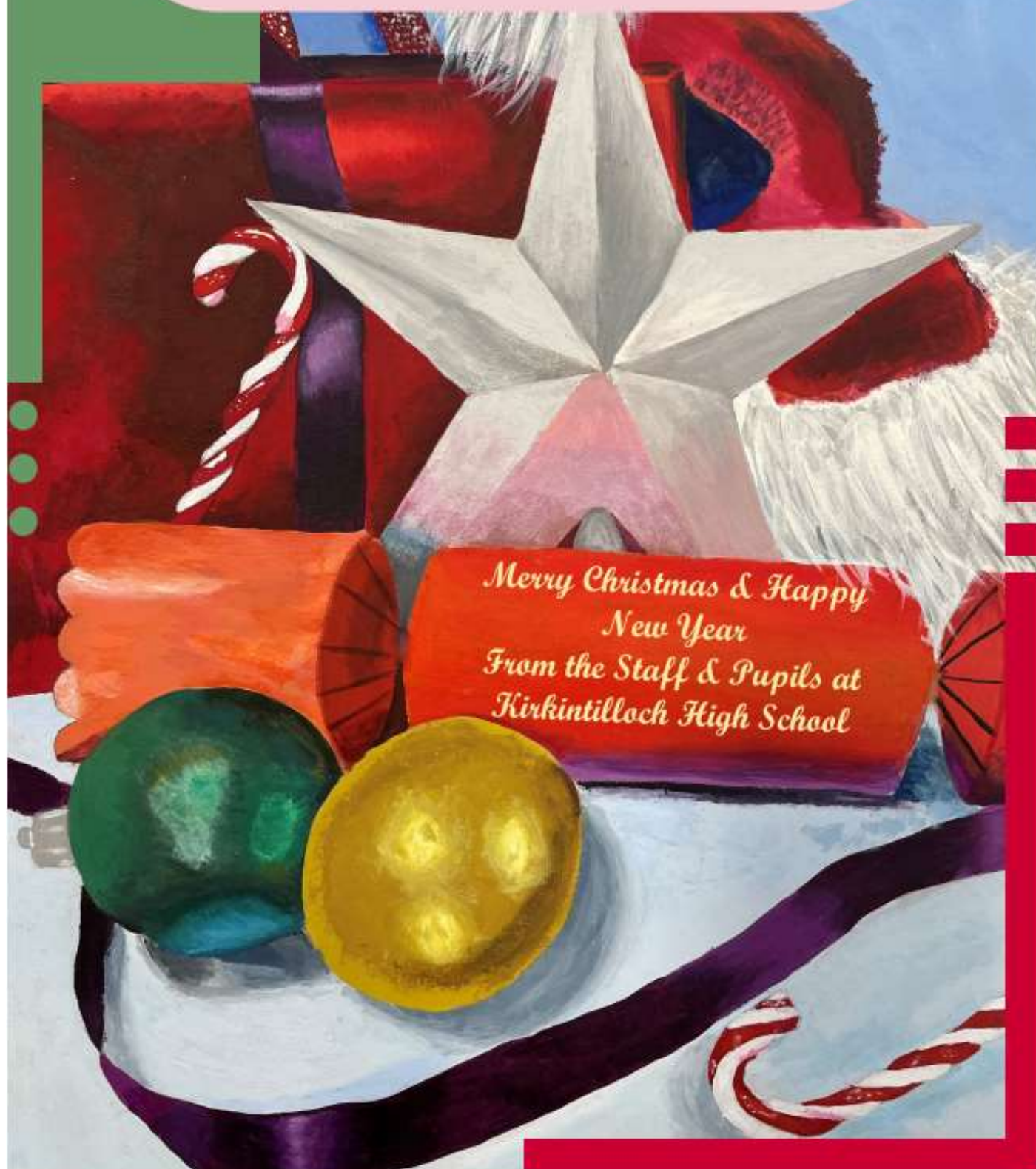


Kirkintilloch High School Newsletter

**December
2023**

Kirky High-lights



Dear Parent/Carer,

As Christmas approaches and the Festive Feeling resonates through our school, I wanted to take the opportunity to celebrate some highlights from Term 1 here in Kirkintilloch High School, and to share some key diary dates for the coming term.

Home Economics Department - St Andrew's Day with S3 Pupils

S3 Practical Cookery pupils welcomed the opportunity to cook with Scotch Lamb as part of the annual Hashtag Campaign to make Scotch Lamb synonymous with St Andrew's Day in collaboration with Quality Meat Scotland and Scottish Craft Butchers #LambforStAndrewDay.

This year pupils learnt about Scotch lamb as a sustainable and healthy product through cooking tasty Scotch Lamb Keema with a cool yoghurt dressing. For many this was their first experience of cooking and tasting lamb and they thoroughly enjoyed the dish. *By Mrs Colquhoun, PT Home Economics*



Geography Department - World Aids Day 2023



On 1st December, 2 Advanced Higher Geography pupils - Ben and Isla sold red ribbons to raise awareness for World AIDS day. The school has supported this event for many years where pupils and staff have raised money for the cause. As well as this the S3 Geography classes have been learning about HIV/AIDS in their Health topic - again raising awareness and hopefully reducing any stigma attached. The photo attached shows a poster made by our S3 pupil - Freya Coleman which was also reposted on X (formerly known as Twitter) by National AIDS Trust.

By Mrs Reid, PT Geography/Psychology

Psychology Department - Pupil Led Learning in Psychology

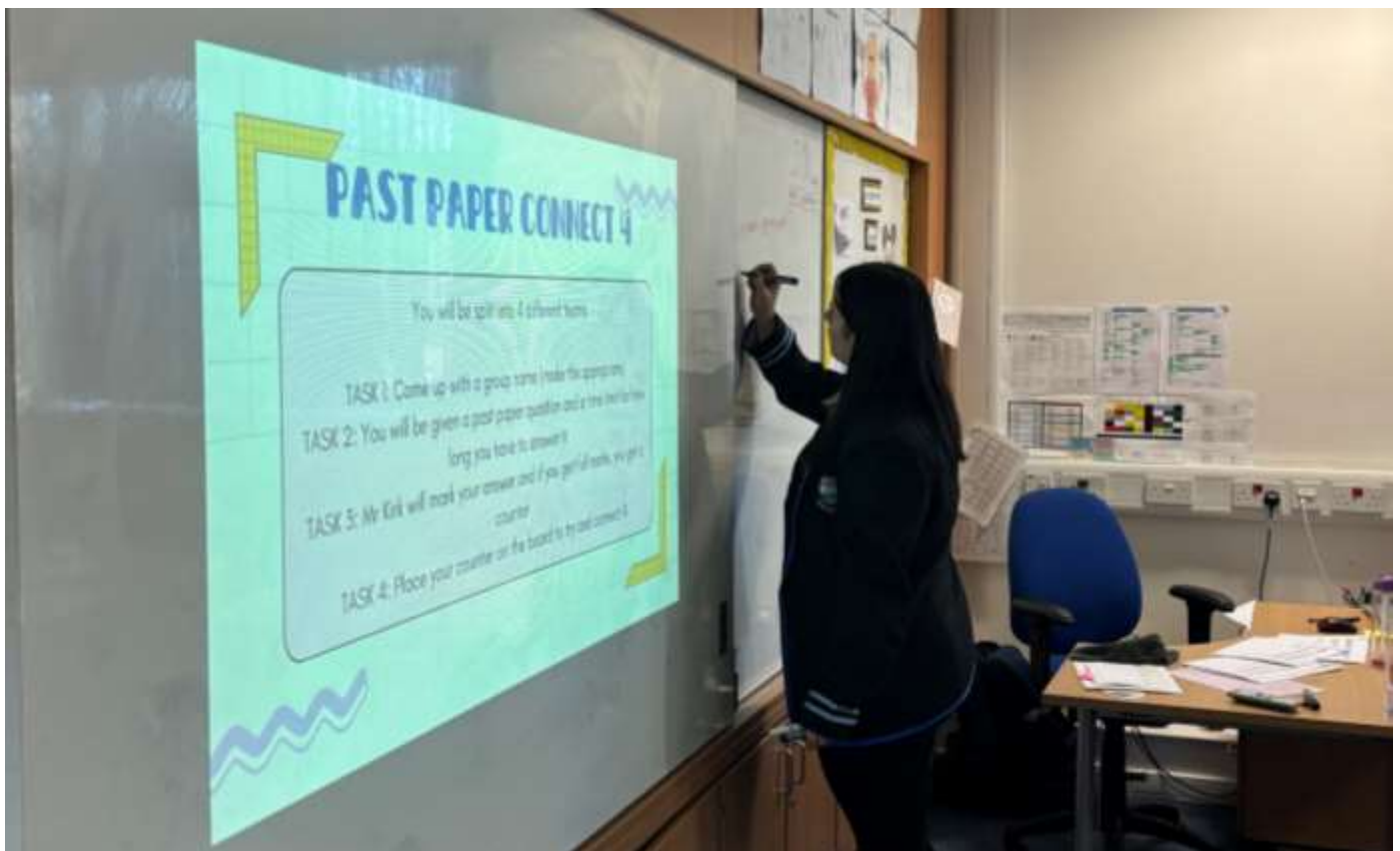


'Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn.' ~ Benjamin Franklin.

Ellie Stevenson is a current S6 pupil who is currently working towards her Higher in Psychology and recently took part in a pupil-led initiative where she led a teaching session with a National 5 Psychology class. Ellie planned and delivered a revision lesson for the class which involved exciting revision games such as revision bingo, past paper connect 4 and a Blooket online quiz. National 5 pupils really enjoyed taking part in the lesson.

Pictured here is Ellie leading the lesson with National 5 Psychology pupils.

By Mr Kirk, Teacher of Psychology



KHS School Christmas Card Design 2023

This year's school Christmas Card, which is featured on the front cover of this newsletter, was part of former pupil Demi Whiteford's Higher Art & Design portfolio and is such a festive painting! Well done to Demi – so talented.

By Mrs Daniel, Head Teacher



KHS Wellbeing Support Team

The Wellbeing department has had another busy and successful term. There are now four Nurture groups and two Outdoor Education groups running across S1 & S2. There are also several groups developing emotional intelligence including anxiety management and football specific emotional regulation. With the winter arriving, we have been busy with our Christmas themed activities. We have created a tree for pupils to decorate with positive, affirming and kindness baubles. The new department looks amazing with its festive decorations!



Our S3 & S4 PDA classes have been working extremely hard to develop their personal skills and abilities. They have successfully organised and delivered a family coffee morning, taking charge and running the fantastic event from start to finish. With Christmas round the corner, the pupils have been developing enterprise and fundraising skills by designing, making and selling Christmas treats, baubles and stocking fillers all the while planning and advertising a community Food Bank drive planned for January. If you'd like to donate, please contact Mr Connor at the school.

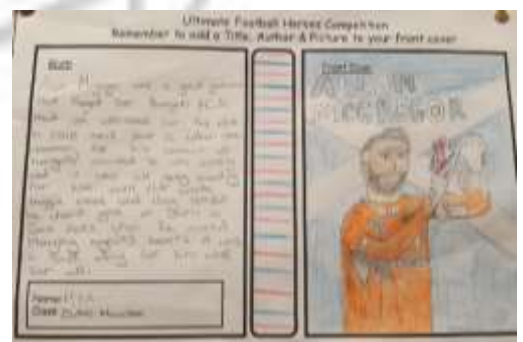
By Mr Reddie, PT Wellbeing Support

KHS Library – Author Visit

We recently enjoyed a school visit from Matt Oldfield, the author of Ultimate Football Heroes. It was joyful to see our S2 students participate in the East Dunbartonshire Council Ultimate Football Heroes Book Jacket Competition. With a special shout out to Kirkintilloch High Competition winner Momore, whose design was competitively selected as winner.

Below is a picture of Momore, Max and Madison who met Matt before his author talk- each of them received a signed copy of a UFH book. Out of all the S2s these 3 pupils' entries were Matt's favourites. He loved the players they chose to do a blurb on, and praised their front covers- he loved the colours and thought they were very creative. Matt came up after his talk (during lunchtime) and signed autographs and answered Questions.

By Miss Baird, School Librarian



S3 People in Society Class Outing

On Tuesday, 7th of November, the S3 People and Society class visited Kirkintilloch Town Hall where an exhibition showed a history of Kirkintilloch.

The curator had organised 'explorer' booklets which allowed the pupils to look at the exhibits and answer questions. Two of the topics were famous personalities and a display called 'foundry country'. This exhibition had artefacts and pictures of the famous 'Lion foundry' who cast and supplied the distinctive style of red telephone boxes and red postboxes all over the UK.



This exhibition has direct links to a number of CfE outcomes and is a very worthwhile place to visit. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed it and it had a great connection to the unit currently being studied.

By Mr Joice, Teacher of Wellbeing Support and RMPS

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative 2023



The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) raises awareness amongst our young people about philanthropy and our local community. We are responsible for directing a £3000 grant to a local charity through a unique programme of team work, research and competition. Our young people in S5 competed on behalf of their chosen charity. This year Lucy, Nathan and Amelia won the grant on behalf of Love Leigh Community.

Love Leigh Community is a very small charity who aim to fight the stigma of mental health by carrying out acts of kindness and encouraging others to do the same. The aim of the charity is what inspired the group to send balloons around the school to brighten people's day.

Well done also to Emily Malcolm, Vicky Ewing, Danni Scott and Tegan Ward for their incredible fundraising as part of their YPI programme on behalf of Glasgow Children's Hospital - a cause very close to their hearts. The group raised over £700 doing a sponsored walk from KHS to St George's Square. The money raised will go towards games consoles.

Every competing group did a fantastic job and have helped raise awareness for issues that affect people in our community and the charities that aim to tackle these issues. Well done to everyone involved!

By Mrs Welsh, Teacher of RMPS

Developing our Young Workforce

We have been offering numerous opportunities for our young people to develop employability skills. Of specific note this term are our DYW Microsoft Teams pages, which enable pupils and parents to navigate through possible future careers and explore the skills and qualifications that will enable success in each area. Please see the accompanying poster that we have shared with our young people.

Lessons from Auschwitz

This November, two of our S6 pupils were selected to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The pupils attended a conference in Edinburgh and heard a powerful testimony from a Holocaust survivor. They then travelled to Poland to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. The pupils will be sharing what they have learnt about prejudice with younger pupils in early 2024.

Step into STEM

The Biology department took an enthusiastic team of S4 pupils along to the Step into STEM event held at the City of Glasgow College. Pupils had the opportunity to hear about lots of different careers in STEM and to develop their own employability skills by participating in various challenges.



By Miss Redden, Teacher of Developing our Young Workforce/RMPS and Wellbeing Support

KHS Modern Languages Department



Well done to our two groups from S2 who entered the National Competition "Our World"! They created a storyboard about one of the Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nations in order to create a short movie. Good luck in the competition! They could be going to Edinburgh to record their movie!



Our department was selected to take part in the Scotland's Languages Explorers Programme. Our Elective Class is currently taking part in the programme in order to better understand the importance and relevance of Modern Languages in communication and work.



What a great opportunity for our S3 Elective! They are enjoying the sessions that support them to realise their languages potential and dreaming big!

Our Senior Pupils are about to visit France and Belgium and their lovely Christmas markets. A fantastic opportunity for them not only to practise their language skills in real life context but also to discover more about the francophone culture. Well done to all pupils for their organisation of the delicious bake sale events to raise money for their trip!



Our Languages Club has been very busy this term! Creating poster for the European Day of Languages, Competing in the Languageut UK Competition, making storyboards for the Our World Competition, discovering about Halloween traditions around the world and decorating the Languages Department for Christmas... It was loads of fun!



"Five BGE and Senior Phase pupils demonstrated their fantastic linguistic skills and abilities this month. They entered into the Mother Tongue, Other Tongue competition run by SCILT which celebrates people who don't speak English as their first language, and those who are learning a language other than English. The pupils created beautiful poems in French, Shona, and Yoruba. We can't wait to hear how our fantastic young people get on in the competition!"

By Mme Sadek-Kirk, PT Modern Languages

Art & Design Department Updates



Mr McGregor's 3H Art class did an amazing job over at Oxgang, working within their local community to transform the wellbeing department corridors. They created five large scale murals that they designed, planned, and painted on their own. They worked closely with the staff and pupils at Oxgang to incorporate their ideas into a reality. This was an



amazing example of being responsible citizens and part of a large scale project that has impacted the young people at Oxgang Primary. Well done to all who took part.



The Art Department have been working closely with the Central Kirk Barista Team (who make and sell coffee to staff) to create a design for our new Christmas cups. S1-S3 took part in the competition and the winning design is going to be printed and used on all coffees sold to staff over the Festive Period. All 10 runners up will receive a free hot chocolate made by the Barista team, and the winner will receive a Starbucks hamper! Our winner this year was Emily Clarkson in 3N. Excellent work! Enjoy your hamper.

By Mr McGregor, Teacher of Art & Design



As part of a still life unit and using the work of Claus Oldenburg to inspire them, S2 pupils designed cupcake sculptures. They were given paper towels, cardboard straws and glue to complete this task. Pupils started by creating different designs in their sketch books considering the materials and the three dimensional qualities of their sculptures. They came up with lots of individual outcomes using different techniques. Emma followed a Christmas theme with her lovely snowman design.

By Ms Barbour, Teacher of Art & Design



S3 worked incredibly hard on a design unit this term, designing a new product for the company **Brazen Botany**. They displayed great creativity and imagination using 3D paper manipulation and problem solving skills to create some wonderful 3D paper plants.

By Ms Bolger, Teacher of Art & Design



Physical Education Department Updates



Badminton Club - Mr. Shellam's Badminton club has been very busy this year! A wide range of S1-3 pupils have been consistently attending the club and putting their skills to the test with over 30 pupils attending weekly!

Senior Manchester City VS BSC Young Boys Trip - The PE Department organised a trip for 50 pupils from S4-S6 to attend the Manchester City match against BSC Young Boys in the Champions League Group Stage! All pupils enjoyed the trip with plenty of goals from some big stars.



Netball Club - Miss Webster's Netball Club has been amazing this term! The team have completed weekly training sessions with the help of our Senior Netball coaches and have competed against other schools in the East Dunbartonshire League! The team have gained wins throughout the term!

Basketball Club - Basketball club has been eventful this year! With S3s consistency attending to improve their skills! The S3s have developed well and we are looking forward to seeing them grow in the future!



Fitness Club - Mr. Marshall's Fitness club has been great for pupils from S1-3 looking to build up their confidence and experience within the Gym!

Gymnastics Club - Miss McPhee's Gymnastics club has been delightful this term! With the help of our senior coach and Miss Bell, S1-3 pupils have developed their confidence and skills in order to make fantastic routines within their performance!



S1 Football Team - Mr. Marshall and Miss Skivington's S1 Football Team have been great this year! With multiple games in the league already played, the S1 team have shown great determination throughout their performances! Looking forward to see how the team grows in the future!



S2/3 Football Team - Mr. McAteer and Mr. Shellam's S2 Football team have started off well this year! The team have played well showing excellent teamwork and communication, demonstrating this with a win against Clydebank High School! Mr. Doherty and Mr. Brown's S3 Football team have competed within the East Dunbartonshire League this year!

S4 Football Team - Mr. Fan's S4 team have been excellent this term! With 3 wins out of 3 so far in the East Dunbartonshire League, they are currently sitting at the top of the table! Keep it up!

Senior Football Team - Mr. Millar's Senior Football Team have been great role models this term! Through an excellent show of resilience, the team are able to keep going right to the final whistle! This was especially shown after a 2-2 draw against Lenzie Academy!

Coaching Academy - This term, the PE Department have created a Coaching Academy! This has involved seniors learning leadership and work experience skills through sports coaching! The seniors have taken time to learn and develop their skills and apply them into practice by leading one of the PE Wider Achievement Clubs!

Active Girls Club - After the success of Active Girls Day, the PE Department have set up an Active Girls Club which has been run by Miss Bell! This allows girls to become more involved in sport and playing in a wide range of activities of their choice!

Girls Football Team - Mrs Docherty's Girls Football team have been attending training weekly and competed within the East Dunbartonshire League! The girls have worked hard to develop their skills as a team and showing this throughout their matches!

By Mr Shellam, Teacher of Physical Education

MCR Young Talent Programme

The MCR Young Talent programme is a nationwide mentoring programme that has now been active in the school since September. Already we have eight pupils who have started or are about to start their Mentoring relationships, with many more planned for early next year. Feedback from the Pupils involved has been positive and we look forward to welcoming more volunteer mentors into the school in 2024.

By Mrs Clark-Martin, MCR Pathways Coordinator

Key Dates

- End of Term 1 – Friday, 22nd December at 2:30pm
- School commences – Monday, 8th January at 8:55am
- Preliminary Examinations - Monday 15th January until Friday 26th January.
- S2 Parents' Evening – Monday, 5th February 2024.

Parent Council

Our vibrant Parent Council works in close partnership with the school and is always looking for new members. We would welcome anyone that wants to know more to just to get in touch with the school or email our Chairperson, Claire Blackburn at KHSParentCouncil@outlook.com.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Festive Break with your families and to thank you for your continued support of our school. I look forward to meeting with you over the remainder of the session across various events. Please do not hesitate to contact the school via your child's Guidance Teacher or Head of House should you wish our assistance in any way.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you!



Maureen Daniel, Head Teacher