

## Letter from the Head Teacher

Letter from Head Teacher	1-2
Uniform Policy	3
Modern Languages	4-10
Maths	11-13
Social Subjects	14-15
Biology	16
Performing Arts	17
Business Education	18-20
Physical Education	21-31
Personal Development	32
Debating	33-38
U14 Football News	39-40
Lego History Club	41
Poetry Slam	42
Indoor Ski Championships	43
Charities Week	44
PSYV	45
Parentpay	46
Colours Referral	47
Comments	48
School Calendar	49

Dear Parent/Carer

Yet another term has flown by and as you can see from the Newsletter it has been an action packed few months in our school.

The School continues to be an exciting centre of learning with pupils, staff and parents demonstrating their considerable talents in a wide range of activities. I am also delighted to share the wonderful success of another PTA Quiz Night which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and raised £1,648. Thank you and well done to everyone involved.

I would again like to commend our whole school community for their contribution to our outstanding Charity fundraising. We had another wonderful Charities Week which raised over £6,000. Pupils in our six houses met at Assemblies this week and led by our House Captain teams decided on which Charities will benefit from the money raised. Information on the recipients will be published in due course and cheques will be presented to representatives of the Charities at our House Assemblies in March.

In addition, you will be aware that we ask pupils to bring donations of dried foods and toiletries to our three Christmas Dances. The level of donations was extremely generous and this has allowed us to deliver Christmas Hampers to nominated local residents and to also donate Christmas Hampers to a local foodbank. This is another wonderful effort by our school community.

You will be aware that in recent sessions we have made substantial improvements to the standards of uniform. I am confident that our high standards of uniform has contributed to improving our excellent school ethos even further. I am delighted to say that from the start of the session the standard of our school uniform continues, for the most part, to be excellent and every one of our pupils continues to wear a blazer.

I draw your attention to the current availability of our school scarf. A Mearns Castle tartan scarf developed by our Young Enterprise Team is available from the School office.

As part of our uniform arrangements we have put in place a recycling scheme. I am very grateful for the number of blazers that have already been given to the school as part of the scheme.

If you have a blazer that you no longer require we would be delighted if you could donate it to the school in which case we will try to arrange an exchange for a more suitable alternative or we will find it a new owner.

I am sure that if pupils, parents and staff continue to work together we can look forward to sustaining our excellent standard of uniform.

### How to contact us

0141 577 2300

08.20am - 4.30pm

## Letter from the Head Teacher

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and other members of our school community for their very generous donations of a variety of raffle prizes for school and PTA events. The impressive raffle prizes really benefit the fund raising of the school. Thank you again for your generosity.

I continue to be concerned about the traffic congestion at the front of the school at the start and end of the school day. Again, I make a plea that for the safety of our young people and staff that you help us to keep this problem to a minimum by ensuring that if you have to drop-off or pick-up your child by car that you do not enter the school carparks but that you use the drop-off zones identified for the purpose.

In addition some parents have contacted me about parents remaining in the drop-off areas after they have dropped their children off. This situation is preventing parents from accessing these areas and contributing to the general level of congestion. Can I ask therefore that when you have dropped your child off in these areas that you then leave as quickly as is safe and possible.

I have also had a number of residents contacting me about parents parking in the estate of Burnhouse Brae. This situation is causing great inconvenience to the residents and I would ask parents not to park in this area.

Can I draw your attention to our school website as an ongoing source of valuable information on events in school. The address for the website is shown on the front page of the Newsletter and below.

Finally, as always, we 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 email address or by any other means of communication that suits you. Can I also request that, as we are increasingly corresponding with you by text and email, should your contact details change please inform the School office to allow us to update your records.

The school closes for the Christmas holiday on Friday 20 December at 2.30pm. We open again at 8.45am on Monday 6 January 2020. I hope you and your family have a wonderful festive season and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year when it comes.

Dean Smith  
Headteacher

## 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 (woollen 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](http://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](mailto:giffnockbranch@stevensons.co.uk)

### Academy Uniforms Ltd

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

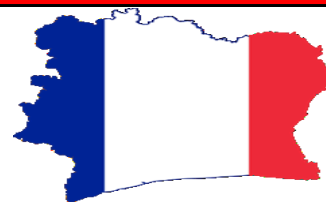
Tel: 0141 577 2300

Email: [schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto: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.



# Modern Languages



## Advanced Higher Spanish visit to Kelvingrove

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November Mrs Ross, Pablo and our large Advanced Higher class had a wonderful day delving into the Scottish involvement during the Spanish Civil War. Pupil partook in Civil War-themed Treasure Hunt around Kelvingrove Art Galleries, followed by lunch, and then a trip into the vault of the Kelvinhall private collection of Civil War artefacts. Through examination of these pieces, the war came to life and pupil saw the human cost of the Spanish Civil War for those men and women who thought against fascism in the 1930s.



## Advanced Higher visit to the Mitchell Library

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November Advanced Higher Spanish, French and Mandarin joined the Advanced Higher English classes for an informative trip to the Mitchell Library for an essential research skills seminar, provided by one of the resident librarians. Pupils were instructed on how to access the online e-resources and literary databases, followed by a quick trip to the fourth floor to look for some initial sources. All in all a very productive morning!



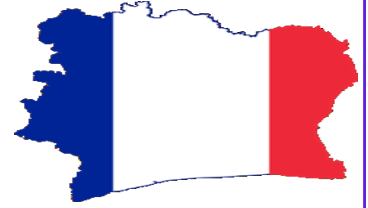


# Modern Languages



Advanced Higher Spanish and RMPS -

## Interdisciplinary Working



You may remember the dramatic sequence that sets the scene for *Spectre*, the James Bond film in which 007 carries out his mission against the backdrop of Mexico's loud and colourful Day of the Dead celebrations, known as *Día de Muertos*.

This is a [Mexican](#) holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican ancestry living in other places, especially the United States. It is acknowledged internationally in many other cultures and the multi-day holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died, and help support their spiritual journey.



Advanced Higher Spanish pupils prepared a number of Mexican-themed resources and videos, which they shared with younger pupils to raise awareness of the traditions and history surrounding the *Mexican Day of The Dead* celebration. Additionally, the pupils endeavoured to include the occasional use of Spanish for items and traditions linked to *Día de los muertos*, and formulated a rota with the RMPS Department so that they may deliver the lesson to as many junior classes as possible. Following the presentation, pupils then completed colourful masks similar to those worn.

## Some French Christmas traditions you may not know.

Since 1962, France has a law that guarantees that every letter to Santa must receive a reply by postcard.

Around midnight, French families eat a special meal to celebrate the start of Christmas Day. It's called "Le Réveillon De Noël."

Another celebration, in some parts of France, is that 13 different desserts are eaten! All desserts are made with different types of fruits, nuts and pastries. Can you imagine having 13 desserts after the main Christmas meal?!

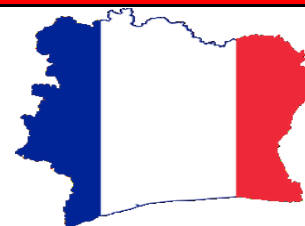
In Cameroon, people "fait le tour" which means they visit all their friends' homes and take a drink and a snack at each house.

Christmas is very different in Seychelles - they spend the day on the beach, have a barbecue or picnic and listen to reggae music.

Instead of Christmas stockings, French children put their shoes near the fireplace so Santa can find them and fill them with small gifts.



# Modern Languages



## Reading and Listening for Enjoyment in Modern Languages



It is so important to read and listen for enjoyment in the language you are learning. Here are a few suggestions for you to enjoy over the festive break!

### Books

Le Petit Prince - French

Harry Potter y la piedra filosofal - Spanish

花木兰 - Mandarin

### Films

Un Monstre à Paris - French

Canela - Spanish

银河补习班 -Mandarin

### Songs

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQ\\_IVxK-3dk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQ_IVxK-3dk) J'ai dans le coeur - French

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvEvATBiQ5U> Tengo la camisa negra - Spanish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3De50Nx1c5I> 卡路里 - Mandarin

# Modern Languages



## Useful websites to use at home

If pupils are looking to work on their foreign language skills at home, there are websites that can help. Some useful websites to practice are **languagesonline** and **linguascope**. Pupils should already have the username and password for linguascope but if they cannot remember them, they should speak to their French teacher. There are also some apps for your phone such as **Duolingo** and **Memrise**. By using these apps and websites a little every day, pupils will build their vocabulary in no time!

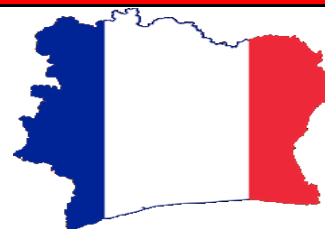


We would like to remind parents and students alike that information is regularly posted on the MCHS Modern Languages Twitter feed. If you follow us on Twitter **@MCHSModLang**, you will see photos of departmental activities, events, trips and pupils of the month. You will also be reminded of any upcoming exams or deadlines for upper school pupils.

All the information detailed above is also posted in the Modern Languages section of the school website. [MCHS Modern Languages](#)



# Modern Languages



## **Higher and Advanced Higher Immersion Days**

All pupils studying Higher and Advanced Higher French and Spanish will be taking part in language immersion activities in the near future. Pupils will take part in different workshops, which will develop their oral skills on a range of topics. This will be great preparation for the final talking exams in March 2019.

## **Higher and Advanced Higher French visit to restaurant Beaumartin**

All pupils studying Higher and Advanced Higher French will be visiting the French Restaurant Beaumartin during the last week of term.

# Modern Languages



## MANDARIN

### HSBC Speaking Competition



Well done to Hamnah who participated in 2019-2020 HSBC Mandarin speaking competition organised by British Council on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

"At the start I was very nervous but once I got on to the stage I felt much more confident. It was a great experience and I'm glad I took part in." **Hamnah S3**



In October, we flew from Glasgow to Beijing for a two week Chinese immersion course. We went to Tianjin and Beijing. In Tianjin we visited different schools and participated in different culture classes. In Beijing, we visited lots of different landmarks including The Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, the Great Wall of China and many other places. It was a great experience! We all really loved our China trip!

**Innes, Laura, Iona, Abdullah, Ross, Katy and Gurleen**



# Modern Languages



## MANDARIN



Big congratulations to Laura and Iona who have been awarded a one-year scholarship to learn Chinese in China for the academic year 2020-2021. What a fantastic life changing opportunity for them!



Well done to those pupils who regularly come to our Mandarin Lunchtime Club every **Monday** in the Modern Languages department (**room D3**). We are keen to welcome any new pupils who wish to learn a bit more Chinese Language and Chinese culture.





# Maths

## Maths Matters

### Making Maths a Marvel with Professor McBride (OBE)



Professor McBride, an inspirational speaker, passionate advocate of maths and retired Professor of University of Strathclyde, visited Mearns Castle on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. Over fifty senior pupils enthusiastically engaged in mathematical activities. Pupils learned about the latest advances in Maths and the impact on the modern world. The event prompted curiosity and will no doubt inspire a new generation of mathematicians at Mearns Castle High school.

Mrs Sheikh.

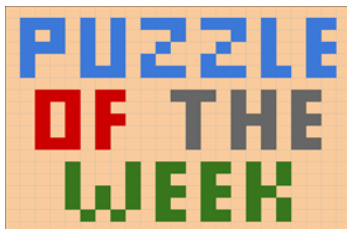
### 2019 Young Mathematician's Award



27 of our S1 and S2 pupils participated in Round 1 of the 2019 Young Mathematician's Award on 5<sup>th</sup> November. During this workshop, they worked in pairs to solve problems about visiting a museum and maximising enjoyment whilst there! The Explore Learning staff and Miss Dickson were observing the workshop looking for teamwork, good communication, and problem solving skills. Four of the group have been selected to represent the school in the next round of the competition, taking place in January. The team will be announced during the Maths department's Pointless event in the last week of term.

Miss Dickson

# Maths



The international competition "Puzzle of the Week" has been running once again in the Maths department this year. Puzzles are released on a Monday morning, and we have until the following Sunday to submit a solution. Some of the puzzles this time around are proving to be quite tricky, and we encourage our pupils to work on them at home – parents and carers may also want to get involved! The competition is running from a temporary website at the moment due to technical issues, which you can find [here](#). The current global leaderboard sees us in second place, but we have our eyes on the top spot, so let's get as many submissions in as we can!

Miss Dickson.

## Top 20 Schools This Year

Position	School	Country	Correct Answers	All Answers
1	St Clement Danes	England	722	1018
2	Mearns Castle High School	Scotland	573	637
3	Hurstpierpoint College	England	563	632
4	JESS Dubai	United Arab Emirates	382	527
5	Nishimachi International School	Japan	281	376
6	Whitehall Middle School	United States	235	409
7	Royal Hospital School	England	199	236
8	Walthamstow School for Girls	England	196	217
9	Wimbledon College	England	171	312
10	St Columbas High School	Scotland	168	182
11	Bangkok International Prep and Secondary School	Thailand	164	233
12	Help International School	Malaysia	156	244
13	Garden International School	Malaysia	144	160
14	Bourne Grammar School	England	142	212
15	Winchester College	England	129	204
16	St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	England	126	258
17	Traill International School	Thailand	118	170
18	Linlithgow Academy	Scotland	113	119
19	Whitburn Academy	Scotland	112	269
20	The British School of Brussels	Belgium	106	110

# Maths



The CryptoCrackers are currently taking part in the University of Southampton's Cipher Challenge, which draws to a close on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The theme this year is "Countdown to Catastrophe". There are 2816 registered teams in the competition, and we are currently placing as follows:

JAMMINGTreats - joint 48 <sup>th</sup>	S.H.I.E.L.D - 52 <sup>nd</sup>
The Quad Squad - joint 74 <sup>th</sup>	BAM!!! - joint 102 <sup>nd</sup>
Pro Minecrafters - joint 117 <sup>th</sup>	****hi lol**** & cobe club - joint 128 <sup>th</sup>

The club meets on Friday lunchtimes, and there is still time to join before the next competition begins in January. Good luck to all our teams!

## Senior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 7 November several of our S5 and S6 pupils competed in the United Kingdom Maths Trust Senior Mathematics Challenge. This competition is prestigious enough that even to participate in it is a notable claim. We had 36 pupils whose performance merited a certificate, three of which were Gold Awards. Very well done to all our team to all who participated.

Mrs Anderson.



# Social Subjects

Geography History Modern Studies

## S1 Social Subjects Quiz

4 of our S1 pupils Sophie, Tom, Srihari and Daisy competed in the first East Renfrewshire Social Subjects Quiz in November after performing fantastically in the class rounds at Mearns Castle. All pupils displayed their excellent knowledge of all things History, Geography and Modern Studies. Well done team!



## S2 Trench Shoebox Project - Heritage Heroes Award



Over the last month, S2 pupils across the department have been involved in a shoebox trench project as part of our World War One history unit. The aim of this project was for pupils to research and construct their own trench model to demonstrate their knowledge of the features and conditions of a WW1 trench. Using materials resourced both in class and at home, pupils were given a set amount of time to complete their models as a group. As you will see from the pictures the finished projects were outstanding - with clear attention to detail and historical accuracy. Having completed this project successfully, all of the pupils involved in the creation of the trench models have been awarded a Heritage Heroes Award by Archaeology Scotland. This is a fantastic achievement. Well done S2!



# Social Subjects

Geography History Modern Studies

## S3 VRU Trip

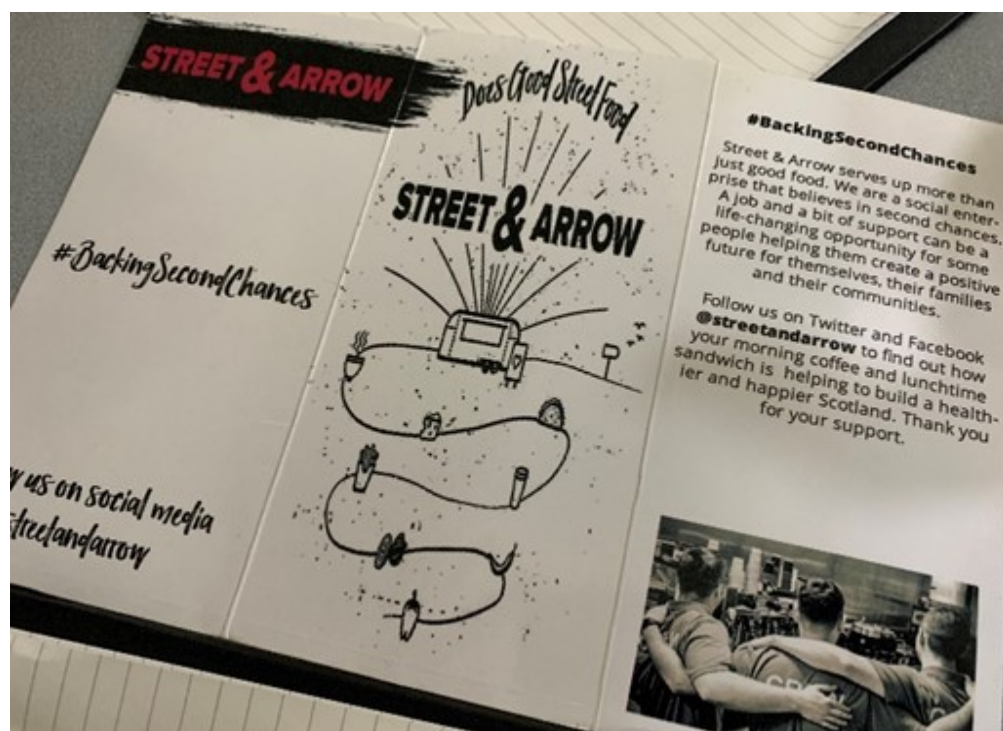
On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November a group of S3's and myself, alongside Miss Dawson, went on a trip to the Violence Reduction Unit in Glasgow as part of our Crime and Law unit in Modern Studies. We visited the 'Street and Arrow' project which is in the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School as it is a café. It is run by the VRU and people who have had a criminal record as a way to help rehabilitate their lives and help them learn new skills whilst working at the café. The VRU programme was based on the LA unit "Home Boy Industries" which was started by Father Greg Boyle who believed the source of the problem was that gang members had no love in their lives and little skills. Now Street and Arrow provides skills to people with a criminal record here in Scotland. To start the program, you have to be between 18-29 and they can have no more than 6 trainees at a time alongside chefs and supervisors. After the programme they also help with CV's.

Street and Arrow offers one to one counselling from a mentor during and after they have finished the programme which is 12 months long. The Street and Arrow project has meetings weekly, it also helps participants to remain clean and sober.

Recently, they have been starting a lot of partner programmes including "You decide". They hold weekly meetings on a Friday evening for young people to attend and it is to try and reduce knife crime.

Overall this trip was very beneficial and really opened our eyes to how these people never had a first chance and some of the broader causes of crime; as well as the impact on people's lives.

By Milla, S3





# Biology

## ELISA Masterclass: Flu Fighters



27 Advanced Higher Biology pupils attended the Easter Bush Science Outreach Centre at the University of Edinburgh on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019. In this enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) master class pupils diagnosed the disease status of chickens to identify which were infected with the influenza virus. The pupils spent the day working in a state of the art laboratory and had the opportunity to work alongside scientists with a wide range of biology-based degrees. They were able to engage fully in all aspects of the clinical work and experienced the importance of diagnostic tests in identifying and containing the spread of the influenza virus.





# Performing Arts

## Winter Concert

Our annual Winter Concert took place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Once again all of our Extra-curricular groups were represented at the concert and a fantastic evening of musical performances was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to all staff and pupils who took part.

## Singer Song-Writer Workshop

We were delighted to welcome Russell Stewart into the school at the start of December. Russell is a talented local professional singer and songwriter who came in to share his music with S3 - 6 music pupils. Russell also shared his industry experience and gave us good advice on how to progress into the music industry from school and further education.

One of our S6 pupils, Elspeth kindly agreed to share the music she is currently writing for her SQA submission and Russell took the time to workshop this piece of music with her.

An inspiring afternoon for all pupils and staff and many thanks to Russell for giving up his time to come and work with us.



## School Show

We are delighted to announce that our school production in June 2020 is 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Auditions will take place shortly after we return in January and there is still time to get involved in what will be a fantastic production.

## Dates for your Diary

**Spring Concert: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**

**Little Shop of Horrors: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 7.30pm**

# Business Education



## BNP Paribas Guest Speakers

**BNP PARIBAS**

S5/6 Business Education students received an informative presentation on a range of career opportunities within the Financial Services Sector by Stephanie Prior and Lisa Millrine from BNP Paribas. The two speakers shared their stories of their career journeys so far and opportunities available to our students both currently and in the future in Financial Services and BNP Paribas in particular. The presentation also covered several topic areas within the Business Education courses which will allow our students to better relate their studies to real life.

**Mrs Hazlett and Mrs Sloan**



### CAREER AT BNP SECURITIES SERVICES

- School Leavers
- Graduate Opportunities
- Industrial Placements - 12 months, part of uni degree
- Internships – 12 week Summer Intern
- Investment 2020 – 12 months, rotate in 2 diff business areas
- Mentoring (Career Ready) – 2 years mentoring programme with S5&S6, with 4 week paid work placement



BNP PARIBAS

The bank for a changing world

5

# Business Education

## S1 IDL CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION EVENT

2 and 3 December 2019

S1 pupils had a fantastic time at the recent IDL Crime Scene Investigation Event. They learned about forensic science through practical experience of carrying out tests and experiments. They worked as a team and used their problem solving skills to determine the key suspect in a crime. The finale of the event was putting the suspect on trial - pupils were excellent and very enthusiastic during this role play. All the staff involved were very impressed with the skills and talents of our S1 Pupils. Well done S1!





# Young Enterprise Team

This years' Young Enterprise team 'Collapsible' have had a busy start to their year, after making the decision to source and sell re-useable metal straws, they set about finding a supplier to make this happen.



To get their business off the ground they organised the annual Halloween Disco on 31<sup>st</sup> October. It was a sell-out event, enjoyed by 220 S5/6 students and raising much needed capital for the business.

After a great start they found supply issues which sent them back to the drawing board, but after a lot of research and planning they were back on track!



They had a great night at Braehead on Wednesday 4 December - successfully dealing with the interviews and mystery shoppers they were faced with! Laweeza Khan in particular had a good night, taking home the coveted Banter Award!

# Physical Education Department

## Sport, Physical Education and Activity Newsletter

Throughout this term pupils at Mearns Castle High School have been involved in a variety of planned activities. This brief article attempts to summarise some of those events. It also introduces you to some of our students and their sporting interests. I hope you find it enjoyable reading.

### East Renfrewshire Secondary Schools Badminton Quaich

The competition took place at the Foundry in Barrhead on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October. The school entered both a senior team and junior team to compete against the other six secondary schools within the authority. The senior team included: Bilal, Ibrahim, Grant, Sophie, Shraddha, Lily, Chris and Rebecca. The senior team finished second overall. The junior team included: Aidan, Jamie, Isha, Mark, Poppy, Rebecca, Daniel and Jenna. The junior team won the competition.



### East Renfrewshire Inter Secondary School Golf Championships 2019

Active Schools in partnership with Mearns Castle Golf Academy hosted this year's competition at the Academy on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Two teams were entered who played against another 5 secondary schools.

Team 1: John (captain), Sam and Finlay. Team 2: Ben, James and Ross (captain). Sam finished second overall in the individual event. Both teams gave a very good account of themselves.



# Physical Education Department

## School Gymnastics



The following pupils competed at the East Renfrewshire Level 1 to Level 3 Gymnastics Championships on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at The Foundry in Barrhead. All gymnast competed very well against tough competition. The team participants are highlighted below.

Level 1 Team	Level 2 Team	Level 3 Team
Holly MacLeod S3	Lucy Cree S1	Neve McNab S2
Katie Stuart S1	Olivia Connell S1	Nikki Cuthbertson S2
Zoe Watt S1	Jessica McCambridge S1	
Jenna Ness S3		

## Level 4 Team



Level 4 is the top level of the Scottish Secondary Schools Floor and Vault Championships. Congratulations to Katie, Sophie and Erin who all competed at Bells Sports centre in Perth on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. The team were ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 26 teams which was a good result. Well Done!

## Differently Abled Awareness Week

The PE department participated in the school's Differently Abled Awareness Week, which offered pupils an experience whereby they could try participating in a range of activities but in a different way. Some played individual and team sports wearing eye patches and some with ear plugs. The aim of the experience was to offer a basic insight into pupils' experiences who are differently abled. The feedback from students about their experiences was very interesting with pupils often commenting on the challenges met during sports and their reliance on certain mechanisms to help problem solve. The experience gave them an insight of how differently abled pupils construe situations and problem solve within a sporting context.





# Physical Education Department

## Scottish Schools (SSAA) Road Race



The school shared a bus with Williamwood H.S. and attended the Scottish Schools Athletics Association organised National Road Race in Dunfermline. Both Kirsty Wylie and Harris Paterson competed at this high level national event and gave a very good account of themselves. Harris Paterson finished second. He also won the junior race during the Great Scottish Run Festival the weekend prior to this event. He will again represent Scotland this season.

## Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome Experience

A group of thirty one S1 pupils attended The World Cycling Championship Series at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome on Friday 8th November. They watched a series of events on the track and were treated to an excellent commentary from an experienced GB coach. An education for many of us. Some pupils were also interviewed by TV presenters at the event.



# Physical Education Department



The school entered a team and individuals into the Scottish Schools Indoor Rowing Championships which took place on Friday 22nd November at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility, in Motherwell. This was a well-attended competition with both Private and Public schools participating. The following pupils gave an excellent account of themselves: Kendal, Evan, Beth, Fiona, Finlay, Lorna, Lily, Poppy and Haris. Beth finished first in Scotland in the S3 category. Poppy finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the S2 category, an excellent result considering the stiff opposition. The S4 girls' team finished second in Scotland. Well done.



## School Ambassadors

This year, like every year, we have been well supported by the senior pupils in the school who have volunteered to help develop sport and activity in both our Secondary and associated Primary schools. There have been a variety of Primary events hosted within Mearns Castle over the past 2 months. These include inter primary: badminton, netball and football competitions. The S5 and S6 young sports ambassadors have been a great support; coaching, leading and officiating within the tournaments. These ambassadors have also supported many activities within Mearns Castle including; lunchtime clubs, school teams, after school primary activities and community involvement. Many are aiming to pursue a career in sport. Some attended the Sports Leadership Academy which took place during the October break.



# Physical Education Department

## School Ambassadors

Some of our ambassadors have now achieved UKCC level 1 coaching certificates which allows them, not only, to support the work within school but seek paid employment through the ERC Sports Development department. Brandon Wamberg from Active Schools has been instrumental in developing this role over the last year and a half. Our thanks go to him. The Young Sport Ambassadors are: Megan, Nicole, Ewan, Sam, Eilidh, Alexander, Molly, Fatima, Adam, Ryan, Martin, Michael, Laura, Luke and Kate. Thank you for all your support.

## School Christmas Dances

The school Christmas dances are planned for Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December for S1/S2, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December for S5/6 and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December for S3/4. Like always preparation prior to the dances has started with students refreshing and developing their dance skills during class.

## School Sports Clubs 2019-2020

This term there were a variety of after school sports club offered to the pupils including: shinty, football, volleyball, cheerleading, junior badminton, senior badminton, athletics and cross country. There were unfortunately limited spaces in all clubs and spaces are usually allocated on a first come first served basis. Earlier this term there were some disappointed students who did not manage to access a place after returning their request slightly later. I would encourage you to return your requests as early as possible to avoid disappointment. There will be a series of clubs again offered starting in the new term 2020. Lunchtime clubs were all well attended with both the senior and intermediate basketball clubs meeting throughout the week. The S1 only basketball club met on a Wednesday lunchtime in the new gym, this proved to be very popular. The fitness suite was well attended by a variety of pupils from all year groups. The plan for next term is to continue with these clubs as well as focusing on supported skill development classes at lunchtime for Nat 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Here students have an opportunity to opt into classes to further develop their skills and gameplay in preparation for assessment.

## School Ski Race Team

The following pupils have represented the school in skiing this year: Kira -S1 Rebecca -S1 Amy -S3 Ross-S1 Taylor -S4 Robyn -S5 Molly -S5 and Scott -S6

Congratulations to Robyn who raced for Mearns Castle at the Scottish Schools Artificial Championships at the weekend (2/10) and was 1<sup>st</sup> in the S4-S6 race and was also 1<sup>st</sup> overall for the girls.

Congratulations to the following pupils who represented our school and achieved great results recently in the 2019 Autumn Dual Slalom Series at Bellahouston. (9/10). Our Open Team came 3<sup>rd</sup>- Robyn, Molly, Taylor and Kira. Our Mearns A Team came 3<sup>rd</sup>- Amy, Olivia, Ross and Rebecca

Our Mearns B Team came 4<sup>th</sup>-Hamish, Harry Olivia, Blake and Max.





# Physical Education Department

## School Ski Race Team



Congratulations to the following pupils who represented Mearns Castle in the Indoor Ski Cross Champs at Braehead (29/11). A Team- Robyn, Taylor and Scott. B Team- Amy, Ross and Rebecca. Both teams competed to a high standard and our A Team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and Robyn won 1<sup>st</sup> place for Senior Girls and Taylor won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Robyn-S5, Taylor -S4, Kira -S1 and Molly -S5 represented the school in the Dual Slalom last week at Xscape. Congratulations to the team who competed well and achieved joint 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool, narrowly missing the semi-finals.

## Premiership Experience Weekend

Mr Robertson led a Premiership Experience residential to Newcastle from 31/11/19-1/12/19. This was for S2 and S3 pupils. The pupils took part in a full programme of activities including: watching the Newcastle United game against Manchester City, training at Newcastle United's indoor training facility, stadium tour and an additional coaching experience with a round robin football tournament on the Sunday. A great weekend.



# Physical Education Department

## Higher and Advanced Higher Performance Development

With all three Physical Education courses well underway the pupils have now selected their activities which they wish to be assessed in, practical assessments have now started and will continue into the end of February. Some of our students are taking the opportunity to meet at lunchtime and play; volleyball, basketball and badminton. This is an ideal opportunity which can supplement skill development within the class and help support confidence when performing in front of others. I would encourage pupils to use this opportunity. Pupils who are requiring to be assessed, out with, the school environment should make the relevant arrangements with their PE teacher well in advance to allow staff to programme assessments.

## Senior Basketball Team



The senior basketball team organised a match against St Ninians High School at home. They won comfortably in front of a home crowd of spectators. Thanks goes to Kate for refereeing.



# Physical Education Department

## S1/S2 Rugby Festival

S1 and S2 pupils attended a rugby festival hosted at Whitecraigs Rugby club. The boys were coached and then had the opportunity to play games against Belmont House. The weather was cold and wet, but the boys managed to play for an hour in and half. A great opportunity to develop their skills or a first taste of rugby.



The fun run took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> September as part of S1s health day. Pupils ran approximately 2.5 km around the school. The weather was perfect. Thanks goes to all who participated; staff, pupils and the S6 for their marshalling support.

## Girls 5 a Side Football Leagues

The following girls participated in a range of games hosted by different schools over the last 2 months including: Woodfarm, St Ninians, Williamwood, Barrhead, St Lukes and Eastwood. The players always gave an excellent account of themselves. The team included: Adoo, Sania, Amy, Pheobe, Eva, Rhona, Katie and Shakira.

## Swimming

Well done to all who competed for the school at the Renfrewshire area Scottish schools swimming heats for the Scottish schools swimming championships. The school had 7 competitors, 3 of them won medals, Talia Blackley won 2 golds from her 2 events, Jamie won 2 silvers and Euan earned a silver. Also competing were Kara, Jodie, Hana and Rebecca. Well done to all.

## Upcoming Sporting Events

The staff will be selecting teams to represent the school in the following events:

Scottish Indoor Athletics Championships (SSAA)

Scottish Outdoor Athletics Championships (SSAA)

East Renfrewshire cross Country championships

The Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships

East Renfrewshire Athletics Championships

East Renfrewshire Secondary Games (bowls, table tennis, hockey, girls football, basketball, netball, tennis and rugby)

Please meet with Mr Gibson (PE) if you feel you would like to be considered for any school representative teams mentioned above.



# Physical Education Department

## Skiing Residential Trip to France with Ms Robinson

Ms Robinson and her team are leading the S3 skiing residential trip to France. The departure date of the trip is Saturday 25/1/20 returning on Saturday 1/2/20

## Water Activities Trip to France with Ms Roberts

Ms Roberts is leading the S1 pupils on a two centred water activity trip to France. The departure date is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May '20 and returning on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 20.

## Individual Sporting Highlights

### (1 minute update interviews conducted by S6 Sports Ambassadors)

#### Hamish - Athletics

Hamish of Giffnock North AC was selected for the U20 GB Men's team to compete in the European Cross Country Championships in Lisbon on Sunday 8 December. The U20 team won the gold medal beating Norway and Portugal, an outstanding achievement.

#### Blake - Tennis

Started playing tennis when he was 3 years old. He has played at both Whitecraigs and Giffnock tennis clubs. He is currently in the West of Scotland tennis team and regularly plays in tennis tournaments. He won the Peebles U18 open this year.

#### Amy - Karate

Amy was selected to represent Scotland at the Japan Shotokan Karate Association (JSKA) European Championships in November. The Championships were held in Limassol, Cyprus. She won a gold medal in her individual event and two silver medals in her team events and gained the title of JSKA European Champion. She has been reselected to be part of team Scotland and will compete in the World Championships in Germany in October 2020.

#### Stephen - American Football

Stephen has been playing American Football with East Kilbride for 5 years. This year he won the club's award of The Most Improved Player. He believes his success comes from the fact that he always works hard and never gives up.

#### Nicole - Judo

Nicole is the current Scottish Champion U70kg age 16-21 (October '19). She achieved her black belt in June 19 as well as her UKCC level 1 coaching qualification. She now works developing children judo skills, age 6 -14 at East Kilbride Judo Club.

#### Laura - Volleyball

Laura has achieved two international volleyball caps. Her most recent achievement was her selection to compete in the U19 European Championships in 2020. She believes motivation, determination and resilience are key to success

# Physical Education Department

## Isa - Boxing

Isa started boxing when he was 4 years old. He now boxes at Rob Roy gym in Glasgow. His notable achievements are; winning the Scottish Championship twice, Western District champion twice, British Championship and a European bronze during the summer of 2019. He believes that the most important characteristics for success are; hard work, consistency and dedication

## Harris - Athletics

Harris competes in a variety of distances. On the track the 800 and 1500 are his strengths. He enjoys road racing and cross country. He has won SSAA indoor events and achieved two silvers in the World Youth Games. This year he won the junior race during the Great Scottish Run weekend. He has also won a bronze at the National Cross Country short course at U17 level. To be successful he believes requires commitment to training, pushing yourself to the maximum and be confident about your own ability. This is his recipe for success.

## Beth - Netball and Rowing

Beth started playing netball in P4 and has always enjoyed playing the sport. She has been selected to play for the East Renfrewshire District team throughout the last 2 years. She has also been selected and participates at the Scotland National Netball Academy. Beth believes that determination and resilience are important characteristics for her success. Beth is also in the Scottish team for rowing.

## Nathan - Badminton

Nathan attends Bellahouston School of Sport to support his badminton development. This year he achieved a first placing in the junior league in October.

## Felicity - Netball

Felicity attained a place in the Scotland team this year and last. She competes at district level and her team achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> placing. Felicity's tips for sporting success are not to stress about your play, remember you have been selected for a reason so be confident about your skillset and take all opportunities.

## Emma - Rowing

Emma has been rowing for 5 years, she now rows for Scotland. She believes the most important characteristic which helps bring success is motivation.

## Taylor - Skiing

Taylor is an U16 Scottish Champion. She achieved third position in an international event in Bormio 2019. To gain success she feels being determined, having a positive mind set, and being ambitious are important.

# Physical Education Department

## Molly—Dance

Molly attends the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Her most notable achievements to date was being awarded the title of Scottish Ballet Senior Associate. Molly believes her coaching of others helps her develop own skills and abilities.

## Alex —(Cup stacking)

Please search and have a look at this activity online, if you are unfamiliar with it. The film is not speeded up, this is real time.

Alex was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Birmingham Regional Cup Staking Competition 2019. A very experienced field of stackers went head to head to complete the challenges as quick as possible, a sight to behold. Manual dexterity is highly important to achieve low times for stacking. Alex believes to keep beating personal records he must train every night as well as altering his technique by small margins to reduce times fractionally. He is constantly checking online for advice to enhance his cup stacking technique and speed.

## Thomas — Ice Hockey

Thomas started playing around 2007. He has played for Lanarkshire Lightning and North Ayr Predators. He has been invited to trial for Scotland. Most notable recent achievements was his team achieving a 2<sup>nd</sup> placing in the league last season. He believes his success has been built by him being determined and to always give his best performance.

## Daniel - Gymnastics

Daniel has been accepted for an elite performance group in Gymnastics. This is a fantastic opportunity to help Daniel reach his targets of the Commonwealth games in 2022. Daniel won the Scottish Championships this year. Daniel believes, part of, his success comes from the ability to analyse senior gymnast's performance and then integrate what he has learned into his own practice.

## Crystelle - Gymnastics

Crystelle is a three times Scottish gymnastic champion and tenth in Britain. She is a British Team member. She achieved a second placing in the Home Nations Championship. Crystelle has also represented Scotland in the Northern European Championships and qualified for the finals. Her mantra: staying committed, being determined and being smart with what I eat.

## Emma - Karate

Emma has been competing in karate for 10 years. Her notable achievements were winning the title of British Championships 2014, 2015 and 2016. She has been selected to compete for her country in competitions in Switzerland, Germany and at home. She has trained with the Scottish squad since 2017. Emma believes the most important characteristics for success are: self-motivation, analytical thinking, determination and patience.

I hope you found this article informative.



# Personal Development

This has again been a busy term in the Personal Development Department.

S4 pupils were involved in a RAF visit led by Sgt. Keith West. This was a fantastic workshop based on teamwork and communication, the 2 key things required of a member of the RAF. Sgt West led us through a very interactive experience, firstly by asking the pupils to work together to complete a numbers game. They had to communicate with each other appropriately and think outside the box to solve the puzzle. There was lots of excellent interaction to see who could complete the task the quickest. Following this, the pupils had to replicate to the same specification, a model built by Sgt. West. This was a fantastic task which focused on attention to detail and following instructions. The pupils did really well with this task and reflected well on what they had produced. Overall, the visit was a great success and we hope to welcome Sgt. West back to the school next session.

Meanwhile S3 have been busy preparing for the Maxwell Mearns Castle Playgroup Christmas Party, by making personalised cards for the children and a Sweetie Christmas stocking. The class have been very enthusiastic about this and have worked well in their preparations. Some of the class as well as the Breakfast Club, have also visited Mearns House Care Home, where we have played games with the residents and enjoyed listening to their stories. This has been an excellent partnership and we look forward to continuing this in the New Year.

# Debating News

## Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News



Mearns Castle's Cambride Union Debaters

Zainab, Kirsten, Hazel, and Cerys

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, two Mearns Castle teams competed at the Scottish heat of the annual Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition. This year's heat was held in Stewart's Melville College in Edinburgh. The CU competition attracts the best senior debating teams from around the country. The motions for the day were challenging and included the topics - *'banning advertising on social media'*, *'establishing LGBTQ only schools'*, *'punishing teams for their fans behaviour'* and *'allowing convicted parents to raise their children behind bars'*. After four rounds of debating, the top two teams were selected for this year's finals day. Congratulations go to **Hazel** (S6) and **Cerys** (S5) who finished top of the team tab. Both girls will now contest Finals Day at the Cambridge Union at the beginning of March. A mention also to Cerys for also finishing top of the speaker tab.

\*A special mention also goes to **Kirsten** and **Zainab** (S4) who only narrowly missed qualification by finishing third on the team tab. This is a fantastic performance given that both girls are only in S4 and in their first few months of short-prep senior debating

# Debating News

## Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News



### Mearns Castle's GUU debaters

Kirsten, Hazel, Cerys and Zainab

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Mearns Castle's senior debating teams competed at the annual Glasgow University Union Schools Debating competition. The GUU competition is one of the largest single day competitions for pupils in S4-6. All teams compete in four preliminary rounds before the top four teams break to the final. The motions topics were as varied as always at this year's GUU - 'mandatory political classes in schools', 'give individuals the right to buy and sell votes', 'equal representation of male and female historical figures in school lessons' and 'granting the majority ownership of major sports clubs to local communities.'

Both Mearns Castle teams - **Hazel and Cerys (S5/6)**, **Kirsten and Zainab (S4)** - debated to a very high standard in the early rounds, and as a result, both teams qualified for the final of the GUU competition. This is the first time that Mearns Castle has had two teams in the final.



# Debating News

## Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News

The final motion was challenging - *'nationalising natural resources in developing countries'*. Both teams put on a great show in the final but both narrowly missed out on the win. However, all four of Mearns Castle's debaters deserve huge credit for the way they debated during the whole day. All four also finished at the top of the speaker tab. (\*A special mention is deserved for Kirsten and Zainab (S4) for reaching the GUU final at their first attempt, and first senior competition, against much older and more experienced debaters. A fantastic achievement.)

### St Andrews Union Schools Debating Competition



Mearns Castle's St Andrews debaters

Zainab, Cerys, Hazel and Kirsten

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, Mearns Castle once again made the journey to St Andrews for the annual St Andrews Union schools competition. This is the biggest single day competition for senior debaters in the country. As with most single day competitions, all teams debate in four preliminary debates before the top four teams on the tab proceed to the final. The motions in the early rounds were on very varied range of topics - *'ban all essential service workers from striking'*, *'support duty to rescue laws'*, *'regretting the romanticisation of motherhood'* and *'supporting a maximum voting age'*.

# Debating News

## Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News

Once again, both Mearns Castle teams - **Hazel and Cerys** (S5/6), **Zainab and Kirsten** (S4) - were very high on the Team and Speaker tabs at the end of the competition. Congratulations goes to Hazel and Cerys for making history by becoming the first Mearns Castle team to reach the St Andrews Union Final this year. All four debaters were also at the top of the speaker tab once again. Despite debating to their usual very high standard (and a very long wait before the final started), both Hazel and Cerys narrowly missed out on winning the final. But this was a fantastic performance yet again against the best debaters in the country. (\*A special mention goes to **Cerys** for winning the Best Speaker at this year's St Andrews competition by finishing first on the speaker tab.) Another great day for Mearns Castle's senior debaters!

### Scottish Schools Junior Debating Competition



**Mearns Castle's Junior debaters:**  
Anna, Emma, Zoe, and Eva

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, two Mearns Castle teams competed in the first round of the Scottish Schools Junior Debating competition at Bearsden Academy. This is the largest 'round by round' debating competition in the country and regularly attracts the best Junior (S1-3) debaters in the country.

The motion for the first round was challenging for both sides of the argument - '*This house would legalise all drugs*'. In the first debate, Anna and Emma (S3) successfully opposed the motion. In the second, Zoe and Eva (S3) successfully proposed. Both teams will now compete in the second round early in the new year.

## Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News

### Edinburgh Union Junior Debating Competition



**Mearns Castle's Edinburgh Union Junior debaters:**

Alexander, Nathan, Emma, Anna, Zoe, Jessica, Iman, Eva, Naomi and Rebecca

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, four Mearns Castle debating teams made the annual trip to the Edinburgh Union Junior Debating competition. The Edinburgh Juniors competition is the biggest single day short-prep debating competition in the country. All teams debate in three preliminary rounds before the top four teams progress to the final. The motions got progressively more difficult as the day went on and included the topics - 'banning the monarchy', 'punishing sports teams for the behaviour of their fans' and 'public figures should lose their right to privacy'. All four teams debated very well on the day and all four achieved at least one first place in the preliminary rounds. In the end, Mearns Castle narrowly missed the final this year. However, all of Mearns Castle's debaters can be very proud of their performances during the day.



# Debating News

## Debating News.....Debating News.....Debating News



\*A special mention to the S1 debaters (Iman, Jessica, Nathan and Alexander) for debating so well in their first ever competition. A very bright future lies ahead.

### And Finally...

A huge congratulations to all of Mearns Castle's debaters who competed so well in 2019. The school competed at the Oxford Union Finals day back in March. Also in March, one team qualified for the later stages of the senior competition at the Durham Union and one team won the Durham Novice competition. In May, one team represented the school (and broke to the later stages) at the International Competition for Young Debaters (ICYD) at the Cambridge Union. Mearns Castle also represented the UK at the European Youth Parliament International Session in Valencia in July/August. In September, the school competed in the final of the Scottish Schools Junior Debating Competition. Huge congratulations is due to all the debaters who competed in the all of the competitions that the school enters.

\*Another huge mention and Thank You is due to Mr Smith and the many staff in the office who work tirelessly to help get debaters to every competition. A massive thank you also to all the parents and families who give unswerving support to Mearns Castle debating. It cannot happen without you.

Here's to more fun in 2020!

# U14 Football Team News

## U14 Football

The MCHS u14s football team have been busy since last newsletter playing a lot of games in which they have mostly been in great form seeing the boys finish their very tough league section on 10/12 points with the prospect of Champions League Football after Xmas. They are also in to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the Scottish cup with a looming tie v Hermitage before Xmas break and  $\frac{1}{4}$  final of the St Mirren Cup to enjoy after Xmas.

**Mearns Castle 8-1 Williamswood - Scottish Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> round.**

MOTM -

1. SEAN
2. DOUGLAS
3. JOHN

GOALS:

SEAN.- 4

JOHN - FREEKICK SPECIALS 2

JACE - 30 YARD ROCKET 1

MATTHEW - 1

A great win against the current P and D schools u13 league and cup champions from last year.

**Williamswood 6-2 Mearns Caste - League.**

A tough lesson for the boys as Williamswood sought revenge from the previous result putting on a very energetic and physical showing; outplaying us all over the pitch. We were perhaps over confident and lacked our usual movement and flair with key players Jace and Aiden unavailable. The score line could have been worse without GK Thomas Scott being in top form. We had key chances at 1-1 but squandered them and were punished accordingly.

Goals: John and Sean.

MOTM :

1. Thomas
2. John
3. Tom

**Mearns Castle 3-0 St Ninians - League**

An excellent controlled performance v a very good, hardworking opposition.

MOTM:

1. Jace
2. Jamie
3. Tom

Goals:

Haris 2

Sean.B 1

# U14 Football Team News

## Mearns Castle 11-0 Dunoon - St Mirren Cup last 16

A top class performance all round outclassing our island visitors. The Borland Brothers running the show sharing 8 goals between them with 4 each by half time. An enjoyable game in which lots of squad members got a lot of game time.

### Goals:

Aiden 4  
Sean.B 4  
Jake 1  
John 2

### MOTM:

1. Sean.B  
2. Aiden  
3. John





# Lego History Club

## Lego History Club

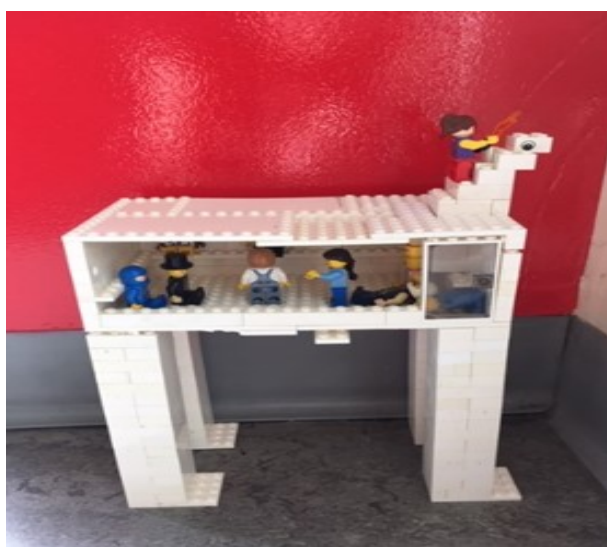
The Lego History Club continues to meet on Monday lunchtimes in F9. We use Lego to build famous moments from history and are always looking for new designers or builders to join.

This term we re-launched our Famous Moment in Lego competition and it has been a huge success. November's Famous Moment was created by two very talented S1 builders.

The first correct entry out of the hat was Tom McKnight of S1. Tom identified the Trojan Horse and won a £15 i-tunes voucher.

Keep your eyes peeled around the school for our next moment which we will be unveiling in January.

*Miss Thomson and Miss Rankin*



# Poetry Slam

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November Tylar performed at the ConFab Arts Organisation Celebration of 15 years of arts production and funding work across Scotland. ConFab run the bi-annual Scottish Schools Poetry Slam which Mearns Castle High has participated in with great success for three years, winning a place at each National Final. ConFab Founders Rachel Jury and Anita Dobson invited Tylar to perform their poem, 'When I was Seven', which has a central theme of dyslexia. Tylar wrote and performed this poem while in S1 in 2016, and won that year's 'Best Individual Poem'. Rachel Jury introduced Tylar to stage explaining that Tylar's winning poem meant a great deal to ConFab's founders as both of them are professional writers who are also Dyslexic. Tylar then went on to perform recent work to huge audience appreciation. An excellent celebration, and well done to Tylar on their continued performance poetry achievements!

# Indoor Ski Cross Championships

Congratulations to the following pupils who represented Mearns Castle in the Indoor Skier Cross Champs at Braehead:

A Team- Robyn Walker, Taylor Langmuir and Scott York.

B Team- Amy Nisbet, Ross Nisbet and Rebecca Hart.

Both teams competed to a high standard and our A Team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and Robyn won 1<sup>st</sup> place for Senior Girls and Taylor won 2nd place.

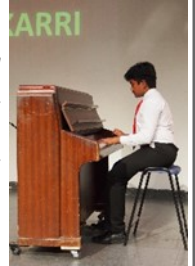


# Charities Week 2019

Charities Week 2019 was a fantastic event - enjoyed by the whole school community. It has been great to build on the enthusiasm and efforts of last year with a continued variety, breadth and sheer number of activities taking place in the school throughout the week; all with the intention of raising as much money as possible for charity.

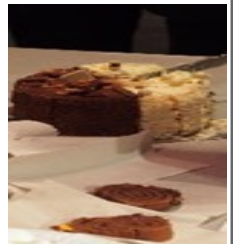


The daily lunchtime shows were the platform that showcased the wide variety of fantastic talents possessed by pupils and staff of Mearns Castle High School. This year saw the first 'The Chase' game show, where S6 pupils went up against staff. The shows were thoroughly enjoyed by the hundreds of pupils that attended each day. They were also the stage for the Pie Mafia, who broke into the Friday lunchtime show to claim Mrs Mitchell as their Depute Head victim this year.



While the shows entertained many pupils and staff every day in the theatre, the rest of the school was busily engaged in a plethora of other activities:

Daily Home Baking, Stalls, Pakora, Open Area DJ, Multi Prize Raffles, Sponge the Teacher, S6 Helper for a Day Auction, Library Book Sale and Basketball tournaments all operated throughout the week, creating a fun filled, vibrant and exciting atmosphere throughout the school.



Our S6 pupils raised extra money by forming a Mariachi Band surprising many pupils throughout the week, serenading them with a song. Robbie also took centre stage to get his head shaved, after raising hundreds of pounds, all for charity.



Too many are the people to acknowledge individually for such a magnificent collaborative effort, so a very big thank you to everyone involved. The labours of many committed and dedicated staff and pupils have allowed the entire school community to contribute to another outstanding Charities Week. We raised over £6000, this money will be distributed to the charities which will be chosen at the forthcoming House assemblies.



In giving, we are all the beneficiaries, the generosity of each person in the school this year will touch many other lives during the next twelve months.

Well done to all!

Mrs Sloan, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Khan, Mr McGowan



## PSYV East Renfrewshire are recruiting Adult Volunteers

for more information visit: [www.scotland.police.uk/psyv](http://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.



PSYVPoliceScotland 

@PolScotPSYV 

[scotland.police.uk/psyv](http://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](http://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](http://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):.....

W/C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	W/C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
12-Aug-19				IS 1	IS 2	06-Jan-20	School re-opens S5/S6				
19-Aug-19	School re-opens 8.45am					13-Jan-20					S4 Reports
26-Aug-19						20-Jan-20			S4 Reports QA completed	S4 Reports printed	S4 Reports issued
02-Sep-19			Senior Awards Ceremony			27-Jan-20	S4/S5 Options Evening		S5/6 Prelims		S2 Reports completed
09-Sep-19				S6 Curriculum Evening		03-Feb-20		S5/6 Prelim	S2 Reports QA completed	School closes at 3.35pm	S2 Reports IS 4
16-Sep-19	S4 TR S5 Curriculum			S4 TR printed	S4 TR issued	10-Feb-20	MID TERM HOL			IS 5	S2 Options Evening
23-Sep-19				S4 Curriculum Evening	HOL	17-Feb-20	S2 Parents' Meeting				S2 Reports issued
30-Sep-19	HOL			S4 Parents' Meeting		24-Feb-20	S5/S6 Reports completed		S5/S6 Reports QA completed		S5/S6 Reports printed
07-Oct-19	S1 Curriculum Evening				School closes at 2.45pm	02-Mar-20	S5/S6 Reports issued	S3 Parents' Meeting			
14-Oct-19	OCTOBER HOLIDAY					09-Mar-20					
21-Oct-19	IS 3	S2 TR completed	Careers Convention	S2 TR printed	S2 TR issued	16-Mar-20		S3 Exams			
28-Oct-19		S3 Curriculum Evening	S5/S6 TR1 completed		S5/S6 TR1 printed	23-Mar-20			S3 Exams		
04-Nov-19	S5/S6 TR1 issued			S5/S6 Parents' Meeting		30-Mar-20			S3 Exams		School closes at 2.30pm
11-Nov-19				DYW		06-Apr-20	SPRING BREAK				
18-Nov-19	S1 TR printed	S1 TR issued				13-Apr-20					
25-Nov-19		S1 Parents' Meeting				20-Apr-20	School re-opens 8.45am		S3 Practical Exams	S6 Leavers' Ceremony	S4,5,6 last day in school
02-Dec-19		S3 TR completed	S4 Prelims	S3 TR printed	S3 TR issued	27-Apr-20	Start of SQA Exams				
09-Dec-19			S4 Prelims			04-May-20			School closes at 2.45pm	IS 6	HOL
16-Dec-19	S4 Prelims			S5/S6 TR2 completed	S5/S6 TR2 printed closes at 2.30pm	11-May-20	S1 Reports completed		S1 Reports QA		S1 Reports printed
23-Dec-19	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS					18-May-20	S1 Reports issued			School closes at 3.35pm	HOL
30-Dec-19	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS					25-May-20	HOL	IS 7	School re-opens 8.45am		S3 Reports
						01-Jun-20			S3 Reports QA completed	S3 Reports printed	S3 Reports issued
						08-Jun-20				P7 Ind 1, P7 Parents' Eve	P7 Induction 2
						15-Jun-20					
						22-Jun-20					School Closes 1pm
				In Service		Parents' Meeting		Year Group Report			
				TR = Tracking Report		Parents' Information Meeting		Options Evening			