



CHS Family Newsletter



Session 2020-21
Term 2 (December 2020)



Integrity - Compassion - Ambition - Respect - Equity



I am delighted to begin this newsletter by saying a huge thank you to each and every one of you for your patience and understanding throughout this term. Your support, energy and positivity has ensured a successful session so far under very unusual circumstances. The way in which our young people, staff and families continue to work is truly inspiring and I feel even more proud and privileged to be the Head Teacher of this great school community.

Towards the end of each term, we all look forward to publishing our Newsletter to mark and celebrate the success of many across our community (in-school and out-with) and also to provide other helpful information – welcome to our December edition.

CHS Christmas Card 2020

It was our privilege to announce the winner of this year's CHS Christmas Card competition. Following much deliberation from an experienced panel, we were able to pick a 3rd place, 2nd place and winner from a vast array of wonderful entries.

This year, with the theme 'Merry Christmas – Bright Baubles' the winner was Lauren Shields, 1N1. Congratulations Lauren, your card has now been copied, sent and received by literally over 100 people including all of our school partners, friends and colleagues. Lauren also received a £25 gift card for her efforts.

In a close 2nd place was Annie Young, 1N6 who received a £15 gift Voucher for her 'Let it Snow – Winter Cabin' entry. Well done Annie.

In 3rd place, winning a box of sweeties, was Katie Burns, 1N1 with Her 'Monochrome Baubles' entry.

Well done everyone for your efforts – all entries are on the notice board just outside Café Viresco.



Members of Scottish Youth Parliament

Huge congratulations to Jodi Gemmell (S5) and Abi Lennon (S5) who have recently been elected as Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. We are incredibly proud to have not one but two members of the MSYP coming from Chryston High School and we know that both girls will represent their constituencies so well – well done Jodi and Abi and good luck from all at CHS.



More 'Ministerial News'

Beth Wallace (S6) was contacted through Young Scot to participate in a meeting with John Swinney, Deputy First Minister for Scotland (DFM). During the meeting, they discussed exam and assessment arrangements for 2021. The mental health of young people was also a major topic for discussion during the meeting. The DFM used the meeting as a consultation opportunity for young people and we are delighted that Beth was involved, representing herself, her family and CHS incredibly well. Well done Beth.



34 Unconditional University Offers & Counting...

Huge congratulations to our current S6 pupils who have already successfully received unconditional offers for University next year.

An unbelievable 34 pupils have already received unconditional offers (some of whom are in the picture to the right). We realise that many S6 are still awaiting confirmation – the UCAS deadline is early – mid January. We are proud of each and every one of you, another fine example of how resilient our young people are having achieved so well during such challenging circumstances this year.



Soccer Success

Huge congratulations to Kyle Caldwell (2N1) who has recently signed for Hamilton Academicals FC. Kyle will don the red and white of the 'Accies' next season as he looks forward to representing their Under 15s team. Good luck Kyle – great news!



2020 CHS Christmas Concert

Unfortunately, we could not welcome everyone into the Auchengeich Hall this Christmas to celebrate our musical talents due to restrictions this year but that did not stop the Performing Arts team and Miss Gibson from arranging an outstanding Christmas Concert which was aired on our You Tube channel on Friday evening (18th December). Over an hour of fantastic entertainment was provided and it certainly did inject a much needed boost of Christmas spirit – thanks to everyone who participated, contributed and coordinated.

If you didn't catch it, click the link below to view the concert.

<https://twitter.com/ChrystonhighPa/status/1340008996854329345>

CHS Christmas Reflection

Last Friday, we also celebrated our 2020 Christmas Reflection Assembly. We heard a presentation about compassion and specifically looking after others with links to our recent work with a local foodbank. We also heard from Mark Malcolm our school chaplain and we were entertained, as always, by a number of very talented musicians. The Christmas Reflection video can be viewed from our school website, we would love it if you have a look as we feel it celebrates our school values so well.

ICT Superstars

During lockdown our ICT pupils were working on developing their digital skills through iDEA courses. We want to say a huge well done to Joey Sherry, Angus Ritchie, Logan MacDonald and Hannah Malcolm who have become the first pupils at Chryston High School to achieve their Bronze iDEA Award.

iDEA (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) is the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This international programme allows pupils to win career-enhancing badges and helps our pupils to develop digital, enterprise and employability skills.

We are so proud of their hard work and can't wait to support them in achieving their silver award!



St Andrew's Hospice Fundraising

Between the 7th and 11th of December our school took part in raising money for St Andrew's Hospice. Annabelle Cochrane, on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee from our school Parliament, brought the idea to the Parliament, which was unanimously passed. Over the course of the week pupils were given the opportunity to purchase a range of festive items in the lead up to our Christmas extravaganza at the end of the week. This weeklong event allowed pupils the chance to understand the vital work carried out by St Andrew's Hospice and why we were raising money to support them. On Friday 11th, pupils and staff were able to wear any festive clothing/accessories along with their own clothes, as well as purchase raffle tickets for a range of prizes and purchase some delicious treats from our bake sale.

The week was a huge success with everyone embracing the festive spirit. A special appearance was made by Santa and his helpful elf, who selected our raffle prizes winners, with prizes being won by both pupils and staff across the school. Overall, we managed to raise over £1500 for St Andrew's Hospice. This is a huge achievement for our school, which everyone should be proud of. This work has helped establish a link with the hospice, who we hope to work with in the future.



Foodbank Collection

Throughout the month of November our school was involved in a foodbank collection for our local foodbank in Moodiesburn. The collection was organised by Higher Modern Studies pupils, along with our school captains. The motivation for the collection was to give back to those in need in our local community as we know many have been greatly impacted by COVID-19. Each pupil was asked, if possible, to donate one item towards the foodbank collection. The response from our school community was incredible, with 2 storage cupboards in humanities being filled with donations. Before the items were collected, our senior pupils organised the items into different categories and into date order to understand what is involved when items arrive at the foodbank. The foodbank donation was collected by volunteers of Moodiesburn foodbank on Monday 7th December. During this time, pupils and staff were made aware of how much of a difference the donation would make to the local community and how important supporting local foodbanks is. The foodbank volunteers were extremely thankful to everyone who was involved.

Hot Chocolate Fridays

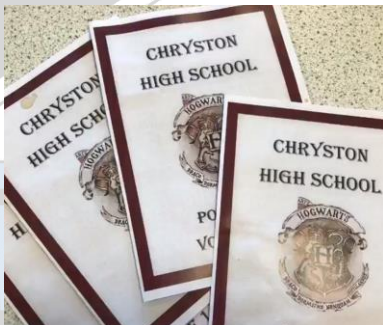
From October this year we have been hosting a Hot Chocolate Friday event at the end of each month to celebrate pupils success particularly in the way that they have embodied our school values. Each faculty nominates a pupil, between S1-S6, they believe has demonstrated any of our school's core values. Pupils selected attend the conference room before lunch on the chosen Friday, where they are each given a Hot Chocolate and a certificate highlighting that they have been recognised for demonstrating the schools core values. The feedback from pupils, who have attended has been extremely insightful, with pupils highlighting their appreciation at being recognised in relation to school values rather than based solely on academic achievement.



Science News

We have had busy few months in the science dept.

At Halloween, S1 enjoyed a Harry Potter Potions class with lots of giant's sweat, witches spit, goblin snot, blood of frog, bat's blood, bones of newt to create new potions. In Higher Human Biology we welcomed Lucienne McCallum from Timstar to present a workshop on DNA Fingerprinting.



Rights Respecting Schools



Article 19



(protection from violence, abuse and neglect)

Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

This year – as part of our school improvement plan, we will become a Silver Rights Respecting School

Our drive towards achieving silver will be based on our 'I C A R E' school values:

INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
AMBITION
RESPECT
EQUITY

CHS Annual Awards Ceremony (Digital)

On Wednesday 16th December at 7.30pm we were delighted to host (online) our annual awards ceremony. It was wonderful to celebrate the outstanding successes of so many young people across our school community and also to be entertained on the evening by so many talented musicians. We thank the Awards Ceremony committee for their creativity and perseverance in putting it all together and particularly a huge thanks to Mr. Kane. The hours that had gone into producing that (mostly in staff personal time) again shows their commitment to make that happen in a way that was very different to previous years – thank you everyone and well done to all our winners. Special congratulations to Rachel Paton (S6) who has been nominated as our CHS Dux for 2020 and her name (as you can see from the picture below) will be there to see for many years to come.



Hello, Welcome & Goodbye

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell (for a while to Mr. Cooper, our DHT PEF & S3 Year Head). Mr. Cooper was successful at interview last week and is now NLC Digital Inclusion Lead in a 23 month (fixed term/secondment post). Although we will all miss Mr. Cooper hugely, we wish him good luck in his new role.

We also give a very warm CHS welcome to Mr. Jack Coventry who joins our school team in January as our newly appointed ICT Technician. We wish him every success in his new post.

We are also hoping to have an Accounts and Finance Administrator appointed and joining the CHS staff team in the near future – interviews are due to take place in January 2021.

Staff
Update

Other News/Updates

Parents Evenings – due to the circumstances Parent Consultation Evenings are not permitted to take place this session. With this in mind, these will be replaced by written reports. Therefore, all young people will receive two tracking reports as previously communicated and one additional written report by the end of this session.

Dates for these written reports are as follows:

S1	3 rd June	2021
S2	11 th March	2021
S3	13 th May	2021
S4	1 st April	2021
S5/6	18 th February	2021

Our **CHS 2020-21 Family Calendar** has been amended once again to acknowledge some recent changes. The most up to date calendar is attached to the email in which this newsletter was attached to for your information can also be viewed on the school website. Many events remain TBC and we will continue to communicate with you as appropriate. A copy of the **2020-21 School Improvement Plan** can also be found on the school website for your information.

Scottish Government has recently provided announcements regarding initial arrangements for January 2021 and we continue to be in touch after the holidays to support everyone as fully as possible to ensure that we work towards yet another positive set of outcomes for all young people by the end of this session.

Other News/Updates (continued)

Following SG announcements please remember the following:

6 th January 2021	School staff return
6 th January 2021	Identified young people return (as communicated with directly)
11 th January 2021	On-line/digital learning for all (exceptions as above)
18 th January 2021	Projected that all young people return to school

Please continue to stay up to date with developments as announced by Scottish Government as the dates above may be subject to change. We will continue to communicate with you accordingly. Thank you, as always for your patience, understanding and support.

CHS Parent Council

Attached to the email in which this newsletter has been sent is a copy of a flyer from our Parent Council. Please be sure to have a read through and contact the school (or our Parent Council direct) if you would like any further information or if you could like to contribute.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Chryston High School – thank you for your ongoing support, we wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and a positive and prosperous new year.

