St Andrew’s and St Bride’s High School

Summer Newsletter 2016

Mr Phil Allan, Mrs Diane Seivwright, Mrs Mary Frances Porter and Mr Robert McAinsh
As another very successful and busy session draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for their support throughout what has been a fantastic year. Long gone are the days when the summer term was quiet as over the past few months the school has been busier and more vibrant than ever. During this time we have seen the skills and talents of our young people showcased and celebrated through the many events such as the Music Summerfest, our fabulous school show 'Oliver' and our recent Commendation Award ceremonies. We have seen a wide variety of trips and educational excursions organised, with staff reporting on how well your children have represented you and our great school. Hopefully, this newsletter will give you a taste of what has been happening.

You will also read about staffing changes for the coming session, including the retiral of 4 of our most respected and long serving teachers, Mrs Mary Frances Porter and Mr Robert McAinsh both from the English department, Mrs Diane Seivwright from the Art Department and Mr Phil Allan, PT Modern Languages. I would like to thank them for their time in St. Andrew's and St. Bride's. Staggeringly, they have collectively worked for more 111 years in each of these communities.

In preparation for the start of the new term S5 and S6 will have an opportunity to meet with staff regarding their option choices in light of their SQA results, which should be available to students from the 9th August. Guidance and Senior staff will be available on Wednesday 10th August between 9.30 am to 1.00pm and I would urge all students who need to make changes to do so at this time to allow them to begin their timetables straight away.

I would like to wish you and your family a peaceful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you in the Autumn Term which begins for pupils on Monday 15th August 2016 at 08.45.

Best wishes,

Mrs Fiona Mullen
Headteacher
CARITAS

On the 6th June 30 S6 students were presented with the Pope Benedict XVI CARITAS Award at a very prestigious event at the Clyde Auditorium in Glasgow.

Their journey towards receiving this award began in September 2015 at a commissioning service in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, when they were reminded by Bishop Toal of the Great Commission, given by Jesus to "go, make disciples of all nations". They accepted the call to be 'sent out' on their mission and put their faith into action working across the school and in their local parishes of St Bride’s, St Vincent’s, St Leonard’s and Our Lady of Lourdes in East Kilbride and St Patrick’s in Strathaven.

Examples of their work include buddying younger students and contributing to the S1 retreat programme in Carfin Grotto; leading works of charity around the school, such as the East Kilbride Food Bank, the Blyswood Shoe Box Appeal and the Down Syndrome Awareness Day, not to mention the many fundraising initiatives for SCIAF; and participating in the liturgical and social life of their parishes through their involvement in children's liturgy, Masses on Education Sunday and helping out at coffee mornings.

Throughout this time these young people have used their gifts and talents to bear witness to God's love.
Super Stars

St Andrew’s and St Bride’s held their first “superstars” event in aid of raising money for a school defibrillator. Over the course of 4 periods, 20 teachers competed in a series of mini games and were cheered on by 270 enthusiastic pupils. Congratulations to Mr McGuinness of the Physics department came out on top after 12 events. A big thank you to Mr Cresswell and Mr Haggerty for organising such a great event.

Commendation Awards

This year new categories were introduced to acknowledge the many gifts and talents of pupils in S1 and S2. There were 3 categories of Distinction, Excellence and Highly Commended. Special Guidance Group, Head of Year and Headteacher awards were also given.

Youthworx Celebration of Achievement

On Tuesday 21 June in The Town House, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources (Inclusion) hosted the Celebration of Achievement 2015/16 Awards for the trainees who participate in the various Youthworx programmes such as Sportsworx, Danceworx, Grass Routes and Prospect and Soccerworx.

We were proud to be there to see some of our pupils receive their well-earned awards. Among the recipients were:
Thomas Telfer for *Spirit of Leadership* Award

Charlotte Rae Kirkpatrick for *Danceworx*

Jordan Struthers for *Sportsworx*

Brogan Mearns, Erin Pearson and Caitlin Scott for *Flourish*

We wish all award recipients good luck in their futures.

**Sports Personality**

Meg Finnon won the South Lanarkshire Sports Personality of the Year award (Junior Performer category) for her achievements in swimming over the past year! She was honoured at the award ceremony with everyone wishing her well as she heads off to Georgia. Please keep in touch Meg.

**Football**

Congratulations to our Under 13s who won the Lanarkshire League in a very exciting final against St Ambrose High School. A big thank you to Mr Egan for his support and encouragement throughout the year.
John Walker Competition

A team of S1 and S2 students, represented on the day by Sophie Ivanov, Jack Cadenhead, Adam Khanna and Corinna Isles, won the John Walker Equal Opportunities Public Speaking Competition organised by South Lanarkshire Council. It was compered by three of our first years – Aoife Houghton, Mai Clinton and Rudy Brown – who were members of last year’s winning primary school team.

The theme of the competition, “What steps can we take together to support the refugees?” was met with much enthusiasm by the entire school community who has been captured by recent news events surrounding the plight of refugees from Syria – and the sometimes negative public reaction to the prospect of receiving migrants and asylum seekers. This inspired the students to launch a multi-layered campaign titled “Come Cross the River”.

Together with posters, poems and class debates, the pupils even wrote their own song to promote awareness of the plight of the refugees. Set to the music of James Bay’s Hold Back the River, and sung by Emma Lamont, Courtney McGregor, Rhiannon Potts and Isabella Drennan, the lyrics send out the clear message that refugees are welcome here. The song was shared on social media and has been viewed almost 2000 times with the Deputy First Minister and new Education Secretary, John Swinney, sharing the video and tweeting, “A lovely piece from pupils at St Andrew’s and St Bride’s.” East Kilbride MSP Linda Fabiani and MP for East Renfrewshire Kirsten Oswald also tweeted praise of the song.
Rotary Club Youth Speaks Public Speaking Competition

Our S1 Public Speaking Team enjoyed huge success this session at both local and national levels, staving off competition from some of the most prestigious schools in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales. The team - comprising Aoife Houghton (chairperson), Adam Khanna (Main Speaker) and Aaron Gilbride (Vote of Thanks) - won the East Kilbride heats, the Regional Finals held in Pollockshaws Burgh Hall and the Scottish and North of England District Finals held in Alnwick. They were eventually awarded the runner-up prize at the National Final held in Kirkham Grammar School, Preston. Their speech, *The Marvel of Mums*, compared mums' abilities to those of superheroes. They spoke of how their mum's hugs have healing properties, that they are living, breathing dishonesty detectors, how they have x-ray vision and the most powerful capability of all being the death stare. The Rotary Club’s Youth District Convenor John Tuck, heaped praise on the students, “For a young team of twelve-year-olds this is an outstanding result. They were a credit to their school, their families and themselves. Our congratulations go to all of them.”

Netball Results

Congratulations to the first year netball team on winning the South Lanarkshire Schools’ netball tournament which was held at the Alistair McCoist complex. Team members were: Sophia Guidi 1E, Robyn McLean 1C, Jessica Heslin 1E, Anna Rawdon 1E, Abigail Rice 1E, Abbie Sinclair 1E, Stephanie McGibbon 1D, Erin Shields 1A2. An enormous thank you to their coach Rosie Perrett for her support throughout the year.
School Show

For 3 nights in June over 30 students performed in this year’s school show, ‘Oliver’. This well-known story was brought to life through a colourful extravaganza of acting, singing, dancing and lighting effects, with the principle characters and members of the chorus, entertaining the audience each night. Former students Paul Wildman and Christopher Dodd were more than happy to help giving outstanding performances as Fagan and Bill Sykes and future student from Our lady of Lourdes, Rudi Jordan, played an instantly loveable Oliver.

The school would like to thank Mr Kernan and his staff for their hard work and support of our young people over the last few months.
Hockey Player with a heart!

Lauren Leitch is a youngster with many talents. Lauren, who is a Scottish Internationalist at Roller hockey, swapped her in-line skates for walking boots and raised £100 for a Multiple Sclerosis charity. Lauren, seen pictured with her certificate for the feat is currently in S4 at the school. Well done Lauren.

Tapas Night

On 31 May, the Modern Languages department celebrated the end of another successful academic year by taking the higher and advanced higher classes to the renowned Tapas Restaurant, ‘La Tasca.’

Although some of us struggled to get there (whether it be mishaps with trains or getting lost for hours in the Murray), it was an excellent night and a great opportunity for the students to experience some of the culture they’d been learning about for years.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and the restaurant was alive with laughter and fun. At the end of the night we said goodbye to someone that every pupil and teacher alike had grown to love, Karen who had been working with us in our Spanish classes throughout the year. Karen really added to our immense enjoyment of the course, telling us about her home life in Mexico and generally just making us smile.

Mr Allan said a little speech thanking Karen for everything that she had done for the department and presented her with a gift on behalf of all the pupils and staff.

Overall it was a fantastic evening and it was a great way to relax and de-stress after the taxing exam period and if the idea of learning and mastering a new language is not enough to entice you to pick a Higher language, then the promise of the exciting Tapas night must!
Maths Competitions

This year was another bumper year for all our budding mathematicians with pupils across S1 - S4 winning a raft of prestigious awards

**S1**
Cian Toner Gold plus Kangaroo qualifiction
Sean Harkin Gold plus Kangaroo qualification

**S2**
Luke Sharkey Gold plus Olympiad qualification
Beth Farr Gold plus Kangaroo qualification
Matthew Mcghee Gold plus Kangaroo qualification
Harry Mackle Gold award
14 silver awards
17 bronze awards

Congratulations also go to the following pupils who came 1st in South Lanarkshire Council on 14 June in an Enterprising Maths challenge:

Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to 24 of our fine young students who completed and successfully passed their expedition displaying real leadership, teamwork and resilience, despite having to brave the elements! A big thank you to Mr Ritchie Clark and all the staff who supported the launch of this award this year.

Music Summerfest

This month we were thoroughly entertained by the many talented musicians across our associated primary schools and year groups 1 to 6. Listening to solo artists playing the saxophone, guitar, violin and cello to the Orchestra, Soul Band, Traditional Group and the newly formed Samba Band everyone had a great night. A big thank you to all the Music Staff and Instructors.
Go4Set Challenge

A huge well done to our go4SET team - Megan McRitchie, Ellen Aitken, Lauren Taylor, Erinna Muir and Alison Kealy. They made it to the top 10 teams in Scotland and gained Bronze Industrial Cadet Status.

The girls were also delighted when their efforts were recognised by our First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, during First Minister question time in parliament, when discussing how to encourage young women into STEM subject areas. Well done ladies!

Physics Department

This session has been a very busy one for the physics department with many exciting opportunities for our young people to take part in.

Robot Wars

Robot Wars is set to hit our screens again in the autumn, keep your eyes peeled for our S3 pupils who will be in the studio audience! In March 60 physics pupils
joined hosts Dara O’Briain and Angela Scanlon at the live recordings of this legendary show. The filming took place in a new purpose-built fighting arena in Glasgow, where we could get up close to the action as teams of amateur roboteers battled it out to win the coveted Robot Wars title. This was an excellent opportunity for our young people to see real life applications of the physics they were learning about in school.

The Scottish Robotic Games

Throughout the session a group of S3 pupils have been building a robotic vehicle known as a Rampaging Chariot. The Rampaging Chariot is a powerful, radio controlled featherweight sporting robot that is used to compete in a tournament to determine the Robotic Games Champion. It is a project aimed at interesting young people in engineering and studying science based subjects at school and university.

On 11 June a group of 3 S3 pupils, Sandra Sandtosh, Megan Stewart and Mandy Wan travelled to Edinburgh to compete in the Scottish Robotic Games. The girls competed in the Sumo, Obstacle and Football events.
Scottish Space School at the University of Strathclyde

This year two of our pupils, Melissa McGrory and Ruairidh Shaw were successful in securing places at Strathclyde University’s Scottish Space school. Every summer 100 successful S5 Scottish school pupils attend a week-long residential summer school. The programme for the week is made up of a mix of lectures, labs and workshops on a space theme and it is delivered by academics and researchers from the Faculty, as well as visiting NASA representatives. Following the week, 10 of the students are chosen for a once in a lifetime visit to NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. We are very proud of Melissa and Ruairidh!

Particle Physics Masterclass at Glasgow University

In June the Particle Physics group at the University of Glasgow held one-day schools event for students going into 6th year. Students experienced some of the excitement of research in a rapidly-developing field, with hands-on sessions in particle detection and analysis of real collider data, led by experts working at CERN. This day will set them in good stead for taking on their Advanced Higher Physics studies next session.

Art & Design

Former pupil Charlotte Clayton, who successfully completed her Advanced Higher Art and Design last year and has been undertaking a portfolio preparation course at Clyde College has received a commendation and been accepted straight into the 2nd year at the prestigious Glasgow School of Art Textile Design Department. Well Done Charlotte!

Refugee Council

On Thursday 16 June, ten pupils - representing our new second and third year cohorts - were invited by the Scottish refugee Council to attend their Refugee Festival; part of an extended series of events to celebrate Refugee Fortnight Scotland. The Refugee Council and sister organisation Migrant Help were so
impressed by the pupils' efforts to raise awareness of the plight of refugees, that they asked permission for the song 'Come Cross the River' – featured as part of the pupils' campaign – to be aired at the festival. The children - Rhiannon Potts, Courtney McGregor, Issabella Drennan, Adam Khanna, Ellie Anderson, Ellie Searl, Sophie Ivanov, Jack Cadenhead, Ellen Aitken and Corrina Iles - made such a positive and overwhelming impression that members of the audience - including key representatives of the Home Office - were moved to tears.

These representatives and all the pupils involved in the Refugee Awareness project deserve to feel very proud.

**Staffing**

As well as saying goodbye to our 4 retirees we will also be saying our farewells to Miss Kathryn Boyle, Chemistry Department who takes up post in Our Lady and St Patrick’s in Dumbarton. We thank her for her contributions over the past year and wish her all the best in her new job. We are also sad to see 2 of our Support Staff leaving us, Mrs Ruth Harris and Mrs Denise Foulds, who have been with us for a large number of years. We wish them all the best in their new jobs.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 AUGUST 2016</td>
<td>SQA RESULTS ARRIVE WITH PUPILS</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 AUGUST 2016</td>
<td>OPTIONS MORNING 9.30 - 1.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(All students wishing to change their options in light of their SQA results should attend.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 AUGUST 2016</td>
<td>8.45AM SCHOOL RETURNS</td>
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<td>24 AUGUST 2016</td>
<td>WELCOME MASS FOR FIRST YEAR PUPILS</td>
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<td>25 AUGUST 2016</td>
<td>UCAS INFORMATION EVENING</td>
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Have a great summer everyone!!