



## North Lanarkshire Council

# Cumbernauld Academy Newsletter

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/Cacad/>

Decemeber 2016

Issue 6: Christmas Edition

## Head Teacher

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to be able to introduce our latest bumper edition of Cumbernauld Academy Newsletter (CAN). It has been a while since the last edition, but now that a new press group has been recruited from Advanced Higher English, we hope to be able to produce at least one edition every term.

News on the new school building is very positive, with contractors on site 'pegging out' the area for the new build. Hopefully by the end of January we should see some physical developments on site. A re-working of the school website is also currently underway and should allow easier access to certain areas, in particular the parents' area. I hope you enjoy this edition and as ever welcome any suggestions you have about how we might improve things. You can contact me at:

ht@cumbernauldac.n-lanark.sch.uk.

Best wishes

Mark Cairns  
Head Teacher



## Key Dates And Events

Fri	Dec 23rd	School Closes
Mon	Jan 9th	School Re-opens
Mon	Jan 16th	Prelims Begin
Thur	Feb 2nd	S3 Info Evening
Thur	Feb 9th	S3 Parents' Meeting
Mon	Feb 13th	Holiday
Tues	Feb 14th	Holiday
Wed	Feb 15th	In-Service Day



December

# Holidays 2016 - 2017

**Friday**                      **December 23**                      **Last day of term before  
Christmas holiday**

**Monday**                      **January 9**                      **School re-opens**



**Monday**                      **February 13**                      **Holiday**

**Tuesday**                      **February 14**                      **Holiday**

**Wednesday**                      **February 15**                      **Inservice day**



**Friday**                      **March 31**                      **Last day of term before  
Easter holiday**

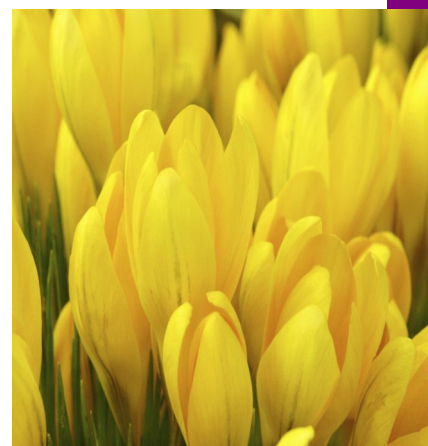
**Tuesday**                      **April 18**                      **School re-opens**

**Monday**                      **May 1**                      **Holiday**

**Thursday**                      **May 4**                      **Inservice day**

**Friday**                      **May 26**                      **Holiday**

**Monday**                      **May 29**                      **Holiday**



**Wednesday**                      **June 28**                      **Last day of term before  
Summer holiday**



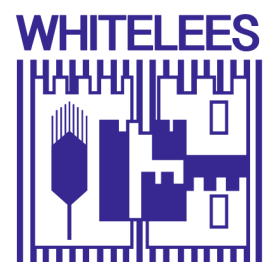
## Preparatory Work Begins on the New Cumbernauld Academy Building

The 21st November saw surveyors on site to peg out the proposed building layout for the new Cumbernauld Academy. It is expected that construction work will begin early in the New Year.



## Transition

The Primary 7 transition programme has begun, and we have welcomed 80 pupils from Cumbernauld Primary and Kildrum Primary to Cumbernauld Academy for a taster of what next year will be like. They will be visiting one morning for three weeks, and Primary 7 pupils from Carbrain Primary, Kildrum Primary and Whitelees Primary will have the chance to visit at different stages between now and Christmas.



# Senior Awards Ceremony

An excellent evening was had by all in attendance as we celebrated the success of our senior pupils at Cumbernauld Academy at our awards ceremony on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September .

I would publicly like to recognise not simply all of our award winners but all of those young people who have not managed to win an award but have nonetheless tried their best and supported us as a school community. Following our Inspection Visit, it was recognised that:

*'young people are learning and achieving well. They have settled well and express pride at being part of Cumbernauld Academy. Almost all young people speak positively about their learning and how they are developing their skills and interests'*

The first key strength of the school was:

*Young people who are keen to learn and who enjoy positive relationships with their teachers.*

We are all here to serve the well-being and development of our fantastic young people and it is not surprising therefore that we have so many outstanding students.

Mark Cairns

Head Teacher



## Humanities Trip to Poland

At the end of June, 37 of our new S5 pupils, accompanied by 5 teachers, visited Krakow and enjoyed the beautiful cultural surroundings of the historic 'Old Town'. The main theme of the trip was a very moving and educational visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp.

For many the highlight of the trip was a meeting with Monika Goldwasser, a Holocaust survivor, who had the entire room engaged as she told her own story. Lorna Breakenridge made a moving contribution in reading a poem of remembrance at the end of the meeting. This was followed by a fabulous meal and concert at the Jewish Galicia

Museum. During our trip we lightened the mood with a bit of shopping and a night of bowling where Thomas McGinley proved to be a champion 1<sup>st</sup> time bowler with a top score of 141! Krakow proved to be a wonderful experience which we all enjoyed.

We would like to thank all the parents for their support, the pupils for making the trip a memorable one and Mr Cairns and the staff at Cumbernauld Academy for their support.



## Lessons from Auschwitz Project

Two pupils from our Advanced Higher History class took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project. Pupils attended seminars in Glasgow where they heard a survivor's testimony and prepared for the trip itself, which took place on Wednesday 28th September.

Janna Thompson (6S2):

"Visiting Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II Birkenau with the LFA was the most harrowing experience I have encountered. I felt privileged to be able to visit such historically relevant sites and would wholeheartedly recommend visiting to develop a much greater understanding of the holocaust."

Emily Crainie (6A1):

"Visiting Auschwitz as part of the LFA programme was an extremely moving but enriching experience. It really opened my eyes to how horrific the Holocaust was and that we must not allow history to repeat itself."

## Visit to Scottish Parliament

On Tuesday 20 September, 76 pupils from Cumbernauld Academy visited the Scottish Parliament as part of their Modern Studies course. During the visit they met with their MSP Jamie Hepburn and put to him a number of questions. They then visited the debating chamber where they witnessed MSPs debating issues relating to teacher training placements.



## Senior Maths Challenge Regional Final



Muhsin Al-Doori, Amy Keyes, Rachel Maguire and Jamie Thewlis represented Cumbernauld Academy at the Glasgow regional final of the UKMT Senior Maths Team Challenge on November 10th at the University of the West of Scotland, Paisley. They all admitted to enjoying the experience and challenge of the competition and acquitted themselves well.

## UKMT Senior Individual Maths Challenge

Cumbernauld Academy achieved 12 awards for the UKMT Senior Individual Maths Challenge this year.

Robin Dunbar, James Hutcheson, Drew McLellan (all S5) and Jamie Thewlis (S6) achieved Silver awards.

Muhsin Al-Doori, Ross Coleman, Mhairi Kelly, Dale Rennie and Andrew Stanton (all S6) as well as Coral Cameron, Amy Keyes and Bailey Milne (all S5) achieved Bronze awards.

This was our greatest haul of awards at this level in our short existence and The Maths Department would like to congratulate them all on such a good performance!

## S1 Skills for Life

The Fire Service spoke to our S1 pupils about malicious calls, fire safety and anti-social behaviour. The focus was on how to deal with these issues should they find themselves caught up in social situations where this was happening. They also enjoyed the humour of 'Kickstart Theatre Company' through which they learned about safety in the community and how to avoid risks. A few of our young people even joined the actors on stage to help with the presentation and acted out what they would do in these situations.



## Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award

Four S6 girls have signed up for the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award - Kirsty Morrison, Leanne Campbell, Charlotte Stevenson, Emma Bailey. The pupils will attend a week's residential course at Outward Bound where they will plan a community based project. On return from Outward Bound they will work with other pupils in their spare time to carry out the community project.

## Mentoring

A number of our S5 pupils have signed up for mentoring where they will be supported by a number of workers from around the council, including senior officers.

## Arran House

Arran pupils recently took part in their house assembly which was organised and delivered by the team of prefects. They conveyed a very poignant message through a slideshow on the theme of Remembrance events and Armistice Day. They celebrated the success of many Arran pupils including: winning four of the six groups in the recent cross country and issuing certificates to a large number of pupils who finished the first academic term with 100% attendance, perfect time-keeping and no demerits. They finished the assembly with a bit of Halloween fun by selecting a variety of pupils to mummify some willing prefects in a judged competition!

## LGBT Charter Mark

Cumbernauld Academy are currently working towards achieving the LGBT charter mark award. We are looking to further improve inclusion and equality within the school and thinking about how to best support LGBT pupils within our community. This is an exciting opportunity for us as very few schools in Scotland have achieved this award so far. There will be numerous events and activities throughout the school year so stay tuned for more updates.

During anti-bullying week, Cumbernauld Academy's school community engaged in a variety of activities across all faculties. The theme this year is tackling homophobic bullying and we held an anti-bullying poster competition in Personal Support with the winning poster being used around the school to raise awareness of homophobic bullying.



## Fire Reach

- 20 Cumbernauld Academy pupils have completed a week at Fire Reach. This involved attending a week long course at Coatbridge Fire Station to participate in some Fire Fighter basic training.
- Through this, pupils developed practical skills required of a Fire fighter; cutting someone from a vehicle, working in smoke filled rooms, hose work and first aid. The basis of the week's course was team work, collective responsibility, building confidence and learning about being part of a bigger project. Well done to:

Jordan Henning  
Jane Marie Doran  
Lisa Findlay  
Shannon Carmichael  
Brooke Banks-Arbuthnot  
Shakira Ali  
Jade Oliver  
Jenna Muir  
Lia Andrews  
Katie Harvie  
Cameron Joyce  
Lewis Houstoun  
Steven Duffy  
Kyle Glen  
Daniel Burns  
Ryan Watts  
Cameron Fergusson  
Declan Wallace  
Ryan Whitton  
Kyle Hendry



**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**



## Japanese Club

Our Japanese teacher, Fumi, came along to the school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, to talk to our group about early Japanese history, and the Samurai traditions. Quite a large number of new S1 attended, in addition to pupils and teachers who have been coming along for a while now. She also brought along some interesting Japanese snacks of crisps and chocolate, since she'd just come back from Japan - the pupils enjoyed trying them, but views on how they tasted were mixed!



on Monday 1 November - Fumi came along and told us all about 'Community' in Japan, and what that means to the Japanese, including the increasing and disturbing trend for overworking. The pupils seemed interested and took a full part in discussion.

## Languages Club

Languages Club, is held on Tuesday at lunch time. Come along and sample food from around the globe! All welcome.



## European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages was celebrated throughout the Modern Languages department. S1 and S2 participated in a quiz which saw the S1 Skye team – ‘Hybrid’ and the Islay team – ‘Team Team’ victorious. There was also a poster competition for S3 where classes designed posters on European languages, the winner was Jenni Bowie (Skye).

At lunch there were foods from all over Europe for pupils to try. From France we had things such as crepes, croissants and blue cheese. From Germany; rhy bread and Haribos. From Italy there was pizza and unique dips from Greece. There was also a ‘Bush Tucker’ style trial at lunch where pupils were blind folded and tried exotic European foods. Well done to Ivana McCulloch (Skye House) who managed to try the most.



Kirsty Morrison S6 – Language Ambassador



## Google Expedition

The Modern Languages department, together with the Humanities department, organised a Google Expedition day that took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. Around 450 Students attended Google expeditions which took them to various places around the world through virtual reality glasses. A total of 17 expeditions took place on that day.

From Iceland to Washington, passing by the Grand Canyon, Barcelona and Versailles, as well as the Moon, students thoroughly enjoyed learning through virtual reality glasses and were able to link what they saw with classroom knowledge.



## Modern Languages News (Continued)

### September 2016 Best Participation in Class:

1F1 French- Rachael Alexander Mooney  
1F2 French- Kirstie Sim  
1F3 French- Jamie McTavish  
1F4 French- Rebecca McRae  
1F5 French- Louie Hartley  
1F6 French- Adam Paterson

2F1 French- Michael Flynn  
2F2 French- Paul Malloy  
2F3 French- Bethany King  
2F4 French- Ross Campbell  
2F5 French- James Inglis  
2F6 French- Ewan Montgomery

3C1 French- Molly Knox  
3C2 French- Samantha Black  
3C3 French- Jade Oliver  
3C4 French- Ryan Buchanan  
3C5 French- Scott Sinclair

3H Spanish- Bethany Conoghan  
3H German- Abbie Murray

4C1 French- Kai Blair  
4C2 French- Aimee McGarr  
4C German- Liam Cahill  
4E Spanish- Kai Blair

### Linguist of the Month:

September 2016- Scott Sinclair 3C5

October 2016- Ben Brown 1F2

### October 2016 Most hard-working in class:

1F1 French- Ailidh Coombs  
1F2 French- Zoe Shearer  
1F3 French- Aleks Urgan  
1F4 French- Amy McRae  
1F5 French- Erin Bailey  
1F6 French- Rebecca Tait

2F1 French- Abbie Coyle  
2F2 French- Melissa Allan  
2F3 French- Adam Cameron  
2F4 French- Cara MacDonald  
2F5 French- Spencer Keene  
2F6 French- Emma Cairns

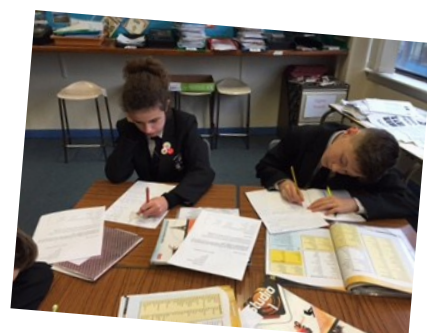
3C1 French- Abbie Murray  
3C2 French- Abby Henderson  
3C3 French- Lisa Findlay  
3C4 French- Kayla Courtney Lee  
3C5 French- Sonny McKenzie

3H Spanish- Joanna McDowall  
3H German- Jupleen Kaur

4C1 French- Simranjit Kaur  
4C2 French- Bryony Houston  
4C German- Natalia Znalezniak  
4E Spanish- Simranjit Kaur

## Santa Letters

Our S1 French classes wrote letters in French to Santa on 28th November; they have now been posted and hopefully everyone who wrote a letter will get a letter back from him. In French, of course!



## English News

### Higher English Information Session

The English Department hosted a highly successful Higher English information session on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 from 4.00-5.00pm. The session comprised:

- an overview of the course
- an opportunity to sample materials and to talk with the members of the department who are teaching Higher English this session
- practical advice on how to support your child.

Collated evaluations are available to download from our school website at:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/CAcad/>

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

### Advanced Higher English Trip

The Advanced Higher English class visited the library at Glasgow University on 26<sup>th</sup> October to access materials for their dissertations. The dissertation makes up a third of the marks available, so the class found it extremely useful to be able to gain access to specialist texts to help. The class found the trip really interesting and enjoyed gaining a small insight to university life. As always, the pupils were a credit to the school.

### Debating

On the 13th October Cumbernauld Academy's senior debating team of Kristy Morrison and Drew McClellan progressed to the next round of the ESU Mace Competition, beating Lenzie Academy in the process. On the 8th of November, two teams travelled to the High School of Glasgow for the first round of the ESU Junior Debate and on the 29th of November, Cumbernauld Academy hosted the first round of the Donald Dewar debate where our team successfully progressed to the next round. Well done to Molly Knox who won the floor debate on the night!



Thank you very much to Mrs Clark for running the debating society.

### Author Visit—Alex Nye

S1 pupils had a visit from author Alex Nye on Monday 31st October where she discussed her spooky novels 'Shiver', 'Chill' and 'Darker Ends'- a perfect way to spend the afternoon on Halloween! Alex told the pupils about her journey to becoming a published author and had lots of useful advice for our budding writers. She gave a wonderfully creepy presentation about how to create atmosphere and develop character in a story and shared some examples from her novels. S1 were suitably scared! Pupils then had the opportunity to ask questions, buy copies of Alex's books and get them signed. They really enjoyed their afternoon and Alex was very impressed at how well the group responded to the presentation. A big thanks to Alex for coming to visit us and many of our S1 pupils are now keen to get stuck into reading Alex's books.

## English News (Continued)

### Author Visit—Martin Stuart

Martin Stewart delivered a workshop to all of the Higher English classes on Thursday 8th December. His book, *Riverkeep*, published by Penguin in April this year, was the Scottish Book Trust's book of the month for May, and has been longlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize.

Martin discussed the unusual route he took towards publication, the ways in which inspiration finds its way onto his page, and what it's like to be a professional author. This was followed by a master-class on editing designed specifically for improving attainment in the portfolio component. As a former English teacher, Martin is well aware how reluctant young people can be to revisit their writing, and so—using *Riverkeep*'s manuscripts as well as live examples—he demonstrated the importance of editing to the writing process, and gave tips to help learners take responsibility for improving their own work.

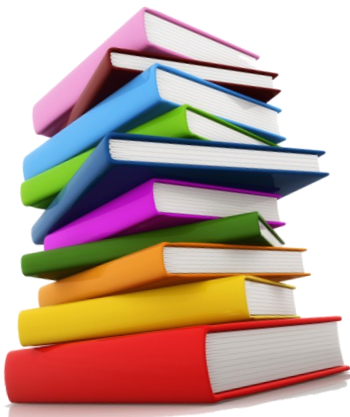
### SSPCA Visit

S1 pupils had a visit from an SSPCA inspector this week. They learned about the work that the SSPCA do and had the opportunity to ask questions. This will help pupils to complete a project in their English class where they will develop their research skills and learn about persuasive language by finding out about the SSPCA and then designing and advert for them. The pupils found the talk very interesting and are looking forward to putting their new-found knowledge to use.



**SCOTTISH SPCA**  
Scotland's Animal Welfare Charity

### Homework Club and Supported Study



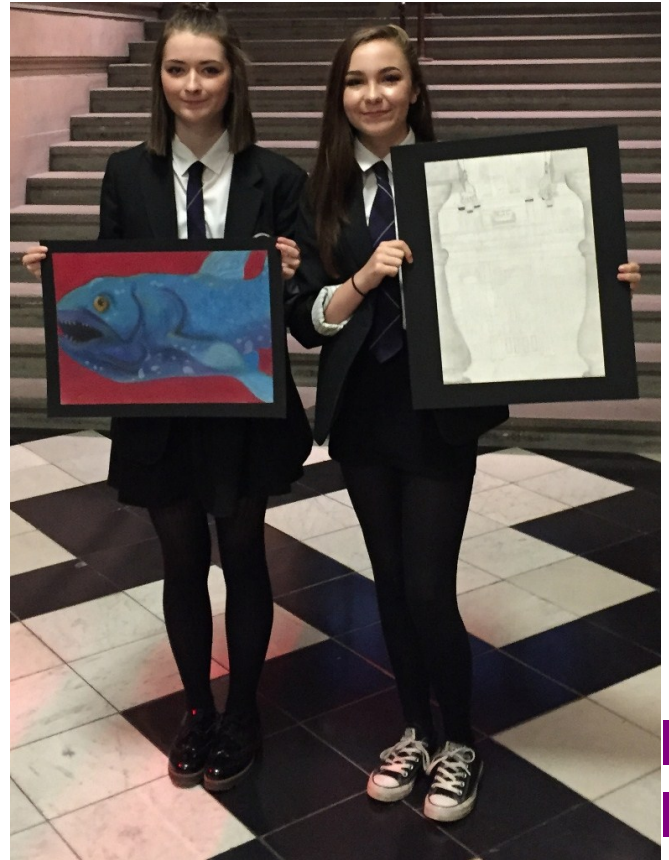
English homework drop-in is now available on Monday lunchtimes from 12.45-1.15 in B13. All year groups are welcome.

Supported study is also available every Tuesday from 3.45-4.45 in B11 with Mrs Passmore. Again, all year groups and levels are welcome.

## Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum Award Ceremony

Two pupils from Cumbernauld Academy received medals at an award ceremony in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. The Award Ceremony was a celebration of the medal winners from the Glasgow Museums Art Competition, which is open to all young people aged 3-18. Charlotte Geekie in S3 received a gold medal for her stunning pastel drawing of a fish and Olivia Robertson, also in S3, received a silver medal for her excellent architectural drawing of a Kelvingrove gallery interior. Charlotte and Olivia completed their entries during a school trip to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in May.

Four other Cumbernauld Academy pupils have also been awarded certificates for their entries into the competition. Rachel Maguire and Kalena Rice in S5 have been awarded Highly Commended Certificates and Daniel Raitt in S4 and Rachel Brooke in S5 have been awarded Commended Certificates.



## Hobbycraft Regional Art Competition

Rachel Maguire has won the Hobbycraft Regional Art Competition which was open to anyone over the age of 16. Rachel's painting of a colourful stag won first prize with practising artists pipped at the post. Rachel who is 16 is a S5 pupil in Cumbernauld Academy. Her love for painting Scottish wild life started with a commission from an American relative. Her prize includes vouchers for Hobbycraft and her work sold, commission free for a year. Rachel is no stranger to winning prizes as last year she won gold in the Glasgow Museums Art Gallery Competition. As well as exhibiting her work in the foyer of Cumbernauld Academy her work is being exhibiting in a North Lanarkshire Council Exhibition in the New Year. Rachel's work will now be entered in the National Hobby craft Art Competition.



## Celebrating Success

### Swimming

Well done to Michael Flynn and Jonathan Cameron on their recent swimming success. Michael won four gold medals in total for the following: 100 and 200 metre Freestyle; and 100 and 200 metre Butterfly. He broke his personal records in all swims, and cracked the 1 minute barrier in the 100 metre Free, 58.92 seconds. A superb accomplishment! Michael is entered in the 100 metre Freestyle and 200 metre Butterfly at the National Schools Competition in Aberdeen at the end of January.

Jonathan Cameron won Silver in the 100 and 200 metre back crawl and is entered in both at the National Schools Competition in Aberdeen at the end of January.

Christy Adam, Ben Brown and Andrew Murray all swam well too but didn't make the qualification times for Nationals. Hopefully next year...



### Strathcarron Hospice

Congratulations to Lewis Bickett who recently ran the 10k for Strathcarron Hospice and has managed to raise in excess of £800. A fantastic achievement!

### The Baking Benefactor

Not one to spend his holidays at leisure, Devlin Lafferty, busied away his holidays baking a whole host of cakes and goodies for a charity bake sale in aid of Cancer Research. This third year student is a budding chef, and was happy to have an opportunity to put his skills and talents to good use.

Setting up his pitch at the Fruit Stall, in the town centre, Devlin and his aunt sold a selection of home bakes, including Madeira and crispy cakes. Another student, Kayla Lee, who is also a third year, lent a hand, helping him set up and selling the goods.

With the sun shining, the event was well attended and the atmosphere was busy as the cakes sold quickly. By the end of the day the team had raised over £500.

"I feel quite proud of what we managed to raise", said Devlin. "The money went to good cause."



## Celebrating Success (Continued)

### Tae Kwon Do

Congratulations to Kyle Baird (1A2) who won two silver medals in the recent Tae Kwon Do Internationals at Ravenscraig for points sparring and continuous sparring.



### Boxing

Lucy Buchanan, who competes in Tae Kwon Do, Kick-Boxing and Boxing won 2 gold medals and a bronze at a recent local competition.

In addition to this, Lucy competed in the recent World Championships in Ireland where she won two silver medals in Kick-Boxing and one silver medal in Boxing.

### Wrestling

Ami Branks S5 won gold in her wrestling competition in Ireland recently and is now considered All-Irish Champion.

As part of his continued success in wrestling, both nationally and internationally, Ross Connelly was invited to Canada to participate in an international training camp.

Amy Keyes is another wrestler in the school who has won gold medals for her outstanding performances in this country and abroad.

### Rugby

Rory Erskine has been selected to represent his rugby club (Stirling County) in the Caledonia Reds under 16 team. This means he has moved from club to regional level and this is the next stage that will hopefully see him head towards national level. Rory has been playing rugby for around 7 years as a tighthead prop. We wish him all the best as he goes for selection in the coming weeks. He has also agreed to share his experience through coaching younger pupils in the school.





## Golds School Sport Award Winners 2016-18

On Tuesday 8th of November we officially became a Gold School as we received our flag from Sports Scotland representative Robbie Stewart. This is the culmination of 18 months of hard work on the part of our Young Ambassadors (past and present), Sports Council, Sports Ambassadors, teams and individual performers.

To be recognised with such a prestigious award as the Gold School Sport award is quite an accomplishment and everyone in the school is proud of all pupils who have contributed to this success.

We had three wonderful guest speakers visit us; former Scotland Rugby 7's captain, Colin Gregor, Inspirational Ambassador, Paula McGuire and Commonwealth Games Gold medal winner, Steve Frew who shared their stories with our S5/6 pupils and representatives from our clubs and teams at a special assembly. We also welcomed guests including Councillors; Jim Logue and Allan Graham from North Lanarkshire Council; Catriona Pettigrew-Smith from the Parent Council; Tom Elliot from Clyde FC Community Foundation; Adam Steven from the NL Chiefs, and Mark McGuinness and Greig McFarlane from Tryst 77 Handball Club who we can't thank enough for helping us celebrate this magnificent achievement.



# School Pantomime

**CUMBERNAULD ACADEMY**  
**FACULTY OF PERFORMANCE**  
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
**AND**  
**PANTOMIME**  
**MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER**  
**7PM**  
**ENTRANCE FEE PAID AT DOOR**  
**ADULTS- £4**  
**CHILDREN/CONCESSION- £2**



# Newsletter Response Slip

Please rate the newsletter

1. I would like more information

2. Informative

3. Very Informative

**Suggestions Box**

I think it would be helpful if you could include:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

in the next newsletter.

**Please complete and return to Miss Heron room B24**