

Head Teacher Newsletter June 2017

I can't believe that we have almost completed our first year in our wonderful new building! The difference the environment has made to pupils and staff is amazing – we feel very privileged and proud to be part of the Greenfaulds community.

When pupils return in August the outdoor facilities and access routes will be complete and pupils will once again be able to enter the grounds from the gates coming in from Central Way, the bridge from Condorrat and at Athelstane Drive. A drop-off/pick-up turning circle for parents is available at the Athelstane Drive entrance to the school, although the main area for school buses, taxis and parental pick-up remains at the front entrance off of the A73.



It has been a very busy session for us and the SQA exam diet has just finished. Pupils will have to wait until 8 August for results to be published. I am sure the effort, drive and sheer hard work of pupils and staff will reap rewards for students. As part of the national drive in Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, our Positive Destinations – a measure of where pupils go when they leave school – remain consistently high compared to both North Lanarkshire and national statistics. The number of pupils leaving school to go into further and higher education, training or employment has continued to improve, and we must thank the Pupil Support team and our school careers advisor for the support offered to our young people to make sure that they find routes from school which match their interest levels and aptitude.

The last few weeks of term have been particularly busy, and some highlights are included in this newsletter. School news is now published every week as a blog on our school website to give visitors to the site an insight into life in a busy school!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils and staff a very relaxed and well-deserved summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in August!

Lynne Park

Head Teacher

Awards Ceremonies

The week beginning 12 June was a very busy week indeed within Greenfaulds:

- The S6 Graduation Ceremony was held on Tuesday 13 June, and for the first time was held in the evening. This gave us the opportunity to provide hospitality and invite parents and pupils to stay awhile and reminisce after the formal speeches and awards had finished
- The Senior Awards ceremony was held on Wednesday 14 June, with guest speaker Gerry McMurtrie from UNICEF, speaking about the work of the Rights Respecting Schools Charter, which Greenfaulds is currently working towards. Over 120 young people were presented with awards on the evening, ranging from recognition within individual subjects through to awards in citizenship and leadership
- Thursday 15 June saw the school host a Celebrating Success ceremony in the afternoon, recognising the wide range of wider achievement and individual success of young people within the Broad General Education
- Friday 16 June was the formal S1-S3 Awards Ceremony, where parents joined some 135 prizewinners as recognition of attainment and achievement within the range of subjects of the Broad General Education was recognised
- Also during the same week, we had the highlight of their school careers for our S6 – the Prom! Thursday 15 June saw over 180 pupils and staff enjoy a fabulous celebration in the Village Hotel, Glasgow and all credit to the S6 organising team for the smooth running of events!

Full details of Prizewinners can be found at the following links:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/ghshome/2017/06/20/news-senior-awards-2017/>

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/ghshome/2017/06/21/news-junior-awards-2017/>

School Trips

Many of our young people are currently enjoying experiences beyond the school gates in school trips during the month of June:

- ❖ Our USA Trip has 52 young people enjoying the sights, culture and political history of Washington and New York
- ❖ The Battlefields trip saw History brought to life in Belgium and France for 39 pupils
- ❖ The Watersports Trip in Barcelona currently has 42 young people enjoying the thrills of outdoor pursuits until Saturday 1 July

- ❖ The Operation Wallacea pupils continue their adventures in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands as they participate in learning more about protecting the environment.

Pupils Perform

June provided many opportunities for all types of talent to be showcased within Greenfaulds. The faculty of performing arts participated in their showcase tour around all six of our cluster primary schools to give pupils a flavour of the opportunities open to them when they move to high school.

The Dance Show on 6 June was a sellout performance for our talented and enthusiastic dancers to demonstrate their ability and show a wider audience why they consistently win the North Lanarkshire Schools Dance competition each year!

For the first time in the school's history, an evening of Jazz was hosted by the Parent Council, with singing and playing provided by our school Jazz Band, ably led by Mr Smyth. The evening didn't disappoint with a wealth of talent in a cabaret style setting. A definite repeat for next year's calendar!

The final week of term saw the recent frenzy of school show preparations pay off as pupils performed Hairspray the musical to sell out audiences for a 3-night run. The wealth of talent on display was humbling – singing; dancing; choreography; professionalism and enthusiasm second to none.

A huge thanks is due to all of the pupils and staff for delivering such a demanding repertoire in a busy month. We very much look forward to the successes being repeated next session.

New Mosaics to decorate the entrance

2017 is the year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and the Art and Design Department at GHS have been successful with a heritage lottery fund bid for Stories, Stones and Bones sharing heritage funding. The amount of the bid is £10,000.

The Art & Design project is called 'A Sense of Place: The Roman Presence in Cumbernauld' and the key local heritage sites are Bar Hill Roman Fort and the Antonine Wall. The Art & Design department are looking forward to taking pupils on trips to see the Roman fort and Antonine Wall, as well as Roman artefacts in collections at the Hunterian Museum and the National Museum of Scotland. A main part of the project will involve S1-S3 pupils creating a series of large mosaics with the Scottish artist Alan Potter (for display at GHS).

Pupils will also be working with Scottish artist Kate Leiper to create illustrations for an illustrated brochure about the heritage sites and the Roman presence in Cumbernauld. The grant will also provide materials for Roman-themed printmaking, illustration and pottery activities for hundreds of S1-S6 pupils at GHS, and staff and pupils at GHS are also looking forward to creating some artworks with pupils at Redburn School. Everyone is excited about showcasing the project at the local

Cumbernauld Museum and in special exhibitions at GHS throughout the next year, engaging the local community with their heritage.

Parent Council

This has been a very busy year for the Parent Council. Meetings have been very well attended each month, and in addition to learning more about current developments within education, the Council has also found time for fundraising ventures. Recently, a presentation of £6000 was made to the school which has allowed us to enhance the pupil communication system within the school by the installation of new multi-media display screens within the School Social Area. Pupils and staff would like to extend a massive 'thank you' to the Parent Council for their effort and support of the school.

Citizenship in Action

Following the successful Youth Philanthropist Initiative (YPI) competition held for 2nd year pupils, there have been a number of very successful outcomes for local charities and organisations. The YPI competition has now become established in Greenfaulds as a means of engaging young people in their local community by learning about charities and community groups. Each of the groups taking part must find out about their chosen charity, prepare a presentation to peers and then present to a panel of adjudicators. The winning group then 'earns' a £3000 donation (from the YPI group) for their chosen charity. This year's winners were **Strathcarron Hospice**, championed by

Elise Clark
Chloe Balfour
Melissa Henderson
Shanlay Russell

Part of the impact of pupil involvement in such an event has meant a raised awareness of the role charity groups and voluntary organisations play within our local community. As a result of this, pupils asked if it would be possible to hold a non-uniform day on Monday 26 June to support donations for the local food bank and also donations of uniform for the Cumbernauld/Kilsyth Care – our local school uniform bank. Everyone associated with the school can be justifiably proud of our young people as their efforts resulted in substantial donations being made to both food and clothing banks.

#responsiblecitizens

BAFTA Nominee

Jamie Buttenshaw, S3 recently entered a very prestigious competition run by BAFTA: Young Games Designer. We are delighted to announce that he has been shortlisted as a finalist and we will find out on 8th July how he has done. What an achievement for a young boy!! The game is fantastic – and if you're interested in having a sneaky try of it - here's the link:

ygd.bafta.org/competition/competition-news/2017/stealth

Local Awards

Shannon Stewart, S6 has recently been awarded the NLC Youth Volunteer of the year award. Congratulations Shannon –well earned and well deserved recognition for all of the time, commitment and effort you put in.....and always with a smile!!

School Uniform

A reminder that school uniform consists of:

- White shirt
- School tie (available from the school office)
- Black trousers/skirt (no jeans or leggings)
- Plain Black footwear
- Blue school blazer (plain for S1-S4 and braided for S5/6)

Many thanks to parents/families for the continued support in the wearing of school uniform and for those who have already attended the uniform evenings held in June. A further blazer sale date has been organized for 8 August between 10 am and 12 noon in Greenfaulds High should you wish to purchase in person. Alternatively, the blazer can be ordered via the supplier's website at

<http://www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk/>

Dates for your diary

SQA Results	Tuesday 8 August 2017
School resumes for pupils	Thursday 17 August 2017 8.55 am
School Photographs	Friday 1 September 2017