



# THE HIVE



Monday

12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Issue #1



## MEET THE TEAM

### What's the Buzz...?

**REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN**

Hello everyone, welcome to the Hive! This is the new school newspaper where we will create articles surrounding our fellow Ambrosians as well as our local community. This paper will focus on the good and exciting news throughout the community and each edition will contain researched articles featuring the many departments in our school, along with a plethora of extra curricular activities that our school hosts. This edition specifically will focus on meeting our team and getting to know the roles of everyone who made this paper possible, along with the recent news throughout the school. Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to read our first edition, we hope you look forward to our upcoming editions. Have a wonderful day!



Hi! my name is Kayla and I'm the Editor for the Hive Newspaper and also a writer. I enjoy reading and writing as hobbies and I wanted to be a part of the newspaper because I was really interested in the idea of a newspaper ran by school pupils and catered to the school and local community alike.

Hi, I'm Rebecca and I am a writer/proofreader of The Hive. I'm very introverted and love to read. I joined the newspaper to interact with the school more and gain an insight into the interesting lives of my fellow Ambrosians. I hope to achieve a stronger understanding of those around me and bring the school community closer together.





Hi, my name is Ciera and I work with The Hive's design team as well as being co-editor. I enjoy reading, making jewellery and crocheting, and I wanted to be a part of the newspaper to try something new, challenge myself and highlight positive news from our school and local community :)

Hi, I'm Jorja Vann and I am a writer and proof-reader. I love to read and write, my favourite genre sways between fantasy and horror. I wanted to be more involved in my last year of school and felt that taking part in the newspaper was a fun way to do so. Being part of 'The Hive' allows me to spend time with my friends and get to know what's happening around the school which is very important to me.



My name is Nadia and my role in the newspaper is a reporter. Outside of school I play piano and am also part of a dance team. I enjoy reading, going out with my friends and traveling to different countries. My favourite subjects in school are History and English. I wanted to be a part of the school newspaper because I would like to report on different events happening within the school.



I am Aiden McAuley and my role in the newspaper is to report on local community news and entertainment. I want to be in the newspaper because I want to spread the good news of St Ambrose and our local community.  
*"Newspapers are the worlds Mirrors" James Ellis*



Hi my name is Ben, I'm a reporter for the local news and entertainment sector of the newspaper and am currently studying my 6<sup>th</sup> year at St. Ambrose High School. I joined the club to involve myself further in more school activities that could help me explore areas of the school and surrounding areas I hadn't been involved in before.



Hi, I'm Emma and I'm part of the design team for the Hive Newspaper. I enjoy going out with friends and listening to live music. My favourite subjects are politics and art and design. I wanted to be a part of the newspaper because I wanted to be in a team setting where I can really relay my interest in different formats of design.



Hi! I'm Katie and I am going to be a reporter for the Hive. I'm in S6 and I'm one of the school Captains this year. I love playing netball, I play for the school and Lanarkshire U19s squad. My favourite subjects are Modern Studies and English. I wanted to be part of the newspaper because it will give me the opportunity to talk to different pupils and teachers about interesting topics and what is happening at St. Ambrose.



Hi, I'm MJ and I'm a writer and proofreader of The Hive. I love music and art, and my favourite book is Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. I love to write, and I'm really excited to be a part of The Hive, so that I can give a little more to the school community and come together with my peers to share the goings-on within the community.





Hey my name is Daniel I am a 14 year boy who loves travel especially Cruise Ships. My role in the school newspaper is so that we can spread all the positive things that happen around and in St Ambrose. The one main reason I have signed up to the school newspaper is to have the opportunity to able to share all the amazing news that we have in at St Ambrose

Hi my name is Filip and I am a reporter for the Hives School News. I enjoy being involved in school matters because of my positive attitude and love of study as well as being an active person. I wanted to be a part of the newspaper because I wanted to report on all of the individuals in our school who make our community a more positive environment everyday!



My name is Abbie and I write about current news within our local community. When I'm not writing for 'The Hive' I enjoy reading and spending time with friends and family. I feel that being a part of the school newspaper will help me to develop my writing skills and allow me the opportunity to become more involved with important events taking place in our school and local area.



My name is Ewan McGill and I am in S3. My favourite subjects in school are Graphics, PE and Art. I love to play football and play games with my sister. The thing that I like the most is spending time with my family and my friends.



School Newspaper Teachers Mrs McCahill, Miss Devlin and Miss Friel



## Interview with Mr McParland

by Kayla Doran



### What did you do before you came to St Ambrose?

I'm a musician – a classically trained percussionist and I studied at the Royal Academy of Music in Glasgow. I actually to St Ambrose in 1999 as a student teacher! I graduated in 2000 and started working in South Lanarkshire. I very quickly became a guidance

teacher and loved it. I moved over to North Lanarkshire 2 years later - which is where I live - and was Principal Teacher of Pupil Support pupils for 5 years before becoming a Depute Head Teacher, which I also did for 5 years. I completed my Masters Degree in Leadership and Management and decided that it was time to start applying for a Head teachers post. Getting the first post I applied for was exciting but a also a surprise and a bit daunting, but I was keen to get back into North Lanarkshire and moved onto become the Head Teacher of St Maurice's. I knew a lot about the community of St Ambrose and I always knew that if the job came up, that I would need to apply for it – which it did, I got it and I'm delighted! Outwith that, I'm married, I have kids, I enjoy family life and I'm a football fan.

### You've been the St Ambrose's Head Teacher for 2 years now, how do you feel you have positively impacted the school and our local church community?

I love working here. I love my job - it's not a chore and it is something I really get a lot from every day. I always try and put people at the centre of everything I do. It would be very easy to just sit in my office, working through e-mails and sending out letters, but the best part of the job for me is being out and about in the school and having the chance to speak to people. I've been very well received into the school community, and in the parishes, so I think people appreciate the fact that I'm very committed to the school and very much committed to doing what's right for pupils to try and ensure that everybody gets the best value from our school. Really, the best thing about my job is that it's 95% people, but it's also about having the humility to put your hands up when you do something wrong, and I've never shied away from doing that. Ultimately, if you do a job you love, it becomes a much easier place, and I thoroughly enjoy it. I love being a part of this community and it's just a privilege.

### Do you have any future plans for the school?

Yes! On the Patronal Feast day we will launch our new 'Visions, Values and Aims', which allows us to identify who we are as a community. When I took up post here, I asked our staff, parents and carers, members of the Council what the values of the school were and, for me, they weren't as explicit as I think they should have been. We've done a great bit of work with a pupil group and a staff group, who have come up with the new Vision, Values and Aims of St Ambrose High School and we hope the launch on the Patronal Feast Day will be a perfect addition to our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. We are also looking at new things around Learning, Teaching and Assessment and I think it's vital that we ask the pupils about their classroom experience, and how it could be improved. It's about working together to maximise the classroom experience and assure that the pupils get the very best.

We have seen improvements in attainment over the last year, which I'm delighted with because that's what we are judged on, so I think there's - again - a bit of growth there but one of the most exciting developments is the growth of partnership working and we plan to look at the being more involved in the wider community again, following Covid. This includes planning for resurrecting the Christmas fair next year and recruiting local businesses for it, to build that relationship and sustain that with them. It really is about bringing that community together. We are working with St Andrews Hospice this year and taking part in the 'Light up a Life' campaign. The newly formed Samba Group were involved with the church in the youth rally and have the potential to be involved so much more now they are established., I think there's a lot to look forward to. One of the things that I have really enjoyed as part of the community, is getting out to our partner primaries. We meet the pupils from p4-p7, so we get to know them well before they come into St Ambrose. So, yes there's lots to look forward to! There's so much going on with the school and it's lovely to see that we're recovering from Covid.

### What was your initial reaction when you were given the idea of a school newspaper?

I thought it was a great idea! The reason I really liked it was because it's pupil led. It's very easy as Head Teacher to think that communication needs to come from me but, actually, I think it's better that it comes from pupils. I think that where concerns are shared about things that are happening, potentially either in the school or the community, it can be highlighted from a pupil's perspective, and that'll be a good thing. I also think that there is an opportunity to engage younger pupils because it will be a really good way for them to feel like a greater part of the community. You need to have that balance between making sure that the pupils voices are heard and also ensuring that there are opportunities for you guys to share success rather than it just coming from me all the time. I do my Friday Letter, which is still quite well received as a source of information, but I really do think that the newspaper will give a different slant on how news is given an I'm excited to see how it looks. I'd be really intrigued to see what kind of wider audience we get, and I see this going much wider because you'll reach families, the community, our partner primary schools and the churches. So, I can see this really being quite a significant reach and the opportunity to share what is going on in the schools a great one.

### Do you have any good news to share?

Yes! I got an email to say we have been selected by the Scottish Government as a school who would have an input into the National Improvement Framework Evaluation. What was even better news was that it's not going to come from me, but from a group of young people, so that's great. Out of 363 secondary schools in Scotland, we've been one of the schools chosen to have a direct input, so that's wonderful!

### Do you have a parting message for our readers?

It's a great community, and you're going to love reading about it. More importantly, you're going to love reading about it from a pupil's perspective because that will give you a completely different insight into what's going on in our school community. Thank you.



## LOCAL NEWS

### Friends of the Monklands Canal

ABBIE MCKENDRY, BEN MCGOVERN



The Monklands Canal was originally created in the late 1700s for Coatbridge's industrial revolution. Its main use was for transporting coal from the mining areas of Coatbridge to Glasgow, feeding our small towns economic trade growth. Although the canals service to our town ended in 1952, that hasn't stopped it from remaining a part of Coatbridge's modern natural landscapes, providing a scenic backdrop for the local area. Our town's landscapes play a vital part in our mental wellbeing. In fact, it has been scientifically proven that our psychological health can be greatly impacted by our outdoor surroundings! This is part of the reason it is important to keep our district safe from vandalism and littering, not only for nature's sake, but for our local community too, and there is an organisation committed to doing exactly that.

Friends of Monklands Canal are a community group who were founded in 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown. The group took initiative to clean up in and around the area of the canal in an effort to make the place a safer, cleaner and greener space for the community to use. As this canal is a very well-known area for those who walk their dogs, walk, jog or run, it needed to be a cleaner area to use. With help from dedicated volunteers from local areas and handy helpers from schools like St. Augustine's, St. Ambrose and Buchanan High School, a huge difference was made to the area - within the first few months 400-500 bags of litter were collected! This, paired with the new and improved pathways that were introduced this year, has helped make the Monklands Canal an area for all to enjoy. On the last day of term before the October break, the S1 Friends of Monklands Canal Ambassadors, along with Mrs Clark-Ramage went up and down the canal, picking up litter in their path and helping with the canals clean up initiative.

To get involved with this organisation please visit the Friends of the Monklands Canal Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1617646428387665/>



### St Augustine's Parish

By AIDEN MCAULEY

Our local parish, St Augustine's, is hosting many events that the whole community can take part in during the festive period:



The Parish Centre is having a Breakfast with Santa for younger children on Sunday the 18th December at 11am - 12:30pm where they can eat some breakfast foods and meet Santa! Tickets are on sale for £7 a person and would be much fun for the younger years if any pupils have younger siblings!

St Augustine's Parish Hall are hosting a warm space for people in need where they will offer free soup, bread, tea coffee and biscuits every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday all the way through the festive period. All are welcome to come between 6pm-9pm



St Augustine's are also hosting a Christmas Toy Appeal between the 21st of November and December 12th. The toys donated should be new, unwrapped and suitable for the local children in our community so the children will have some toys to unwrap on

Christmas Day. The Drop-off location is at;

St Augustine's Chapel  
12 Dundyvan Road  
Coatbridge  
ML5 1DQ



St Augustine's Mass Schedule for Coatbridge during the festive period is;

#### Christmas Eve

- 4pm
- 7pm
- Midnight

#### Christmas Day

- 10am
- 12 noon

The masses will also be broadcasted live on [www.beingcatholic.org](http://www.beingcatholic.org) so make sure to visit over the festive season.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Strictly St. Ambrose

AIDEN MCAULEY

St Ambrose's annual 'Strictly Come Dancing' show returned on Friday 18th November and was a sell out! 10 partner acts



competed for a final place and as a result the judging panel chose the PE Department's Miss Wilson and Leon McDermott, who danced to a number from the musical 'Hairspray' as their winning team. Congratulations guys! In Second Place was Nicole

McMillan, who danced with Mr Wishart and in Third Place was Martyna Rybka, who danced with Mr McCutcheon. Amazing and well done to everyone who participated!

- Alanna McPake and Mr Flynn as 'Dale' and 'Brennan' from Stepbrothers
- Heather Thompson and Ms Sear as 'Alice and 'The Mad Hatter' from Alice in Wonderland
- Iona Stewart and Craig as the Incredibles from The Incredibles
- Kamila Bronwa and Mr O'Donnell as 'The Genie' and 'Aladdin' from Aladdin
- Adam Corns and Mrs Mansicidor as 'Dora' and 'Diego' from Dora The Explorer
- Eilish Gillespie and Mr Weir as 'Shrek' and 'Fiona' from Shrek
- And Neve Callan and Mr Shepard as 'Amy' and 'Sheldon' from The Big Bang Theory



## The Nativity

NADIA JAMES

The Music and Drama Departments are working hard in rehearsals for the Schools Nativity: I'm a Celebrity, but this is a Nativity? which will coincide with the Christmas concert as the first part of the showcase with the nativity being the second.



This will take place on Wednesday the 14th of December with a special piece performed by the primary 7s woodwind and brass bands before the show begins. Tickets are still on sale now so get them while you still can! They're being sold from the Music Department for

£5 an Adult and £3 a Pupil.

In other musical news, the North Lanarkshire hosted a Christmas concert at the Motherwell Civic Centre on the 8th of December, with a few of our fellow Ambrosians Trad Band and Jazz Band to present and join along in playing some festive songs with other pupils from different schools around the North Lanarkshire!

# SPORT

KATIE RODGERS



## Netball

An achievement to celebrate for our S3/4A and Open A Netball teams is that they haven't lost a game in the North Lanarkshire Netball League. Amazing work from everyone well done! Some other Netball updates are that the Senior Open Team were

victorious in their Caritas Cup game against Trinity High School with a 17-10 finish, because of their success they are now playing for the finals in the upcoming new year. Well done everyone!



## Football

Some exciting news for St Ambrose Football is that the S1/S2 Girls Football team qualified for the next round of the SPAR SFA Cup from beating Dalziel High School with a score of 6-0 and drawing 2-2 with Braidhurst at Ravenscraig on Friday the 2nd December. Certain pupils to give praises for is S3 Pupil Sophie Ambrosini, who has been selected for the U15 Southwest Select Football team and S6 Pupils James Mallon and Christopher Docherty were selected for the U18 Lanarkshire selected football teams, well done! The Under 18's team are the only team still in the Scottish Shield. They have beaten Alloa Academy and Braidhurst and have now drawn against Falkirk High.

## Dance

Recently, The Dance Team hosted their Winter Dance Showcase which involved over 60 pupils performing numerous styles of dances for our primary 7 visitors to enjoy during this festive period, amazing job everyone!

## Sports Groups



St Ambrose School Sport Committee



St Ambrose S5/S6 Sports Leaders

## 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year News

**JORDAN HAMILTON & EWAN MCGILL**

### **To look forward to...**

Some upcoming exciting news for S1 and S2 is that on Monday the 19th of December there will be the Christmas Jumper and Christmas Quiz Day along with the S1/S2 badminton competition. This is followed along with a Christmas film to watch on Wednesday 21st December, all that S1's and S2's have to do is bring a donation for the Food Bank, they are taking their donations in the RE Corridor. And To end off before the Christmas Holidays on Thursday the 22nd of December there will be organised fun for S1/S2's in the social area to have some excitement before they leave for Christmas!

Some helpful tips for S1 that is relevant to them during their school time is;

- To be on time
- To wear your school uniform
- To get involved
- To have fun!

Year Head for S1/S2 Mrs Smith kindly shared her words of wisdom that S1 and S2 should **'remember that we are on a journey from good to great!'** and that **'high school is about finding who you are, because that's more important than trying to be someone else!'**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Year News

**DANIEL MCNALLY**

### **To look forward to...**

There will be many opportunities and events taking place for our 3<sup>rd</sup> years in the month of December. The first event taking place is a 'Dragon's Lair' event in which every school in our local community picked 2 groups with a maximum of 3 people each to create a business plan that will be the most unique and helpful in our modern-day society. The competition is currently in its final stages competing to see who wins overall.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> years also have a rewarded movie night to look forward to! Due to excellent behaviour with their work and attitudes towards learning, many 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils will be given the opportunity to pick between a choice of 4 different Christmas films to watch. There are only 60 places being handed out by Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December so make sure you put yourself forward to not miss out!!



Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December is when 3<sup>rd</sup> years parents night will take place, where 3<sup>rd</sup> years parents will be able to come and visit all of their teachers and figure out how they getting along in terms of class work, behaviour and homework so their parents to see for themselves all the interesting hard work they all have accomplished so far!

# 4<sup>th</sup> Year News

**ABBIE MCKENDRY**

A little reminder that 4th years National 5 Prelims are taking place at the moment and we wish them all the best luck for the rest of December!

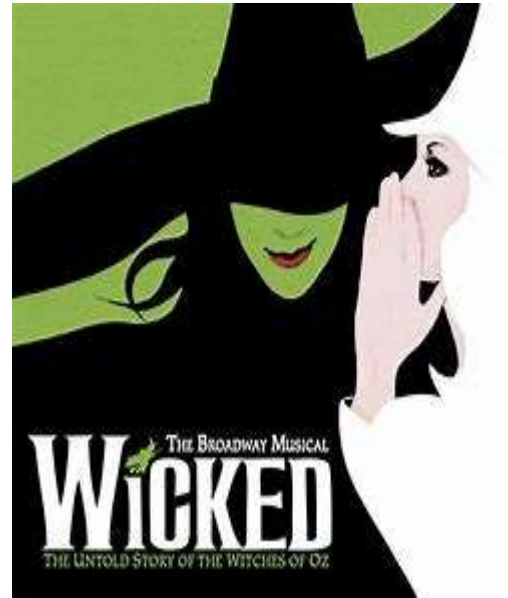
# 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Year News

**REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN**



The most exciting news for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year now is their Snowball. 5<sup>th</sup> years took place on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** where they took part in traditional ceilidh dancing and enjoyed the music and food provided from 7-10pm!

S6's Snowball will take place on **Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> December** where all elements from the S5 snowball will be available along with a customised playlist with songs chosen by the pupils themselves.



S5 and S6 are also preparing for the Trip to London which will take place on the February weekend. This trip will consist of a plethora of activities, some to note is that the pupils attending will have the chance to see the Broadway musical "Wicked"

Pupils will also have a chance to visit Harry Potter World in Leavesden. 44 pupils will be attending along with 6 members of staff, we wish them a lovely time!



Higher Prelims will also be taking place in January for S5/S6 straight after the Christmas holidays. Supported study will be held in numerous departments over December to aid S5/S6 with their studies over the winter period. S5/S6 Tracking Reports will also be issued out at the beginning of next week **Monday the 12th of December.**





# DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE – THE CAREER LONGE, WITH MR KENNEDY

**FILIP LANDINSKI**

## What is Future Fridays?

Mr Kennedy of our schools DET Department was appointed as the principal teacher of DYW in March of this year and his first plan of action was to create - with Mr Weir - a Friday Afternoon session where pupils can hear from people from a variety of industries to hear about their journeys and be inspired. His main focus was looking at former pupils that spent their high school years at St Ambrose, so pupils now can see how much these people have achieved later on after they've left St Ambrose.

## What are we to expect from the weekly sessions?

Feedback for the Future Fridays sessions has been excellent! Groups of 10-15 pupils attend each session and the speaker will usually speak for 20-30 minutes. Then there is a Q&A session at the end for any pupil who has any specific question they would like to ask or know about the speaker. At the end of the year a full evaluation will take place on how this has impacted the pupils but overall feedback from these sessions has been overwhelmingly positive because of the element that the pupils can engage and interact with the speaker and ask the questions they would like to hear.

## How do you think these talks will impact pupils?

Dr Kathleen Clair was one speaker to come to talk to our pupils and she was very helpful with the aspect of helping pupils who were going on to study medicine. She gave them her e-mail address and offered to practice interview techniques with the pupils to boost their confidence and give them a better understanding of how entry requirements into her field of work operates. STV Reporter Ronnie Chaplin also offered his email to pupils, giving them the opportunity to do a days work at STV's studios to get the work experiences of what it would be like to go into a career in journalism. All of these speakers coming in and passing on advice, offering help or even just giving life tips to the younger pupils have really impacted the way they will approach how to obtain careers in the sectors they wish to have.

## What would you say to people who haven't come along to a Future Fridays talk but are thinking of going?

Mr Kennedy stays as specific as possible so pupils can really grasp the ideals behind the jobs. Such as next week, a speaker for engineering is coming in and if any pupils have an interest in engineering it would be an amazing opportunity to attend the talk to learn more about what it's like to work in that sort of field from someone who has experiences with it first hand. He would also encourage pupils who don't have a set inclination into what they would like to do once they leave school to come along to any session to get a glimpse into numerous types of jobs to get new ideas on what they would like to pursue as a career.

## Any good news to share?

There are some new exciting guest speakers in line for 2023's Future Fridays. Our first speaker is on the 20th of January and it's Clyde 1's Radio DJ Cassi G. The week after that we have a former pupil who is now an influencer, Abbie Blyth who has her own clothing range and many more to be announced!

Here's a look at some former speakers the school has had come speak to St Ambrose;

Kash Farooq - Former Professional Boxer



Susie McCabe - Comedian

Dr Kathleen Clair - Medicine

Mark Wilson - Former Celtic, Dundee Utd and Scotland Footballer

Shaun Gibson - Legal Director at Adidas

Alan Jack - Lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian University for Games Design



Joe Sands - Managing Director of Tongmaster Seasonings

Paul Craig - UFC Athlete



some speakers to look forward to in January...

Cassi G - Clyde 1 DJ (20/01/23)

Abbie Blyth - Social Media Influencer

## Food Bank

**JORJA VANN**

The RE Department are accepting donations for canned food, pasta's, toiletries, laundry products etc to give to The Pantry Food Bank on Bank Street for the whole of Christmas in

**PANTRY**  
foodbank



collaboration with St Augustine's Chapel. If there are any extra long-lasting life shelf foods that pupils would be willing to donate, please bring it to the RE Department, thank you!

## School Trips

**AIDEN MCAULEY**



Some School Trips to recently highlight were the Geography Departments Advanced Higher trip to Loch Ranza in Arran from the **16th-18th of November**. They collected a lot of information from the environment around them to help with their geographical studies and learned lots of new techniques along the way from

this amazing experience with fieldwork and outdoor learning!



## St Ambrose 60<sup>th</sup>

## Anniversary

**KAYLA DORAN**

St Ambrose High School was first established in January 1962 on it's original Blair Road campus and has been a staple Roman-Catholic High School in Coatbridge for 60 years now! On October 31st 2012 the original campus closed its doors to make way for the new and improved campus on Towhead Road which is now the campus that has just turned 10 years old this year! St Ambrose's new campus helped provide a more varied range of classroom environments where pupils could excel in numerous fields such as sport with the brand-new pitches provided and brand new social facilities such as our social area. Though throughout the years our school has changed, our moral compass of being an educational institution that is embedded with a strong sense of community and faith lives on within the staff and pupils that moved along with the changes the school made and passed on these values to the younger generations when supporting them onto the later stages of their educational careers.

Happy 60th Anniversary St Ambrose High School!

