

It seems very late to be wishing you a 'Happy New Year' but since this is the first time we have met in 2024, this is the first opportunity I have had. I hope that it is a happy, healthy and positive year for you and your families.

Inspection – one year on:

This time last year, Education Scotland had not long left Shawlands Academy. During this time, we have continued to make progress on the following key areas:

- Continue to raise attainment at all stages across the school.
- Continue to embed recently developed approaches to checking how well young people progress and attain across the school.
- Continue to develop the school's new learning and teaching framework to help improve the consistency of all learners' experiences at all stages.

A letter will be sent to all parents and carers giving more information about this.

Raising Attainment – Senior Phase:

Our PT Raising Attainment and DHT who oversees the Senior Phase are in the process of finalising target groups. We are planning different supports during the school day (during core time) to help young people in particular areas they may be struggling. Supported study will also run but again will have more of a targeted focus. These sessions will start after the February break. They have also revised the information for families regarding 'Supporting your child through SQA qualifications' which will be shared later this week.

Options:

Timetable planning for next session is underway.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the information session for young people moving from S3 into S4. Their options are now underway.

There will be a session for parents and carers of S4 and S5 next Thursday, 15th February at 6pm. We will send out more direct information to relevant families. We will also hold a session on Teams for families of S2 young people to help them with personalisation and choice as they move into S3. This will take place on the 21st February.

All information with regards to options can be found on your child's year group team (and will be uploaded after information sessions). If you are looking to support your child further with options and / or career planning, My World of Work offers some really helpful advice and signposts - <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents-carers>

Wellbeing and Inclusion – Equalities work:

As part of our School Improvement Plan, we have now registered for our Rights Respecting School Award and are currently gathering evidence for Bronze, so that we can move on to Silver very soon.

As part of this work, we have re-established our Equalities working group – which has a branch for staff and young people. The focus of their work builds on questionnaire responses from young people and staff and will begin with workshop style lesson(s) on the origins and impact of

discriminatory language for young people in S1 – S3. Then, the main areas of focus will continue to be Anti-Racist education and Disability Awareness.

School leavers 2024:

- We are in the process of ordering Leavers' Hoodies for S5/6 young people who plan to leave.
- We will also be celebrating with them at their Graduation on the 19th April, followed by a staff v pupils football match!
- This year's Prom takes place on Thursday 30th May in Village Hotel Glasgow. Plans are well underway for this. If anyone has formal wear that they could donate, please contact Mrs Makridis.

PEF update:

We have received approval for two additional PT PEF (temporary) posts: PT Family Learning and PT Wider Achievement (Senior Phase). I have asked staff for expressions of interest and look forward to the impact these posts will have. The PT Family Learning post will help to support our work with families through more focus groups, Family Learning events and following up with those who have offered to support our school community in different ways.

We have also redefined some of the substantive PT posts we have to now include PT Pupil Voice and PT Wider Achievement (Broad General Education).

DHT, Mr Hendrie, is also developing a more streamlined approach to evaluating the impact of PEF interventions. He would be happy to come along to share the work that he is undertaking.

Staffing:

We continue to have staff absence in English and Science (Chemistry) in particular. We are liaising with the authority regarding staff cover and have put whatever 'in house' contingencies we can to cover classes with subject specialists.

We currently have vacancies for Technical Education and Home Economics. Those adverts closed yesterday so we will be interviewing for these posts in the near future.

Wider achievement and Successes

Trips and excursions:

- Recently some of our young people have attended the following trips/ excursions: tour of a coffee business(s5/6), GFT Institutional Racism Movie, BAE Systems Shipbuilding, Willow Tea Rooms Trust, Volunteering Salvation army, a visit to the Scottish Parliament. These are as well as our sporting trips and competition entries.
- Our Creative and Aesthetic Faculty also have pupils going along to GCC Clarinet Masterclass, GCC Big Band Concert, RCS Concert for schools.
- We are also exploring options for end of session trips for year groups – more to follow on this.

Duke of Edinburgh Award:

- Mrs Makridis, Acting DHT, is now overseeing our Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme.
- There is a meeting for current S4 bronze Thursday after school to discuss online aspects of the course.

- We are currently gathering interest from S3 young people and there will be a parental meeting for parents of the new S3 intake and the Glasgow DofE representative will attend this meeting.
- An email will be sent to all parents who expressed an interest in helping out this week.
- We have also contacted all DofE providers approved by Glasgow City Council and have arranged to meet with them. Following these meetings, dates for all remaining expeditions will be booked in soon and information will be communicated to parents and carers well in advance.

Public Speaking success:

- One of our S5 young people won the final of the prestigious Glasgow Speakers' Competition which took place in the debating chamber of the City Chambers. We are very proud of this achievement.

First Lego League:

- In January, our school Lego team participated in the Ayrshire regional event for the First Lego League.
- It involves an all-day event which comprises several different disciplines – these are covered by 5 different trophies which can be won. Robot Design, Core Values, Innovation Award and Robot Performance followed by the overall winner.
- The pupils have been working on the missions for their Robot performance since November, which we won. The Innovation project is about sharing your love of STEAM activities and to showcase this they have been running a lunchtime club for S1 pupils on a Tuesday lunchtime and they will be eligible next year to join the after-school club and compete going forward. We also give them the opportunity to attempt different STEAM activities such as using Spheros to accomplish different programming tasks and to pilot a drone round an obstacle course in the classroom.
- Due to the success in the regional event we have been invited to attend the National final in April in Harrogate – this is only open to the winner of each regional event and will be the largest Lego competition in the country. Exciting times ahead, no doubt!

Sports

- We have football teams for different age groups for boys and we have a recently formed S2 girls' team. The S2 boys are on track to win their league section and have also won 3 rounds of the Scottish Cup. This is having a really positive impact on the young people involved.
- Our young people are also competing in various rugby competitions and we also have a group of young people trained as Rugby Activator Coaches. Part of their work is to support our associate Primary Schools. We are looking forward to welcoming P7s from each school in March.
- The senior netball team have a match tomorrow. If they win they will be into the Quarter finals of the Glasgow Cup. Best of luck to them.

Thank you for your time tonight and for your continued support.

Pauline Carr

Head Teacher

5th February 2024

Calendar – key dates:

12/02/24	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	INSERVICE 4	S4/5 Options – information session 6pm	S4/5 Options begin
19/02/24			S2 Pers & Choice – information session on Teams		
26/02/24					
04/03/24	S2 P&C begin				
11/03/24				S1 Parents' Meeting	All options completed