



Information for Parents

Welcome

Dear Parent / Career,

S1 has been a very successful year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. Every pupil has given their best in all that they do. Over the year they have set the highest standards in all aspects of school life.

This year I have spent time in a wide range of classes across all subjects, sampled jotters and spoken to pupils. It is apparent to me that as a year group, S1 have the potential to achieve academically, socially and spiritually. I believe that the important partnership between the school and the home has ensured the success of our young people.

Your child continues to develop their potential I would ask for your support in encouraging them to complete their work to the very best of their ability. The jotters I have looked at in recent weeks have given me great cause for optimism but it is important that all of our young people are producing their best. Your help to ensure this, by regularly checking their work is greatly appreciated.

Another pleasing aspect has been to observe pupils take responsibility for their own learning by making full use of their planner to organise their studies, revision and homework. This also gives you a clearer picture of what is being asked of them in terms of homework.

The following review provides a brief summary of important information pertinent to all first year pupils. Please be mindful of our highly informative school website which is updated on a daily basis. If you require any clarification please do not hesitate to contact Pastoral Support or myself.

Our Learning and Teaching

Throughout this year, your child has been exposed to a great variety of learning and teaching experiences in a wide variety of subjects.

Teachers respond to young peoples' learning needs and ensure they remain on task, challenged and engaged. Teachers provide feedback in a variety of ways and are able to evaluate and adapt learning during lessons. Where appropriate, teachers use a variety of materials to enhance learning and teaching. This includes digital technologies such as GLOW including Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams and Microsoft Forms.

Staff use a wide range of learning environments such as the classroom, virtual and outdoor learning so that the needs of all learners are met.

Teaching staff make themselves available to assist pupils who feel that they may require particular support. Our colleagues are generous with their time, before school, at intervals/ lunchtimes, or at the end of the school day to offer assistance, bespoke to the needs of individual pupils. The onus is on your child to talk to teachers if they require this support. Many pupils take advantage of this support and attend departments in their own time with staff on hand to support.

Over the last two weeks Pastoral Support teachers have carried out interviews supporting your child through the choice programme. It has provided an opportunity for the Pastoral teachers to discuss your child's strengths as well discussing the reason for their option choices.

Skills For Learning Life and Work DYW

Literacy



Numeracy



Thinking





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Our Learning and Teaching

Within the next week the office staff will begin to generate classes and timetables which will be issued on Friday 31 May. Our young people will begin their Second Year timetable on Monday 3 June.

I wish to express my gratitude for the excellent support through First Year. The workshops organised by the Mathematics (September) and English (November) departments were exceptionally well attended and feedback from parents who attended was extremely positive.

Our Success and Achievement

I am pleased to report that First year pupils have embraced this very important aspect of school life. We actively encourage our pupils to have a healthy balance between school work and other activities. This approach is fully endorsed by senior pupils who have had a positive school experience. To support this invaluable aspect of school life there are many opportunities on offer through the commitment of colleagues our school. We regularly recognise pupil success at S1 Assembly, through twitter and on our school website (details on final page).

Since August, First Year have been involved in many clubs, teams, groups and events. These include a wide range sporting activities such as football, netball, badminton, skiing, basketball, athletics, gymnastics, cycling, trampolining, dance, Friday Sports Club. Successes have included Scottish Schools' Cheerleading Gold and Silver, East Renfrewshire Schools' Gymnastics (2 x Gold and 1 x Silver), Scottish Schools' Road Race Bronze (Girls), East Renfrewshire Schools' Cross Country Gold (Girls), East Renfrewshire Schools' Cross Country Bronze (Boys) and SSFA West Regional 7-a-side 1st and 2nd place. The Dance and Gymnastics event in March gave our young people to showcase their talents to an adoring crowd. Also the Millport Trip which took place over the Spring Break saw over 80 First Years cycle around the island and enjoy a great day out with fellow pupils and staff.

Our Performing Arts Faculty have many First Year musicians as part of the various ensembles who have performed on behalf of the school at recent events including the Advent Service and Spring Concert. The 'S1 Singers' have also performed at numerous events. The recent trip to see 'Matilda' at Edinburgh Playhouse was extremely well received by all who attended.

Through Art and Design all First Years had the opportunity to participate in workshops at Kelvingrove Art Gallery. First Year pupils also thoroughly enjoyed themselves during British Science Week, investigating elephants toothpaste, dichromate volcano and edible DNA amongst other experiments.

A number of First Year pupils represented the school at the SCEN China Youth Summit in Perth where they have the opportunity to speak with young people from Hong Kong who were in Scotland for a six day visit.

In December, a group of First Year pupils were crowned VEXIQ Regional Champions. They were tasked with designing and building a robot and using it to compete in a variety of tasks both with and against other schools.

First Year pupils have demonstrated their kindness to those less fortunate than themselves through a variety of fundraising activities such as the Rice Challenge, the Life Group Sponsored Walk and Afternoon Tea for Life, Helping Hands Bake Off and Christmas Gift Appeal which have all been highly successful.

Skills For Learning Life and Work DYW

Employability



Leadership



Digital Learning



Creativity





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Our Success and Achievement

First Year pupils have represented St Ninian's by accompanying Mr Docherty whilst he visited Primary 7 pupils in our associated primary schools.

Year group activities such as the First Year Ceilidh, Skip-a-thon, Active Girls Day and the Christmas Pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Eastwood Theatre have all been great successes.

Our First Year Pupil Forum convened in October and are due to meet again soon to discuss matters raised through PSHE that are pertinent to the year group. Minutes are posted on the S1 website (details on final page).

Soon each alpha class will nominate and vote for the First Year Peer Awards. The outcome will be announced and a presentation will take place at a special assembly.

Planning for the Alpe d'Huez ski trip (January 2020) and Ardeche Water Sports trip (June 2020) are well underway.

Departments regularly recognise success through, for example, Science Superstars, Modern Languages Pupil of the Term, History, Modern Studies and Geography, Art, Design and Technology Excellence Awards, Mathematics and Physical Education Pupil of the Month and many more. All of these are all posted on the S1 website (see final page).

We continue to promote the success of our pupils on our website and would like to hear of all of their out of school success via an online form which can be accessed below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/achievement/>

Our Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing of every young person continues to be our main priority. In addition to all of the positive physical and spiritual health opportunities that we offer we have been promoting positive mental health with First Year pupils.

Through Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons and assemblies pupils have had presentations from various members of staff and young people emphasising how it is important to be conscious of strategies available to support positive mental health; especially in First Year as they adapt to a new school environment, meet many new people and are awarded more responsibility. We continue to remind pupils of all of the opportunities available to them and support them with the planning of programmes to support both curricular and co-curricular opportunities. This year we have supported Mental Health Awareness events with various displays and bake sales for Mental Health Charities.

In the school there are 'Positive Mental Health Boards' which highlight effective strategies and sources of support which pupils can access. Throughout this year we have discussed this topic at assemblies and in PSHE with First Year and will continue to promote Positive Mental Health on our main school website and our Mental Health Website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/snhpositivementalhealth/>

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Our Relationships

Our school prayer reminds us that we are a 'Community of Faith', a community characterised by our values of love, truth, justice and peace. I have been pleased by the commitment of our year group to this aspect of our school life. This is an area of their personal development where our young people can experience great benefit and support.

In St Ninian's High School we provide a range of opportunities for pupils to explore their faith. Holy Mass is offered on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.25am in the school Oratory. Masses are very well attended by staff, pupils and their parents and I would urge you too to join us, with your child, in our daily celebration. I have been delighted to see pupils from our year group being readers at these Masses. They have also been keen to participate in the 'Our Daily Bread' Retreat in June with excellent numbers signing up.

We are also fortunate that we have a group of committed parents who offer prayer every Friday at lunchtime during Eucharistic Adoration (12-1pm). I would encourage our S1 pupils to spend a short period of quiet reflection in the Oratory with the Blessed Sacrament.

Useful Information

Key Dates

- Various dates in May / June: S1 Carfin Pilgrimages
- Monday 3 June: New Timetable Commences
- Wednesday 5 June: School Sports / Family Fun Day (2:40pm)
- Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 June: "Our Daily Bread" Retreat
- Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 June: School Show "Annie"
- Thursday 27 June: School Closes (1pm)

Please continue to check our website and social media platforms for daily updates about events happening in the school and local community.

St Ninian's High School Website

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/>

S1 Website

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/snhss1website/>

St Ninian's High School Twitter

www.twitter.com/stninianshigh

St Ninian's High School Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/stninianshighschool/>

On behalf of the Head Teacher, Mr Docherty, my colleagues and myself, I would like to thank you for the tremendous support you have offered and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead. I continue to be confident that if we support our young people through our partnership our young people will reap the benefits.

Kindest regards

J Fuchs

Depute Head Teacher

Skills For Learning Life and Work DYW

HWB



Leadership



Thinking



Leadership

