

# Newsletter



## RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AND LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY NEWS LETTER



### Learning for Sustainability and Children's Rights

This has been a busy year for Hillhead High in preparing for our Rights Respecting Schools Silver award and ensuring that all our young people continue to gain the opportunity to experience Learning for Sustainability in their lessons. Learning for Sustainability is the umbrella term for sustainable development education, outdoor learning, global citizenship and social welfare.

Glasgow education states that:

“All Children and young people in Scotland have an entitlement to Learning for Sustainability and it is the responsibility of all practitioners to ensure this happens. This is a whole school approach”.

Last year Hillhead High was awarded the Rights Respecting Schools Bronze Award and throughout the remaining months of 2023 and the first few months of 2024 we have been working towards gaining the Silver Award.

We hope you enjoy reading this session's newsletter covering all our success in Learning for Sustainability and promoting Children's' Rights.



## What's Been Happening

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD

**WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT HILLHEAD HIGH HAS ACHIEVED THE SILVER RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD**

In March this year Hillhead High School achieved the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award. To gain this award we had to demonstrate that:

- Our school is embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in its policy, practice and culture.
- We are promoting knowledge and understanding of the Convention throughout our school community.
- We are beginning to see the positive impact of these actions on children and young people, staff, and on the school's ethos, practice and environment.
- Children and young people are beginning to see themselves as rights respecting global citizens and advocate for fairness and children's rights, both locally and globally.



In preparation for our virtual validation visit the school had to provide evidence through a report and a PowerPoint Presentation covering 3 strands:

- Teaching and Learning about Rights
- Teaching and Learning through Rights-Ethos and Relationships
- Teaching and Learning for Rights-Participation, Empowerment and Action

### How Hillhead High is Demonstrating our Commitment to the 3 Strands or RRS



All staff and pupils have received training and lessons on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Examples of groups that our young people are leading on within the school and at Authority level to help promote the UNCRC include:

#### Leaders of Learning

Four pupils in the BGE have also been trained to participate in Glasgow City Council's *Young Leaders of Learning Programme* 2023-2024. The pupils will lead a series of self-evaluation activities to identify the school's strengths and areas for development on this year's theme of relationships. They will work in partnership with another Glasgow school and have the opportunity for their voice to be heard in relation to learning and teaching in Hillhead High adhering to Article 12 on the UNCRC.





## How Hillhead High is Demonstrating our Commitment to the 3 Strands of Rights Respecting Schools

### Pupil Council

This year the Pupil Council have hosted a variety of events including a 'Your School, Your Voice' event where all year groups were invited to give feedback to the Pupil Council



about what is going well in the school and what they would like to work on. From this there was some

feedback about the toilets and as a result the Pupil Council members were able to share this issue with SLT which has seen more regular checks of the toilets throughout the school day. Currently the Pupil Council are hosting events for International Book Giving Day, UN International Day of Happiness and International Women's Day.

### Equalities Committee

Our pupil led Equalities Group (comprising members of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Feminism Club, and the Anti-Racism Alliance) have undertaken a significant amount of work at school and authority wide level to create a rights respecting environment.



The Equalities Committee launched GCC Anti-Racism charter at the SEC and are taking a lead on this in the council. Their work has included working with Ed Psych to create resources and delivering sessions

to teachers in school and 130 EAL Teachers at their staff conference.



Pupils within the Equalities Committee have also taken a range of actions to promote LGBT rights, including leading on Purple Friday, and Transgender Day of Remembrance.



The Feminism Club were delighted to receive a response from the UK Parliament after they wrote to their local MP about women's rights in Afghanistan.

### Senior Phase Youth Parliament

Our two school Captains, Pearl Smith Stewart and Carl Hass have been representing Hillhead High throughout the year at the Senior Phase Youth Parliament held at the City Chambers. Pearl has shared what she has been involved in this year at the parliament.



*"The Senior Phase Youth Parliament offered us a great opportunity to make our voices heard and share ideas between other students and people in education, in order to try and make a difference. At the parliament we talked about issues of concern, such as discrimination, in the hope of promoting equality. It also gave us an important platform to be able to raise issues concerning the SQA, particularly regarding the appeals system. This was a good opportunity, where we felt able to express our concerns and have our voice heard."*

*The Scottish Government have acknowledged that misogyny is an increasingly concerning issue in schools. We thought it was important to talk about this subject with each other, to inform ourselves by sharing experiences. At our school, we organised and delivered a series of focus groups, with boys and girls. The process reinforced the fact that it's a wide and important issue. This helped give us a deeper understanding, so that we could come up with specific goals to work towards and to try and come up with solutions.*

*The parliament inspired us to advocate and campaign for change and showed us that our voices matter."*



### Glasgow Schools Forum

Over the course of the year, 4 pupils from S2 and S3 have visited the city chambers to give their views at the Glasgow Schools Forum. These events bring together young people from across Glasgow and allow them to share their views on matters relating to the UNCRC articles. The pupils have taken part in discussions surrounding diversity, equality, curriculum and outdoor spaces in their communities. Our pupils have exemplified our school values of respect and integrity by listening to the views of others and offering their views on issues that are important to them.



The pupils involved are:

- Rosie O'Brien
- Brooke Slocombe
- Fraser MacInnes
- Konstantinos Kaliakoudas



**WELL DONE TO ALL OUR SENIOR YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND GLASGOW SCHOOL FORUM PUPILS. YOU ARE A CREDIT TO THE SCHOOL**

# WHOLE SCHOOL LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## S1 Friday 5

Again, this year during Friday 5 all S1 pupils have participate in activities to gain the John Muir Trust Award.

The Trust's John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It is inclusive, accessible and



non-competitive, though should challenge each participant.

The Award encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.

The first half of S1 participated in a wide range of activities from October to February with the second half of S1 enjoying the outdoors from March to June.

The John Muir activities have included our pupils working with many outside agencies in areas across the West End that include:



RSPB, Woodlands Community Garden, The Children's Wood and GOW Community Garden. Activities have included making bird feeders, litter-picking, gardening, and conservation

work. Pupils have been learning about mini-beasts, animal tracking, bird life and eco-systems in urban wild places. Thank you to all our partners and staff who support our pupils and promote John Muir activities every Friday 5 come rain, wind and even snow.



On Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March this year all S1s participated in the John Muir Conservation Day at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Alice Mellon of the RSPB started the days off with a presentation on the importance of sustainability and how young people can contribute to the fight against global warming within their own communities.

Pupils then made their way to Kelvingrove where they received a variety of fun and interesting activities throughout both days. These activities included:

### Invertebrate ID

In groups pupils were given hands on interactions with a variety of interesting artifacts, including the skull of a small monkey. Pupils also had to identify different species of butterfly and draw their own favorite from a range of different types.



### Meadow Management

Out in the grounds of the Museum groups of pupils got the opportunity to test their strength and resilience as when they were given large rakes to clear the grass area within the grounds in preparation for the planting of wild flowers, they even got to sow their own seeds. Keep an eye out this summer for the wonderful wild flower patches that will bloom as a result of the pupils' hard work.



### Endangered and Extinct Wildlife

Fun, games and lots of learning took place during this session provided by the Museum staff. Pupils learned about extinct animals that have disappeared across the world and also the conservation translocation of animals and birds such as the Eurasian beaver and the white-tailed eagle.



### Litter Picking

Pupils then ventured into Kelvingrove Park and made an excellent job of picking up litter within and around the area. On many occasions members of the local community stopped and commended our young people on the outstanding work they were doing.



### JOHN MUIR GALLERY



*"In every walk in nature, one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir.*



## S2-S4 Friday 5

Pupils from S2 to S4 are able to choose from a wide range of activities provided by staff across the school. This year Learning for Sustainability activities have included:

### Bike Maintenance

Mr Johnston, one of our Maths teachers has shared below the sustainability success of this Friday 5 activity:

*“In the Autumn term this year I had the opportunity to start a Bicycle Maintenance group at Hillhead High. I had the good fortune of finding a partnership with Bike for Good. Bike for Good are a Glasgow based charity and social enterprise that started up in 2010.*



*Every week a Bike for Good mechanic from their Skills & Development team works with a small group of pupils on developing their basic bike assessment & bike maintenance skills.*



*Over this time several pupils have repaired their own or staff member bikes with support from one of the Bike for Good mechanics. One of our group, Reuben Archibald, has since attended an eight week “Young Bike*

*Mechanic” training course and achieved his Cytech 1. Another pupil, Rudraksh Joshi, attended a one week “Build your own bike” course over the Easter holidays. He built up a bicycle whilst learning practical techniques for maintaining and repairing a bike. At the end of the course the bicycle was his to keep!*



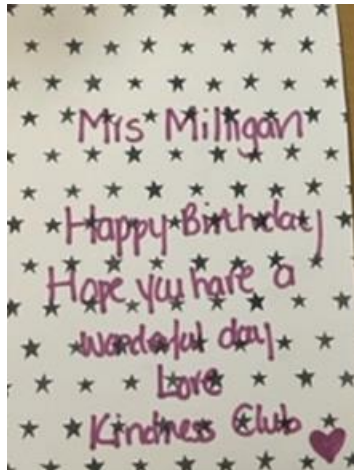
*We are hoping to put more pupils through these courses in coming months. This project has allowed our pupils to live the vision and mission of Bike for Good who believe ‘that cycling is the most effective and sustainable form of transport that results in a healthy and inclusive environment where everyone in the community benefits from more people cycling. This been a great partnership which the pupils have very much enjoyed, and so have I.’*



## S2 – S4 Friday 5 continued

### Kindness Club

Pupils in Miss Cuthbertson’s Kindness Club have been focusing on how they can give gifts and cards, but doing so in a sustainable way. One great idea was to ask staff to donate old birthday cards which they have been cutting and reusing the blank side of to give staff and pupils a special surprise on their birthdays and special occasions.



### Art Enterprise

Mrs Reilly's Art and Design Enterprise team have been gathering unwanted birthday and Christmas gifts and making pamper pots and beauty baskets to sell to raise funds for the school and various charities. These have gone down a storm with pupils raising well over £500



between last year and this year and more importantly saving the items from being binned! Marks and Spencer have also donated a number of baskets and pots for the group to use for the gifts. The class also made a number of Christmas decorations from decommissioned library books which were also destined for landfill. Well done team!

### West End Walks

Miss Lawie’s Friday 5 group have been enjoying walking every Friday afternoon around the West End. Pupils have walked around Kelvingrove Park, The Botanic Gardens and various routes



along the canal. Being involved in this group has enhanced the pupils’ awareness of the lovely areas around Glasgow that can be reached by foot instead of using transport for days out. Miss Lawie is not only encouraging a more sustainable ethos but also contributing to the pupils’ health and wellbeing.

## SCHOOL LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

### Eco Group

The Eco group is run by Miss Caldwell on Tuesdays at lunch and is regularly attended by S3-S6 pupils. The main focus of the group is to promote sustainability and biodiversity issues in the local area. Miss Caldwell would love pupils in S1& S2 to get involved and to come along to the meetings.

Recently the group have attended the Wild Hearts Youth Summit which is the world’s largest youth conference on sustainability. Pupils received workshops from Nestle, BNP



Parabis and Zurich on how these companies support sustainability and were sat mini challenges by them - including designing a TikTok to advertise a new soft drink that had 100% recycle packaging by Nestle.

The S3 girls in the Eco Group have also just submitted a pitch for the Micro-Tyco initiative. Micro-Tyco is a free leading global entrepreneurship competition which challenges young people to work together to develop innovative solutions to address



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This challenge asks young people to identify an issue in their local area, aligned with an SDG of their choosing. Students then collaborate in teams to develop their solution. Our pupils are awaiting the results to see if they reach the final! Good luck.



## Geography

In Geography pupils are experiencing a new S2 course on Sustainable Cities. This allows our young people the opportunity to explore sustainability within a local context and look further afield to what other countries are doing to be more sustainable, including countries such as Denmark, Japan and Australia. The new course is inspiring pupils to become more sustainable and care for their own surroundings.



## RMPS

In RMPS pupils in S2 have been studying a unit on Climate Justice. This unit focuses on what problems the climate emergency causes and then how some people and groups try to solve it. We look



specifically at how Goal 13 impacts on other global goals like Goal 10 Reduced Inequalities. Pupils learn about environmental, gender and health inequalities caused by climate the emergency.

## Modern Studies

S3 Modern Studies pupils were involved in an excursion to Kelvingrove Park as part of their Crime and Law topic. Pupils investigated vandalism, fly tipping and littering in the park and discussed how this affects our environment.



Pupils then discussed ideas and initiatives that could reduce these types of crimes and make

our community more sustainable.

## Spanish

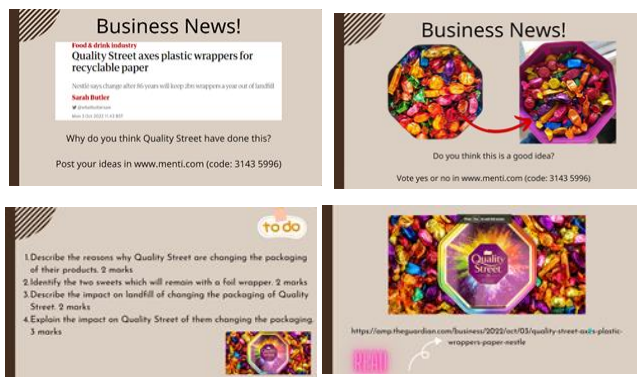
S3 pupils are currently exploring the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals [SDG] in Spanish. Pupils are addressing global issues such as the environment and fair trade through Latin American cinema. The unit of work will conclude with a film-making competition addressing the SDGs in partnership with the Scottish European Educational Trust.



# Across our Departments

## Business Education

S3 pupils in Business Education have been learning how large multi-national organisations have been changing their practices to become more sustainable. Here is a TASTE of one of the lessons in this topic that the pupils had to CHEW over!



## Art

S5 Art student Ella Sharp has been working on her Higher Folio that links to both Learning for Sustainability and the UNCRC, Article 2. Ella is a keen runner and she has created a dress that she has called the 'Joanie'. On her Instagram Ella explains that this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women being allowed to participate in the Olympic Marathon and her dress is named after the first women to win gold in this race, Joan Benoit.



Ella has created the dress from material donated by her local running group. The bodice of the dress is made from foil blankets cut into the shape of silver and gold medals. The skirt has been created from race numbers and jewelry has been cleverly crafted from safety pins.



Ella's creation has been entered into Junk Kouture, a fashion competition challenging schools to design, upcycle and create high-end sustainable fashion from recycled junk. Ella has made it through to the final 30 from across the UK and we wish her luck as she progresses through the competition.

## Wider Achievement



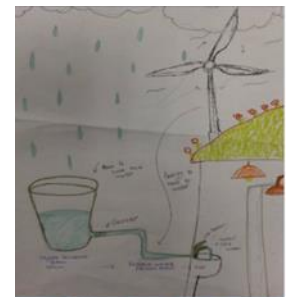
Miss Caldwell's Wider Achievement group, 'Fuel Change' have been doing outstanding work this year through the Powering Futures Programme.

Miss Caldwell provided this overview of what has been happening and the successes of the pupils.



*"Powering Futures is a Level 6 qualification which I have been delivering for the first time this year. This is a qualification where pupils are pitched a sustainability challenge that real-life businesses are trying to solve, and asking teams to come up with a solution to the problem and pitch them back to a panel of judges."*

*This year's challenges included: "How might we use new ideas and technology to make our water use more efficient in our homes and local communities, without sacrificing our comforts?", What solutions could help a football or rugby club to get to net zero?, How might we make the everyday trips in your local community more eco-friendly, without making them harder or less enjoyable? and What business would you set up to help schools to get to net zero?"*



*Our pupils came up with some incredible solutions including... putting solar panels on the roof of stadiums, creating a plastic recycling vending machine in school that you could exchange for school supplies or lunch money, turning lampposts into charging facilities for electric vehicles and setting up wind turbines in houses to power sensor taps."*





**Well done to all staff and pupils at Hillhead High  
in gaining the Rights Respecting Schools  
Silver Award on the  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**



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