



GREENFAULDS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2015

GREENFAULDS HIGH
SCHOOL

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

As I write the update of news for this term, it's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2015! We are now on the countdown to Christmas and are reaching the end of a very busy time in school. Winter Market, Charity Events, Parents' Evenings, Christmas Ceilidhs, School Concert, School Pantomine etc has meant a very busy and varied term.....and all at the same time ensuring that the focus on learning and teaching remains strong.



I hope that the articles in this newsletter give a flavour of life in Greenfaulds High. With very best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable festive break and a positive start to 2016.

Linda Park
Head Teacher



WINTER MARKET 2015

Greenfaulds first venture at hosting a winter market, in aid of school funds, turned out to be a very successful evening! With a mix of stallholders from both within the school and the wider community, the event was very well attended by parents and friends of the school. The festive atmosphere added to the enjoyment of the evening and gave visitors the opportunity to start their Christmas shopping. The event itself raised approximately £1200 for school funds and in addition, the 'Big One' Raffle and the Tombola stall - both of which were organised by the Parent Council - raised the sum of approx. £2100 and £460 respectively!

A huge thank you is due to not only the organising committee, but to all staff, pupils and parents but also to the sponsors of the prizes in the raffle. The first prize of the Ipad was sponsored by Morrison Construction, the company responsible for our new build. Pictured above is the presentation of the Ipad by Jim Johnstone, Community Skills Manager, Morrison Construction. We look forward to repeating this venture again next year in our lovely new school!





CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

The Christmas concert took place on Wednesday 9 December, and despite the horrendous rain and high winds, was attended by over 300 people. A varied and entertaining evening was provided from the range of young people from the music department and all are to be commended for their talent and commitment. We were also fortunate to have the young people from our cluster primary schools sing in the primary choir. A huge thank you must be extended to the Music department and peripatetic instructors for the organisation which went into the evening.

CHRISTMAS CEILIDHS

The Christmas Ceilidhs take place on Wednesday 16 December (Juniors) and Thursday 17 December (Senior) and ticket sales are already underway. The events promise to be as successful as previous years, with dance practice a key feature of core PE during the months of November and December.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAY FOR CHARITY

Monday 21 December has been set aside for a variety of house activities which, in addition to providing the opportunity for pupils to gather much coveted house points, will allow the school to support a number of charities. Events organised for the day include a Christmas Jumper competition, Treasure Hunt, Custard Pie the teacher and many more. It is hoped that as many pupils as possible will take part in this event.



NEW BUILD PROGRESS

The landscape has changed quite significantly since work on the new build began, and at this point in time, progress is apace with an entry date for October 2016. Photographs showing the building development can be found by following the link to 'New Build' on the front page of the school website.

ADVERSE WEATHER

In some previous years, December/January has also been a time when winter weather conditions have on occasion impacted adversely on school provision. Should heavy snow return this winter and pupils be prevented from attending it will remain possible for pupils and parents to access appropriate educational materials via our website. Located on the left-hand side of our Home Page, clicking on the 'Remote Learning' button will take pupils to a range of suggestions/web links that help learning to continue in all the main subject areas. The website would also be our principal means of alerting parents to school re-opening arrangements in the event that extreme weather led to the temporary closure of the building. However, hopefully this will not be necessary.

PRELIMS

This session, prelims for all stages of national exams will begin on Tuesday 12 January. Pupils in S4, S5 and S6 have already been issued with their exam timetables and can use this to aid their study planning. Departments are already offering a range of supported study classes and we would encourage pupils to make the best opportunity of these. A copy of the prelim exam timetable can be found on the school website.



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

As part of our continued commemoration of the centenary of World War One, the History Department ran three workshops for second year History students during November. These workshops, hosted by Bob Holsman (who worked with Historic Scotland for 14 years) took pupils through the journey in 1914 from the initial excitement to enlist to the horrors of trench warfare. Mr. Holsman was impressed and commented on the enthusiasm, positive behaviour and thoughtful questions posted by students. Similarly pupils greatly enjoyed the experience and benefitted enormously from hearing his expertise.

On Wednesday 2nd of November the History Department took 60 S1 pupils to Edinburgh for the day. They had a great time learning about Mary Queen of Scots in Holyrood Palace followed by some fun in the Edinburgh Dungeons. Members of the public commented on the excellent behaviour of our young people. Well done to those involved!





AIMEE'S HAIR DONATION

On 5th December Aimee McGhee, who we are all very proud of here at Greenfaulds, had her hair chopped off in order to donate it to **The Little Princess Trust**. The charity provides real hair wigs to children who are losing their hair due to cancer and other illnesses. Aimee was inspired by the heart breaking story of Hannah Tarplee who sadly lost a short battle with cancer in June of 2005. The parents and friends of Hannah decided to create The Little Princess Trust so that as many children as possible who need help can benefit and receive a real hair wig, free of charge. Aimee has raised £462 so far and the donations are still coming in. Aimee says "It is not too late to donate; you can do so by going on the **just giving** website, type in "Aimee's Hair Donation", it is the first page that comes up. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far and to everyone who still wishes to donate." Aimee would also like to thank Scragg for cutting her hair. (picture attached with before, during and after shots)





GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

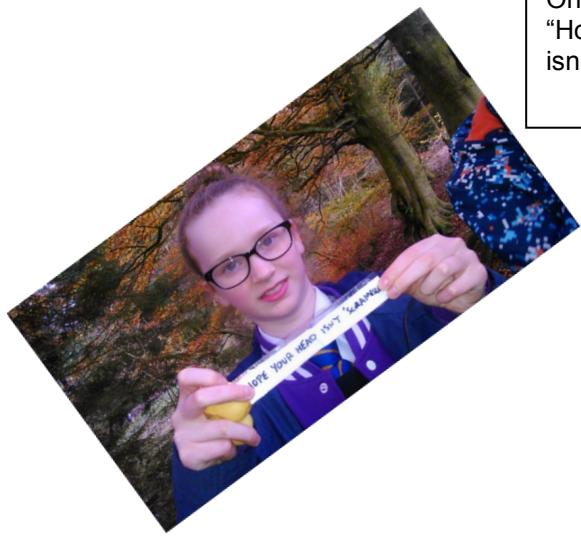
Geography Club

Some Geography Club members recently visited Palacerigg Country Park to do Geocaching which involved pupils following clues, using their map reading skills and GPS to locate 'treasure' hidden all around the park. Everyone had a great time in the lovely Autumn sunshine and pupils successfully found all of the geocaches, demonstrating their excellent map reading and problem solving

skills.



One of the 'clues':
"Hope your head
isn't scrambled."

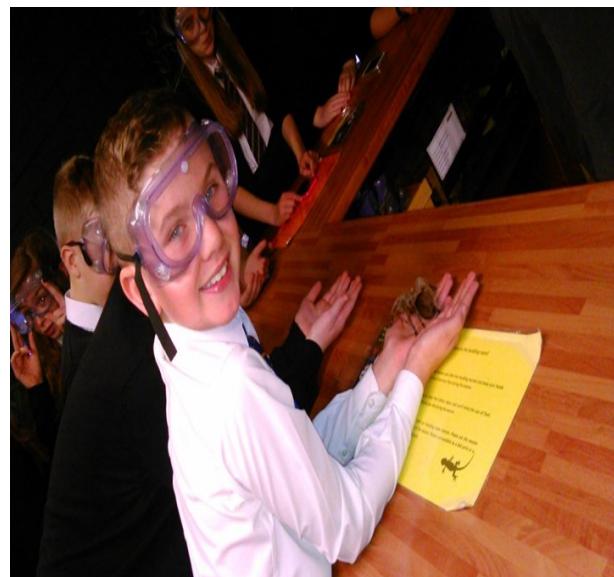




S2 GEOGRAPHY AMAZONIA VISIT

100 S2 pupils visited Amazonia to enhance their knowledge of life in the Rainforest. Pupils were given a guided tour by an expert with opportunities to ask questions about each of the creatures. Those who were brave enough also held some creatures, including a tarantula! Pupils also took part in an interactive game, creating a new record for it thanks to their enthusiasm! They also visited the bowling at M&D's to round off an excellent trip.

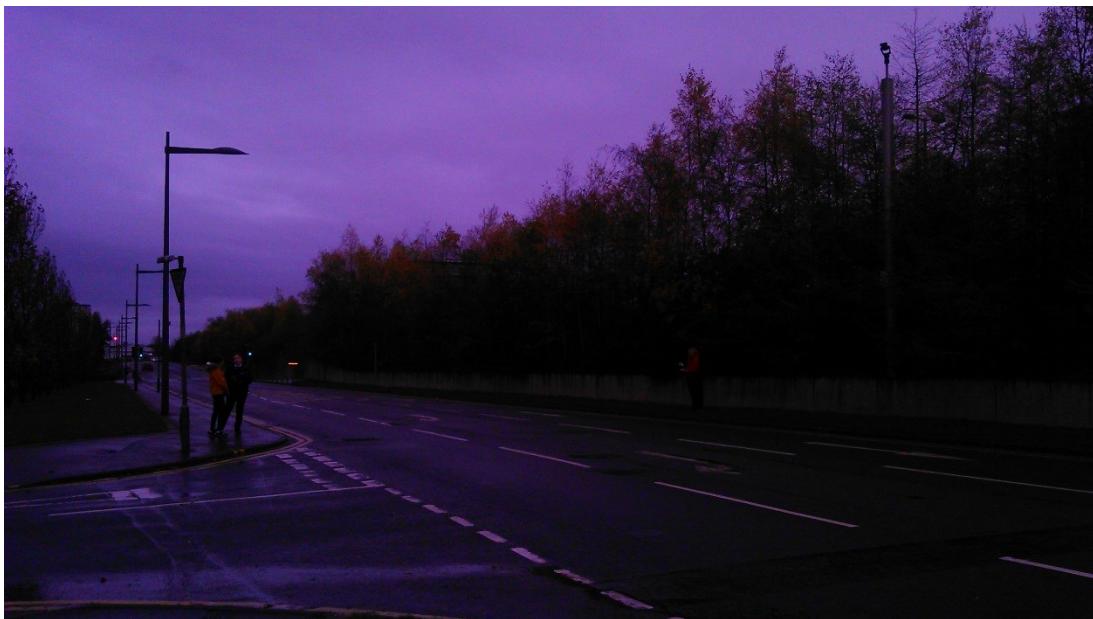






Higher Geography

Higher Geography pupils visited the Glasgow Harbour and the Gorbals to conduct primary research on the regeneration strategies in these areas. Pupils used a large variety of research techniques to collate detailed information to use in their Higher Assignment. They conducted questionnaires with local people, completed traffic surveys, an environmental quality index and took photographs for comparison purposes. This work has supplemented case study research done in class using the internet and books to learn about the history of housing and the environment in Glasgow and why the changes were necessary.



Higher Geography pupils conducting a traffic survey in Glasgow Harbour



HIGHER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Higher Environmental Science visited Tentsmuir Beach to conduct a transect comparing the flora and fauna on the sand dunes from the strand line of the sea to the climax vegetation at the edge of Tentsmuir Forest. They also recorded the weather conditions using an anemometer as you can see below.



Pupils have also conducted research in the school grounds to complement work done in class, including a soil survey, lichen identification and tree height.

S5/6 CLIMATE CHANGE LECTURE

Higher Environmental Science, Higher Geography and Advanced Higher Geography pupils attended a Christmas Lecture on Climate Change and Food Insecurity at Glasgow University on the afternoon of Thursday 10th December. Pupils were given an informative and interesting lecture by Physical Geographer Dr Hannah Mathers and Human Geographer Dr Cheryl McGeachan which will be useful for their studies as all courses learn about Climate Change.



ADVANCED HIGHER

Advanced Higher pupils embarked upon their annual excursion to Arran where they were immersed in Geography for the weekend. They conducted research on rivers, beach analysis and footpath erosion. They also visited some caves also did some hillwalking to identify physical features of the landscape.

NATIONAL 5 TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The S5/6 National 5 Travel and Tourism class visited Stirling on Monday 7th December. They used fieldwork techniques to enhance their knowledge of the Tourism industry, including conducting questionnaires with tourists and interviewing Tourist Information staff.

NATIONAL 4/5 GEOGRAPHY

S4 Geographers recently undertook fieldwork in two different areas of Greenfaulds. This gave pupils the opportunity to use a number of geographical skills in a real situation, an invaluable tool for their courses. Pupils will use this research as part of their Added Value unit.

WORLDWISE QUIZ TEAM

Two teams of Geography pupils will represent the school at a national Geography quiz organised by the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers in early 2016. Each team is composed of an S2, S3 and S4 pupil. This year's 12 topics include mapping, geography in the news and physical features. Both teams have started revising with Miss Morrow and Mrs MacDonald and a progress update will be included in the next newsletter.



GREENFAULDS GAELIC DRAMA GROUP

Greenfaulds Gaelic Drama Group are hosting an evening to celebrate their success over the last number of years. The group will showcae their acting, performance and film-making skills in Greenfaulds High School theatre on Thursday 14th January 2016 from 7pm onwards.

The group has achieved great success not only locally but nationally, winning a number of awards at the FllmG Awards and being nominated at the Scottish Gaelic Awards for a project that they were involved in.

Anybody with an interest in the Gaelic language or culture are warmly invited to attend the event.

For more information contact Donald Mackay at Greenfaulds High School on 01236794876.





Greenfaulds High School Parent Council Winter Raffle

Winners

IPAD Air Donated by Morrisons Construction G Salmon

Kindle Fire Donated by Iberdrola Construction J Coia

£100 cash Donated by a Parent B Kersse

Plus many more including Silk Cottage Voucher, Urban Retreat Voucher, Fake Bake Goodie Bag, Sugaring Vouchers, Prosecco and Vodka

Such was the generosity of our local community in donating such quality prizes we are able to run another raffle later next term. !!!

Special thanks to the following companies for their donations

Morrison Construction, Homeworld, Colicraft, Fresh Skin Care Centre, Fresh Cuts Hairdressers, Marika Kennedy, Iberdrola, Urban Retreat, Spur, Body Clinic, CMC, Jim Dickson Tyre & Exhausts, 13 Hair & Beauty, Silk Cottage, Optical Express, Fake Bake & Quiz Clothing.

Thanks for supporting GHS Parent Council Raise over £2000



All Proceeds to Greenfaulds High School