



Ayr Academy Newsletter



Introduction by Mrs Laura Traynor



Welcome to the Easter 2022 Newsletter. Hopefully we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel with regards the Covid situation and we are starting to live within the bounds of the 'new normal'. We are certainly enjoying reduced time with our masks on and having assemblies again to allow us to celebrate success and share common messages.

Throughout the term the school has been busy enjoying a number of different projects and activities including purple Friday for the LGBT group, bake sales to raise funds for school projects and building boats with our local partners. We came together to support the 'reclaim the night' project to highlight the violence against women campaign. Our two school captains spoke very confidently to the crowd and then joined the walkers.

Our continued partnership with the Ayrshire Warriors has continued to grow and develop with a group of S2-3 pupils thoroughly enjoying the weekly sessions. The TAYP project is also keeping our S2 pupils busy doing active and outdoor learning.

We have completed and sent off our Scottish Attainment Challenge report to show the good work and progress with our targeted groups. The feedback has been very positive and has shown, by significant progress in a number of 'stretch aims', that we are moving in the right direction. We have submitted our change request and await the news on this to allow us to implement many of the valuable initiatives going forward next session.

The Speech and Language team in the school have introduced universal and targeted supports for our S1 and S2 pupils. This is gaining ground and allowing the pupils involved to develop confidence in communication and in their verbal skills to allow them to access the work in their classes.

We are currently preparing our Senior pupils for the first examinations the full S4-6 cohort has ever experienced. This includes additional supported study, master classes and Easter school to ensure they are as well prepared for their examinations as possible. We have worked closely with a range of different mental health partners to allow us to offer a range of different supports including mindfulness, yoga, SAMH and counselling. These services continue to be well utilised and are helping our young people with examination stress.

The option process has taken place and we are putting a timetable together to ensure our pupils have appropriate pathways for their studies next year. The new timetable will commence on 6th June 2022.

Transition activities continue to be a big focus for this term and we hope to get all cluster P7 pupils in the building in May and also in June. Mr Miller and the Pupil Support department have enjoyed spending time with the P7 pupils designing a new tie which is currently in production. When the pupils arrive in August to start S1 they will have their very own designed tie. This is so exciting!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your support throughout this year and our pupils for their continued work in building knowledge and resilience through our vision Believe...Achieve. Have a great break.

Easter, 2022

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 1st April—School closes for holiday at 2.30pm
- 4th-8th April – Easter School
- 19th April - School reopens at 8.45am
- 2nd May—May day holiday
- 5th May—Inservice, pupils not in school
- 10th May-S1 Parents Evening
- 26th-27th May—Bronze DoE Expedition

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#believeachieve





'The Apprentice'

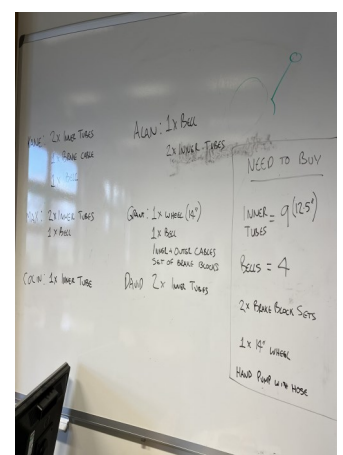
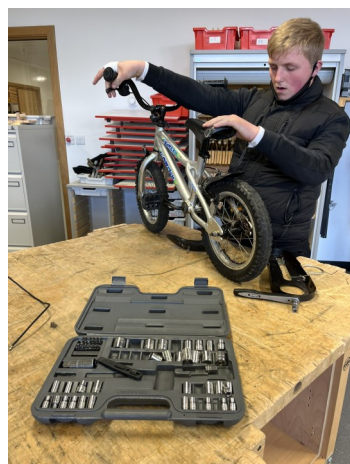
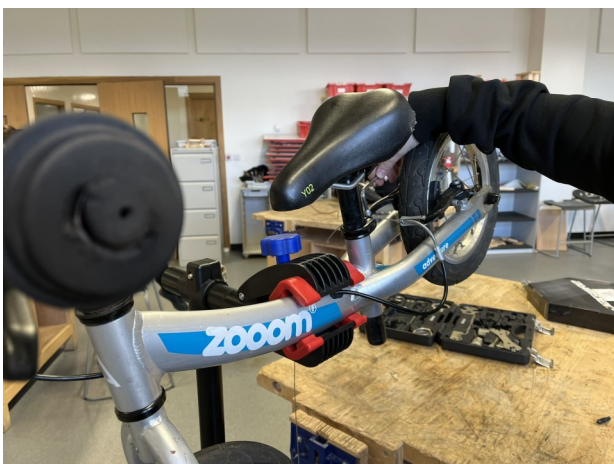
Some of our senior pupils took part in the National 5 interviews for the position of the 'PE apprentice'. This is part of the Sport & Recreation course and all candidates were fantastic on the day. A few young people were missing due to COVID but will catch up at a later date. The successful candidate will be decided once all have completed the process. Well done to all involved!



Bike Maintenance



Our bike maintenance group is going from strength to strength! This month they have been checking multiple bikes for a local pre-school. Their task was identifying what was needing sorted and making a shopping list of parts to ensure they are safe for the youngsters.





SQA Exams 2022

Before we know it the SQA exam diet will have begun, the first exam for our pupils is on Wednesday 27th April 2022.

The full SQA exam timetable can be accessed by going to the following:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-2022-exam-timetable.pdf

Preparations continue to be underway within school and pupils are encouraged to attend supported study, Easter school and ensure they are studying at home.



Easter School

We are delighted to offer a comprehensive programme for Easter school this year. Teachers are giving up part of their Easter holiday to come in and support pupils with their revision for the upcoming examinations. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

AYR ACADEMY EASTER SCHOOL 2022



Subject	Teacher	Level	Day/date	Virtual/ in person
Art & Design	K Cairns	N4,5 & H	Monday 4 th – 10.00 – 14.00	In person
Art & Design	J Morton	N5, H	Monday 4 th – 10.00 – 14.00	In person
RMPS	O Robson	Nat 5	Monday 4 th – 10.00 – 14.00	In Person
Modern Studies	R Miller	N5, H	Monday 4 th – 10.00 – 14.00	In person
Geography	S. Kennedy	Higher	Tuesday 5 th – 10.00 - 12.00	In Person
Geography	S. Kennedy	Nat 5	Tuesday 5 th – 12.00 – 14.00	In Person
RMPS	O Robson	Higher	Tuesday 5 th – 10.00- 14.00	In Person
English	G Robertson	N5	Tuesday 5 th – 10.00- 14.00	In Person
English	C Campbell	N5	Tuesday 5 th – 10.00- 14.00	In Person
English	G McVicar	Higher	Tuesday 5 th – 10.00- 14.00	In Person
Maths	N McGarry	Nat 5 Apps	Wednesday 6 th – 10.00-14.00	In Person
Maths	M Wiltshire	N5 Maths	Wednesday 6 th – 10.00-14.00	In Person
Maths	J Hamilton	H Maths	Wednesday 6 th – 10.00-14.00	In Person
Music	S Menzies	N5/H/ADH	Thursday 7 th – 10.00 – 14.00	In Person
Music Tech	S Roy	N5/H/ADH	Thursday 7 th – 10.00 – 14.00	In Person

Respect Ambition Community Compassion Responsibility

Believe...Achieve





S1/2 Football



Parent Council

Ayr Academy Parent Council continue to meet online and you are always welcome to join us.

Contact ayracademyparentcouncil@gmail.com or Ayr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk for a virtual invite. At our most recent meeting we discussed a variety of topics including covid, SQA exams, P7 transition and Craigie Sports Hub. Our next meeting is on Monday 16 May at 6:30pm. We are looking forward to launching a school lottery soon. You can follow us on Twitter [@AyrAcademy_PC](https://twitter.com/AyrAcademy_PC)




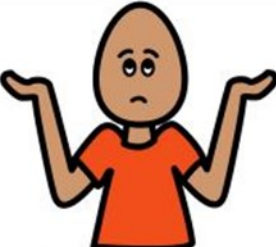
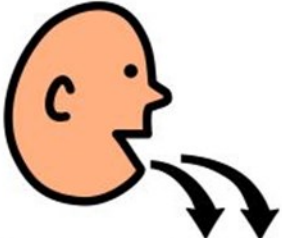



Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

Since Christmas we have continued to support identified S1 pupils through targeted group interventions. Pupils have worked on narrative, vocabulary, comprehension and social interaction skills. A number of pupils are also receiving input on a 1:1 basis to support their comprehension of the zones of regulation alongside other skills.

The pupils in the ICE Hub have also continued to receive input, both in small groups and as a whole class. Pupils have been working on verbal reasoning skills and using their language to problem solve. They showed their learning about the zones of regulation in a recent quiz where two teams tied for first on 17/17 with the remaining three teams close behind on 16.5/17!

We have also screened pupils in S2 who were identified as possibly requiring input by their guidance teacher. Pupils who need it are now being offered targeted group interventions. Again, these groups are working on narrative, vocabulary, comprehension and social interaction skills.

One of the things which we have been encouraging pupils in all of the groups to do is to monitor their own understanding. We want pupils to recognise when they have not understood and to be proactive about doing something about it. The below visual is in all classrooms to remind pupils of what they can say.

What to say when you don't understand	
 I don't understand	 I don't get it
 Can you say it again?	 What did you say?
 You said too much	 I wasn't listening





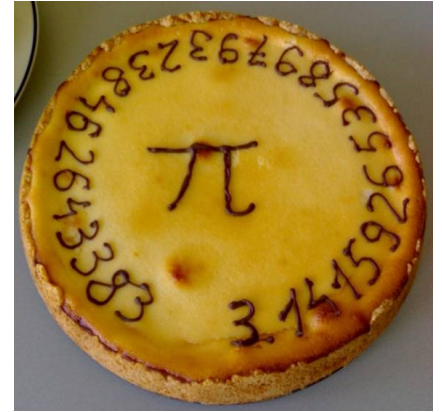
Art Piece of the Month



Artist of the month goes to Arek Lewandowski in S5. Arek has made so much progress with his Higher folio this year. It has been a pleasure to see his work flourish over the last year!



Pi Day 14.03.22 (3.14)



Our BGE classes had a fantastic day celebrating Pi day! Pi dingbats, a Pi relay, Pi skylines and a Pi agamogram were some of the activities on offer for our junior pupils!



Duke of Edinburgh's Award - South Ayrshire Coastal Rowing Intergeneration Project



Background: The Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther Fife, started an initiative in 2009 to reintroduce the inter community rowing competitions that for many years were a strong feature of life in the coastal communities of Scotland. This project also had an additional purpose of resurrecting the building of traditional coastal rowing skiffs, which once was a feature of many Scottish coastal communities over the past few hundred years.

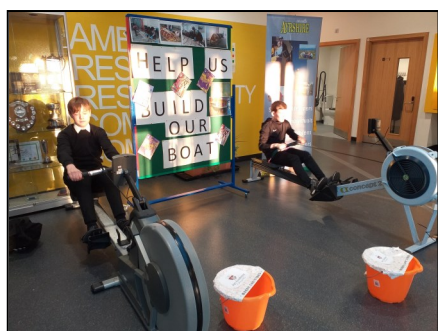
The aim of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Project is to provide a relatively inexpensive entry to the sport by using a design which can be built by the communities who will be rowing the boats, rather than buying completed boats from professional boat builders, now known as the St Ayles Skiff.

Outdoor Activities Development Officer Vincent McWhirter is taking this project forward by promoting and developing this initiative in all South Ayrshire coastal communities, with schools and communities in Troon, Maybole, Girvan, Ayr, and Prestwick. Sponsorship from private Companies, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Ayr College, enthusiastic individuals and South Ayrshire Council has already enabled six boats to be purchased and built over the last ten years.

Since May 2011 Pupils and enthusiastic members of the public, in local communities, have completed five boats so far, building a St Ayles Skiff in school at Carrick Academy in Maybole, Girvan Academy, Prestwick Academy and two boats in a donated boat shed in the Troon Marina.



The Troon boat was the first boat to be built in 2011 with an enthusiastic group of mostly retired men working over five months starting in May with local Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver candidates. The pupils helped build their first boat in the evening and during school holidays which upon completion was called "Marr Voyager" after having a competition in the town. The final name came from a local Marr College pupil.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award - South Ayrshire Coastal Rowing Intergeneration Project



Other schools followed soon after with a completed boat from Carrick Academy in Maybole, launched in June 2012 called "Carrick Maid", and a second Troon boat in October 2012 called "Ailsa Lass" with Girvan Academy launching their boat in June 2013. Prestwick Academy completed their boat in 2015 building it in the Maritime Museum in Irvine. All boat building projects worked with volunteer members of the public and with pupils completing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Troon, Carrick, Prestwick and Girvan now have established coastal rowing Clubs which row every week with clubs competing at several coastal rowing events throughout Scotland including the first world Championship in Ullapool in July 2013, in Northern Ireland in 2016 and Stranraer in 2019.



The dramatic growth in the boat building project and in coastal rowing has generated interest throughout the world with boats now having been built in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Holland and England. www.scottishcoastalrowing

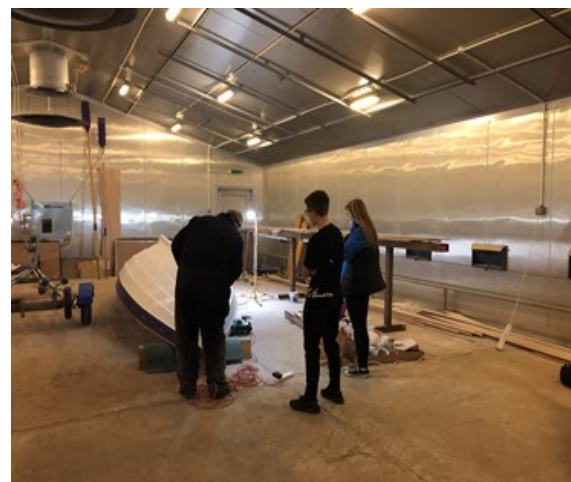
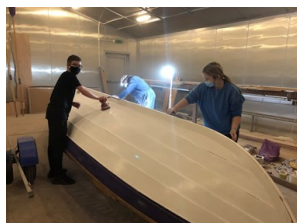
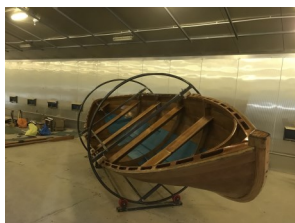
Ayr Academy Boat building Project

Ayr Academy boat building project is already well underway with a group of targeted pupils, local parents and community volunteers starting to build a boat for Ayr. Funding was gained from the DofE Diamond Challenge fund and Ayr College Community fund which allows enough funding for two boats to be built this year. Pupils supported by the school parent council committee at the 2019 School Christmas fete also had a promotional stall raising money to fund the project and start a club.

This intergeneration project will offer the opportunity to any adult who has an interest in wood craft and carpentry a chance to make the first St Ayles Skiff for a future Ayr Coastal Rowing club. Links with Employability and Skills has identified possible people who might be keen to get involved.

Rowing has already been tested in the river Ayr in 2019 with pupils on several "Come and Try" days rowing and canoeing during school holidays.

A partnership project with the University of West of Scotland, Scottish Rowing, and Coastal rowing Clubs is developing this initiative to establish a water sports club based at the university.



15 of our third year pupils will be doing their expedition walk for their Duke of Edinburgh award in late May.

They will be doing a walk around Annbank in the morning using maps and compasses. They will then be taken to Dolphin House where they will learn camp skills and team work.

If any parents, guardians or carers would be in a position to help with future expeditions or in any way at all with Duke of Edinburgh please contact Miss Connolly at the school.

Good luck explorers, remember to put on the thermals and wrap up warm!

Children's Mental Health Week 2022

This year's Children's Mental Health Week took place on 7-13 February 2022. This year's theme was Growing Together. We encouraged our young people (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. Some of our S2 put their thoughts down onto paper.

A SPACE.

One has wrote this poem today and realised, in this world full of race one needs a place of their space...
To collect oneself and take a breather, though oneself has trouble and wavers they drive passed it and get through it... I will make... my space!

A light so faint at strained. ✨
The once golden heart of wood
did splinter.
A broken ✨ sculpture to ✨
behold and blanketed by ✨
frost and cold. ✨
I lost my warmth that winter...





The School Canteen

Our amazing canteen staff always go above and beyond and their theme days are legendary! This year so far they have celebrated St Patrick's Day and National Day of Reflection (wear yellow to remember) !



This year has saw the introduction of some new goodies for sale in the canteen— Rollover hotdogs and slushies!





Purple Friday



Ayr Academy celebrated #purple-friday at the end of February to help raise funds for LGBT Youth Scotland. Pupils were encouraged to wear purple and buy yummy cakes from the bake sale! Later in the day the Ayr Academy LGBTQ committee took part in the Pass the Torch Relay. Well done to everyone!





Barista Group

Our barista group have recently completed their course and all pupils have now passed their qualifications. Fantastic effort was shown by all! A few of our pupils were invited to put their barista skills into action at @Westerly, Ayrshire College's training restaurant. How professional do our S3 pupils, Anglia and Eryn-Rose look? Both girls were highly praised for their excellent attitude and skills. Well done!





Safer Internet Week W/C 07.02.22

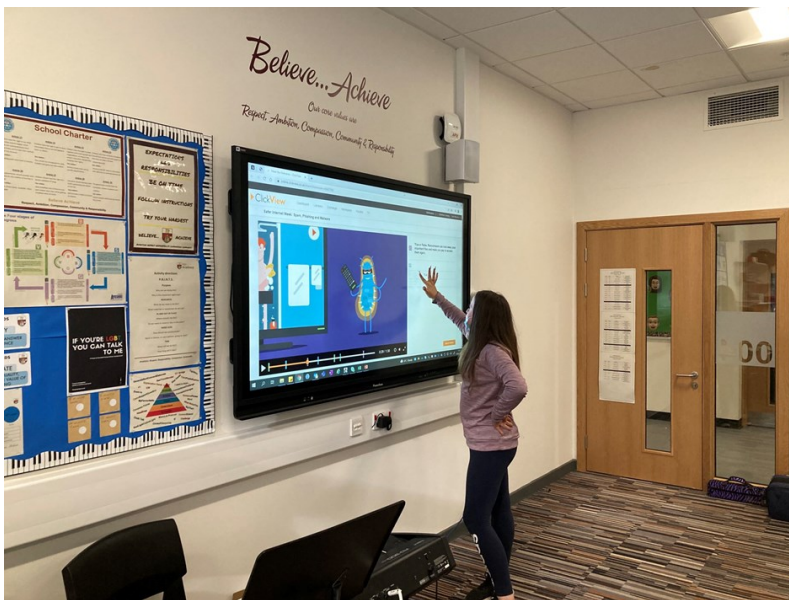
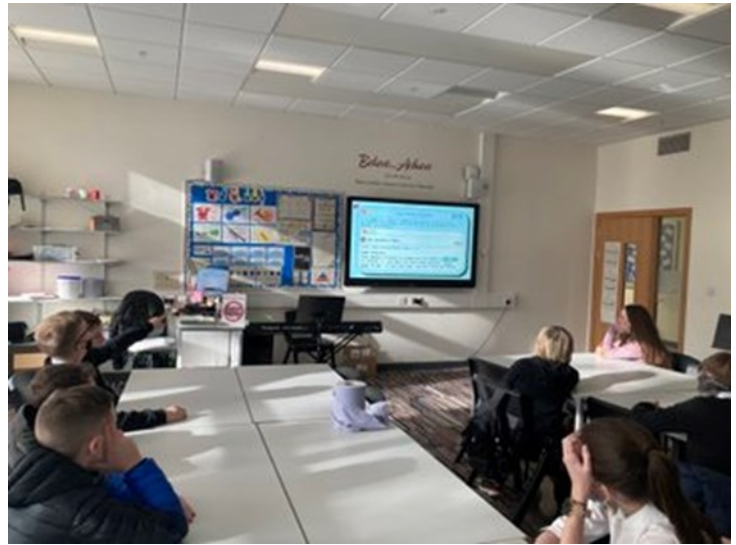
Mr Menzies organised a series of activities for all our S1 pupils to prompt discussion around internet safety. The four themes of internet safety covered across the four days were:

Monday - Social Media and Privacy

Tuesday - Screen Time and In-App Purchases

Wednesday - Scams, Phishing and Malware

Thursday - Conspiracy Theories and Fake News



f **BEFORE YOU POST... THINK!**

t **T** - is it true?

i **H** - is it hurtful?

o **I** - is it illegal?

o **N** - is it necessary?

o **K** - is it kind?

Google kindly donated prizes for pupils and much fun was had putting them together!



Construction Group



Our Construction Group are absolutely surpassing themselves - check out our very own **PERSONALISED** monoblocking!! Their faces when told they had to take it all back up so the ground is ready for their next challenge was heartbreaking though!





Cluster Primary School Update



Annbank Primary School



This term we have been learning about Famous Scots and Scottish Politics. We really enjoyed exploring past and present famous Scots and the impact they have had on Scottish society and culture. The P7's of Annbank Primary enjoyed forming their own political parties and debating topical questions.

During Term 3, we have had the launch of Read Woke and The Mighty Minds Committee. During our Read Woke launch, we explored lots of new books

and enjoyed taking part in challenges that were based around social justice and empowerment. We have decided to continue to raise awareness and now participate in Woke Wednesdays. As part of our Read Woke launch we reintroduced reading buddies which has been a highlight of the year. We love reading stories to the P1s and hearing all about their favourite stories.

After Mental Health week, we formed our Mighty Minds Committee. We have been participating in weekly activities to help us relax and enjoy our surroundings such as music, the impact of scents in the classroom and showing kindness to others.

Our House Captains have been very busy organising events around the school. We created lots of activities for Red Nose Day such as quizzes and competitions and managed to raise £300. We have another fundraising event – which we are all looking forward to – to raise funds for Ukrainian Orphans. We will be planting sunflowers and dressing in blue and yellow to raise awareness. We cannot wait and hope to make a difference.

Finally, P7F had a fantastic overnight to Dolphin House and thoroughly enjoyed staying away with their friends and participating in activities. P7H are waiting in anticipation for their visit after the Easter holidays.



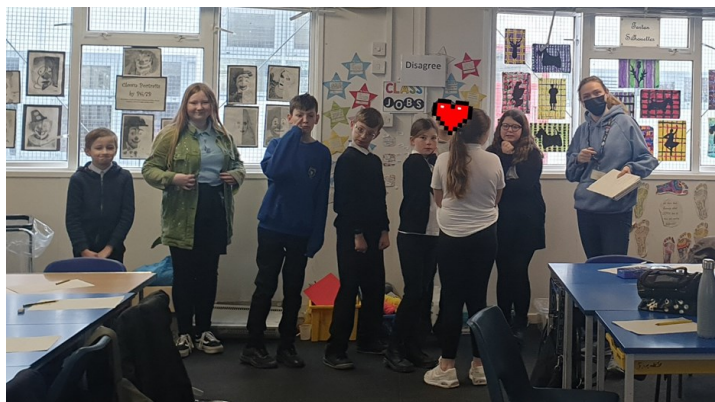
Cluster Primary School Update



DALMILLING PRIMARY SCHOOL



PC Henry spent time with our P7 General Crime Club recently. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed their time, as you can see by the smiley faces!



Over 60 of our P6 and P7 pupils were consulted in order to help identify specific community needs and opportunities for future development for the 'Team around Dalmilling'

Pupils were very responsive and mature in their contribution.



Pupils and staff were delighted to receive tickets to watch Ayr United play Kilmarnock FCF recently! They were even more delighted when some players hand delivered the tickets and had a kick about with pupils!





Cluster Primary School Update



Coylton Primary and Early Years Centre



P7 pupils enjoyed time at Dolphin House this month! Their first day involved settling into their new digs, team challenges, exploring Culzean and a chill out on the beach. A fabulous second day was spent coasteering, caving and rock pooling - all in one day!

The third day involved an amazing hill walk in the Cornish Hills and a disco at night. The last day orienteering at Dolphin House was an amazing end to a super trip!





Newton Primary School

P7 loved creating dens to sit in and read, enjoying the warmth of the sunshine!



You're never too old to learn through play, as our P7 pupils demonstrated!





House Points



We continue to run a House Points competition within the school to encourage positive behaviour and attitudes on a daily basis. Points can be earned in various ways and there will be a reward for members of the winning house at the end of the summer term.

Points can be won on an individual basis or as a house group, but all points contribute to the house total.

Currently, the leaderboard is as follows:

Galloway – 14400 points

Carrick – 15230 points

Kyle – 14915 points

Pupils can earn the following points individually through:

- Attendance
- Representing the school
- Extracurricular activities
- Pupil of the Week—nominated by each class teacher
- General excellence in subjects
- Any appropriate achievements outwith classroom learning
- Awards at prizegiving

Points can be earned as a house group:

- Inter-house games in the PE department
- Punctuality
- Uniform

Good luck to all three houses!

