

# Kirky High-lights Christmas Edition 2024

## Season's Greetings 2024



*With every kind wish for the Festive Season,  
from the Pupils and Staff of Kirkintilloch High School*

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## Season's Greetings from Kirkintilloch High School

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we draw towards the end of this busy first term, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on some of the highlights that have taken place here in Kirkintilloch High School, and to share some key diary dates for the coming term.

### Uniform Policy

Thank you for your continued support with our school uniform policy. With the winter weather, we are aware that our pupils are wearing warm/waterproof jackets to school. We would ask that these are black, if possible and that pupils remove them in class. In the warmer weather, we ask pupils to remove outdoor jackets inside the building, except for blazers and school hoodies. A reminder of our agreed dress code is here and we would ask that all pupils stick to the items on our list. Support is also available to families:

[Uniforms - Kirkintilloch High](#)



### Family Learning

Family learning remains a key priority for our school as we enjoy the opportunity to warmly welcome you into our school to enjoy working with our young people. This term saw 'Family Friday' coffee morning events



run successfully by our Personal Development Award and Wellbeing Pupils, and a hair and beauty day in our Vision Salon.

This term also saw a successful programme of STEM family learning workshops take place, which culminated in a fantastic presentation of ideas and models from our families. It was wonderful to see the participation of our families having fun together engaging in Physics led by Mr Rushford. In addition, Mr Kirk ran a very successful set of workshops on Psychology, leading to all of the pupils involved gaining a CREST award. There will be more opportunities for family learning to follow, so please do sign up!

### Homework Strategy

This session, we launched our new Homework Policy and issued all young people with brand new homework diaries, in addition to our Satchel One and online homework platforms. To see what you should expect to support as parents, please view this strategy here: [Homework Strategy](#)

### School Library - Book Week Scotland 18th-24th November 2024 (by Miss Baird)

November was a special month in terms of celebrating books, stories and writing. As part of Book Week Scotland an Inter-house writing competition was announced. This year's theme was Hope. Students were invited to write about and share hopes, dreams and plans for their future. As the librarian in KHS, my heart is filled with so much hope about future successes, dreams, and the exciting pathways ahead of KHS Students! They can achieve anything!



### English Team & Library- Future Podcasters & Radio Hosts

Without fail, every week I look forward to scheduled catch-ups with colleagues from the English team, and students! We know the benefits of students attending the library, and the positive impact on pupil wellbeing, critical thinking, confidence and raising attainment levels- even before students open the first page of their book! Certainly! Some of Mrs. Galasso's S1 English class have future podcasters and radio

presenters among them. During a recent library visit, the class did 10 minutes of reading, and then launched into a "Create your own podcast interview" activity. This wonderful group called themselves (KHS Big Book Club) and introduced the class to their chosen books- read out blurbs, and then talked about their own personal interests about BMX and football! What a delight to watch!



### **S2 Paired Reading Program**

The library is working with Literacy & Numeracy teacher Ms Fraser, and Principal teacher of Pupil Support Mrs Early. As part of Raising Attainment, S2 students are doing paired reading during registration, supporting them are excellent S6 students. This is to increase enjoyment in reading, student motivation, self-esteem and confidence. Sessions involve echo reading, silent reading and reading aloud. Students are invited to read all sorts of materials- Graphic novels, short stories/ poems/plays or novels. As well as leaflets, booklets and appropriate websites or blogs! Perhaps there' are some budding librarians in our S2 group? They worked with Librarian Miss Baird and suggested and recommended Dyslexia friendly books from the Barrington Stoke website too! These selected titles have been purchased and are now in the library for students to borrow!

### **Afterschool Dungeons and Dragons**

Each Monday after school the library hosts Dungeon and Dragons sessions! A mixture of ages attends from S1 to S6, and we now have three Dungeon Masters! It's wonderful to see such a burst of creativity and imaginative abilities within students. Storytelling, Drama, Art (prop making), and even Mathematics are all present with each roll of the dice- not to mention problem solving and team-working too!

### **New Library & Reading Ambassadors**

I love sharing the demonstrated skills, qualities and potential I see in Library and Reading Ambassadors with Shona our Careers Advisor, and how they show kindness, work hard and help others to dream big. With the help of senior Library Ambassadors- the library has five new recruits. Welcome to our Library team!

*By Miss Baird, School Librarian*



## Youth Philanthropy Project and Higher Leadership

Our young people have been actively engaged in charity work this term. Our S5 pupils have raised significant sums of money through their work within the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, where they identified a charity that was meaningful to their team and found innovative ways to raise money for them. A lovely example of this was the girls who raised money for the Lilyburn Care Home, our runner up team. These kind pupils did a sponsored walk and used the money from this to buy all of the food for their afternoon tea for the residents of Lilyburn Care Home. They donated the remaining money to the residents' activity fund. Guests from Lilyburn Care Home attended their presentation here in KHS.



This year's YPI winners raised over £4,000 for their charity, the Teddy Bear Hospital in the Glasgow Children's Hospital. They completed a sponsored walk, held a bakesale and launched a Just Giving page. Their presentation included a demonstration of treatment by Doctor Bear, and pictures of one of the participants receiving care at this hospital when she was little. It was an excellent presentation! All pupils involved in this gain a Higher Leadership Award. Well done to Mrs Welsh from RMPS for coordinating the project!



## Prelim Examinations and Study Hub

Our S4 Prelim Examinations are now complete, with results on their way home to parents and carers. Pupil behaviour was exemplary throughout the exam diet and all ran very smoothly. Our S5/6 Prelim Examinations commence on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January and conclude on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January. Timetables have been issued and can be viewed here: [Prelim Timetable 2025](#). Throughout the examination diet, our study hub will be open to assist pupils with preparation for these important examinations and class teachers will provide expert revision tips during timetabled classes. This is a fantastic opportunity for immersive examination preparation and guided study. Attendance at school is compulsory throughout the examination diet and any pupil who is absent without parental notification will be contacted via the school office.



## School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report

Our staff have worked incredibly hard this term to deliver the targets in our School Improvement Plan. Super progress is already evident through the work of our school improvement plan groups. In addition, we have a Parental and Pupil Improvement Plan, developed by our Parent Council and Pupil Parliament respectively. You can read these documents on our website here:

[Improvement Plans - Kirkintilloch High](#) [Standards and Quality Report - Kirkintilloch High](#)

## Celebration of Success Awards Evenings 2024

In the year of the Paris Olympics, it felt apt to celebrate our winners' talents in a similar way. Our Junior Awards Ceremony's in August and Senior Awards Ceremony in September were a huge success with the achievements and talents of so many of our students recognised.

Over the course of the two evenings, we were entertained by talented students from our Music, Science and Social Subjects departments. In addition, we were lucky enough to have some past and present



Olympians on screen to congratulate our learners on their amazing achievements. A fabulous testament to the achievement of our pupils!

### Christmas Events

Our pupils have enjoyed a number of events to mark the end of term including a beautiful Christmas Concert, a tasty Christmas lunch, our Christmas Raffle for Pupils and our Christmas Fun Day and Dance/Carol-oke. My thanks to all of the staff and partners who made such generous donations for our Pupil Christmas Raffle! Please see winners of our family prizes pictured below with a Christmas Cake from Peters' Bakery and a family Hamper from Dalkia, our school building coordinators presented by Stephen Coia, Facilities Manager for Dalkia.



### Key Dates

**End of Term 1 – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm**

**School commences – Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January at 8:55am**

**Preliminary Examinations – 13<sup>th</sup> January until 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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