

TYNECASTLE

challenge
ambition

HIGH



responsibility

SCHOOL

enjoyment

success

2012

NEWSLETTER.

WINTER







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December 2012

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you enjoy reading our new format newsletter. It's something of a bumper edition as it includes events from the autumn term too. I am particularly pleased that many students are now involved in the newsletter planning, design, writing and photography. As you can see, it's been another busy and productive term. For me the highlights have included our Centenary Sponsored Walk, the *Fun into Food* event, and of course, the way the pantomime has been shaping up in recent months.

Our new S1 and our new staff have integrated smoothly, and, as you will see, are now making their own valued contributions to school life. Our S6 have also been fantastic to work with, and have supported a range of whole school events, giving generously of their time and talents, and I would like to thank them for this. In the meantime, I wish you all the best for the festive season and a very good 2013!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "T Rae".

Mr T Rae
Head Teacher





Whole School News

S6 House Captains



Braemar: Lara Clyde & Jack Brown

Dunvegan: Sarah Nisbet & Kirsty Davidson

Tantallon: Claire Grant & Lauren Archibald

House Captain support this term has included some of the following:

- Representing the school at the Annual Academic Service and event at the City Chambers
- Organising teams for supporting school events
- Chairing and taking minutes at Student Council
- Assisting with staff interviews
- Decorating the Christmas tree!

Student Council Achievements

Representatives from Tynecastle's Tutor Groups come together to form our Student Council. So far this session our Student Council has met twice and has already:

- Publicised the achievements of last year's Student Council
- Published posters – 'What Makes a Good Teacher?' and 'What Makes a Good Student?'
- Devised and led a series of House Assemblies on student engagement and participation
- Advised on what should happen to money raised by our Sponsored Walk
- Filmed discussion on ideas on what works best for students in regard to Home Study
- Acted as student consultants for members of staff including Mrs Kerr, our School Librarian





S1/2 Round-up

All our **S1 students** now seem to have settled in very well to the routine of High School and there has been very positive feedback from parents and carers about many aspects of the transition process. Our staff have also commented many times on how pleasant and cooperative they find our new S1 students.

In order to further support the settling in process, our Student Support teachers, Mr Aitchison, Mr Simpson and Mrs Reid have coached the new S1 students in Restorative Practices. This philosophy underpins all of our working relationships here at Tynecastle and is based on fairness and respect.

E-portfolios

This year for the first time, all our S1-3 students will develop their own e-portfolio. The e-portfolio aims to provide our students with the opportunity to record their successes from both in and out of school and encourages them to reflect on their achievements and the skills

they have developed as a result of their experiences. They were then coached on how to produce their 'Learner Statement' in PSE using the P7 profile developed at their primary school. The Learner Statement is an opportunity for students to reflect on who they are as a person, their responsibilities at school regarding attendance, uniform & homework, what they enjoy in their learning, both at school and outwith school and how they like to learn.

S1 Students have been encouraged to put up regular 'posts' about their successes. These posts will become the focus of monthly discussions in tutor group from January and will give students the opportunity to talk to their peers about their achievements. You can access your son / daughter's own e-portfolio from home by asking them to log onto their GLOW account. There is a space for parents / carers to respond to the post or to add a new post.





S1 Tracking Reports and Learning Goals

Student Support teachers have also worked with all S1 students during PSE time on reflecting on their Tracking reports, which were issued to parents / carers at the end of October. This 1-1 talk reviews the student's individual learning goals from their subject teachers and aims to support students in identifying their next steps in learning and setting targets for themselves, which they record in their e-portfolio.

S1 JASS Award

We were delighted to be nominated for one of the City of Edinburgh Achievement Awards this term for our S1 student participation in the Junior Award Scheme Scotland (JASS) during their RME classes. You can read more about this in the words of the students themselves later in the newsletter.

What Can I do As a Parent to support my son / daughter with JASS?

You could help your child to identify an interest. You can help your child to gather evidence for their folder for all the JASS sections by taking weekly notes, photos, keeping programmes/publicity materials. Many parents/carers have skills and interests that the school can make good use of. You may be part of an orienteering, cycling, jogging or craft group. If you can offer support to the school, you can offer all young people the chance to try something new. Please contact the school if you think you could help.

S2 Tracking Reports and Learning Goals

Student Support teachers have worked with all S2 students during PSE time on reflecting on their Tracking reports, which were issued to parents / carers at the end of October. This 1-1 talk reviews the student's individual learning goals from their subject teachers and aims to support students in identifying their next steps in learning and setting targets for themselves, which they record in their e-portfolio. You can access your son / daughter's





own e-portfolio from home by asking them to log onto their GLOW account. There is a space for parents / carers to respond to the post or to add a new post. Please feel free to make a contribution.

Internet safety and personal safety

In PSE, our Student Support teachers have been raising student awareness of Internet safety and personal safety. They have discussed with the students why it is important to be safe when on line or out in the community and key points to remember to ensure they stay safe. I am sure as a parent you will agree that this is a very important issue to reinforce with our students. You can access more information about internet safety at: <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Heartstart

All S2 students have also been learning basic first aid skills through the programme Heartstart. This takes the students through the basic steps of how to deal with

conscious and unconscious casualties; the recovery position; CPR and how to deal with choking & bleeding.

Curriculum for Excellence Update

We are now in our third year of full implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and we are aware that parents are always keen to keep up to date with changes in their child's education. To this end, we have worked with our Parent Council to produce a leaflet called 'What is Changing In My Child's Education?' This can be found on our website (link) in the Curriculum for Excellence section. There you will also find links to a series of booklets produced by City of Edinburgh Council to help parents understand these changes. We hope you will find these booklets informative.

Literacy across Learning

To challenge our more able English students, all students have participated in the Reading for Gold scheme in English, which encourages students to





read widely and to select books from different genres in order to broaden their reading experiences. Students have also been encouraged to make contributions to the City of Edinburgh Council's book review publication 'Teen Titles', which comes out three times per year. If you would like to learn more about our other Literacy initiatives this year, you can access our new termly publication 'Literacy Bites'. Available on our website:

www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk which provides an update for parents on our Literacy initiatives this year.

Numeracy across Learning

Our Numeracy Improvement Group has produced a Numeracy across The Curriculum booklet to support teachers in the implementation of numeracy across the curriculum. The booklet provides advice for teachers in all subject areas on strategies for good learning and teaching in numeracy. The group have been working with staff to support the implementation of common approaches to

numeracy so that our students are taught the same approach to numeracy in all their subjects. You can access this booklet on our website .

www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

Health and Wellbeing across Learning

The group are also preparing our submission for Healthy School Level 2 accreditation, which recognises the work being done here at school to promote healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle. The group has also begun the preparation for our two Health and Wellbeing days in May 2013. During these days, our normal timetable will be suspended and students will opt into activities with a Health and Wellbeing focus. We ran this for the first time for one day last year and feedback was so positive that we have decided to extend it to two days for 2013. Activities will vary in price from no cost upwards. Students will receive more information about the activities on offer later in the year.

Mrs Ramsay S1/2 Year Head





S3 / 4 Round-Up



‘Exams Here We Come!’

The SQA main exams may still be months away, but preparation for them began some time ago. The following initiatives have been taking place:

In September 50 S4 and 50 S5 students enjoyed ‘cutting edge workshops’ from Live-N-Learn on study skills, growth mindsets and time management

**FIXED OR
GROWTH
MINDSET?**

Around 60 S4 students are currently mentored by members of staff – this means that there

are regular one-to-one meetings and support for young people in areas such as homework, revision and preparing for exams.

Our staff also give up a great deal of their own time to provide Supported Study opportunities at lunchtimes and after school – a complete programme of ‘what’s on’ is available on our website.

In November we ran a very upbeat and successful Study Assembly for our S4, 5, and 6; students were reminded of the huge importance of excellent attendance and punctuality in the run-up to exams, and we launched Tynecastle’s new and exciting online study resources (including interactive planner!). Again, there are links to these resources on our website.

Work Experience

Most of our S4 students will by now be looking forward to their week of Work Experience, which begins on Monday 14 January. Our young people are





heading out to work placements as diverse as public relations, floor installation and law.



Another exciting Work Experience opportunity has been offered to Tynecastle by John Lewis: as well as completing the January week in the well-known Edinburgh Department store, fourteen of our S4 students have the opportunity to return for a further week in March.

We're delighted to have been chosen for this city-wide initiative.

Charities Committee

The S6 Charities Committee is made up of seven S6 pupils: Lucy Gibson (Chair), Nicole Fergie, Claire Grant, Lauren Archibald, Skye Love, Elle Moncrieff and Chloe Flett. We aim to raise as much money as possible throughout the school

year for our chosen charities – *The British Heart Foundation*, *FreshStart* and *Dreamz4U*. *The British Heart Foundation* funds research into heart disease and provides information/support for people suffering from heart disease. *FreshStart* helps people who have previously been homeless settle into their new home and *Dreamz4U* aims to make the dreams of children suffering from serious illnesses come true – 'Dreamz' so far granted have included meeting JLS and meeting Chelsea stars.

We kicked-off our first fundraising event with the Nycki Simz concert in September and have raised over £100 for *Children In Need* through a class-to-class collection in November. We were also involved in Ms Shearer's Macmillian coffee morning by selling cakes in the community wing. We hope to continue our current charitable success with dress down days and further bake sales during the year. And if you have any fundraising ideas, please let any members of the committee know!

Lucy Gibson, S6





S5/6 Round-up

This session a high number of students chose to return to school. This is excellent news as most young people's attainment levels improve as they move up through the school and it widens their options for moving onto College, University and the world of work.

We are awaiting the final 2011-12 leavers' destinations report due mid December but are confident that the majority of this cohort has secured a positive destination. If you know of any vacancies in your work place please contact me as we at continue to support these students who have still to secure a positive destination.

All S5 and S6 students have also been issued with the link to a fantastic electronic study planner. A list of the study support classes being offered by departments has also been issued. Please encourage your child to access these classes and to use this excellent study guide.

During Personal and Social Education classes they will be helped to begin this process of study planning. We ask that you help them to achieve their planned study goals by encouraging and helping them to put that extra effort in.

Tynecastle CARES

The S6 Charities Group and S6 Community Involvement class have been very busy this term producing a calendar of events ranging from Dress Down Days to a organising a Coffee Morning. This session all funds raised by the Charities Group will be equally divided between Dreamz4U, British Heart Foundation and FreshStart. Funds raised by the Community Involvement class are going towards food for the Christmas Parcels which are delivered to the Elderly and needy in our community.





Convener's Outstanding Achievement Award!

We were delighted to be one of the three schools who received this joint award for our work in delivering the Careers Academy initiative. This article offers a flavour of what this is about and focuses on one of the training days in November this year.

In the morning they took part in a work place visit generously hosted by a Franklin Templeton .



In the afternoon the students, business mentors and internship providers gathered together at The Royal High School for a conference 'First Class to World Class' sponsored by The Clydesdale Bank. In addition to inspirational speakers Gavin Oates, The Tree of Knowledge and Jamie Andrew, Scottish

Mountaineer, this was an opportunity for the second year Career Academy students to inspire new students by sharing their experiences and the impact of the Career Academies UK Programme. Josh McLeish, an S6 pupil at Tynecastle High School said:

"I have found the Career Academies UK programme extremely helpful and beneficial over the past year. My internship at Citi Group was fantastic and helped me gain valuable experience in the workplace which is normally very difficult to obtain."

Jamie Andrew, well-known Scottish Mountaineer, gave an inspirational talk on his own life experiences and how he was inspired to overcome the extreme challenges he faced following a mountaineering accident.

To get a flavour of the afternoon conference, please go to our website to view a short video of the event-

<http://www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk/>





Extra-Curricular Highlights

International Gadda Prize

Lara Clyde has once again brought distinction to our school with her very fine writing skills. The International Gadda short story writing competition, which attracts the presence of stars like Nicola Benedetti and Daniela Nardini, took place again this year. Lara, of course, was the outright winner of this prize 2 years ago, competing against schools throughout Scotland including the private sector.



This year she was selected to be among 9 semi-finalists who prepared a multi-media presentation to be shown at the finals on September 22nd at the Traverse Theatre. Her story this year was titled 'Cacciatore' (The Hunter) and it came a very creditable 4th out of the nine in the finals.

Mr Wilson, English

Banned Book Week

8th–12th October



To celebrate 30 years of Banned Book Week in the USA and to raise awareness of censorship and promote debate, the library held a banned book week. This was preceded by a Film Prequel Week where 4 films depicting censorship were shown by the library and the English Dept. There was also a library exhibition of banned books which could be borrowed from the library with inserts explaining the reason for the ban. Students were encouraged to borrow and read these books on an age appropriate basis then have their say on whether they thought the ban was justified or not. A 'Ban or Fan' wall will be created from their responses. Prizes, in the form of book tokens, have been offered for the most thoughtful responses. In addition staff and senior students were



encouraged to take part in a quiz. Lastly, Ms Davie's film club plan to round off this promotional activity by recording student views on the banned books they have read for a unique school video advent calendar in December.

Lessons from Auschwitz Visit

On Thursday the 4th of October, Miss Howie, Sarah Macpherson and Lauren Archibald flew out to Krakow, Poland to participate in the 2nd stage of the 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project. The first stage included a preparation seminar, which also involved listening to a very moving testimony from a Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper. It was heart-wrenching and deeply moving but was only a small insight into the Holocaust itself. It was not until after exploring a synagogue in the once Jewish town of Oswiecim that the hard-hitting reality was finally embedded. The day was emotionally and physically draining but overall a very rewarding experience, especially if you are interested in History. As part of the next steps project, Sarah and Lauren

hope to raise awareness of the Holocaust, and the lessons we can learn from it, in the school and further community.

Sarah & Lauren, S6

"Wounded" Theatre Trip

On Friday the 23rd of November 51 S3 students had a unique opportunity to attend a special schools performance of the play 'Wounded' held at the Surgeon's Hall.



The play concerned the fate of two wounded soldiers, both injured during combat and recuperating in the same hospital nearly 100 years apart from each other. The play was very thought provoking and made the students consider the affects of war in the past and the present day. Afterwards the students received a talk from a representative from Poppy Scotland about the how the





money from the appeal is used to support wounded soldiers and their families. The students then ventured into the museum itself, split into groups and took part in an object handling workshop and then were given time to explore the exhibits individually. One of the students, Kristen Nayar, thought: "...it was good to learn how the different times took care of the wounded soldiers. It was amazing"

Overall the students gained a superb insight into the affects of war which will enhance their understanding of World War I and human nature in general.

Miss Howie

Emerging Schools Rugby S1-3

Tynecastle are again involved in the SRU Emerging schools Rugby Festivals. This initiative allows students of smaller rugby playing schools the opportunity to come together and play 15's rugby.

The Tynecastle students combine with St Thomas's & Liberton for a selection of festival dates culminating in a finals day in May next year.



The Tynecastle team was made up from our successful emerging 7's team from last season. This team won through to collect the winning trophy at half time during a big Edinburgh game at Murrayfield last season. They also won a cash prize which has helped purchase strips for this season. Well done all the boys who have taken part.

S1 Tag Festival - 6th November

S1 students successfully participated in our annual Murrayfield Wanderers Tag Challenge out on the back pitch. This year's event was successfully planned and organised by our Community Sport Leaders class.

Eight teams competed for the coveted Murrayfield Wanderers Cup, completing seven rounds





of highly entertaining rugby in very blustery conditions. In a very tight competition Dunvegan came out on top, winning the house trophy and house points.

Congratulations to all students who participated & a special congratulation to our **Dunvegan** winners: Ross Anderson, Callum Connell, Darcy Lawrence, Jay Ogilvie, Finlay Devine, Georgia Oates, Christopher Rutherford)

Edinburgh Schools' Football Under 15s

Well done to Ryan Fox who has played twice for the Edinburgh Schools' Representative team, scoring in the first match v Aberdeen.

Snow White – The Panto

Rehearsals are well underway for this production involving both students and staff. In addition to acting, many of the cast are involved with designing and creating the scenery and props with some highly imaginative and detailed layouts. Many students (and

their parents) are helping out with costumes too and there is a whole battalion of workers – staff and students - working busily behind the scenes. Dates for your diary are Tuesday, 18th and Wednesday 19th December.

Prestigious Partners: KPMG

The KPMG Challenge Event at Tynecastle High School In October was a great success. Jide, the team leader has given us the following comment on the day.

“A really fun day and a fantastic bunch of students, they were all really attentive and enthusiastic about the challenges. They came up with very unique ideas and ways of fulfilling the tasks.”

This event challenges students to come up with an entrepreneurial approach to solving three problems. The first challenge is to plan and market a festival which has a budget of £100.000. The second challenge is to develop a start up idea for a business. The third challenge is to produce a plan to save a T-shirt business which is under threat. Our sixth year students





worked in groups to produce solutions to the problems but were also given an insight into the world of accounting. Both tutors were complimentary about the group skills shown and the creativity of the presentations developed

Surfing 2012 – Surf's Up Dudes!

Despite the rain in mid October six fearless students braved the weather to go surfing at Belhaven Bay near Dunbar. Kuba, Sarah, Karolina, Alastair, Douglas and Chloe all rode the waves with style right up until it got dark and they were forced to stop! More trips in the Spring. See Mr Harrison for more information.



The Tynecastle Photography Club

The club runs at lunchtime every Wednesday. Since August the group has had loads of fun entering different competitions like 'Islam in Scotland' and the 'Scottish Nature Photography Awards'.

On Wednesday I received the exciting news that our School Photography Club won the 'Islam in Scotland' Competition.



We submitted three photos in October and last month one was selected for a Glasgow Gallery Showcase. On Wednesday Rosie from Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre contacted me to explain how all three entries had won the top prize (£350) for the under 18 category. The group are delighted and did so well with their entries. I'm very





proud of their achievements and look forward to many more successes in the coming months!

Mr Rahimian, Modern Studies

Orienteering at Braidburn Valley Park

As navigation training for their expeditions, twelve brave individuals from the Bronze and Silver/Gold DofE groups went to Braidburn Valley Park in November. The team hunted out 21 tiny orienteering flags, with number 15 causing quite a few problems. No-one got lost for too long and it was a lovely sunny afternoon to be out. The practice expeditions will be in the spring. See Mr Harrison if interested in joining either of the groups.

Mr Harrison



Eco Warriors

The newly established Eco Warriors have one main aim: to make this school, and the people in it, as eco friendly as possible, hopefully resulting in Green Flag status for the school. We are currently sitting on a Bronze Award but we are close to attaining Silver Award status.



Through innovative and creative ideas made real by hard work and determination we are improving specific areas using the criteria set by 'Eco Schools Scotland'. Even when much of what we do is serious, there's always room for a laugh! We would like to thank the Parent Council for their generous support in funding some of our re-cycling projects.

Miss Moyes



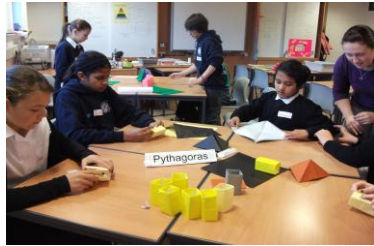


Faculty news

Most Able Maths Visit

The Tynecastle High School Maths Department recently welcomed some of Edinburgh's budding mathematical masterminds to take part in a fun-filled maths challenge. Twenty-five pupils from Balgreen, Craiglockhart, Dalry and Stenhouse Primaries attended the two morning maths sessions delivered by Miss Gardner.

The first session also involved a Stations Round where the pupils put their mathematical skills into action to solve challenging practical maths problems.



The second session kicked off with a rapid-fire Maths Relay and culminated with a Team Construction Challenge.

All of the pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed their time at Tynecastle High School and Miss Gardner was very pleased to hear that en route to the second session a number of pupils were engaged in a dynamic mathematical debate. Congratulations to all four teams Eratosthenes, Napier, Fibonacci and Pythagoras – we hope you find a great place to display your certificates!

MoneySense Project with RBS

Our S2 maths students have recently benefited from the opportunity to attend workshop





sessions with Susan Smith from RBS.



Susan's talks have given the students much key information about having their own bank accounts and the activities have also gone down very well with the students.



"Chilling" in English

A group of S5/6 students attended a performance of Alan Ayckbourn's 'Haunting Julia' at

the King's Theatre this term. As promised, the production was a 'chilling, thrilling ghost story' and several students who were bemoaning the lack of thrills in the first half were seen leaping out of their seats in the last ten minutes as we were treated to a range of unnerving special effects. An enjoyable and creepy production.

Modern Languages - Scotland Goes Global

Sarah Glass, Taylor Elliot, Lauren Fielding and Michael Watson (all S4) represented the school at the launch event for Scotland Goes Global on Friday 28th September. They were immersed in a deluge of stalls and presentations promoting the benefits for all students of spending time either working or studying in another country. The Faculty of Modern Languages and Global Citizenship will be integrating many of these ideas into the Spanish unit of the new S3 course which will be unveiled in January.

Social Subjects





Modern Studies Trip

The Advanced Higher Modern Studies group are studying for their Dissertations on the topic of Law and Order. As part of this study they were able to attend the 'SACRO Schools Day' yesterday in town. This event was open to all Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils and consisted of a number of keynote speakers employed at SACRO and a questions and answer session based on Dissertation topics.

Lucy Gibson, Dean Elder and Esme Manclark (from Drummond High School who studies AH here) were all in attendance and contributed excellently to the discussions. If you see any of them please feel free to ask them about the event.

Drama

Our S4 Standard Grade Drama students are working with award winning playwright, Alan Wilkins, in the Traverse

Theatre's Class Act Project. Throughout, the students will be exploring what it is like being a contemporary playwright, and writing their own plays. *The project encourages* them to tell the story they are passionate about. Their plays will ultimately be published and performed by a team of professional actors and directors at the Traverse Theatre in January.



'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Recently, students from S2-6 attended a performance of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Lyceum Theatre. The production was innovative and imaginative and the students enjoyed it tremendously.





John Muir Group in S3

The John Muir group are attending 'Forest School' up in the Pentlands. The photographs were taken during our 2nd week. The group cleared the steps to a viewing platform. You can see how much effort this required by looking at the area before we started work.



This is part of the 'conserve' challenge for the John Muir Award. We also created emergency shelters. At the end of the day, we always get some time to reflect on what we have been learning. This is usually around a campfire. This week we cooked sausages!



The class are currently working in small groups devising, filming and editing a short movie. This week was 'make-up' week. The class had great fun experimenting with different character make-up. Can you guess which genre is represented in this photograph?



Fun into Food

Last month, Chartwells, the company who runs the school cafeteria, arranged for their *Fun into Food* road show to visit Tynecastle.

Chartwell chef Darren Tinkler presented and compered a thrilling 'Ready, Steady.... Cook!' style competition to promote Nutrition and Healthy Eating messages to S1 and S2 students. He showed through this that





making healthy eating choices can be fun, easy and tasty.



Mr Revolta and his Red team of students Niall Douglas, Abbygail Hutt and Abbey Lewis competed against Mrs West and her Green team of Abbie Razzaq, Mathew McLauchlin and Karolina Rybak.

Darren presented each team with a range of healthy ingredients and gave them 15 minutes to create a range of dishes for the audience to taste.



There was an exciting race against the clock for each team to finish their dishes on time. The red team cooked a Flash fried mini meatballs with egg noodle chow mein and a sweet and sour sauce. The green team cooked pepper, onion and fresh spinach balti with pilau rice and bombay potatoes.

It was a close result with the red team finally being declared the winners! It was a really great presentation with the healthy eating message being imparted to the students in a fun and memorable way -our thanks to Darren for allowing us this opportunity!

Performance (Dance)

The girls from the S1-6 Dance Club performed at the Celebration of Learning event and performed 3 excellent dance routines. They also demonstrated Zumba songs which the crowd seemed to enjoy very much. They will perform again at the Dance showcase event in December.

Miss Clarke





Performance (Music)

Early this session students from Tynecastle High School gave an Evening recital at St Martin's Episcopal Church. The Reverend David Warnes is a valued friend and supporter of music at Tynecastle. The samba band opened the evening with a piece written by Hazel Morrison, our percussion teacher. The band were led by S5 Higher student Connor Gartland and consisted of Michael Farrell S4, Brandon Innes S2, Lewis Howard S2 and Matthew McLauchlin S2.



Maciej Fec, Jay Hamilton and Connor Gartland performed two pieces on electric guitar, bass guitar and drum kit. The photograph is of the students performing Down Low. Douglas Burns performed his own cover version of Wonderwall by Oasis. All four students are currently studying Higher Music. Maciej Fec closed the recital with a talented improvised blues programme.

Miss Wallace

World Challenge 2014

Tynecastle will take an expedition to either Bolivia or South Africa in the summer of 2014. I will be leading a group of students on a 4 week expedition, developing their entrepreneurial & leadership skills. Fundraising events started in November.

Mr Connell

Science

EES Scotland Launch Day

In October Tynecastle's S5 physicists went to the EES Scotland Launch Day at





Strathclyde University, Glasgow. The team - Ludwik Bacmaga, Steven Dick, Karolina Rut and Alastair Nicholson, took part in an energy challenge against other schools as well as learning about the project they are to embark on. They have been teamed up with the company Selex Galileo and will have to research, produce and manufacture a product for them. More details to follow soon and the team hopes to go on a two day training session in January. It's a huge undertaking for a school project but the team seem ready and enthusiastic for the challenges they face.

Pro science

Pro Science is a programme that links science undergraduates with teachers to complement and enhance existing lesson structures. We are lucky enough to have two such volunteers working in the Science Faculty starting in early November for 14 weeks. Melina Golfels who is currently studying Biochemistry, is going to be working with Intermediate 2 Chemistry students. Leonie Kohlhammer is

a second year, biological sciences undergraduate who is thinking about a degree in Biochemistry or Pharmacology. Leonie will be working with an S2 class that are studying "Acids, Alkalis and Chemical Cells". More details to follow in the next issue of the newsletter when we hope to have some student views on the Pro Science programme.



Interview with a Degu

By Ross Brown 1D1, Tahmith Ahmed 2B1 and Kieran McCready 2D1

Q Why are your teeth yellow?

A This is a sign of being healthy like humans having white teeth. We don't make enamel.

Q How do you keep clean?





A We roll in sand or chinchilla dust

Q What do you eat?

A We cannot eat anything with sugar in it as it will give us diabetes. We do not make insulin.



Q Where are you from originally?

A Chile

Q What is your natural habitat?

A In the wild we live in rocks and hedges in the mountains.

Q What type of animal are you?

A We are not rodents!! We are from the same family as guinea pigs.

Q How long do you live for?

A We live on average 7-8 years but can live up to 10 years.

Q Why are your tails so long?

A We need a long tail for balance and temperature regulation.

(Come and meet Apple and Jess in Room Too4 with Ms Davis in Science)

S3 Zoo trip



On the 14th of November twenty S3 students attended a conference at Edinburgh Zoo. The students attended workshops in the morning on topics such as 'Tiger Dating' and 'Chimp Talk'.

In the afternoon our students took part in a debate on: 'Do zoos have a place in the world today?' We were 'For' zoos and the students' researched beforehand and prepared their reasons for why they felt that zoos were necessary. The Tynecastle students- led by Heather Burns on the panel- made excellent arguments against students from other





schools – many of whom who were fifth year students. A great end to the day was getting a VIP trip to see the pandas-both of whom were up and about giving an excellent photo opportunity!

Ms Shearer & Miss Moyes

Young Set Ambassadors 2012

Two groups of S2 students entered this popular energy challenge against other Edinburgh schools. The teams had to research and build a model school making it as energy efficient as possible using wind turbines, solar panels and other advanced features.

One of our teams managed to finish runners up and won some money for the school so well done to them. There will be another S2 team entered this year and hopefully they can win the grand prize of £1000 for the school.



S6 Engineering

As Advanced Higher physics students we have been inspired by their participation in a University led engineering project designed to showcase practical applications of physics.

We have been making use of the high-tech equipment at Heriot Watt to complete one of the experiments for our project. Hollie, Ludwig & George, S6



Design

New Staff Interview with Mr Revolta





1. What do you like best about being at Tynecastle?

- I like the facilities that are actually available – I think it's fantastic that there is, you know, a wide range of stuff and it's all brand spanking new. I like the close-knit community of teachers and I like the range of pupils that I really get to work with. I really enjoy that.

2. What made you want to become a teacher?

I really enjoy working with people – I always thought I was good at communicating. I have a very lively personality, I would think, and hopefully a good sense of humour that can benefit kids from any sort of background so whether that be an affluent background or those who sadly sometimes have come from very challenging backgrounds. I thought I could be a source of light, essentially.

3. What are you looking forward to most about the school year?

Em, holidays but you can blank that wee bit out (laughs). Uh, I think just getting through the

year and trying to be established as a member of staff that teachers and pupils can rely on.

4. How do you relax after a hard day's teaching?

I really enjoy playing my guitar and listening to relaxing music because teaching can be very intense. I also really enjoy exercising. I love going to the gym and mainly I just weight-lift. The Centre for Sport and Exercise at Edinburgh University is just grand.

Sophie Clyde and Sarah Nisbet S6

Scottish National **PORTRAIT** Gallery

Kirsty Davidson in S6 was successful in her application to attend a weekend workshop as part of the BP Portrait awards education programme. Kirsty gained invaluable experience in approaches to portraiture and media use.





A group of S3 Art and Design students visited the Scottish National Portrait Gallery to see the BP Portrait Award exhibition which showcases the very best in contemporary portrait painting from around the world. Students were given a guided tour and worked in groups with the freelance education officers exploring the stories, processes and techniques used by the artists.



Design (Art)

Heather Burns (3T1) was contacted by Edinburgh Zoo commending her for her competition entry for a stamp

design competition marking their Centenary anniversary.



Heather's design will feature on their website in a gallery of the best entries.

<http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/whatson/Competitions/stampgallery.html>

JASS – Junior Award Scheme Scotland

JASS is now being





offered to all S1 students. We will therefore have 6 projects running throughout the year. These projects come under the 'Me and My World' element of JASS. The Junior Award Scheme Scotland (JASS) is an accredited learning programme for young people (P6-S2). There are three levels (bronze, silver and gold), each requiring a higher degree of commitment. Each level also includes four sections to be completed:

- My interest - a hobby or interest
- Get Active, Stay Active -
- Involvement in a sport or physical activity
- Me and My World - a community or environmental project
- Adventure
- A teamwork challenge through involvement in an outdoor activity

Below the S1 students will tell you a bit more about each of the projects.

Running for Charity

We were given the opportunity to train for and complete a 5K run in 2012 and another 5k run in 2013. These runs are aimed to raise funds from sponsors for

the Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh. We are hoping we will be given the opportunity to visit the children in hospital to entertain them through reading



stories and playing games.

Tell Me a Story

We met with senior citizens who are residents of a local care home, Blenham House. We enjoyed meeting with our senior partners and hearing stories about their lives. Their life experiences were so different, living in times when very few had television and other technology. Mobile phones didn't exist and televisions were a luxury item. Most had also experienced living through wartime and some had been soldiers in World War 2.





There were very few cars on the roads when these people were young. Walking to school was normal and school was something else!

After hearing our partner's life story we spend time producing a PowerPoint presentation. We will take this to Blenheim House and present an electronic snapshot of our partner's lives to the residents of the care home.



Knitting for Cat and Dog Home

Students will be taught how to knit simple squares. These squares will then be sewn together to create a small blanket for the animals at the Dog and Cat home. Students will visit the centre to observe and help with the care of the

animals. Depending on knitting skills, students will also have the opportunity to knit for the babies in the Special Care Unit.

Centenary Bird Boxes

The bird population in Scotland has dramatically diminished in recent years. We have decided to help the birds by making them little houses. In this project pupils work with staff in designing and making centenary bird houses and bird tables. We research information about the birds including appropriate feed to put on the bird tables. When the Birdhouses are ready appropriate community groups will be approached to be given the finished products.



Centenary Rooftop Garden

We worked together to fulfil the rooftop designs which were





drawn up last year. We laid out various planters and picnic benches. Hopefully the school will be able to make good use of this pleasant space in good weather. It will be a nice calm place when the plants come through.

The whole school community will be able to access this garden. It is hoped it will also become an attraction for 'Doors Open Day' in future years.

Donate a Coat

3xl are collecting coats hats, gloves scarf's and toiletries for the homeless in partnership with the Ashbrook Centre. They spent the afternoon with them on Thursday 29th November. This visit gave the students a chance to have a question and answer session with the homeless to find out a little more on how they became homeless.



Sponsored Walk

On Friday 14 September we enjoyed good weather for a great walk across the Pentlands. Our Student Council are to be in charge of working out what to do with the money raised. Well done all walkers!



Active Schools and Transition

It's been an exciting term at Tynecastle this year with a variety of activities for the students. The program wouldn't be a success without the dedication and commitment of the High School staff and help from our senior students – a big thank you to you all! Our activities timetable is attached in the parent information section later



Table Tennis for S1

After a successful block of table tennis taster sessions, I am very pleased to announce a new table tennis club for S1 students after Christmas. The club will take place Wednesday after school from 3.45 – 4.45pm in the small gym hall. Places are limited, so book your place now! See Pam for details.

Basketball

Senior Boys Basketball games have been exciting this year. With five very different games and a tense atmosphere, we finished our league with two wins.



Transition and Primary Schools

As well as all of the exciting developments at the high school, our feeder primaries

have been enjoying the opportunity to take part in a transition event. Dalry and Stenhouse Primary School attended a P6-7 Tag Rugby Festival. The event was brilliant with fantastic support from our Senior Community Sport Leaders students who put their newly learned rugby skills into practice! The event was in partnership with our local rugby club Murrayfield Wanderers, who deliver our after school club on a Thursday.



Volunteering

A new term is upon us and it's time to get active and volunteer! Active Schools are always looking to provide more opportunities for students to be active and take part in activities at school, preferably at no or a very low cost. However, for this





to happen, we need your help!
Why not volunteer for a club at school? If you have a keen interest or experience in an activity, please get in touch.

If you are interested, please contact, Pam Brown on 07884 142 774 or email pamela.brown@ea.edin.sch.uk
Thank you!

Primary Transition visits to Tynecastle

We are always delighted to welcome our cluster primary pupils to Tynecastle and this term has been a very busy one with pupils from P5 - P7 all enjoying visits here.

P5-7 Tag rugby festival

Our S6 Community Sports Leaders' Award (CSLA) students ran a cluster primary tag rugby festival in November for all P5-7 pupils. This allowed pupils from different primaries to meet again and to have fun together through sport. This also allowed our CSLA students to gain experience of running such events, which is a key aspect of their course.

P7: 'Crime Scene Investigation - CSI' follow-up lesson

In May this year, all P6 pupils attended a whole day session at Tynecastle High School to work with pupils from other cluster primaries on our CSI project where they learned how to use scientific processes such as DNA and fingerprinting to solve a fictitious crime. In September, all P7 pupils attended a follow-up lesson in English that looked at report writing after a crime. The final pieces of writing were impressive and were displayed at our Open Evening in September.

Most able cluster mathematicians group

Through liaison with P7 teachers, a group of our most able mathematicians from across all cluster primary schools was identified. The group came together here at Tynecastle and worked collaboratively on problem solving strategies to solve complex mathematical questions in a team round and then using their lightning quick





arithmetic skills to take part in a fun maths relay race.

Social studies curricular visit

As part of cluster developments in reporting in Social Studies, all P7 classes enjoyed a visit to our Social Studies department to further develop work being done in class at primary. Topics covered varied from the Aswan Dam to the structure of the Earth. The 'tweeting' aspect of the lesson seems to have gone down particularly well.

Additional curricular visits

Each primary was also invited to select another department they would like to visit. See below:

Home Economics

Craiglockhart and Dalry, including a number of Dalry parents, very much enjoyed being part of the lesson looking at World War 2 food.

CDT

Balgreen students made individualised keyrings.

Music

Members of Stenhouse's P6/7 choir enjoyed their 'jammin' session.

We are also looking forward to welcoming all P5 pupils to a performance of this year's panto *Snow White* in December.

Tynecastle student visits to cluster primary schools

S6 students also volunteered to help out at cluster primary events, such as the Dalry pupil performances at the 'Meet The Teacher' event in September. S1 students also attended parents' evenings at our cluster primary to talk to primary pupils about the leaflet they produced about their very positive experiences since starting here in August. This can be viewed on the Website at:

www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk





Information for Parents/Carers

Parent Council News

Session 2012-13 ended well for the Parent Council with a very successful Centenary Summer Fair held on Saturday 23 June.

So far this year members of our Parent Council have been busy with the following:

- Supporting the school's Celebration of Learning and Parents' Consultation Meetings by having members present at a stall, and able to chat to other parents and carers – why not say hello next time you attend a Parents' Consultation?
- Supporting Patryk Zak S5 with a small start-up loan for *Patryk's Milkshakes*, his new enterprise business
- Contributing to consultation on matters such as Curriculum for Excellence developments at Tynecastle, and the structure of the school day
- Planning for one of the school's BIG EVENTS of the year, our BURNS SUPPER, to be held in school on the evening of

Friday 1 February. This is always a great night; **save the date!**

Other Parent Council meetings will be held this session on 14th Jan, 4th March, 22nd April, 3rd June. Meetings are always held in school, and begin at 7pm. All parents and carers are very welcome to attend!



Effective communication is vital to the successful running of a school. Tynecastle High School prides itself on being open and approachable to all parents, pupils and visitors.

The school regularly provides feedback to parents and carers on the progress of their child and their achievements and successes, not just when there are concerns.

Parents should feel confident in contacting the school with any





concerns they may have. The first point of contact is always your child's Support for Pupils Teacher. However, please do not hesitate to ask for your child's Year Head, or the Head Teacher.

The Support for Pupils Team

House Group	Support for Pupils Teacher
Braemar	Mr Aitchison
Dunvegan	Mr Simpson
Tantallon	Mrs Reid

Depute Heads

Year Group	Depute Head Teacher
S1/2	Mrs Ramsay
S3/4	Mrs Bell
S5/6	Mrs Turnbull

Updating Information

It is vital that the school holds up-to-date contact information for all students and their parents/carers. Please notify the school if emergency contact details change, if there is a change of address, or a change of phone number.

Please notify the school of your email address if you are happy to be contacted in this way.

The school will send text message alerts to parents/carers prior to important events, such as Parent Consultation Evenings. Information can also be found on our website.

Website

www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

Email

admin@tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

Telephone

0131 337 3488

Address

2 McLeod Street
Edinburgh, EH11 2ND

Changes to the school's Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

The city-wide project to upgrade ICT across schools, nurseries and community centres has started. This will enable the school to provide flexibility in the use of ICT across the curriculum, meeting the needs of learners and teachers, now and in the future. It will make it much easier for our pupils and teachers to access ICT and the internet using a variety of devices, ranging from mobile





phones through to tablets and laptops.

What will change?

- the school's broadband connection will be increased during 2013 improving internet speeds and allowing access to video content previously unavailable;
- the majority of our computers will be replaced with new PC desktops and laptops in the Summer of 2013;
- we have the opportunity to supplement these with other types of devices, due to the introduction of a separate wireless network which allows a range of devices from phones and tablets through to laptops to access the internet;
- access to this separate wireless network will still be controlled through the use of a username and password and there will be security filters on this network, so sites like Facebook will still not be accessible;
- non-personal information will be stored in Microsoft 365 for Education's Cloud, allowing staff and pupils to collaborate anywhere, anytime.





Tynecastle Parent Council welcomes all parents or carers of Tynecastle High School students. Our next meeting is on Monday 14th January 2013 from 7pm to 8.30pm. If you would like to be involved, or would like more information, please contact Mary Brownlee at jbrownlee@blueyonder.co.uk. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for 4th March, 22nd April and 3rd June. All welcome!

Burns Supper

Our annual Burns Supper will be held at the school on Friday 1st February 2013 from 7pm to 11pm. Tickets are available from the school office or email Mary at jbrownlee@blueyonder.co.uk. Prices are £12 for adults and £8 for Tynecastle students (finger buffet for under 7s at £2.50). This is a traditional family evening with haggis, ceilidh band, entertainment and dancing. A licensed bar will be provided. Cheques should be made payable to Tynecastle Parent Council.

Wednesday Lunch Clubs

Come along, join in and have fun – it's free!

Activity	Time	Where	Contact
S1/S2 Dance	1 – 1.45pm	Assembly Hall	Miss Clarke
S1 Dodgeball	1 – 1.45pm	Small Gym	PE staff
S1 – S6 Football	1 – 1.45pm	Astro Pitch	PE Staff
S1 – S6 Badminton	1 – 1.45pm	Large Games Hall	PE Staff
S3 – S6 Fitness	1 – 1.45pm	Fitness Gym	Mr Revolta and Mrs West
S1 – S6 Fencing	1 – 1.45pm	Large Games Hall	Mr Love





After School Activities

Day	Activity	Time	Where	Contact
Monday	Volleyball	3.30 – 4.30pm	Large games Hall	PE staff
	S1 – S3 Dance	3.30 – 4.30pm	Dance Studio	Miss Clarke
	S1-S6 Boys Football	3.30 – 4.45pm	Astro Pitch	Mr Nisbet/ Rose/ Rahimian
	S1 – S3 Girls Football	3.30 – 4.45pm	Astro Pitch	Miss Moultray
	S3 – S6 Girls Fitness	3.45 – 4.45pm	Fitness Gym	Mrs West/ PE Staff
	S1 – S2 Basketball	3.30 – 4.45pm	Large Games Hall	T Griffin and A Tahir
Tuesday	Girls Club	3.30 – 4.45pm	PE Base	Miss Moultray
	S3 - S6 Fitness	3.30 – 4.30pm	Fitness Gym	Mr Revolta/ Miss West
Wednesday	S3 – S6 Girls Fitness	3.45 – 4.45pm	Fitness Gym	Mrs West/ PE Staff
	S1 – S6 Badminton	4.00 – 4.50pm	Large Games Hall	Gordon McLean
	S1 – S6 Cross Country	4.00 – 6.00pm	PE Base	Mr Simpson
Thursday	S1 – S3 Rugby	3.30 – 4.45pm	Astro Pitch	Stuart Dennis
	S1 – S3 Girls Basketball	3.30 – 4.45pm	Small Games Hall	Miss Gardner and Kennedy Davidson
	S3 – S6 Basketball	3.30 – 4.45pm	Large Games Hall	Mikey Mackay
	S3 – S6 Fitness	3.30 – 4.30pm	Fitness Gym	Mr Revolta





Diary

Tuesday 8th January	Students return
Week beginning 14th January	S4 Work Experience Week
Monday 14th January	Parent Council meeting
Monday 21st January	LEAPS event – S5 8.30-10.30am
Friday 25th January	S4 Parents' Consultation appointment sheets issued
Friday 1st February	S4→S5 coursing information booklet issued
	S5/6 prelims begin
	Parent Council Burns Night
	S3 Parents' Consultation sheets issued
Monday 4th February	S4 Parents' Consultation
Tuesday 5th February	S4→S5 coursing begins
Friday 8th February	S5/6 prelims end
	Mid term break
Monday 18th February	All return
Tuesday 19th February	French theatre visit for P7s
Friday 22nd February	S4 coursing ends
	S3→S4 coursing information booklet issued
Wednesday 27th February	S3 Parents' Consultation
Thursday 28th February	Dip, Tet & Polio injections
Friday 1st March	S3→S4 coursing begins
Monday 4th March	Easter School information released





	Parent Council meeting
	LEAPS event - S6 8.30-9.30
Friday 8th March	S3→S4 coursing ends
	S5/6 course choice information booklet issued
Monday 11th March	Visit by Netherlands exchange students
Thursday 14th March	Celebration of Sporting Achievements
Monday 18th March	S5→S6 coursing begins
Thursday 21st March	Spring Fling (Music event)
Friday 22nd March	Parent Council meeting
	S5→S6 coursing ends
	S2 rugby festival 10.15-12.15pm
	Term ends
Monday 8th April	All resume
Monday 15th April	Spring holiday
Monday 6th May	May Day
Monday 20th May	Victoria Day
Tuesday 21st May	Staff resume
Wednesday 22nd May	Students resume
Friday 28th June	Term ends



TYNECASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
2 McLeod Street
Edinburgh
EH11 2ND

WEBSITE: www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk
EMAIL: admin@tynecastle.edin.sch.uk
TEL: 0131 337 3488

