



Summer Newsletter 2024

Kirkintilloch High School

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Head Teacher: Maureen Daniel

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Dear Friends and Families of Kirkintilloch High School,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful session, I am writing to celebrate the achievements of our young people by sharing a little snippet of the joy they have brought to our school community this year.

Our young people have embodied our school motto by 'Dreaming Big, Working Hard, and Showing Kindness' in a multitude of ways, all of which have made us incredibly proud of them. I hope that you will enjoy reading about their many successes.

School closes for the Summer Break on Wednesday, 26th June at 1pm (12:20pm if your child goes home for lunch). We look forward to welcoming our young people back to school at 8:55am on Wednesday, 14th August 2024 including 150 new S1 pupils, ably looked after by our S6 Prefects.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and healthy summer break. We are so grateful to our parents, carers and partners for your continued support of our school – thank you for this.

Every kind wish,



Maureen Daniel
Head Teacher
Kirkintilloch High School



Staffing Updates

This session, we bid a fond farewell to two long-standing teachers at Kirkintilloch High School as they retire and look forward to a restful future. Our lovely retirees are Marie Barbour from our Art & Design Department, and Lorraine Baker from our Alternative Learning Environment. We also wish Janice Whiteford well in her retirement, having worked here as a cleaner for many years and been an asset to our school! We wish them all every happiness for their retirement and thank them most sincerely for their outstanding contribution over many years to our school community at Kirkintilloch High School.



We bid farewell and thank you to Stephen Millar, who has been with us as acting Principal Teacher of Physics/Science, Miss Kimmett from our Drama Team, Miss Sim from Mathematics and to Fiona Fullerton, our Wellbeing Assistant. We also wish Mrs Dwyer well on her maternity leave.

In August, we will be welcoming many new staff to our school and will issue a full update on new appointments at that time.

Our School Uniform

We are extremely proud of our identity as a school and encourage all young people to wear their school uniform with pride! You can see our uniform smartly modelled by four of our wonderful pupils on the cover of this newsletter. Our agreed school uniform consists of plain black school trousers or a skirt of a modest length: a white school shirt/blouse, school tie, plain black V-neck sweater or school badged hoodie, plain black school shoes or plain black trainers and a school blazer. In cold/wet weather, pupils can wear a plain black outdoor jacket but will need to remove this in class.

Families can apply for a school clothing grant and Free school meals by following this link: [School Clothing Grant and Free Meals Application | East Dunbartonshire Council](#)

In addition, if you would like help with uniform items directly from our school, you may follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/dQYBk9jzXs>



Special Awards for KHS



This year, we have been delighted to receive formal recognition for a number of special awards as a school. We have recently achieved our LGBT Gold Charter Award, our SCQF Ambassador School Silver Award, our Eco Schools Green Flag Award and a GOLD Scottish Languages Employability Award. We are absolutely delighted with these achievements and would like to thank all staff and pupils for their hard work in securing this recognition for our school!



Individual Pupil Achievements – Such Courage!

In addition to our whole school achievements, we are also incredibly proud to celebrate the success of some of our outstanding pupil achievers. One such young person is Scott McNeish, new S4. Scott is an accomplished competitive mountain biker and Motocross driver, competing regularly at national level with great success. Scott is incredibly humble about his achievements, and very encouraging of his peers. He is always keen to take his friends cycling and share tips on skills and technique. As you will see from these images of Scott in action, he is incredibly brave. Scott is without a doubt living out our school motto of 'Dream Big, Work Hard and Show Kindness!'



IF YOU HAVE
THE COURAGE
TO BEGIN, 
YOU HAVE
THE COURAGE
TO SUCCEED.



More Pupil Success – S2 Equestrianism

One of our lovely S2 pupils likes nothing more than spending her time working in stables with horses and the thrill of riding and show jumping. She is another example of great courage and fortitude and loves to spend time with the horses, especially her favourite, Charlie. Our young equestrian recently won a host of rosettes including a First Place in a jumping Competition and recognised as a stable helper. A fantastic achievement and a great way to promote wellbeing outside of school.



Quality Improvement Review Report

At the end of February, our school was involved in a Quality Improvement Review with East Dunbartonshire Council. A team of colleagues from across other EDC schools and Quality Improvement Managers and Officers spent time meeting pupils, parents and staff, and observing lessons and school life. We recently shared the findings of the report with our Parent Council and you can find the full report here:

<http://www.kirkintilloch.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/school-info/inspection-reports/>

Our Young Talent Programme – MCR Pathways

Young Talent is a school-based mentoring programme that matches volunteer mentors with high school pupils from S3 onwards. It has been successfully embedded in Kirkintilloch High School since September last year and to date we have had over 25 mentoring relationships in place. Young Talent supports young people to achieve their full potential whilst offering extra one to one support, ensuring their time at school is as positive an experience as it can be. Having a mentor to meet with them for one period per week provides a regular opportunity for the young person to focus on their future, talk through any concerns they may have or just share their thoughts and



experiences. Mentors also help young people identify and build on their strengths, achieve goals and aspirations.

One of our first pupils to join the programme was Chloe who was successfully matched by Denise, the Young Talent Coordinator within the school. Chloe, a 6th year pupil was looking to pursue a Career in Early Years. Her mentor Annie was chosen as a match not only because she had a background in primary teaching, but also because they had a lot of common interests including their love of books. Chloe loved attending her meetings with her mentor as they would swap book ideas, discuss what they were currently reading, and Annie also attended the Friday Book club that Chloe helped to facilitate in the school library.

Denise Clark Martin, MCR Pathways Young Talent Coordinator

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative – YPI



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 teamwork, research and competition. Our young people in S5 competed on behalf of their chosen charity. The charities represented in the final were Christians Against Poverty (CAP), Refuweegeee, Addiction Recovery Centre, Deafblind Scotland, Love Leigh, Milton of Campsie Church, Scottish Families Affected by Drugs and Alcohol.

Every team worked incredibly hard to raise awareness and fundraise on behalf of their charity. A coffee morning, bake sales, beat-the-goalie, photo booth, sponsored walks, a sponsored cold swim and acts of kindness, were just some of the fundraising efforts that resulted in our most successful fundraising to date – over £1700 in additional money was sent to individual charities.

After a very competitive final, Lucy Anderson, Nathan McGhee and Amelia Ludwinek won the £3000 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.

We look forward to the upcoming S5 following the incredible work of this year's cohort.

Mrs Louise Welsh, Teacher of RMPS



Public Speaking Success for our Debating Team

Congratulations to S5 pupils Niamh Fulton, Azwah Naveed and Molly Miller for their success in this year's Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. The team's chosen topic for debate was work-life balance: just a myth? After winning the local heat, the girls took part in the Rotary regional finals, narrowly missing out on a place in the national final. However, the judges remarked upon their hard work and skilled public speaking as a standard well beyond their years! Well done girls!

WW1 Trench Boxes

Our new S4s have been working tirelessly like soldiers during the month of June on building their own replica WWI trenches from shoeboxes. Pupils have researched the conditions in the trenches by using both primary and secondary sources and have compiled a list of resources they could use when making the trenches. Their hard work on this project will result in them achieving a Heritage Hero award from Archaeology Scotland.



Mrs Alanna Simpson, Principal Teacher of Social Subjects

Silver Personal Achievement Award



Some of our S2 learners in our Wellbeing Base have been working towards their Silver Personal Achievement Award. We have had some amazing skills on display in the kitchen and in the salon. The years hard work came together with a community event where families were able to come together to enjoy barista quality coffee, cakes and home baking before having their hair done in the salon. Couldn't be more proud of these pupils who have practiced for, planned and delivered this fantastic day!

Mr Stuart Reddie, Principal Teacher of Wellbeing Support

Family Cooking Sessions

The Home Economics department welcomed S1 pupils, parents and carers to family cooking sessions with a 'fake-away, take-away' theme this year. The first of three sessions started with a tasty Katsu Chicken Curry, followed by Pepperoni Pizza, then a Burger with Spicy Mayonnaise and Potato Wedges.



The cooking sessions allowed pupils to develop a range of skills such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, literacy and numeracy, as well as learning a range of practical skills and techniques to cook new dishes, but above all, have fun with their families. We look forward to offering more family cooking sessions throughout the year.

Mrs Fiona Colquhoun, Principal Teacher of Home Economics

Afternoon Tea Dance



S3 pupils and the Home Economics department invited grandparents, parents and carers to an afternoon tea dance event on Thursday 13th June from 12-2pm. Lunch and refreshments were provided along with great raffle prizes and live music from 'Jon Ritchie and That Swing Sensation'. The event was a great success, raising money for our school fund as well as delivering a lovely afternoon for our guests!

Quality Meat Scotland "Better Burger" Competition 2024

Our S3 practical cookery pupils took part in the QMS Better Burger Challenge, with two excellent entries making the final for the second year running. Pupils were tasked with creating an innovative burger using high-quality ingredients of Scotch Beef, Scotch Lamb, or Specially Selected Pork. Adam Solyman and Elisha Hossell created a Moroccan-style burger with Jack Ward and Arron Dickson creating a healthier version of a beef burger. Well done to winners Elisha Hossell and Adam Solyman!

Miss Susan Miller, Teacher of Home Economics



Our School Library

It is a pleasure working as the School Librarian at Kirkintilloch High. A much rewarding part of the job is Partnership working. The life of a school librarian can be a lonely one- but I can't say I feel this way in the slightest! Quite the contrary! This year the library has been working with the wonderful English Department, MCR Pathway Coordinator Denise & KHS Youth worker Jackie.

English Department and Library Collaboration

Together this year the library and English Department have been working closely to provide some great reading opportunities for pupils. All S1 and S2 pupils take fortnightly library visits, and have expanded their reading horizons by borrowing books, reading for pleasure, and taking part in some great reading-based activities in the library and in class. We are committed to promoting a reading culture in school and have allocated time for private reading and discussing our reading. One of the best parts of my job is linking students to books (both digital and print) they will enjoy! Our S2 pupils all had the chance to go to an event with visiting writer, Matt Oldfield, and this was a great opportunity for pupils to meet the author behind the popular Ultimate Football Heroes series that has been in demand in the library. Pupils were able to ask questions and took part in a competition to design a book cover with schools from across the authority.

Due to planned library visits, students love stories and learning, and have freedom of choice when selecting books. This love for stories and reading is evident within the lunchtime BGE Book Group or as they like to be named "The Funky Monkeys". Book club members share creative "Book & story showcasing sessions" in the form of book trailers, decorative posters or presentations. Recently, they have participated in a national (and international) reading for pleasure initiative: The Carnegies- the UK's longest running Book Awards. I feel very lucky working closely with these young students and developing a unique knowledge of what students read in their spare time! I look forward to future team-working with the English Department, and creating even more exciting reading opportunities with the pupils for next session!



Reading & Library Ambassadorship Programme

This year I was fortunate enough to work with a wonderful S6 Student Chloe-developing a lovely working relationship since I began my role in 2022. Since then, Chloe became a Reading and Library Ambassador, a wonderful mentor to the BGE book group members and a beacon for students who came into the library. In total Chloe completed well over 31 hours volunteering within the school library as a Reading and Library Ambassador. As a direct result she is on her way to attaining a Dynamic Youth Award. This successful learner pathway story would not have been possible without the partnership work between the School Library and our youth worker Jackie.



The School Library has been partnering up with **MCR Pathways Coordinator: Denise**. The library is a safe space in the school- so where better to house MCR Pathway meetings or group work activities? Students have participated in literacy and wellbeing activities as part of the MCR program such as: Where's Wally Book Scavenger hunt, What Book character has come for dinner challenge and the ever-popular Book Bingo!

Miss Jacqueline Baird, School Librarian



Scottish Text Live!

This year 130 National 5 English pupils were able to experience their SQA set text Tally's Blood exactly as the playwright intended – on the stage! Pupils travelled to the newly refurbished Cumbernauld Theatre to watch the Lanternhouse production of



the play in October. This was the first full scale production of Tally's Blood in over twenty years and it was a brilliant opportunity for pupils to immerse themselves in this modern classic. Pupils reported that the production was excellent and that seeing the language, ideas, and the themes of the play brought to life by the talented actors was invaluable preparation for their exam.

Miss Kerri-Anne Campbell, Principal Teacher of English

Mother Tongue Other Tongue

Amelia, Anjola, Ano, Natasha and Katie wrote some brilliant poems for the competition 'Mother Tongue Other Tongue'. Their masterpieces were in either French, Yoruba or Shona. The Modern Languages Department is extremely proud of their achievement for such a challenging and creative project. Congratulations to Amelia and Natasha who won in their category!





SEET Competition – Our World

After creating a storyboard about one of the Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nations using a foreign language, the three finalists of our school were invited to record their own short movie in Glasgow. What an incredible experience to be able to learn about lighting, camera positioning and editing. We thoroughly enjoyed attending the Premiere and Award Ceremony on 12th June and were very proud of our pupils!

Our First National Qualification in Mandarin

太棒了 or well done to Katie, Valeria and Aleena for sitting the N5 Mandarin exam this year. We are delighted that they were part of the first ever pupils to sit the Mandarin exam in the history of Kirkintilloch High School. To celebrate their hard work and their achievement, they have been personally invited by Strathclyde University, the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools and Scotland's National Centre for Languages to attend the Discovering China Glasgow Visit Day, which was loads of fun!



S3 Careers Activities

This term, S3 pupils enjoyed different experiences to understand the importance of learning a foreign language. The Career Fair was the best place to enquire about the importance of foreign languages and to eat delicious crepes made by Pascal, the French chef of the Broadcroft Hotel. They also enjoyed different interviews from the CEO of MP Stands and collaborators of Pole to Win, Chivas Brothers, Eurotunnel and British Airways. Pupils learned about the various opportunities that languages can offer. These activities were further organised for our Modern Languages Department to receive the Scottish Languages Employability Award.



Languages Club

Each Wednesday lunch time, it's Languages Club! This year, pupils have created amazing posters, joined different national competitions, enjoyed crepes and French delicacies, learned different languages (most recently Dutch) and mostly enjoyed spending time together. In June, pupils have decided to watch a movie in Dutch. Goed gedaan allemaal and bedankt! *Well done everyone and thank you!*



SCILT Languages and Employability – BGE & Senior Phase

Our S3 and S4 pupils got the opportunity to attend the workshop "Languages and your Career" offered by SCILT. A great opportunity to remember the importance of learning a foreign language for our everyday and working life. Pupils enjoyed different challenges linked to different foreign languages, but also reflected on where languages can take them.

Miss Colson, on behalf of the Modern Languages Team

Music Technology – Forth Valley College Recording Studio Tour and Demo

As part of the National 5 Music Technology course, Mr Clyde arranged to visit an industry standard recording studio to explore high-end equipment, recording techniques and generally broaden their understanding of the subject. Lecturers at Fourth Valley College Raploch Campus helped our pupils explore their state of the art facilities and take part in interactive activities such as adding foley to a Hollywood blockbuster movie and trying out ADR - Automated Dialogue Replacement. Pupils had an incredible time and we all loved learning new things (and being silly with sound) in the recording studio!

Young Performer of the Year Competition

Young Musician of the Year started at Kirkintilloch High School in January 2020 and has been running annually every year. Young Musician has grown in such popularity that last year we expanded to include Young Actor and forged an important and strong bond between Music and Drama. This year we introduced the Dance category. With over 50 auditions we celebrated 3 pupils in all 5 categories and invited adjudicators, professionals in their fields, chose a winner for each category.



Christmas Concert

Pupils worked incredibly hard all year in preparation for our Christmas concert. With over 60 pupils involved we had highlights of our S1 Pantomime, School orchestra, Senior Choir, Dance duo and monologues from our talented actors.

S1 Pantomime - P7 Transition Event

Our S1 Pantomime was written by two incredibly talented S6 Drama pupils. They wrote, directed and produced this year's pantomime with our S1 Drama club! The pantomime was previewed at our Christmas concert then they put a full showcase to visiting P7 pupils. This was a really exciting opportunity to build confidence, work with their peers and represent their school.

S3 Dance Recital

As part of our S3 course in Dance, pupils showcased their group and solo dances to parents and invited guests. This demonstrated not only their skills and technique but also their creativity with choreographed pieces. Well done to all, it was an incredible evening.



National Theatre Connections, Beacon Art Festival Theatre

22 of our S3-6 pupils worked incredibly hard all year alongside directors Miss Balkwill and Miss Kimmett on our bi-annual National Theatre Connections project. This is an exciting opportunity for our young people to work alongside professional writers and directors on a professional stage. Our performance of "Shout" was a funny, moving play about anxiety, celebrating difference, and finding your voice. A play that wonders what exactly it takes to overcome anxiety and mental health issues when you're a teenager. It's not just the noise you make that makes you who you are. Our pupils were exceptional and they received amazing feedback from the National Theatre in London.

Miss Isabel Horning, Principal Teacher of Music, Drama and Dance

S1/S2 Wellbeing Group Trip 2023-2024

The S1 and S2 Wellbeing group along with Mr Joice and Mrs Wilkes have had a very busy year. We have worked with our young people on improving and supporting their physical health and mental wellbeing. Topics have included Nutrition and Exercise, Improving Sleep Hygiene, Building Self-Esteem, Emotions and Feelings, Friendships and Relationships amongst many others. This is beneficial to all our young people and supports positive mental health, attendance and attainment in other subject areas. We have shared our learning with others, creating leaflets and posters. Our young people have built positive and supportive relationships within the group and with a number of key staff across the school. We enjoyed regular visits to Ms Baird our librarian and encourage everyone, pupils and staff alike, to visit and pick up a good book from the wonderful selection of resources we have here at KHS. Reading is the perfect summer activity and will support your health and wellbeing, so pick one up!



Pupils have also enjoyed weekly visits to our gym facilities and our state of the art hair and beauty salon, developing their skills, wellbeing and confidence. We have some very talented young people who have thrived in these environments. One of the highlights of the year was our recent trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park, which was voted for by our young people. This was a celebration for the S1 and S2 Wellbeing groups and was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Mrs Daniel for supporting us to take this trip together. As ever our young people were a credit to our school community and we were immensely proud of them.

Mrs Kirstie Wilkes, Teacher of Wellbeing Support

Art & Design Department Success

It's been a busy term in the Art & Design department. The S1 and S2 classes have been working on their fantastic clay creations. From colourful monsters to decorative dragon's eyes and even some mini planters. S1 pupils have also been planting up their nasturtium seeds for the school garden which they will draw and paint in August, once the colourful flowers are in bloom.



A huge well done to SOPHIE ANDERSON 2W (now S3) who was a finalist in the Glasgow City College-Scottish Secondary Schools Jewellery Competition. The brief was to design a pendant inspired by the theme of 'endangered species'. This was tremendous achievement as there were only 40 finalists out of over 700 entries.

Our S3 have been working on creative design projects and developing their media handling skills in preparation for S4. All of our fantastic Senior Phase pupils worked super hard to get their folios finished for submission to the SQA. Well done and good luck to them all!

Katrina Thornton, Principal Teacher of Art & Design

Physical Education Department – Participation for All!



Throughout the year, a range of Interhouse competitions have taken place within Kirkintilloch High School where S1-3 pupils have had the opportunity to represent their house through a variety of different activities! Most notably, our Team Sports and Athletics Interhouse was a great success in October and May! Well Done to Mr. Marshall for organising the events!

Following the celebration of Active Girls Day at KHS, Miss Skivington started an active girls club, which allowed girls from KHS to be further involved in sport throughout the year with their own personalisation and choice of activities!



Our S5/6 Coaching Academy have blossomed throughout the year! The coaches have been developing their skills such as content, transition and leading sessions through school clubs! Many thanks to EDLC and ActiveSchools for providing a wide range of opportunities to support the pupils!

Our Badminton Leaders Jamie Black and Ross Clelland have been consistently running the Badminton club this year for BGE pupils! The seniors have passed on their knowledge and assisted pupils with their skills by creating fun and exciting sessions!



Our Netball Leaders Jenna Chalmers and Emily Sneddon have been spending time at Oxbang Primary School delivering Netball sessions to pupils. They have also begun running a Netball Club in school for pupils of Kirkintilloch High to learn and develop their skills within this sport!



In November, the success from S4-6 pupils from the previous year was celebrated with a day trip down to Manchester to watch Manchester City play! We had the exciting opportunity to witness Manchester City dominate BSC Young Boys 3-0 in the UEFA Champions League Group Stage. This trip was a massive success and all pupils enjoyed the experience!

Miss Balkwill's dancers also demonstrated their talents by performing in the Harestanes Primary Dance Festival! The Dancers inspired the local primary schools with their amazing skills and performance!

Mr. Shellam's Basketball Club has been a great success this year with consistent attendance, mainly from our BGE cohort! Pupils have trained well, and were able to put their skills to the test in the EDC Schools Basketball competition this



year. It was great to see the team represent the school, with our S3 team coming in 2nd in their group!

In May, our S2-3 gymnasts represented the school and competed in the EDLC Gymnastics School Competition! The girls worked hard and their commitment was shown when performing in front of other schools especially with one of our pupils achieving 1st place!



Badminton Club has been recognised as one of our most popular clubs this year with a wide range of S1-3 pupils taking part weekly! Averagely, we had 30 + pupils attending the club which was delightful to see!



Mr. Marshall's Fitness Club this year has been a great success with 1st years spending time after school staying active and healthy. Pupils have gained a better understanding of how to stay healthy and physically active, both with and without gym equipment!



It has been a fantastic year for our Netball Team! With the team coming to weekly training and competing in both league and Netball events throughout the year! The team claimed multiple victories and shown incredible commitment! Well Done to Miss Webster and the Netball Leaders for all their efforts in organising the fixtures!



Our Girls Football Team also competed in school council competitions throughout the year! Most notably the 7s Football Tournament at Douglas Academy where the girls achieved 2nd place!

Mr. Marshall's S1 Boys Football Team had tremendous success throughout the year! Consistent hard work with around 30 pupils attending training. The squad were able to fulfil all league fixtures throughout the year!



Mr. McAteer and Mr Shellam's S2 Boys Football Team had a successful season by fulfilling all their fixtures in the league! The team finished 3rd in the league and competed in the EDC League Cup!

The S3 Boys Football Team led by Mr. Brown and Mr. Doherty also had great success by competing in fixtures throughout the year!



The S4 Boys Football Team had a very successful season securing wins in the league against Bocclair Academy, Lenzie Academy and Clydebank High School! Special mentions were awarded to Oliver Finnie as player of the season and Harry Gillespie for his superb Leadership skills both on and off the field. The boys' hard work paid off as they won the league for the first time at Kirkintilloch High School since 2009!

The Senior Boys Football team have been great role models to the younger teams throughout the season. Most notably, the team won 2-1 against Bishopbriggs Academy. Well done to the team on their success and to Mr. Millar for coaching!



Mr Paul Shellam on behalf of the Physical Education Team

Design and Technology – Buddy Benches



A group of our S3 and S4 Design and Manufacture Pupils demonstrated our school values of working hard and showing kindness by manufacturing a "Buddy Bench" mainly from reclaimed wood. These were gifted to both Oxbang and Harestanes Primary Schools for the young people there to enjoy.

Miss Claire Kirker, Principal Teacher of Design and Technology

