



Newsletter



Paisley Grammar School

Winter 2017

Dear parents and partners, welcome to our winter newsletter! It's been a busy term with lots going on, and I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of some of the activities we have been involved in both within class and out with.

We are about to launch our Paisley Grammar School parliament, where young people across the island groups will get the chance to have their say and shape how we do things at the school. One of their first tasks will be to come up with our PGS New Year's resolutions! If you're as excited as me about this, you'll keep an eye on the app for further details!

Can I take this opportunity also to thank parents for their continuing support in ensuring we have very high standards of uniform. How we look is important to us and we believe that if you look smart on the outside, you feel smart and ready to learn on the inside.

And finally, on behalf of all of us here at Paisley Grammar School, can I wish all our families and friends a warm and wonderful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Ms. Levens

Growth Mindset & Wellbeing

This session we have been reviewing and updating our Personal Support lessons. Along with covering topics such as Careers and Study Skills, S1-4 have been looking at Growth Mindset and how dedication and hard work can help us overcome obstacles and develop our intelligence. Lessons have also focussed on the brain and how it works, remembering information, how we tackle challenges and how we can also help those around us to have a growth mindset.



There is a difference
 between **NOT KNOWING**
 and
NOT KNOWING YET
 -Sheila Tobias

Also this term, we have been reflecting on our own wellbeing. We started the session by discussing GIRFEC – **Getting It Right For Every Child**. This is a national approach in Scotland which aims to improve outcomes and support the wellbeing of our children and young people by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. We then focussed on 8 wellbeing indicators and what they mean – safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, responsible, respected and included. All pupils have reflected on these and scored themselves from 1-5. This approach in school has highlighted to Pupil Support staff areas where our young people may be struggling and where they may need additional support. We will be reviewing our young peoples' wellbeing every 4 weeks, which will allow us to support and monitor each of the indicators.

Michelle McMaster

I am the new Inclusion Support Assistant based at Paisley Grammar. This is a brand new role which is funded by the Scottish Attainment Challenge. My primary role is to support young people from S1-3 and their families to overcome barriers that may prevent them from attaining and achieving, such as attendance and health and well-being issues.

Miss Bradbury

I am the new Transition Teacher for the Paisley Grammar School Cluster. This is a brand new role which has been funded by the Scottish Attainment Challenge. The role was created to support pupils with their curricular transition from P7 into S1, especially within literacy and numeracy. From January - June I will be working with P7 pupils in the cluster primary schools, supporting the children with their literacy and numeracy in order to get them ready for secondary. I will then move with the P7's into S1 in Paisley Grammar, where I will continue to support them to settle into their learning. I will be involved in lots of transition activities including getting to know parents and carers.



Transitions Events

It has been a very busy and exciting term with a number of transition events taking place with each of our associated Primary Schools. It kicked off in September with the P7 Open Evening which was a fantastic evening and was attended by over 300 parents, carers and future pupils who were introduced to life in Paisley Grammar School. Ms Levens spoke of our vision and values and took the opportunity to share some of our recent successes in pupil attainment, in sport, arts and other wider achievements. Mrs Hood, DHT spoke of the transition programme and what to expect of S1. Everyone experienced a tour of a range of subjects witnessing



how we teach the S1 curriculum and had the opportunity to actively participate in lessons.

In October we saw all Primary 6 pupils from Todholm Primary School visit us for the “Build a Bridge” Event. The pupils led by Mr Davidson, FH of Science and

his department worked with the pupils to build a bridge using wooden dowels and elastic bands. The pupils had to communicate and work together in groups and all pupils demonstrated great perseverance and determination. All involved certainly achieved what they set out to do as a fantastic bridge was created.

On Monday 13 November we welcomed Primary 7 pupils from all of our associated primaries to our Conversation Café Transition Event.

Pupils enjoyed participating in a number of activities and fun games allowing them the opportunity to meet and get to know Primary 7 pupils across all the different primaries along with a number of our S1 and S6 Paisley Grammar School Pupils. Our Conversation Café was a great success and a huge thank you to all pupils and staff

involved.

Throughout December S4 & 5 pupils from the Modern Languages Department have been out visiting the primary 6 & 7 pupils of Ralston and Gallowhill to share their knowledge of German Christmas traditions. Primary pupils then took part in some German craft activities and were treated to a tasting of some typically German Christmas treats including Lebkuchenherzen (ginger bread hearts) and Spekulatius (spiced biscuits).

Thank you to all our associated primaries for your continued support with our transition events. We are looking forward to planning our next event very soon.



Anti-Bullying Week



This year for Anti-Bullying Week our S5/6 MVP mentors led assemblies for all year groups focussing on respect. Our pupils were encouraged to think about what respect looks like and what it feels like, how disrespectful behaviour can affect others and that everyone shares responsibility for creating a climate of trust and respect within our school community. Pupils gave fantastic feedback on all of these areas and filled in their own speech bubbles with a word or phrase in the bubble that sums up the most important thing for them about what respect means or feels like.



S6 HOODIES

One of the many wonderful S6 traditions is the wearing of school leavers' hoodies in the second half of the academic year. This year, I have the responsibility of collecting orders and ensuring the satisfaction of my peers. Each hoodie features the school badge, the name of every pupil in the year, a large '18' to commemorate the leaving year, and the most personal touch - a custom nickname. These hoodies will help celebrate the effort and commitment of the pupils over their six years, help unify our diverse group, and increase a sense of identity and belonging. The school building will be livened by the wide range of vibrant colours and I'm sure laughter will arise at the many comical nicknames!

George Swann

HEAD BOY/GIRL REPORT

So far this year the head girl Heather Gibson and head boy Ross Lawrence have been involved in numerous events in and outside of the school. Some events in school include attending and greeting parents at parents' nights and laying the wreath at the memorial service in November. Some outside of school events include Heather and Ross attending a conference which involved school captains from all of the Renfrewshire schools. This was a valuable event as it allowed Heather and Ross to hear about what is happening in other schools and what works well for them. They also serve as a link to the Old Grammarians Club attending committee meetings and are invited to the Old Grammarians Club events such as the Senior Luncheon and the Old Grammarians Ball. Our Head Girl & Head Boy are greatly enjoying their role and look forward to the upcoming events.

SENIOR MENTORING

This year has seen Paisley Grammar School running a successful mentoring scheme for our senior pupils. Staff volunteered to offer support for pupils with their studying and planning. Mentoring takes place on a fortnightly basis and allows pupils one to one support and advice on study, organisation and prelim preparation. An S4 pupil commented that: "Mentoring has really helped me feel more organised and has given me great support"

GRAMMARIAN



The Grammarian Committee is composed of a variety of S6 pupils who aim to recreate the iconic school magazine again this year. The Grammarian is the schools' oldest publication which chronicles the life and work of the school from the World Challenge trip to Uganda, poetry submitted by pupils, details of clubs and much more. The Grammarian has previously featured talent such as David Tennant in 1988's issue, where he was hailed as a 'rising star'. The years' Grammarian Committee are excited to see what wonderful work they can produce to maintain the standard of this iconic magazine!



UGANDA JOURNEY OF HOPE



The Journey of Hope is an initiative set up by the charity Dwelling Places, who operate in Uganda's capital Kampala. It is to raise awareness for the 290 mile walk children will make from the region of Karamoja – the region many of the street children of Kampala come from- to beg on the streets of Kampala. The journey is treacherous and dangerous with many groups of young children attempting the journey every day, resulting in many not reaching Kampala. Dwelling Places take these children off the streets giving them a place to stay while they search for their families and enrol them into education to keep them from ending up back on the streets. Just £3 can send a child to school for the whole year, school can make a huge difference to these children's lives, and the charity's motto for the campaign is #schoolsnotstreets. In Uganda a group of volunteers were walking the 290 mile walk these children make to raise money. After our visit to Uganda in June we seen first-hand the work the charity does for these children and seen

the volunteers' passion for the cause. Inspired by them and all the work they do, we decided to raise awareness and money for the cause by completing the same distance on exercise bikes in our school- we aim to cover the same 290 mile distance over a week by cycling during lunch breaks. After seeing the real difference education can make to children's lives in Uganda all of us became passionate and enthusiastic about the cause – we wanted to spread their positive message and try to help more children get off the streets and into school. We also believed it was important to spread the message of the importance of education to others in the school as we often take school for granted and forget that for many it is not as easily available for everyone in the world. We were all aware of the children begging on street corners in Kampala during our time there, our time there allowed us to see the extent of the problem of child begging and made us resonate more with the charity's work as there were always more children who needed help. Our own Journey of Hope we are completing in the school we hope will be a huge success and allow more to be aware and involved with the Dwelling Places charity – both pupils and teachers have been giving up their time to cycle parts of the 290 mile walk. Such a small donation of £3 can change a child's life and we hope to raise enough money that the charity can continue improving children's lives. After our week long cycle, we raised in the realms of £400 for this amazing charity, however Dwelling Places would be more than welcoming of any further donations for their outstanding cause.

Caitlin Brow

EVENTS

The events committee has been spending time arranging shindigs from the Halloween Party to the Christmas Snowball for S5/6 pupils. As it is Christmas time, we also planned a Christmas classroom door competition and a special visit from Santa and his elf. A very successful Snowball was held on the 12th of December with all the committee members taking on different roles; from decorations to music and floor plans. Our very own Mr Ellis and Mr Gifford put on some fantastic music which resulted in a very full dance floor. Mr Ellis was also the DJ for the Halloween Party which saw pupils from S3-6 looking amazing in their Halloween costumes.

Home Link

The Home Link role in Paisley Grammar is to help break down barriers and work with parents/carers to enable pupils to get the best out of their education in order to help them to achieve their potential. This term as well as supporting a number of pupils on a one to one basis; other pupils have received support by taking part in group work programmes. These programmes include a Health and Well Being Group, Positive Mental Attitudes for exam stress and Season for Growth. Support from Home Link can be accessed via your child's Pupil Support Teacher.

One of our most successful group work programmes is called Season for Growth which helps pupils cope with grief they may be experiencing as a result of a significant change or loss that has taken place in their lives. We also offer this as an Adult Programme to help parents who have either separated/divorced or have suffered bereavement. We also offer a short Parent Group under Seasons for Growth to help parents support their child where there has been separation/divorce or bereavement.

Our Lunch Drop In is a lively busy place that gives pupils a place to meet new friends, spend time chatting with others or using the computers for homework and games. Believe or not, the computers are used mainly for homework.





Over the last two years we have seen the MVP Scotland program become an integrated aspect of the Paisley Grammar School community. MVP offers 5th and 6th year pupils the opportunity to take on a role as an MVP mentor,



taking part in training, lesson planning, in school and out of school events, leadership opportunities and lesson delivery. The program, set up in 1993 by Dr Jackson Katz, is an initiative which seeks to safely challenge acts of violence and abuse and to provide a safe and comforting environment to support victims. MVP not only helps to tackle the perpetrators of abuse but it also helps teens understand the important role they have as a bystander, MVP focuses on educating children about bystanders and how they play a vital role in the prevention of both bullying and gender based violence. By educating children on the serious issues of violence, abuse and stereotypes it allows children to take on an active role in preventing any type of immoral behaviour. MVP does this by presenting a scenario of an immoral act and introducing options that the pupils, as

bystanders, have in order to get them thinking about the importance of not walking by a situation of harassment, abuse or violence.

MVP is something that has allowed senior pupils the opportunity to gain key skills in leadership, teamwork and responsibility. Their roles as a mentor gives opportunities to raise awareness, open up discussion regarding the issues raised in lessons, and challenge the attitudes of younger peers. So far MVP has been very successful in Paisley Grammar School with both the senior and junior school getting involved in the lessons and tasks presented by MVP. For the senior pupils who have taken on a mentoring role MVP has become a family which thrives on the opportunity to help support and teach younger pupils how to prevent violence from taking place or developing further. Over the last two years Paisley Grammar School has been extremely successful in the introduction of the programme; it has become a recognised success both within and outside of the school. Paisley Grammar was shortlisted for the Renfrewshire Positive about Youth Awards earlier this year and on November 8th was presented with the 'Youth



group of the year award' at the PAY awards ceremony held at the

nearby Normandy Hotel, this is an achievement that is recognised and celebrated by the school and its pupils and it is something that everyone is extremely proud of.



MVP has provided countless opportunities for both staff and pupils in Paisley Grammar School. It has become a vital component within our school community and it has allowed us to develop and expand our knowledge and skills. MVP has undoubtedly helped pupils see the importance of not turning a blind eye from the issues discussed in lessons, whether that be harassment, bullying or gender based violence. MVP has not only helped raise awareness on the prevention of violence but it has helped bring the school closer together. Delivering lessons has bridged the gap between the junior and senior school, by getting involved in classes MVP mentors are more approachable for the younger students, this has eradicated the barrier often seen between younger and older pupils. MVP is now firmly engrained in the culture and ethos of the school and it will continue to grow and adapt along with the pupils and the development of the Paisley Grammar School as a place of learning, community, belonging, and excellence.



Book Week Scotland

We celebrated Book Week Scotland this year in the following ways:
As part of the JASS Award, S1 pupils interviewed staff about their thoughts on reading, with the answers being displayed in the library.

Staff were asked why reading was important :

‘It helps your learning and takes you somewhere’ Mr Dyer

‘It is fun and helps you relax’ Mr Shaw

‘It is fun, feeds your imagination and helps you write your own stories’.

Mrs Swann

They also created posters on the staff members’ favourite book as a child.

We were very lucky to have Leyla Josephine, spoken word artist, lead two creative writing workshops, one with S3/S4 and the other with S5/AH

English. Leyla, who has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and won numerous awards, led the pupils through a variety of activities boosting their creative skills. Pupils highly rated the workshops, with them commenting that the workshop would help with their work in English.



S3/S4 pupils

‘Help me write more things and make it longer’;

‘Increase your confidence and creativity’;

‘Improve my understanding of poetry’

‘Help me pick out words and use them to develop better answers’.

S5/S6 pupils

‘Has given me a new perspective on writing’

‘Has helped me with making a start with writing poetry’

‘Has given me ideas for my folio and has opened my mind to poetry’

‘Makes me think about how pace and tone, when performed, enhances the poem greatly’

‘Folio pieces can be extended from this – it really helped’

- Staff displayed ‘currently reading’ posters on their door.
- Creative writing competition. Cathy Macphail recently gave a talk to S3 and provided the line ‘I heard the knocking at the door and I knew they had come for me’. Pupils had to write a 500 word story starting with this line. The overall winner was Heather Dundas (S2), who received a £20 Waterstones voucher. Well done also to Rafe Potts and Emma Brough.
- Poster competition to design a poster on the benefits of reading. The overall winner was Charlotte Collins (S2). As well as winning a £20 Waterstones voucher, Charlotte’s fantastic poster will be reproduced and displayed around the school. Well done also to Belle McCormack.
- Three S3 pupils visited Todholm Primary and read to the two P2 classes.
- During three lunchtimes, members of staff read from David Walliams new book ‘Bad Dad’. Mr Singh, Mr Currie and Mr Androsik were the storytellers.



Art & Photography

S1 Junior Photography Club

S1 and S2 students have been working with Miss Grzybek this year on varied photography projects, including taking photos of a scientific experiment, an energy themed competition project and learning camera basic skills.

Make, Bake and Create

Junior students have been busy designing and making a fashion outfit using recycled materials. This will hopefully result in a regional fashion show. Watch this space. In the new year pupils will be baking and decorating cakes just in time for everyone to break a New years resolution!

S3 School value banners.

All S3 students have been working on banners based on the style of a Graphic designers Johanna Basford. The banners incorporate all the words used in the school values with natural themed images of flowers, plants and butterflies.

S5 Higher Photography

Some S5/6 students have been involved in a project which links Photography students in Rajistan in India, with students in Paisley. Their photographs have been used in a textiles hanging, presently on display in the Piazza shopping Centre in Paisley. Please look out for it if you are in the centre.



MODERN LANGUAGES

In the Modern Languages department this month, senior groups are visiting catchment primary schools to take P7 classes. These seniors will get the opportunity to create & present lessons. The aim of the P7 visits is to create more enthusiasm for learning Modern Languages in Paisley Grammar School and increase the number of pupils selecting French, German or Spanish (being introduced to the school next session) in the future. Also, the visits will give the fifth years more leadership opportunities to help them progress in the senior school next year. These classes will be taken before Christmas this year and all of the students are excited to take part in the visits.

Mathematics

The Maths Department have had a busy term with pupils across the year groups involved in a variety of learning activities in and out of the classroom.

S1 have been following a weekly numeracy programme which involves using 'Numeracy Ninja' calculating activities which lead to achieving a Ninja belt of a particular colour depending upon their score, regular use the Sumdog website to improve mental calculation as well as a targeted teaching programme of important written calculation skills.

S1 and S2 classes have been competing each month to receive the title 'Class of the Month', awarded to the class which best upholds the school value for that month. The following classes should be congratulated for achieving the award this term:

	S1	S2
September:	1 Mull 1	2 Iona 2
October:	1 Skye 2 and 1 Iona 1	2 Mull 1
November	1 Skye 1	2 Mull 1 and 2 Iona 1

A weekly algebra lesson has been built into our S2 teaching programme to increase confidence in this vital aspect of maths and pupils will be learning how algebra can be applied to solving a variety of real life problems.

The department celebrated Maths Week in September with a variety of active learning activities. S1 designed their own doughnut shop, S2 designed an obstacle course while S3 classes applied their maths skills to resist an alien invasion! Our Advanced Higher class visited Todholm Primary School where they enjoyed helping the primary pupils with their maths work and spoke to them about studying maths in high school.

In November all of our S3 pupils undertook Scottish National Survey of Achievement assessments in Numeracy. All S3 pupils have taken part in this and the results are currently being processed. We plan to use this information to help support our S3 pupils as they make their way from the Broad General Education into the Senior Phase.

Each month a boy and a girl from S1 – S3 is awarded the title Pupil of the Month for each department across the school. The following pupils deserve praise for receiving this award in maths during the first term:

Kiera Clark, Logan Elliot, Aimee Glen, Kieran Matheis



Science

The Science Department has been as busy as ever this term. In August we welcomed Miss Riddoch as a new member of the department to replace Mr Veters who moved on after 24 years service.

S1 classes have made a great start and are developing their skills in the use of science apparatus and have been studying our Volcanoes and Space topics. S2 have continued with our BGE course and have been involved in making rocket launchers and investigating crumple zones. Our S3 Biologists, Chemists and Physicists have been extremely enthusiastic about starting to specialise in their studies of Science. Our Senior Phase pupils have been working hard completing their coursework and we wish them all the best of luck in their prelims and other assessments in 2018!

English

Pupils in the English department have enjoyed a number of opportunities to develop their Literacy skills and engage, in different contexts, with their learning. We recently had a very successful visit from Leyla Josephine who worked with a number of pupils on developing their creative writing and poetry skills. In addition, S1 pupils took part in the Debating final which was the culmination of an Inter Disciplinary Learning project which focused on Health Inequalities in Scotland.

Author Events

This term we have had two authors along to speak to pupils. Award winning author Cathy MacPhail met with two S3 classes and talked about the inspirations behind her popular books. Next, three S1 classes were invited along to meet Tom Palmer, author of the popular Foul Play series.

Tom's event was very interactive with pupils having to answer questions about reading, culminating in a penalty shoot out. Pupils were asked to name one thing they learned from Tom's visit and comments included: 'It is important to read' 'That even if you don't like reading, you can like it if you take little steps'.

Music and Kickstart

This term, the Music Department started a very exciting instrumental programme called Kickstart in conjunction with the Renfrewshire Music Service. The project aimed at starting a wind band with woodwind, brass and percussion - everyone starting at the same time and supporting each other. At the launch, the students were treated to a concert by the West of Scotland Schools Concert Band under the baton of the acclaimed Nigel Boddice - he introduced the young people to the many exciting sounds of the ensemble in order to inspire the hopeful new musicians. They have made tremendous progress in the short time they have been learning and have demonstrated resilience and tenacity in their endeavours to date.

In 2018, the project moves into its second phase and will include a string section to complete the full orchestra. We will also be joined by our P6/7 students from our associated primaries as part of our transition programme to Paisley Grammar School.

Kickstart made their debut appearance in Paisley's finest venue, Paisley Abbey on Monday 18th December. The Carol Concert at the Abbey was a roaring success and there really is no better way to start the festive season!



'How you don't have to give up so easily'.

Storytelling Project

A group of S6 pupils are currently visiting Mossvale and Todholm primaries to read to the P1 classes. Both groups of pupils are enjoying the shared reading experience and we hope to continue it in the New Year.

JASS AWARD

As part of the JASS Award, S1 pupils are spending two periods working in the library. The library helper taster session introduces pupils to a variety of tasks including issuing books, using the library catalogue and finding nonfiction books. Pupils have also created posters to promote library resources to the rest of the school – topics have included WWI and International Animal Rights Day.



Employability

Greenpower

Well done Emma from [@slam_goldf24](#) [@Greenpowertrust](#) team, for giving up her morning off school to network at Renfrewshire Business Network today.

Emma attends college every Thursday in order to take part in the building and racing of a Formula 24 car, they are also designing the team logo and branding, she is the team leader of the Greenpower Team due to her previous knowledge of mechanics and she has delivered a presentation on behalf of the team to the council and to local businesses asking for money and resources in order to race their vehicle, including racing suits, helmets and gazebos to cover the car and team when at events. So far they have raised £400 not bad for one day a week.



Work Placements

In October, 142 S4 pupils went out on work placements. Placements varied from local schools, Rangers Football Club, HP and Renfrewshire Leisure. Our pupils gained a valuable insight into the world of work. For some it cemented the career path they would like to follow, and for others it boosted confidence through the use of skills they have been developing in school such as presenting, communication and the ability to complete tasks. As always, the feedback was excellent with a number of employers saying that our pupils were the best work placement pupils they'd had!

Diageo

Recently 10 pupils had the opportunity to visit Diageo and take part in a tour of the site and Bottling Hall, they took part in both a Mandex Activity and a Changepart Rig Team Activity. They also took part in an activity creating an Apprentice Storyboard and an Engineering Presentation. The event was offered to young people by Diageo to highlight to them the availability of modern apprenticeships.



British Airways

Students will be given a unique 'airside' tour of British Airways Engineering Hangar with aircraft aircraft/hands on activities / remote control vehicle/destroy composite panels. This will enhance knowledge of engineering roles available to young people.

The pupils thought the trip was more interactive than they expected as they were allowed inside the aeroplanes and given a real insight into roles they didn't realise existed.



NETBALL CLUB

There are currently two netball clubs which take place in the school- senior netball, and junior netball. The senior team is open to S4-6, while the junior is available for the S1-3 pupils. Both teams train once a week and participate in tournaments against other budding local athletes. After the junior team's first tournament, they asked that I start a second training session each week, as they were so keen to develop they're skills and get better at their sport. This extra time would help them develop better drills and skill sets. As well as having a social and physical benefit, the netball teams also help academically as most of the girls involved are sitting either National 5 or Higher P.E. Participation in this team allows them to practise for their 'one-off performance', contributing to a major part of their final grade. This is a great way for girls to develop team working and of-course sporting skills, and I would invite any girls interested to come join us.

SPORTS AMBASSADORS

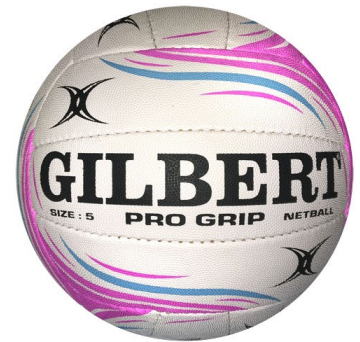
This year the Sports Ambassadors are working on a number of tasks and initiatives. This year we plan to push the attendance and yearly competitions with all the sports clubs in the school – we plan to do this in January 2018 as summertime competitions are coming up. We want to highlight the wide range of clubs available to pupils ranging from team sports such as volleyball and netball to clubs like dance. Another plan we have is to reform last year's Sport Council, where two pupils from each year group meet monthly with the Sports Ambassadors to discuss how to improve the sports offered, how the clubs are run and how to get the school more involved in sports overall. Our purpose this year is to ensure that sports and pupils sporting achievements can be more heavily publicised, we want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to take part in a sport they enjoy – we hope this can be possible after our showcase of all the clubs on offer in the school.

Plea from the S1-3 Netball Team!

This month we competed in our first tournament at St Andrews Secondary School against Trinity High School, Castlehead High School, Glennifer High School and St Andrews Secondary School. After Christmas, we will be training together twice a week in order to get even better! Our next big tournament will be in early in the new term.

Our plea is for donations to go towards new netball uniforms or jumpers. We would really appreciate your help, as this would give our new team a really big boost! If you'd like to help us,

Katie McNair S2



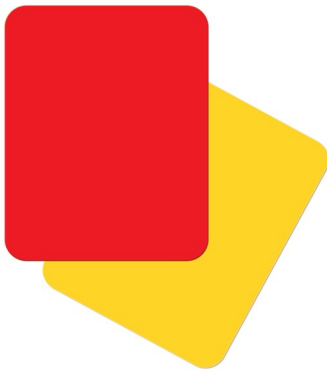
Hearty Lives



As part of our Hearty Lives Renfrewshire Wider Achievement initiative our S3 group decided to organise an event focused on 'being active'. The group were in charge of organising an event for S1 pupils which they hoped would promote the importance of daily activity amongst young people. They decided to organise a Santa Dash which involved a 1 mile dash round the school on a chilly December afternoon. The weather didn't deter our participants who were eager to take part and even turned up in Christmas attire! As well as promoting exercise amongst our students the Hearty Lives group also wanted to encourage healthy eating and offered smoothies, fruit and water for our thirsty and hungry runners after the event. This was made possible by a generous donation from our local Tesco store who provided a variety of fruit for us to prepare. The afternoon was a great success as it allowed pupils to work together to create an event which benefited the physical and mental health of their peers.



Refereeing



As part of our citizenship programme, S5/6 pupils are given the opportunity to take part of the Scottish Football Association's Referee Development Award to become fully qualified referees. This award is accredited by the SQA at level 7 and involves the completion of two units – Laws of the Game and Practical Refereeing. Well done to Michael Kerr, Alistair Harris and Ben Hewitt who all passed in September. The boys have already been helping out the school by refereeing home games.

Volleyball

The Volleyball Club practise on a Wednesday after school and is open to all year groups. This session so far they have played in three tournaments against other schools in Renfrewshire. They are currently 2nd in Renfrewshire and have only lost four games out of fourteen. The team are aiming to make it to the number one spot and, if successful, would go on to compete in the West of Scotland tournament. Anyone interested should see Mr Paton.



Young Enterprise



On Thursday 7th December, PGS Young Enterprise Scotland Group, consisting of a mix of 5th and 6th year pupils participated in the trade fair at Soar, Braehead. Over the past few months, the Young Enterprise Group have spent time after school and at lunch breaks developing their small business named 'Indulgence' and creating their product through analysis of

market research for sale to the public. In addition to selling their product, Young Enterprise also compete with other local schools in order to win an award for best business idea and sales pitch. The product the pupils developed is a seasonal hamper for both women and children consisting of a range of gift items to suit the time of year (e.g Christmas/ Valentines/ Easter). The group have worked extremely hard over these past few weeks to create their product and although they didn't manage to win any awards on Thursday there is a further opportunity in March to compete for the overall Young Enterprise winner which the group will continue to work hard to achieve!

If you are interested in purchasing one of the hampers for either a female or a child, they will be on sale through until March! Please contact the school in order to place an order for this, the price for a females hamper is £6.99 and for a child £5.99!

Micro-Tyco



WildHearts
Business for Good

Micro-Tyco is a business challenge run by the charity WildHearts Foundation. In its own words, the charity's aim is to "liberate entrepreneurial thinking across our

whole society". It uses the money raised by its challenge to make "micro-loans" to aspiring entrepreneurs living in the developing world, who cannot achieve their aims because they are bound by poverty.

The Micro-Tyco challenge consists of giving young people £1 and challenging them to grow it into as much money as possible through enterprising decisions.

S3 pupils have taken part in the challenge during the month of November within their S3 Wider Achievement class in the ICT Faculty. A variety of enterprising ideas were researched and attempted by the pupils. The most popular and successful ideas included sales of Children's Christmas Goodie Bags, a Car Wash, sales of teas/coffees/cakes at parents' evenings, a sponsored silence and selling on of gifts donated by local football teams.



PE Department

S1-S3 Broad General Education classes this year have worked hard in developing their skills from the significant aspect of learning. All of the classes have undertaken profiling to determine their strengths and targets for next term in their cognitive, physical competencies, personal qualities and physical fitness skills.



National 5 and higher pupils are working on their personal development programmes to complete their training programmes in a range of activities such as badminton, basketball, football and netball. There were a number of pupils that attended the World Badminton Championships at the Emirates Arena to help develop their understanding of the four factors that impact on their performance. A special mention to Chloe Gibb (4MU1) and Holly Caldwell (4MU1) who both achieved full marks in their one off performances in dance.



A number of pupils from all year groups participate in our extra-

curricular sports programme. There are a number of activities on every day at lunch time and after school such as junior/senior badminton, netball, and volleyball and, inter-island football sessions. We have an excellent partnership with Active schools and the Sports Development Team that assist with the running of these events.



We have an S4 and S5 Sports Leaders Level 1 and 2 group that are delivering an extensive leadership programme to the school. This has involved the running of lunch time and extra-curricular club sessions as well as helping with transitional events in local primary schools. A number of our successful pupils from the Sports Leaders programme have been selected to represent RSSE (Renfrewshire School and Sport Education). These pupils have also progressed onto employment within the authority and studying further education in sports at University.



A number of pupils have been nominated for wider achievement awards in sports.

Lucy Stewart (1SK2), Charlie McConnachie (1MU1) and Holly

Caldwell (4MU1) all represented the school in the Eilish Herron award for the positive about youth awards in Renfrewshire. This is because they achieved 1st place in the UDO World Dance Championships in Glasgow, SECC. The girls have recently been competing in the World of Dance UK competition. The girls alongside Matt Yates (4Sk1) and Amiee Pollard (5MU1) are also nominated for the Provost Community Award due to their commitment in their sports. Matt has recently signed a professional football contract with Rangers football club as well as training with Scotland Under-16s. Amiee has been a member of the National U21 Karate Team representing Scotland at World and European U21, Junior and Cadet Level for the last two years. On 17th February 2017 Aimee competed in the European Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria winning a bronze medal. This was Amiee's third time representing Scotland, her first being at the World Championships in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2015 where she reached the quarter-finals. Amiee competed the following year at the European Championships in Cyprus. It is a dream come true to be continually selected and she is always very proud to represent her country at such prestigious events. Her success abroad at World and European level has currently secured her a ranking of No. 2 in the World Karate Federation World Rankings at cadet level.



S2 Subject choices - helping you choose

Your [subject choices](#) at school can have an impact on what you can study at college or university and what jobs you can go for in the future.

To help pupils feel more confident about their subject choices and where these choices can take them, Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisers, Esther Stewart and Andrea Burns have been visiting S2 classes to deliver a range of fun activities to help pupils start to explore their skills and strengths and think about how their school subjects can link to a wide range of careers.

Pupil feedback from these lessons included:

“I liked the games and activities that we did and I learned a lot about what subjects you need for certain careers”

“I liked when we did the activity where the careers adviser read out skills and qualities for certain jobs and we stood up if it applied to you”

“I liked all the activities and I learned about the responsibilities that you need to have in jobs later in life”

Every S2 pupil was also offered a 1:1 careers meeting with Esther or Andrea to talk about their strengths, ideas, routes and pathways and to show them how they can use the Subject Choice tool and many other resources on My World of Work to help them prepare for making their subject choices.

Visit myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices for more information.

Helping your child choose their school subjects? Take a look at www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents



Careers help in school

**Skills
Development
Scotland**

Skills Development Scotland is Scotland's careers service. Throughout their time at school, pupils will have to make some big decisions about their future, and that is where Skills Development Scotland's Careers Advisers come in.

Esther Stewart is based right here in the school to give you the careers support you need throughout your time with us.

Through a combination of group sessions, one-to-one interviews and drop in clinics Esther has been working with pupils to help them understand how their personality, interests and values are key to making the right career decisions. We help pupils understand how to develop and use their strengths and skills, and explore where these could take them including the different routes and pathways open to them.

The work of SDS Careers Advisers is supported by our careers website My World of Work. You can use it to explore your career, skills and learning opportunities right through your school and working life. My World of Work is also packed with information and advice for parents to support their child with their plans; visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents

