

# St Ambrose High Newsletter

*Not about being the best but about bringing out the best in others. Ambrose of Milan*

September  
2014

Our new school session is now underway and it is a pleasure to welcome our pupils back and to establish or renew our links with parents / carers and families.

The sunny start to term has encouraged a high standard of school uniform and this is greatly appreciated. The uniform consists of blazer, tie, white shirt, black dress trousers or skirt and black shoes. Outside jackets should be worn in the winter with blazers underneath. Jeans, leggings, trainer shoes are not part of the uniform. Your continued support is sought in this.



## Parent Council Membership

Any parent interested in becoming a formal member of the parent council is asked to contact Mrs Douglas the Head Teacher by e-mail or telephone by Friday 19th September 2014.

There are currently 4 vacancies and if interest is greater than this then elections will be held in October.

## CHILDRENS AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014

All pupils are being issued with a mini pamphlet explaining who their NAMED PERSON is and outlining how the NAMED PERSON provides a support for them during their time at St Ambrose High.

Our Pupil Support colleagues act as the Named Person for each pupil and pupils are organised in tutor groups across the three pastoral houses to ensure that everyone can easily establish who the Pupil Support Teacher / Named Person is for every young person. Parents and carers should regard the Pupil Support Teacher / Named Person as the first point of contact to the school.

This way of working is long established in the school and will continue to flourish as the school endeavours to meet the needs of each and every pupil.

**Slide presentations for pupils and parents are on the school website.**

## PASTORAL SUPPORT

A very warm welcome to Father Kenneth O'Brien, Parish Priest of St Joseph's in Stepps. Father O'Brien has been appointed Chaplain to the school and we look forward to working with him in supporting our Catholic mission. Best wishes are extended to Father Cirilo who is moving to St Cadoc's in Cambuslang as Parish Priest.

## NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS



It is pleasing to report that pupils who sat national qualifications in 2014 have enjoyed considerable success. Pupils and staff are to be commended for the hard work which went into making this possible.

Departments have now embarked on new National 6 Highers in all subjects except Biology, Chemistry and Accounting/Finance. Please be assured that these have the same currency as the National 6 Highers.

An SQA Information Evening will take place in the school at 7pm on Thursday 23rd October for parents of pupils being presented for national qualifications in May 2015.

**Parents / carers / pupils are encouraged to attend this meeting.**

## GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

A warm welcome is extended to Marina Paez, a British Council language assistant, who joins the school for this session.

Marina will work in St Ambrose High and also with our associated primaries to take forward language teaching in Spanish.

Two groups of pupils and staff are about to embark on foreign field trips in the next few weeks. The first of these is a Geography Outdoor Education excursion to the Swiss Alps to study glacial scenery and land use associated with this. The second trip involves a visit to New York and Washington DC as part of developing understanding of politics and society in the USA.

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



PARENTS / CARERS OF PUPILS WHO TRAVEL BY CONTRACT BUS TO SCHOOL ARE ASKED TO REMIND PUPILS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WEARING SEAT BELTS AND OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR DURING THE JOURNEY TO AND FROM SCHOOL. BUS PASSES SHOULD BE CARRIED AT ALL TIMES.

PUPILS WHO CONTINUE TO USE TRAINS FOR THEIR SCHOOL JOURNEY HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH A LEAFLET ABOUT RAIL SAFETY AND IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF PARENTS /CARERS COULD DISCUSS ITS CONTENTS.

PUPILS WHO LIVE LOCALLY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ENSURE THAT THEY WALK IN SAFE WELL LIT PATHWAYS AND THAT THEY ARE IN THE COMPANY OF OTHER PUPILS . SOME OF THE PATHS AROUND THE SCHOOL ARE FAIRLY DARK AND ISOLATED ESPECIALLY IN THE WINTER MONTHS AND PUPILS ARE ILL ADVISED TO TAKE SHORTCUTS THAT GO OFF THE MAIN SAFE ROUTES.

**The improvement plan for session 2014-2015 contains two key priorities as shown below. Please contact the school if you would like a detailed copy.**

### **A. Delivery of the six Entitlements of Curriculum for Excellence**

- Review curriculum architecture to ensure **coverage** of **experiences and outcomes** in the BGE within framework of **33 period** week, the primary transition and interface with senior phase
- Ensure the delivery of **skills** in course development and review.
- Further embedding of **literacy, numeracy and health and well being**.
- Implementation of **national 4 and 5** qualifications (Senior Phase).
- Development of **Nat 6/ Higher** courses (Senior Phase).
- Review and update **Learning & Teaching** Policy in line with ongoing improvements in learning and teaching and assessment strategies
- Seek advances in the **application of ICT** in learning and teaching.
- Ensure that **parents / carers** are fully aware and involved in curriculum advancement.
- Make **personal support** more targeted towards learning and individual pupil needs and responsibilities.
- Enhance the place of **leadership, citizenship, equality and sustainability** in the curriculum.
- Further develop systems of target setting and **monitoring and tracking** of progress, attainment and profiling at subject and school scales.

### **B. Professional Learning, Leadership and Staff Welfare**

- Ensure that the school's **Catholicity** is evident through commitment to Servant Leadership, our vision and our values.
- Ensure that all staff understand and contribute to the principles of **GIRFEC**
- Implementation of NLC **Absence Management** Policies within a supportive framework.
- Continue to advance **self evaluation** and **quality assurance** at individual and team level ensuring a focus on impact.
- Implement the new NLC **Professional Review and Development** arrangements.
- Advance staff thinking of and create added opportunities for **Professional Learning, leadership** and sharing **good practice**.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**A fridge door calendar of school events is enclosed. It shows dates for reports, parents meetings and other important events. Letters of invitation are also sent during the year.**

**Any changes will be notified in good time.**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#### **FIRST AID PROVISION**

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE IS NO QUALIFIED NURSE IN THE SCHOOL AND THAT FIRST AID IS PROVIDED BY SUPPORT STAFF.

ALSO WHEN A PUPIL BECOMES ILL DURING THE DAY, THE PARENT OR EMERGENCY CONTACT WILL BE PHONED EITHER TO ARRANGE FOR THE PUPIL TO BE COLLECTED OR FOR AGREEMENT TO PAY THE COST OF THE TAXI. THE SCHOOL/ AUTHORITY WILL ONLY PAY TAXI COSTS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

*A copy of the school improvement report for session 2013-2014 is contained in this letter.*

*The report and priorities and targets for the current session are also on our website.*

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**INCLUDING E MAIL AND**  
**MOBILE PHONE**

**BUSINESS PARTNERS**

We are on the lookout for business partnerships to support our drive to improve pupil destinations. Can you help in any way?

**THE PUPIL PLANNER**

This document plays a key role in encouraging home school partnership. Thank you for your support in paying for this. Pupils should be using it to build a learning log and record homework. Please check it regularly and use it to make comments if you think this would be helpful.

**CREDIT UNION**

All pupils will continue to have the opportunity to belong to the school's Credit Union thanks to support from the Young Enterprise team which is led by colleagues in Business Education.

*Please inform the school of changes to mobile numbers. This is very important if emergencies occur.*

*Mobile details, change of address and emergency contact details should be communicated to Pupil Support staff who will ensure that records are kept up to date. The school now makes regular use of text messages and its own website.*

*The school website is regularly updated and the school also has a Twitter and Facebook account.*

*Please continue to encourage your son / daughter to adhere to the school mobile policy which limits the use of mobiles on the premises. **Photography is not permitted.***

**THE WIDER CURRICULUM**

There are a whole range of opportunities for extra curricular activities available both at lunchtime and after school. These are advertised on the school's plasma screens and through assemblies and notice boards. Please encourage your son/daughter to become involved.

**KEEPING IN TOUCH**

**Please contact the school if you have any enquiries about the items in this newsletter. Our home—school partnership is reinforced in a number of ways e.g. by meetings, letters, reports, phone, texts and e mail. The school benefits from two way dialogue hence it is important that parents also get in touch if there are issues or concerns. Contact should initially be with the Pupil Support teacher, Year Head or the Head Teacher. We will always try to respond to enquiries within one day and to find resolve to issues within five working days if this is possible.**

**Teaching commitments of key staff will naturally take priority**

**Contact Details**

**Phone: 01236 794896**

**e mail: [ht@st-ambrose.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:ht@st-ambrose.n-lanark.sch.uk)  
web: [www.st-ambrose.n-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.st-ambrose.n-lanark.sch.uk)**

## Some other matters:

Mass is celebrated every Tuesday and Thursday at 8.40am in the oratory

University Open Days have now started and the process of application through UCAS is underway.

Our Pupil Council structures are being put in place to support the pupil voice.



Please help us retrieve any books that might be lurking in cupboards etc.

## Bee Update

*Our two beehives have proved to be an excellent addition to health and well being CfE experiences for our pupils. The existing links with Buchanan High School have been strengthened by the formation of our bee club 'BeeCome One'.*



## SQA PERFORMANCE / ATTAINMENT 2013-2014

Our pupils have performed exceptionally well in the national SQA examinations and this is very pleasing in the first year of national qualifications.

S4 results show that 45.2% of the year group obtained 5 or more awards at National 5 level. A total of 88.6 % obtained 5 or more awards at National 4 or above.

This very strong performance was matched by increases in all three performance indicators in S5

1 Higher or more = 56.4%

3 Highers or more = 32.1%

5 Highers or more = 13.3%

Similarly S6 results show an improvement across a whole range of performance indicators

Wider achievement awards continue to grow with pupils achieving certification in a wide range of courses including Duke of Edinburgh, John Muir Trust and ASDAN certification.

The Pope Benedict Caritas Award was completed by 21 pupils and this continues to feature prominently in our work to support the faith journey of the pupils.

The overwhelming majority of S1 pupils completed the ASDAN Stepping Stones Award. This spanned Primary 7 and S1 as part of the transition work undertaken with our primary school partners.

**A more detailed summary of results can be found on the school website.**

