



# Kirky High-lights

WISHING YOU & YOURS A VERY

Merry  
Christmas

FROM ALL OF THE STAFF AND PUPILS  
AT KIRKINTILLOCH HIGH SCHOOL

**Dream Big, Work Hard and Show Kindness**





# Seasons Greetings From Kirkintilloch High

Dear Parent/Carer,

As our Christmas break approaches, I wanted to share some updates with you on some of the exciting activities and trips that have been on offer to our young people here at Kirkintilloch High School this session, thanks to our committed staff and pupils! I hope that you enjoy reading about the successes and achievements of our pupils, and of the many opportunities that they have enjoyed thus far.

## Uniform Policy

Thank you for your fantastic, continued support with our school uniform policy! Our pupils look so smart. 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. 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](#)

## Key Dates

**End of Term 1 – Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm**

**School commences – Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January at 8:55am**

**S5/6 Preliminary Examinations – 12<sup>th</sup> January until 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

**S2 Reports to Parents – week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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





## Early Learning and Childcare Arnprior Pumpkin Farm Trip

After the October break, our Level 5 Skills for Work Early Learning and Childcare class visited Arnprior Pumpkin Farm in Stirlingshire as part of their learning on aspects of play.

The trip allowed pupils to consider the benefits of outdoor learning for children in a real-life context, and how this supports the development of social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills.

As well as pumpkin picking, another highlight for many was roasting marshmallows and sampling the delicious food on offer. Back at school, pupils decorated and carved their pumpkins, demonstrating creative aspects of play as well as considering the role of the adult in facilitating play activities. The pumpkins were then displayed at the S1 Halloween disco.





## Reading Ambassadors

To celebrate Book Week Scotland Miss Baird, Librarian surprised Reading Ambassadors with a special online session featuring acclaimed poet and children's author Nadine Aisha Jassat. The event also welcomed Liam McCallum, Reading Schools Programme Manager, and his colleague Jasmine Ewens.



The Ambassadors engaged in a deep discussion with Nadine, outlining their journey towards Silver Accreditation and their ambition to expand their reach into the local community and families. They proudly shared their recent success of hosting a 'Family Reading for Pleasure' and 'Book Swap' evening in the library mid-November. Nadine applauded the initiative, calling book swaps a powerful way to promote reading saying "Everyone should have a book that they own". She shared her own background, highlighting her mixed heritage and emphasizing how the public library was crucial to her reading journey growing up as books were a luxury her family couldn't always afford. "Being introduced to new worlds, characters and situations through books is what helped me become an author!"

One Ambassador raised a critical point informed by recent National Literacy Trust research: currently only 1 in 3 children and young people (ages 8-18) are reading at home for pleasure. Responding to the challenge, Nadine offered an encouraging perspective: "There's a story for everyone, a character or place we can identify and empathise with. There are so many ways to take in a story! The key is building excitement, talking about stories and getting interested in what others are reading."

The session left the Ambassadors inspired and further equipped to tackle their future Reading School challenges. "Seeing our Reading Ambassadors connect directly with an inspirational female author like Nadine was the perfect celebration of their hard work. Their dedication to achieving Silver Accreditation and reaching out to local families, especially with the success of the book swap, shows their commitment to making reading accessible and exciting for everyone." - Miss Baird, Librarian.







# Family Learning Event

## Family Reading For Pleasure & Book Swap Evening

November saw the first of our community learning, family centred Book Swap and Reading For Pleasure sessions. The Library, English Department and Wellbeing Department were joined by EDC Libraries Children and Young Person Officer, Leslie Tyler.

The Ambassadors were outstanding. They welcomed families to the library and settled them into comfy chairs and bean bags ensuring everyone got a tasty treat and a barista hot chocolate supplied by Jackie Adam our Youth Development Officer.

Highlights of the evening included a book tasting session led by Miss Baird, then Ambassadors guided families through a bookish treasure hunt designed by Leslie from EDC Libraries. The families could then explore our Digital Library E- Platform.

At the end of our evening families swapped their own preloved books, then left with a mystery read to unwrap, enjoy and keep.

The relaxed, cosy atmosphere reminded us how much reading is still loved by families and young people. One exciting outcome was the interest in creating a Parent Book Group—a fantastic way to share recommendations and build a reading community. Watch this space!

Thanks to all who attended. Don't worry if you couldn't make it this time, we will be hosting other evenings in future!





## Art Successes & Trip

The S1 classes have just finished their self portrait unit with some fabulous examples of work across all the classes-well done S1!



S2 have been working on their Self-Directed Project-where they could pick absolutely anything to make, There has been sculpture, landscape, fashion design, interior design, architecture and all sorts. We have been blown away by the creativity on show-amazing!

Our S3 have finished their Sculpture project inspired by their trip to Jupiter Artland back in September.



Our National 5 and Higher pupils in a S4/5/6 are busy working away on their folios. The work is already looking amazing! Higher Photography have just embarked on their Final Project for the SQA. Super exciting ideas for photographs from all our talented pupils.

The Kirkintilloch Rotary Young Photographer Competition has closed for judging. We had 22 entrants this year and winners will be announced in the New Year- good luck to you all!







## Family Learning Event Clay Modelling



A massive congratulations and thanks to Mrs Thornton, Mrs Bolger, Mrs White and Mr Gacmenga for a busy, successful and extremely creative Family Learning Night.

The families enjoyed making their clay models from scratch, meeting their child's teachers and learning new skills. The feedback from the families indicates a phenomenal 5 out of 5 rating across the board but the main thing that stands out from the feedback is the number of parents and children who wrote that they enjoyed spending a bit more time with each other!

Well done, Team Art!





## Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum Trip

Our S5/6 Higher Art & Design students had an excellent educational visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum! They took part in a fantastic critical workshop led by the gallery education staff, getting up close with still life paintings and putting their analysis skills to the test. They engaged with enthusiasm and have significantly developed their confidence in expressing personal views and opinions on art. A valuable and enjoyable experience that will directly support their critical learning in school!







## Lillyburn Care Home Community Trip

For three consecutive Fridays, a dedicated group of 14 S3 Art and Design pupils proudly represented the school during visits to Lillyburn Care Home, where they led a series of festive arts and crafts workshops. Each week, they worked one-to-one with residents, creating Christmas wreaths, decorating wooden baubles and designing handmade cards. Their creativity shone through every task, and they consistently demonstrated kindness, patience and confidence.







## English Department Successes

S2 pupils who have been studying 'The Bone Sparrow' in English have also been letter writing - this time to local Glasgow charity Refuweegee. Pupils have welcomed refugees to Scotland with positive messages and some handy hints and tips about living in Scotland including: always carry an umbrella, shortbread is not actually bread, and lots of chippy recommendations! These letters will be included in welcome packs provided by the charity.



S3 pupils have been writing letters of kindness to local care homes to combat loneliness over the festive period. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this experience and have shown real empathy and compassion in their writing. So far, 60 letters have been written with more to come!

S1 and S2 are continuing to enjoy our library programme, in particular our S2 Solsgirth pupils who have shown kindness by reading to each other.







## RMPS Gurdwara Trip



The S3 RMPS class visited the Glasgow Gurdwara where they built on their knowledge of Sikhism, a religion based on equality and that all religions lead to God. They were shown around the Gurdwara, saw the home of the holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, and ate in the langar, the free kitchen open to all. They embraced the principle that everyone contributes by helping in the kitchen.





## Remembrance Service

Pupils at Kirkintilloch High School paid their respects to those who died in times of conflict at a special ceremony of remembrance held in the school on Armistice Day. The two-minute silence was signalled by a bagpipe procession performed by fifth year pupil, Lewis. School Captains, Hannah and Millie gave short readings. Staff and pupils across the school observed the silence in what was a poignant moment in Kirkintilloch High School's school community.



## Debate Club



This term, our Debate Club has been buzzing with energy as students tackled big questions and sharpened their critical thinking skills. Hard hitting topics from this term include "has AI gone too far" and "are Jaffa Cakes biscuits or cakes?"

From lively discussions on current affairs to mastering the art of persuasive speaking, members have shown incredible enthusiasm and confidence. Whether you're passionate about politics, enjoy a good argument, or simply want to boost your communication skills, Debate Club is the perfect place to grow.

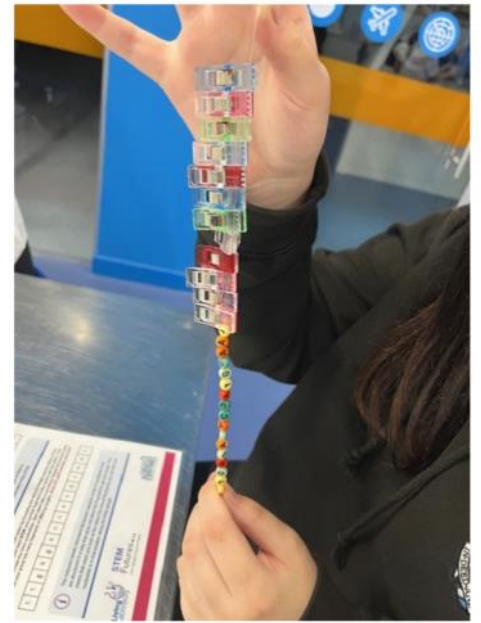




## **S2 & S3 Science Centre Trip: Where Science Sparks Curiosity**

Our S2 scientists and S3 biologists have had the opportunity to immerse and interact with various exhibits to consolidate the theory learnt in the classroom. For our S2 scientists, these activities demonstrated how light and waves can be used in everyday life, while S3 biologists were able to see how DNA can be used to develop medicines of the future.

The trip was a brilliant way to make complex scientific concepts accessible, fun and memorable, inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.



## **S4 & S6 Edinburgh Zoo Trip**

Our visit to Edinburgh Zoo offered a lesson in conservation, biology and ecology. Our young people had the opportunity to participate in themed sessions led by the zoo's education team. Our S6 biologists even had the opportunity to learn about how to research animal adaptations and behaviour.

By having these hands on experiences, our learners were able to explore and learn about conservation, sparking their curiosity!





## Youth and Philanthropy Initiative

This year we kicked off our Youth and Philanthropy Initiative with team building hosted by Kirkintilloch Baptist Church. It was a fun filled afternoon of laser tag, volleyball and problem-solving activities. We heard from the Trussel Trust Foodbank and Christians Against Poverty to inform pupils about the valuable work of these local charities. Pupils then went on to select and represent a charity, with the chance to win £3000 on their behalf.



## Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Final

We hosted the YPI Final with the Emma Cameron Foundation as winners of the £3000 grant. Thanks to the amazing presentation skills of Keira, Lucy and Faryl, a small family-run charity that helps children during cancer treatment, will be able to provide more support to local families. Emma Cameron's godmother was in the audience, which made the moment even sweeter.

All the groups performed amazingly and were a credit to our school. It was the hardest decision ever this year as the calibre was so high.

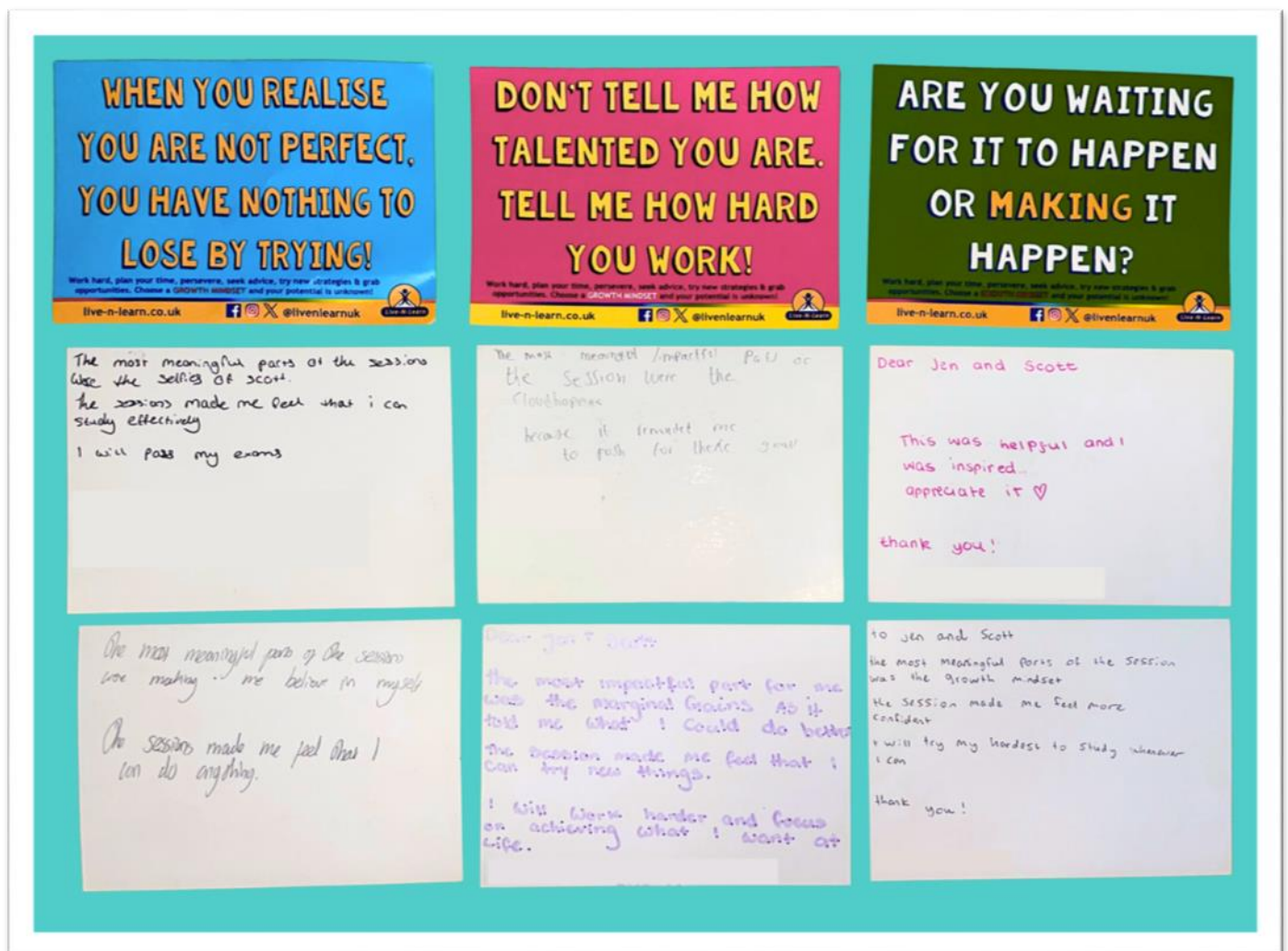






## Live 'n' Learn

We were delighted to welcome Scott and Jen from Live'n'Learn, who delivered an inspiring session on developing an Exam Mindset to our S4 learners. Pupils took part in a range of activities, including creating personalised study timetables and exploring Cloudhopping, a reflective exercise where they identified aspirations for their future. They also learned how small, consistent improvements known as marginal gains can optimise their study conditions by enhancing everyday habits by just 1%. Areas of focus included sleep, exercise, time spent on devices and water intake, helping our pupils recognise how simple changes can make a big difference. The session concluded with S4's writing feedback on a postcard, examples of which are shown above. Our S4 pupils were highly engaged throughout the session and gave excellent feedback on their learning.



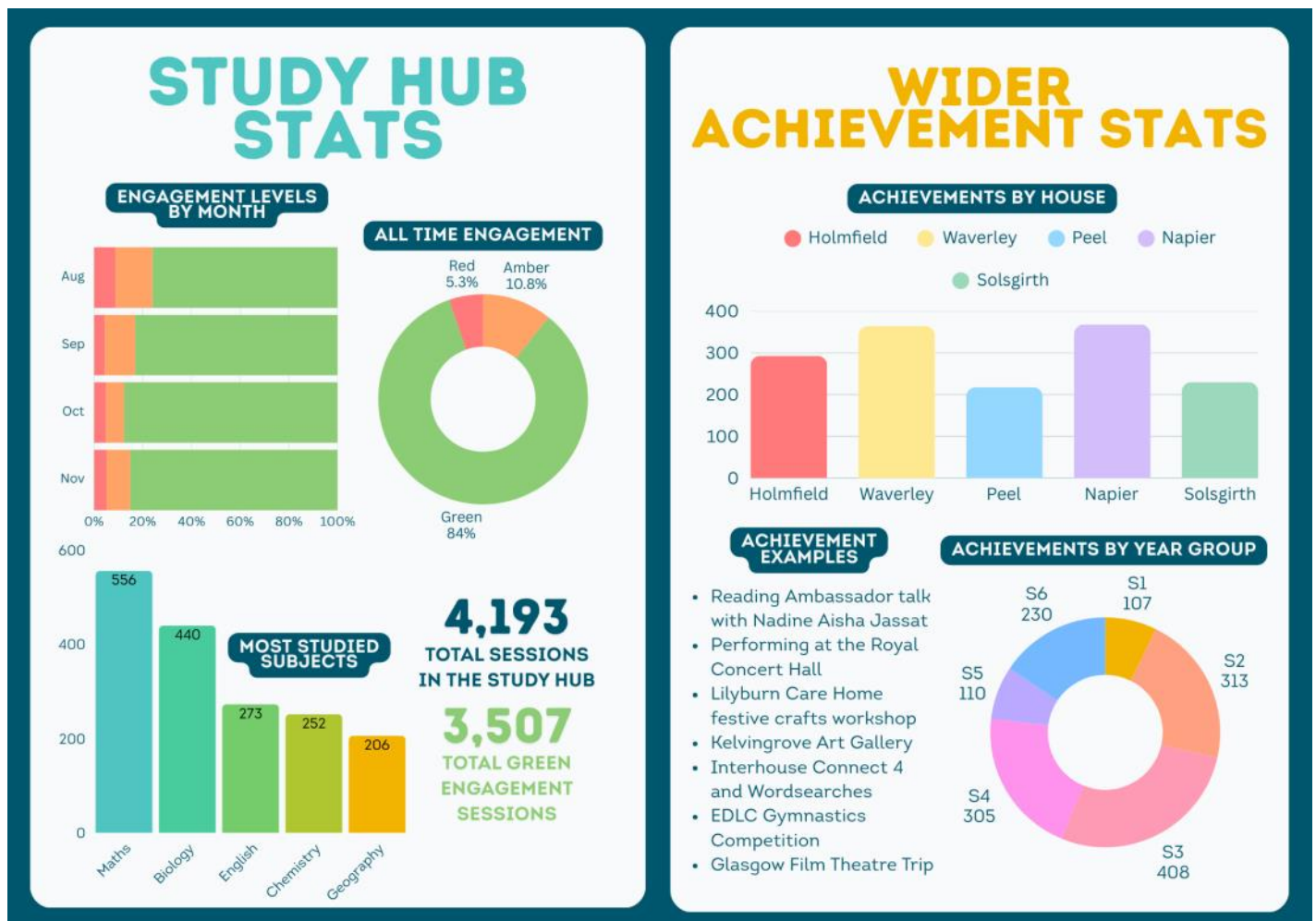


# Study Hub & Wider Achievement Update

Since the beginning of the year, our pupils have been working hard both in and out of class. Their efforts are reflected in this term's infographic, which showcases an overview of pupil engagement and success within the Study Hub and Wider Achievement.

On the Study Hub side, there are insights into monthly engagement levels, subject trends, and overall participation.

The Wider Achievement section highlights pupil involvement across year groups and houses, with examples of activities ranging from creative workshops to cultural trips and competitions.

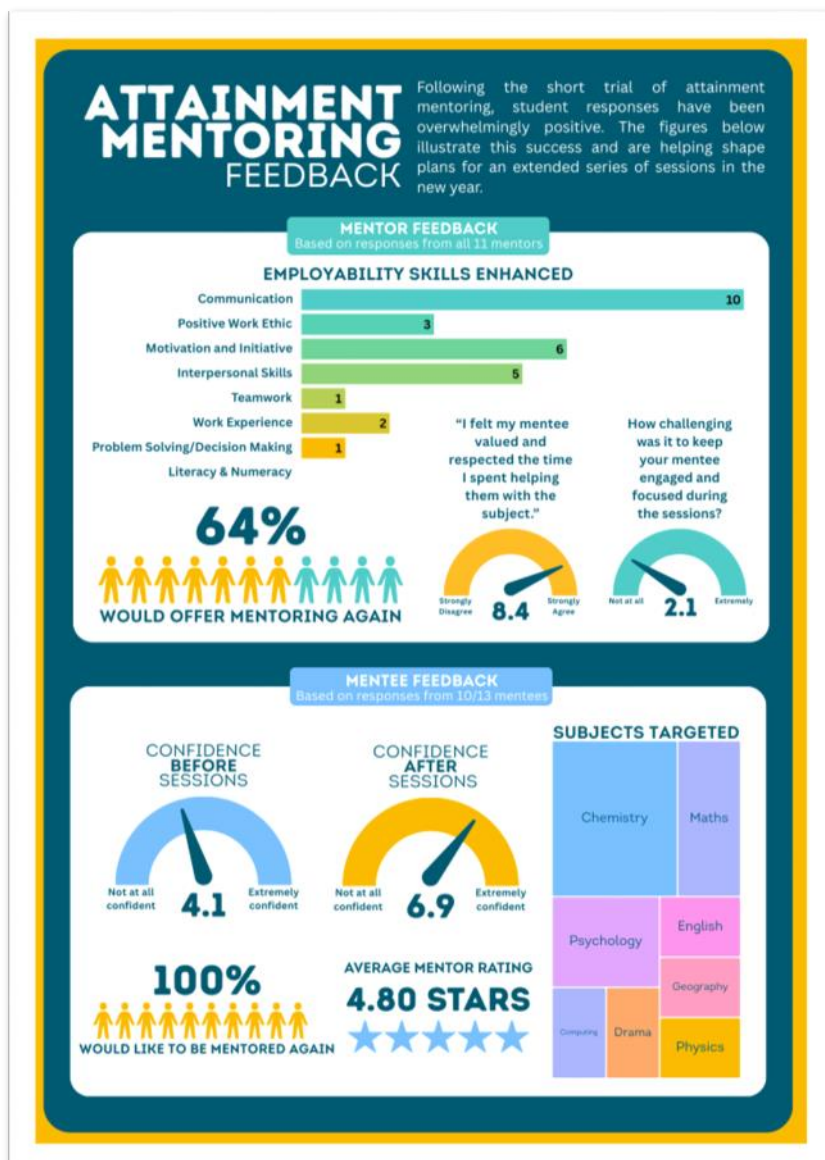






# Attainment Mentoring

In October, we launched our Attainment Mentoring sessions, pairing S4 pupils with S6 volunteers for weekly subject-focused support in the Study Hub. These sessions provided valuable opportunities for collaboration, with S6 leaders helping their younger peers to identify and discuss key learning points, work through past paper questions together, and explore how to use Achieve effectively for independent study. The next phase of Attainment Mentoring is already in preparation and will begin in February. Feedback from both mentors and mentees has highlighted significant improvements in confidence and study skills, and we are excited to build on this success in the upcoming round.





## Sharing Your Child's Successes & Achievements

To ensure successes are celebrated, we have made it easier for families to share achievements from home. In order to track these, the QR code and link shown allows you to share any extracurricular achievements and engagements your child(ren) participates in outside of the classroom. These can include anything from sports club participation, music grades, volunteer work, awards, special projects, or any other involvement that demonstrates their talent, effort, and commitment in the wider community. Your input is invaluable in ensuring that every student's accomplishments are recognised!

### Sharing of Success







## Digital Learning Audit

A wide scale evaluation of staff digital skills, and how we use digital tools to teach, took place earlier this session. A large number of the team responded to the audit with the vast majority of the teachers reporting that they are very or extremely confident to use digital learning in their classrooms. Staff are confident in using different pieces of hardware as well as utilising varied software and applications to enhance the more traditional methods of education. Colleagues were able to share with us any barriers they have to using technology as well as being able to identify further training that they would benefit from. Barriers have been shared with the local authority and in-house learning has begun to support us to learn how to use different applications.

## Pupil Parliament

This term, our Pupil Parliament has been working with real purpose and enthusiasm, focusing on one of the school's key priorities: Learning and Teaching. From the very beginning of the year, our representatives have shown maturity, teamwork and a genuine desire to improve the learning experience for all pupils.

The Pupil Parliament meets once a month, and each meeting is led by our S6 Captaincy Team, who have shown outstanding commitment and professionalism. Their ability to guide discussions, encourage participation and model positive leadership has been invaluable. A heartfelt thank you to our Captains for their excellent leadership and for being such positive role models for our younger pupils.





Over the past few weeks, members of the Pupil Parliament have also been trained in how to lead effective Pupil Focus Groups. Through this training, they have developed skills in active listening, discussion leadership and gathering meaningful feedback from their peers. After Christmas, they will begin leading these focus groups across year groups—giving all pupils a stronger voice in shaping how learning looks and feels in our school.

One significant development that came directly from Pupil Parliament feedback is the introduction of our weekly Pupil Bulletin, now read during Period 1 every Monday. Pupils told us they wanted clearer, more consistent updates about opportunities, clubs, events and achievements. The bulletin has already helped strengthen communication across the school, ensuring everyone starts the week informed and included.

This work connects deeply with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly:

- Article 12 – Respect for the views of the child: Pupils are given a real and meaningful say in decisions that affect them.
- Article 29 – Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities: By shaping learning and creating opportunities for leadership, our Pupil Parliament helps promote a positive, engaging learning environment for all.



A special thank you to Mr Pexton for his dedicated leadership of the Pupil Parliament this term. His guidance, encouragement and commitment have supported our young people to grow in confidence and make a genuine impact across the school. We are incredibly proud of our Pupil Parliament and the leadership they have shown this term.







# Parental Focus Group Feedback

## Your Voice Matters

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the parents who took the time to attend our recent focus group. Your feedback is invaluable as we continue to grow and develop as a learning community.

### Highlights from your feedback

Parents used many positive words to describe Kirkintilloch High School, including:

- Welcoming and friendly
- Ambitious and understanding
- Supportive and encouraging
- Inclusive

We were delighted that parents recognised the strengths of the school such as:

- A really good first impression
- The smooth transition process
- Pupil-centred approach by staff
- Helpful and welcoming staff, with office staff noted as “very impressive”
- Staff noticing when pupils haven’t been themselves and checking in on pupils
- The S1 Parents’ Night was highlighted as a “brilliant night” for meeting with teachers
- Partnership working was also highlighted as a success

### Looking Ahead

We truly value this open dialogue and are committed to acting on your suggestions. We are already planning to update our school website and to provide a floor plan for our Parents’ Evenings.

We are pleased to announce that there will be another focus group in January, in partnership with our Parent Council. We look forward to continuing this important conversation in the New Year!

