

## **Shawlands Academy**

### **Family and School Partnership: Head Teacher's Report**

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Thank you to Dr Elaine Hunter, who has been chair of our Parent Carer Teacher Council, now Family and School Partnership, this session. Thank you also to Ivonne Hughes, who has been secretary. We appreciate the time you have given to support our partnership working.

Please find attached an update of all the work that has been happening within our school community since our last meeting.

**Primary Transition** In May, we had two wonderful days with almost 280 young people who will be joining our S1 in August 2023. Their feedback is really positive with them highlighting their lunches, our staff and their buddies as things they particularly enjoyed. We look forward to welcoming them back to Shawlands Academy on the 20<sup>th</sup> June for another full day visit.

**Rugby transition event** - This Thursday afternoon with all associated primaries involved new S1 pupils will be getting a taster of the rugby programme on offer here at Shawlands Academy. Our senior rugby leaders will be leading activities in supported by our coaches.

**Induction days** - Senior induction days have taken place focusing on our school values, pupil leadership, community and House identity. We have spoken to our young people to invite applications for our School Captaincy Team, which we will appoint prior to the term ending in June.

**Tree of Knowledge** - Will be working with senior pupils in their House groups this Tuesday to Thursday as part of their induction programme.

**Duke of Edinburgh** - a number of S3 Bronze groups recently put their after-school training to the test with day hikes up to Mugdock Park. Pupils, in groups of 4 - 7, managed to navigate their route from Milnagavie train station up to Carbeth Loch and back down via Mugdock Woods. All in all, groups covered between 15km - 17km, while carrying two fully sized packs. All groups were excellent ambassadors of Shawlands Academy, with one group receiving praise from the members of the public on the train journey home for their behaviour and politeness.

New S5 Silver walking group will be out for their practice expedition this weekend to the Arrochar alps.

**Excursion to Bannockburn** - On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, 34 first year pupils attended a curricular related trip to the Bannockburn Visitor Centre, near Stirling. During the visit, pupils had the opportunity to learn about the events that led to the Battle of Bannockburn (1314), find out what it was like to take part in Medieval combat using 3-D interactive video technology, visit the site of the battle, handle some of the weapons and wear some of the armour used at the time.

In a post-trip pupil evaluation, most said that they really enjoyed the trip, felt that it deepened their knowledge of the conflict and said that they would recommend it to their peers.

### **Pupils from Shawlands Academy were crowned Young Reporters for the Environment.**

They won the environmental journalism programme, by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful, with a written article about litter in the River Clyde. The Shawlands Sea Saviours, a group of 5 pupils, became champions of the 15 to 18-years-old category with Tackling Litter in the River Clyde. Link to the article in the Evening Times

<https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/scottish-news/23566282.glasgow-students-win-environmental-writing-competition/>

**Debating Success** - Two S2 pupils are through to the final of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service public speaking competition next week. The topic is “The most pressing equality issue in Scotland today is.....; to address it I would.....” They have been working hard on their speeches and thinking about questions they may be asked.

This is after winning the Glasgow final and the National semi-final. This year’s competition has involved 178 pupils - 89 Teams - from 57 schools across Scotland and Shawlands are now in the top 3 to battle it out in the final in Parliament House, Edinburgh.

**Social Enterprise Award** - a small group of new S4 Fashion pupils will be going through to Edinburgh to accept an award and set up a marketplace stall for the FIDGETZ marble maze social enterprise. The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Jenny Gilruth MSP, is the VIP guest this year and will be attending the marketplace ahead of the ceremony.

**Trades House of Glasgow School Craft Competition 2023** – a number of our S3 – S6 pupils have been recognised for their work in Woodwork, Metalwork, Graphic Communication and Practical Craft Skills. We are very proud of their achievements and are delighted that they have been recognised in this way.

Our **Drama club**, led by Miss Travers in Drama, put on a show last Thursday. They were accompanied by a group of musicians, led by Miss Varas (in Music). It was a great production which showed the talent of our young people really well. There is also a **Music summer concert** on 15<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm in the Assembly Hall. Please come along if you can.

**School uniform** - If you have any items of uniform that could be recycled, please look them out. They can be brought into school week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June. Further details will be shared.

**Family Workshops** - We are holding an **information evening** for all parents and carers on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm to give more information about what life in Shawlands Academy is like, including support and wider achievement. We will be holding year group specific sessions in the new school year but this is an opportunity for you to come along to our school, regardless of your child’s age and stage. There will also be an opportunity to have a tour of our school.

**STEM event:** please come along to our school any time between 10am and 12pm on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June to find out more about the learning that is taking place in Science and Technologies. Our young people will be on hand to demonstrate their learning and answer any questions you may have. We hope you will be able to come along.

Our **Financial Support Worker**, Anne Marie McGill, is also available between 9.30am and 11am on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> June to help families with Parent Pay, Free School Meals and Clothing Grants and Benefits. Please drop into the school anytime during these times if you would like to speak to her.

**Supporting our local community:** One of our S3 pupils has organised a day of fundraising for Cystic Fibrosis on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> June. On this day, pupils can wear yellow or purple (or their house colour) to show their support. We will be collecting money, but only if you are able to donate. We will post more information on Teams and pupils will be shown a short presentation in class to raise awareness of the condition.

**Celebrating our young people:** On Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, we will be celebrating all the different cultures that help to make our Shawlands Academy community so vibrant. Your child can come to school in their national dress, if they wish to do so. We will also be holding different events throughout the day.

Mon	05-Jun	Timetable change S5 Induction Family School Partnership from 5.30pm
Fri	09-Jun	Fundraising Day for Cystic Fibrosis
Sat	10-Jun	STEM Event 20am – 12pm
Wed	14-Jun	Culture Day
Thu	15-Jun	Summer concert 5pm
Mon	19-Jun	Learning in Shawlands Academy 6.30pm
Tue	20-Jun	S1 Transition Day
Fri	23-Jun	Schools close 1.00pm
Summer holiday		

*I hope that you and your families have a lovely time over the forthcoming summer break (when it arrives).*

*Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you next session.*

*Pauline Carr,*

*Head Teacher*