit of adventure and good citizenship amongst young people.
- Supporting local policing priorities through volunteering and giving young people a chance to be heard.
- Inspiring young people to participate positively in their communities.



**Police Scotland
Youth Volunteers**

Volunteering for our communities

PSYVPoliceScotland 

@PolScotPSYV 

scotland.police.uk/psyv 

Pay online...
for peace of mind



A convenient way to pay

Parents can now book and pay securely online for a range of items using a debit/credit card or through PayPoint. Paying online gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your money has reached the school safely and is used for its intended purpose.

Pay online for

- School meals
- Trips
- And more

How to pay online...

- Step 1 - Have your activation letter ready
- Step 2 - Login at www.parentpay.com
- Step 3 - Follow instructions to activate account
- Step 4 - Click on 'Items due for payment'

“No more having
to look for change
or writing cheques.
It's so easy now”

ParentPay Parent.

 www.parentpay.com

Colours Referral Form



Mearns Castle High School

Celebrating Pupil Achievement

Name		Year Group	
House			

We are interested in finding out the activities/hobbies/interests you have in and out of school. Please fill out a separate form for each achievement you want to be considered.

Please tick category of application

Enterprise
 Citizenship
 Sport
 Expressive Arts

Tick up to three skills that you have demonstrated in your activities

Successful Learner	Confident Individual	Responsible Citizen	Effective Contributor
<input type="checkbox"/> Enthusiasm and motivation for learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Self Respect	<input type="checkbox"/> Respect for others	<input type="checkbox"/> An enterprising attitude
<input type="checkbox"/> Determination to achieve high standards of achievement	<input type="checkbox"/> A sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being	<input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic social and cultural life	<input type="checkbox"/> Resilience
<input type="checkbox"/> Openness to new thinking and ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> Secure values and beliefs		<input type="checkbox"/> Self-reliance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ambition		

1. Please give a brief description of your success, giving details of dates of competitions, awards, participation etc

When did the activity take place?	
Where did it take place?	
Who was the activity arranged through?	
Describe what you did	

2. **References and Evidence**

To support this application please provide a reference where possible from your group leader, coach or teacher. To help provide a full picture to support your application and to help the school celebrate your success, please attach any **PHOTOCOPIES** of photos, certificates, medals or other relevant information with this form. **Originals will not be accepted.**

3. Parents or carers, please add any additional information you feel may be relevant below

--

Pupils Signature	
Parents Signature	
Date	

For Office Use Only			
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Achievement	<input type="checkbox"/> House Colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Half Colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Colours

Comments Slip

Pupil's Name: _____

Year Group: _____

We welcome any feedback on the content of the Newsletter or indeed any other aspect of the work of the School. If you wish to make an electronic reply please do so by following the link below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/MearnsCastle/contact-us/>

Comment:

Parent's Signature:.....

Parents Name (please print):.....

Mearns Castle High School

Parents' Calendar

2018-2019

W/C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
13-Aug-18	IS 1	IS 2	School re-opens 8.45am		
20-Aug-18					
27-Aug-18					
03-Sep-18			Senior Awards Ceremony		
10-Sep-18				S8 Curriculum Evening	
17-Sep-18	S5 Curriculum Eve			S4 TR issued	HOL
24-Sep-18	HOL			S4 Curriculum Evening	
01-Oct-18				S4 Parents' Meeting	
08-Oct-18	S1 Curriculum Evening			School closes at 3.35pm	IS 3
15-Oct-18	OCTOBER HOLIDAY				
22-Oct-18			Careers Fair		S2 TR issued
29-Oct-18		S3 Curriculum Evening			
05-Nov-18	S5/S6 TR1 issued			S5/S6 Parents' Meeting	
12-Nov-18				DYW Evening	
19-Nov-18				S1 Parents' Meeting	
03-Dec-18	← S4 Prelims →				S3 TR issued
10-Dec-18	← S4 Prelims →				
17-Dec-18	← S4 Prelims →				School closes at 2.45pm
24-Dec-18	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS				
31-Dec-18	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS				
				In Service	
			TR = Tracking Report		

W/C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
07-Jan-19	School re-opens at 8.45am S5/S6 TR2 issued				
14-Jan-19					
21-Jan-19				← S5/6 Prelims →	
28-Jan-19	S4/S5 Options Evening		S5/6 Prelims		
04-Feb-19		S5/6 Prelims		School closes at 3.35pm	IS 4
11-Feb-19	MID TERM HOL		S2 Reports issued	S2 Options Evening	
18-Feb-19	S2 Parents' Meeting				
25-Feb-19					
04-Mar-19	S5/S6 Reports issued				
11-Mar-19		S3 Parents' Meeting			
18-Mar-19					
25-Mar-19	← S3 Exams →				School closes at 2.45pm
01-Apr-19	SPRING BREAK				
08-Apr-19	SPRING BREAK				
15-Apr-19	School re-opens 8.45am		S3 Exams	School closes at 3.35pm S8 Leavers' Ceremony	GOOD FRIDAY
22-Apr-19	EASTER MONDAY	S4,5,6 last day in school School re-opens 8.45 am	S3 Exams	Start of SQA Exams	
29-Apr-19	← S3 Exams →				School closes at 2.45pm
06-May-19	HOL	IS 5	School re-opens 8.45am		
13-May-19					
20-May-19	S1 Reports issued			School closes at 3.35pm	HOL
27-May-19	HOL	School re-opens 8.45am			End of SQA Exam Diet S3 Reports completed
03-Jun-19	S2/S6 start new TT			P7 Ind 1, P7 Parents' Eve	P7 induction 2 S3 Reports issued
10-Jun-19					
17-Jun-19					
24-Jun-19				School Closes 1pm	HOLIDAY
	Parents' Meeting		Year Group Report		
	Parents' Information Meeting		Options Evening		