

Since our last meeting in September, we have continued to build as many opportunities as we can for our students.

**Staff appointments:**

- Mr Gerry Lennon has been appointed as permanent DHT. Thank you to Stephanie Summers who was part of our panel for both the long and short leet interviews. He will take up post on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- Scott Muir has been appointed to the teaching post within our Support for Learning Department (following necessary recruitment checks).
- Welcome back to Georgina Sheppard (in Maths) who has returned from Maternity Leave.

**Pupil Leadership:**

With the help of Kate Anstey (representing our Family School Partnership), students and staff, we appointed our School Captains Team – AJ, Niamh, Sanjid and Elena. I am told the standard of interviews was high and I that Kate agrees with that. Hopefully you will get the chance to meet our Captains in person in the not too distant future. Thank you, again, Kate, for your help with this.

We will also be appointing House Captains for each House so they can work directly with students in their Houses. I met with our School Captains today to talk about plans for Student Voice across the school, which I know is something that we discussed too. Further leadership opportunities will be available to all students – across all year groups. We are aiming to commence our Shawlands Student Voice Forum following the October break. More to follow in next month's update!

**Equalities:**

Part of our School Improvement Plan is furthering our work in Equalities. We will be asking all young people and staff for their views to help shape this plan. Ms Yvette Ludvigsen, one of our EAL members of staff, is our PT Equalities and will be helping to lead work in this area.

Glasgow City Council have approved a research team from Newcastle University who are continuing their study on Muslim young people's political participation in Scotland. This is an excellent opportunity for our senior phase students to be able to contribute to research, have their voices heard and hopefully shape future policy.

**Partnership working with families:**

In response to our Parental Survey, which we shared in June 2023, we held information sessions for parents and carers of S1 – S6. These were very well attended: we would like to extend our thanks to those families who did attend. We are looking to build family involvement more and will be communicating with families to consider how best to do this. Two key areas of focus will be homework (and home learning) and supporting mental health and wellbeing. We welcome any suggestions you have about the how we proceed with this work. More to follow.

**Outdoor learning and trips:**

- Duke of Edinburgh is beginning to get up and running again. The Glasgow DofE team are supporting us with practice expeditions. Our DofE Gold Award pupils are embarking on their practice expedition this week.
- All our S1 young people are heading to Auchengillan in their house groups this week. They will focus on team building and outdoor skills.
- There are also other trips taking place, such as S4 Drama trip to see Tally's Blood, S5/6 Fashion and Textiles went to Apparel Exchange, AH English to the Mitchell Library and Geography field trips will take place in October / November to support the assignment part of their curriculum.

**Success story:**

- Four of our S2 girls took part in the AMEY Challenge Cup on 20th sept. The event consisted of a bridge building challenge, where the pupils - up against other Glasgow secondary schools - were given a bridge collapse scenario. The pupils had to design a new bridge within budget, timeframe and following a 'client' brief. The pupils then had to present their ideas to a panel of judges. The pupils worked extremely hard, and designed a bridge that was not only the most structurally sound, but was also the most cost effective and environmentally friendly. Well done girls!

**Calendar dates – advance notice:**

- Inservice Day – 13<sup>th</sup> October; 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October week holiday
- Awards' Ceremony – 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- P6/7 Curricular Information Evening – wb 6<sup>th</sup> November
- S5/6 Parents and Carers Feedback meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> November.
- S4-S6 Careers' Event – November

Thank you for your continued support. I hope that you and your family have a wonderful October break when it comes.

Pauline Carr

Head Teacher

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023