



School Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer/Student,

The school will be closed on Monday 15 November 2021 for staff inservice. All pupils should return to school as usual on Tuesday 16th November.

Yours faithfully,
Paul McWatt

Virtual Parents' Evenings—UPDATE



Many thanks to all parents who joined our first ever virtual parents' evening. Face-to-face meetings will always be the best option, but it was good to be able to engage directly with parents/carers to discuss pupils' progress in their learning. A number of people had some difficulty in accessing the portal, many of who were supported over the phone to access their scheduled meetings. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused; we will be capturing and reviewing your feedback to improve how we support the use of the portal.

There appeared to be a glitch with the latest version of Apple's iOS software which meant there were difficulties with people accessing their meetings by using an iPhone. Our next virtual parents' night is for S4 pupils on Tuesday 16th November. All parents/carers are asked to book their meetings and test their equipment before Tuesday through [Parents Booking](#). More information is available from our website [here](#) and staff will be operating the phones on Tuesday to offer support if it is required.

Young Musicians of the Year 2021



Our music department organised a Young Musician of the Year competition recently. 31 of our young people took part and showcased their amazing talents. Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in each category. Some of these young people will now represent our school at a local Rotary Club competition in the hope to progress onto regional and national finals.

JUNIOR VOCAL

Jessica Murphy	Hollie Cox	Aleecia Brant
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JUNIOR INSTRUMENTAL

Noel Quinn	Katy Collum	Patrick Pllu
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SENIOR VOCAL

John Woods	Sonny Brown	Leigh Allan
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SENIOR INSTRUMENTAL

David O'Rourke	Matthew O'Rourke	Jude Allen
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Christmas Leaver?

Is your child due to leave school at Christmas and you are unsure if this will affect your benefit entitlement? If so then get in touch with the Financial Inclusion Team on 01698 332551 or email fit@northlan.gov.uk or contact your local CAB who can carry out a benefit check for you and answer your queries in relation to whether your child leaving school will affect your benefits.



Mass with Papal Nuncio

As part of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti came to St Augustine's in Coatbridge to celebrate Mass. All of Scotland's Bishops and representatives of the faithful were invited to attend. It was a privilege to accompany two S6 Captains Monica McCann and Maura Fagan to represent our school at the Mass. Archbishop Gugerotti read a letter from Pope Francis which is included at the end of this newsletter.



Maura and Monica with Bishop Gilbert at the Papal Nuncio Mass



Remembering and Praying for Our Dead

Throughout November, we continue to pray for our loved ones who have passed. This week we pray in a special way for the repose of the soul of Belinda Jones, one of our janitors who recently passed away. Staff and pupils represented the school at Belinda's funeral which was a lovely tribute to a lady of great spirit and charisma. I would ask for your prayers for her family at this difficult time.

Holytown



Adopt a Station—Holytown

S6 pupils were involved in re-planting planters with winter plants at Holytown train station with our partners at Clydesdale Community Initiatives. This activity is part of Scotrail's 'Adopt a Station' programme and takes place twice a year between Carfin and Holytown stations. Well done to all involved!



ONE KIND WORD

Anti-bullying Week: 15-19 November

Next week is anti-bullying week. Bullying is both behaviour and impact: what someone does and the impact it has on a person's capacity to feel in control of themselves. We call this their sense of 'agency'. No-one should experience bullying, especially in a community like a school. Pupils have been working on the OneKindWord campaign in PSHE to highlight what bullying is, the impact it has, and how to deal with it. We will also use this week to start a review of our school's current anti-bullying policy which can be viewed [here](#). Further information about anti-bullying support is available on [RespectMe's website](#). ***If any pupil experiences or witnesses bullying, it is essential that this is reported privately to staff.***



PUPIL EQUITY FUND UPDATE—NURTURING SUPPORT

Our 16 S6 Mental Health Ambassadors have now completed their training and are qualified to lead our MHA peer education programme. This will consist of our ambassadors delivering part of our PSHE programme over 7 weeks pupils in S1 and S2. This is extending the programme to include S2 pupils who missed this important learning opportunity due to lockdown last year.

We have completed our analysis of feedback from staff, pupils and parents and have identified [Nurture Principle 5](#): All Behaviour Is Communication as a key focus for staff training and school improvement as we progress through the year.



To the Catholics of Scotland

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you know, I had hoped to take part in the COP26 meeting in Glasgow and to spend some time, however briefly, with you. I regret that this did not prove possible. At the same time, I am pleased that today you are joining in prayer for my intentions and for the fruitful outcome of this gathering meant to address one of the great moral issues of our time: the preservation of God's creation, given to us as a garden to be cultivated and as a common home for our human family.

Let us implore God's gifts of wisdom and strength upon those charged with guiding the international community as they seek to meet this grave challenge with concrete decisions inspired by responsibility towards present and future generations. Time is running out; this occasion must not be wasted, lest we have to face God's judgement for our failure to be faithful stewards of the world he has entrusted to our care.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, which, as the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, symbolizes the Church's communion in faith and charity with the See of Peter. It is deeply moving to me that on this day I can express to you, and to all the Catholics of Scotland, my affection in the Lord and my encouragement to persevere in your proven fidelity to the Lord and

his Church. I greet each of you from my heart, and I assure you of my prayers for you and your families, for the young, the elderly, the sick and those who in any way are suffering the effects of the pandemic.

I ask you, in a particular way, to pray for me and for my brother Bishops on this feast of our fellowship in the service of the Gospel and the building up of the Church's unity. In these challenging times, may all Christ's followers in Scotland renew their commitment to be convincing witnesses to the joy of the Gospel and its power to bring light and hope to every effort to build a future of justice, fraternity and prosperity, both material and spiritual.

With these sentiments, dear brothers and sisters, I assure you once more of my prayers for you and your families, and for your parishes and communities. Commending all of you to the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, I gladly impart my blessing as a pledge of abiding joy and peace in the Lord.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 9 November 2021

Francis