

TYNECASTLE

challenge

ambition

responsibility

enjoyment

success

HIGH



SCHOOL

2013

NEWSLETTER.

SPRING





Notes



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March 2013

Dear Parent / Carer,

Once again it's been a busy and productive term and I have enjoyed meeting so many of you at the many events this term, starting with the Burns Night and, more recently, the excellent sporting achievement ceremony last week.

I am also pleased to report that in preparation for the new courses, we are progressing well with the student learning reviews. I would like to thank our Parent Council for the invaluable input and support they have provided as we move forward. A key development next term will be the completion of the new learning profile by our S3 students.

On the ICT front we have recently purchased iPads for all teachers and learning assistants, as the range of applications available will really enhance the learning experience in classrooms. We want to lead the way with innovation and new technology and next term we will be acquiring more student 1:1 devices. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy Easter, and look forward to seeing you after the break.

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: Lauren Archibald

Our best wishes go with Claire Grant, former Tantallon Captain, who has chosen to leave school to take up full time employment.

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

- Organising teams for supporting school events
- Attending Senior Team meeting to advise on student issues
- Chairing and taking minutes at Student Council
- Assisting with staff interviews

Student Council Achievements

On Thursday 28th February, a student council meeting was held to discuss previous agenda items as well as important upcoming issues.

Members were shown Edinburgh Council's 'Vision for Edinburgh schools' and were asked to discuss what we particularly liked about it or what it was missing and how we thought the vision could be achieved. On the whole, people liked the principles and thought favourably of the focus on 'positive destinations'.

Students were positive about the forthcoming ICT refresh and welcomed the school decision to adopt iPads to support learning – all teachers and learning assistants now have iPads! Once staff are comfortable there is a plan to purchase apple technology to further enhance learning.

Members also discussed the issue of sponsored walk money and what it should be spent on; ideas were once again discussed



and a ballot was taken to decide our two favourites. Ideas were also discussed by the council for this year's Parent Council Summer Fair in June and how students and staff could get more involved – so watch this space!

Are You Smarter Than A 17-Year-Old?



On Thursday 7th March, teams of teachers and S6 students took part in the: 'Are you smarter than 17-Year-Old?' quiz, organised by the prom committee to raise funds. There were six different categories of questions, including: Film & TV; Music; Celebrities; Sport; Subjects and General Knowledge. There were 3 staff teams and 5 S6 teams competing. After a demanding 90 questions, the winner was

revealed – *The Stuart Rose Experience and the Sciencettes* which was made up of Mr Rose, Ms Shearer, Miss Moyes and Miss Dearness. However, it was a very close win with only a point in it making *The Awe-sums Squared* finish in second place. This team was made up by Miss Gardner, Miss Dolan, Miss Farrelly and Mr Rae. The Awe-sums had the moral victory, however, after winning the most points in the academic subject round. The best student team of the competing 5 was Two Door Quiz Club made up by Tom Griffin, Jack Brown, Kerr Gallagher and Lauren Archibald. The night was a great success and we would like to say a big, big thank you to everyone for taking part! The fundraising for the prom has been going very well so far and with the Easter bake sale and the staff vs. student basketball game coming up there is a lot more to look forward to!

Lara & Sophie Clyde



S1/2 Round-up

Curriculum for Excellence

In order to continue to keep you informed of changes to your child's education, we are constantly adding to the Curriculum for Excellence section of our website.

The key documents from our recent S2 Learner Review pack and the power point from the S2 into S3 Parent Information Evening are now posted there, together with a FAQ section with answers. 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

As part of Curriculum for Excellence, our Literacy Improvement Group has co-ordinated our Literacy across Learning work, which aims to embed key literacy strategies in all subjects across the school. This year, the school focus is on Reciprocal Reading strategies

which support learners in understanding and remembering what they have read. These are:

- Predicting
- Clarifying
- Questioning
- Summarising

Our Reading for Gold scheme in English continues to be very successful, particularly in motivating students to read books from different genres in order to broaden their reading experiences.

If you would like to learn more about our other Literacy initiatives this year, issue 2 of our publication 'Literacy Bites' is on our website:.

Learner Reviews

This has been a particularly important term for our S2 students as we prepare them for the third year of their Broad General Education within Curriculum for Excellence. This is different because the traditional 'choice' of subjects in S2 for S3-4



no longer takes place. S2 students may now opt to focus on a particular subject within a curricular area, but they will however continue with many aspects of all subjects.

To support our students and you through this process, we issued Learner Review packs to all S2 students during an assembly on 1 March and held our S2 into S3 Information Evening for parents on 5 March, which was well-attended. The final part of the process is a Learner Review, which is an interview between your son / daughter and a member of the student support team. This will take place before the Easter break. We hope that the information we provided in the pack and during our Information Evening has enabled you to support your son / daughter in their move into S3.

S1-3 E-portfolios

All our S1-3 students have continued to 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. This term, students have been learning more about how to put up regular 'posts' about their successes and their next steps.

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.

Forthcoming full reports for S1/2

Full reports for S2 will be sent to parents / carers mid May and to S1 parents / carers at the start of June. These reports will contain grades for progress and effort / behaviour / homework in each subject and will also have written comments from all of your son / daughter's teachers, including a comment from his / her Student Support teacher.



S3 / 4 Round-Up

Reports and Parents' Consultations

Both S3 and S4 year groups have received full reports this term, and we enjoyed meeting with parents and carers at our Consultation Evenings. Turn-out was excellent, and we appreciated again that reception duties were so ably handled by our students. For S4, national SQA exams are almost in sight (they begin 26 April) and S3 are engaged currently with Learner Reviews which will map out their studies as they approach the Senior Phase of the Curriculum for Excellence. This is an exciting time of consolidation and change.

Assemblies

This term our Assembly and Tutor Group Programme focused first on the theme of 'Choices', with emphasis on the importance of making the right individual choices in order to be 'your true self'. Another important focus has been Global Citizenship, which we look forward to developing at

Tynecastle. Our half hour Friday Assemblies give an opportunity for all the students in one House (Braemar, Dunvegan or Tantallon) to come together with input from staff and peers, student performances to enjoy, and celebration of individual, group and class successes.

Work Experience

On the 14th of January, 93 S4 students set out on their work experience week. This was the culmination of planning over a number of weeks where students had either selected their placement from a database or had researched and arranged their own placement. Students spent a week on their employer's premises carrying out a number of tasks as set out on their job card.

The placements are wide and varied from working with software companies, to advertising agencies, hairdressing and medical observation in surgical theatres with NHS Scotland. Some students were instructors in a dance school while some were learning assistants or PE



assistants in schools. Students have to complete a log book during the week as well as receive feedback from their employer on their performance at a final review. On coming back to school, students complete the unit by looking at how they used different skills and how they cooperated with staff and others at school and on their placement. Employers complete a report which is kept along with their log book if verification is necessary. Students do enjoy their foray into the world of work and employers' reports are full of praise for the students' efforts.

Successful students are awarded a pass at Intermediate 1 in Work Experience which will appear on their SQA certificate. The date for next session's work experience is 13 January 2014 when the current S3 will have the opportunity to take part.

Netherland's exchange.

Tynecastle has participated in an exchange programme with Bisschoppelijik College in Roermond in the Netherlands since 2004 and on Friday 8

March, 16 Dutch students arrived to take part with Tynecastle S3 students.



Dutch visitors on a ghost tour

These students are taught in the English language and are here to gain experience and become fluent in English. They took part in some cultural visits in the city but also in some social events such as bowling and ice skating as well as a cultural evening for parents. The Scottish hosts will be travelling for the return leg on 13 May where they will renew their acquaintance with Dutch friends. While here they will be speaking to our S2 students who will be given the opportunity to visit next session.



S5 / 6 Round-up

Career Academies

Nine Tynecastle students have successfully completed the two year Career Academies programme which has seen them benefit from a four week paid internship; one-to-one mentoring; workplace visits, seminars and classroom based 'Guru Lectures'.



Receiving the award at the City Chambers

Employer supporters of Career Academies have mentored students over the past two years and have developed their skills for future employment, made students aware of the many career paths open to them, showed them what the world of work involves and helped them develop valuable life skills.

They have all been successful in meeting the criteria to graduate from the programme and will attend the Scottish Graduation on May 2nd at the Assembly Rooms.

Prelim Exams

S5/6 students have just completed their prelim exams. Students' attendance and punctuality during the exams were exceptionally good and I am confident that this will contribute to excellent prelim results. There are opportunities for Easter School and supported study classes after school or at lunchtime across the school. Please encourage your son/daughter to make good use of these opportunities.

SQA Exams

The SQA exam diet for most S5/6 students begins on Tuesday 7th May. Individualised exam timetables will be issued after the Easter holidays but in the meantime students can access this information from the SQA website. www.sqa.org.uk



It is crucial to students' academic success that they have an effective study plan in place. Tynecastle has developed an innovative online study planning tool with departments contributing study materials. All S4/5/6 students have been inducted on how to access this through GLOW or Edmodo. Parental support at this time is also invaluable in encouraging, cajoling and providing reassurance in order to help keep things in perspective. I would urge you to please contact either your child's Student Support teacher or myself if we can assist in any way.

S5/6 Key dates

3rd May S5/6 last day of attendance
7th May S5/6 SQA exam diet begins
6th June (period 4) S5 return to school with a 3 day Induction Programme
6th June S6 return to school
10th & 11th June S6 Conference – Napier University

E Turnbull, DHT

Skills Development Scotland - Lyn Sutherland

Linda Dalziel of Skills Development Scotland left for a new post in December after many great years of service to Tynecastle as the Careers Adviser. Linda has been replaced by Lyn Sutherland who has already met with and helped many of the students in the upper school preparing for the next step after leaving school.

The Careers support in the school covers a wide range of topics including how to complete application forms and write up CVs, registering to online Careers websites and also with advice on course choice. The PSE programme in school gets students thinking about where they would like to go and how to get there, Lyn supports this with appointments to discuss putting this plan into action. Tynecastle is helping students move on to a variety of positive destinations, including University (a student is applying to Stanford in the USA), college, Modern Apprenticeships, Skills for Work programmes and into



employment. There are many opportunities available to school leavers in Edinburgh. A warm welcome to Lyn and we all look forward to working with her.

Mr Aitchison, Sfp Leader

My World of Work

My World of Work is a new web service which Skills Development Scotland (the careers service) has produced to encourage young people and adults to plan their career. It is full of features and advice designed to help identify strengths and to then match them to the types of learning and jobs which will suit best. It can give students information on different areas of work, how to get in, search for jobs, find out what employers are looking for, show job related videos, write CVs and store them, get interview tips and much, much more.

Students can register online and the more they use the service the more it customises itself to their interests, for example showing them suitable job

vacancies etc. when they log on each time. Other services such as **My Strengths** provide really good ideas for job areas and subject choice. **My Interviews** is also useful in taking people through the process, with interviewers asking real questions and suggesting good answers. There is a new section on applying to university which gives helpful tips on completing UCAS applications including personal statements.

Students will be expected to register for the web service and they can do this in school or at home and it would be helpful if parents encouraged their children to log on. One to one interviews will still be offered by the careers adviser in school and in our centre at 79 Shandwick Place after they leave school.

The website address is www.myworldofwork.co.uk and if you have any problems with it, please contact me at Lyn.sutherland@sds.co.uk



Extra-Curricular Highlights

Burns Supper

On Friday 1 February our Parent Council hosted a fantastic Burns Supper, attended by a record 112 people. Students, staff, parents and friends of the school enjoyed the skirl of the pipes, a terrific meal, excellent speeches and very energetic dancing to The Roundhouse Ceilidh Band. Many thanks to those who made this such a special evening for Tynecastle.



Staff, Parents & Students

The Big Pedal

Tynecastle Bike Club held its first big cycle on 25 January 2013. We cycled along the Union Canal as far as Colinton Dell. The group faced harsh weather conditions as you can see from

the photos, which only added to the adventure of the cycle. Sustrans provided snacks for all the cyclists afterwards and it was a very enjoyable afternoon for all. Keep an eye out for more cycle trips coming soon.



The next big event for all the cyclists at Tynecastle was The Big Pedal. It took place from 28 February until 20 March 2013. Staff and students were encouraged to cycle to school. All the journeys were logged online and will count towards a virtual cycle around the UK.

Now that the mornings are brighter, this is a great chance to get back on your bike and help Tynecastle win the race.



World Book Day



Who are you?

World Book Day is celebrated on the first Thursday in March every year and thanks to the generosity of publishers and booksellers in the UK and Ireland, £1.00 book tokens are distributed to young people under the age of 18 at this time.

To celebrate world book day and to promote reading and literacy this year at Tynecastle High School the Library is holding a 'Guess the Reader' photographic competition. The theme is 'The Great Tynecastle Centenary Mash-up'. Many students (and staff) took part. There is a £15 book token prize for the first all correct (or nearest to) entry drawn from a hat.

The photographs can be viewed on the library notice boards and the school website.



Languages at University

Former students Lucia Diotaiuti, Naomi Blyth (both Heriot Watt) and Rahat Ali (University of Edinburgh) visited the school in January to give a presentation to S3 and S4 students about studying languages at university. Topics covered included the experience of living



Mrs Graham, pictured with Naomi, Rahat and Lucia.



abroad as well as the challenges of getting to grips with a new alphabet when studying languages such as Arabic or Japanese. It was also interesting to discover the way in which languages had helped all three students in their part-time jobs here in Edinburgh.

Mrs Graham, Mod. Languages

S3 Girls - Healthy Cooking Club



Every Thursday we have been meeting in Home Economics with Miss Moultray and Mrs West to rustle up some healthy versions of our favourite sweet and savoury dishes. As well as making stir fry, muffins, pasta, cheesecake and pizzas we have really come together as a group and have great fun together!

Kay Paterson, S3

Numeracy across Learning

Our Numeracy Improvement Group is continuing to work hard to promote and develop numeracy across the curriculum. We recently celebrated World Numbers Day by organising a Step-Up Challenge during Tutor Group time on a Friday morning. Students from S1-6 took part by making a donation to charity to “dress-down” for the day with the condition that they wore a number as part of their outfit! The CSLA pupils then led the physical step-up activity in the PE department where tutor groups competed against each other in an attempt to complete the most step-ups in a minute. In third place with a mean distance of 7.56 metres per student was Dunvegan. In second place with a mean distance of 9.56 metres per student was Braemar. The winners with a mean distance of 10.06 metres per student were Tantallon. Thank you to all staff and students involved, the proceeds raised as a result of this event have been gratefully received by Childline Scotland.

Ms Gardner, CL Maths



Dance Competition

Over 30 students from S1 – S6 took part in an exciting dance opportunity to represent Tynecastle High School in the annual Edinburgh Schools Dance Competition which was held at Forrester High School on Friday 15th March. They also performed at the Celebration of Sporting Achievement Evening

Miss Clarke



S1/2 Competition Dancers

S1 Football Team Photo Shoot!

In January the S1 football team were invited along to Western Volkswagen on Gorgie Road for a photo- shoot to celebrate

winning the 'Forth One School's Competition'.



S1 Footballers

The S1 football team won £500 which paid for a brand new set of strips and as part of the prize they are to have a photo shoot with Boogie from Forth One's 'Boogie in the Morning' breakfast show. The boys had a great day out and are looking forward to playing some fantastic football in their new kit!

House News

Attendance at Tynecastle High School

We are pleased to acknowledge the excellent attendance of students throughout the school



and are awarding Bronze, Silver and Gold Attendance certificates termly. It is vital every student maximises their potential in school and without doubt full attendance at school is a key to success. We thank parents for their continued support in ensuring our students arrive on time and ready for school each morning.

In PSE each week our classes spend time focusing on the importance of full attendance and punctuality. Each student has the chance to win House Points for their Tutor Class and House in the Attendance Challenge. Each month in a House Assembly our Head Teacher will draw names from those with perfect weekly attendance from the Challenge box. Tokens are given as prizes to the lucky winners.



In addition the Attendance Challenge shield is awarded to the House with the best

attendance of the session and this is fiercely contested by all 3 Houses.

This year Tantallon is the House to beat - having won the shield for the last two sessions!



LEAPS (Lothians and Edinburgh Equal Access Partnership with Schools)

Tynecastle is working with LEAPS to increase the number of students who will leave school and apply for Higher Education courses (Degree/HND level). Like many schools across Scotland our students from S3 to S6 benefit from a range of experiences and activities which are brought into school by the LEAPS team throughout the session. There are also visits to



local universities included in the LEAPS programme.

Recently our S6 students were individually interviewed as they were preparing their UCAS applications. As LEAPS students our university applicants will be supported whilst the process of university application continues until September this year. Summer School is an option these students have on leaving school if they are trying to gain entry into university. This Summer School is free, lasts 7 weeks throughout the summer and can make a difference to a young person becoming an undergraduate.

We support the work of the LEAPS team in raising the awareness of Higher Education opportunities and for many students making a dream become a possibility.



University bound!

Faculty news

Modern Studies: Staff interview with Mr Rahimian



What do you like about being at Tynecastle?

Well, I think the school has a very positive attitude where pupils have a lot of opportunities to do lots of different things. So everyone's skills and everyone's talents or interests are catered for. The Wednesday lunchtime clubs are a good example of that; pupils have an opportunity to do a whole range of different things from sports to photography to computer games. So there are loads of things going on. And, yeah, I think there's a sense that the pupils can achieve here both socially and academically. The pupils seem to be really upbeat and, yeah, just excited about the



potential they have as individuals. And I think they staff here are brilliant as well – the pupils are really fortunate to have good teaching staff but then, likewise, I think the teachers are very fortunate in some cases to have so many good pupils who are determined. I've got a number of pupils who come after school to do extra work and revision so . . . lots of good things.

What made you want to become a teacher?

I really enjoy working with young people and I like seeing young people achieve their potential.

Do you have a goal for the end of the school year?

To get a job! I'm a probationer so I'm only here for the year. So that'd definitely be my goal. But a goal also to . . . I've got some senior classes and they're going to be sitting their exams and I would love for them to do really well in these exams because they've worked really hard.

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

I'm a big football fan so I enjoy playing football, keeping fit, going to the gym. But hanging out with my fiancé – getting married in the summer – that's what I like to do as well.

Interview by L Clyde

Modern Studies

On Thursday the 10th of January the Advanced Higher Modern Studies class welcomed the director of Addiewell Prison, Audrey Park, to their class.



Director of Addiewell Prison – Audrey Park with Mr Rahimian, Dean and Lucy in S6

This was a fantastic learning opportunity for the class as she shared real life experience of what life is actually like behind the prison wall. This information will be invaluable for the class as they prepare for their prelim and Dissertation submission. It



really helped them understand concepts related to justice

Art & Design

Well done to Kirsty Davidson in S6 who has been awarded a Highly Commended certificate in the National Friends of the Royal Scottish Academy schools competition.



Setting up the exhibition

Her work will be included in the exhibition in the Friends room at the RSA Gallery on Princes Street. The exhibition will run from 27th March until 16th April Monday to Friday 10-4pm.

Three Advanced Higher Art and Design Students, Kirsty Davidson Samantha Dick and Kaya Lambie also took part in a workshop at Edinburgh College of Art. The event was called “Best in Show” and was an

opportunity to create observed artwork from dogs and their owners.

Students had the opportunity to work alongside Edinburgh College of Art students, lecturers, students and teachers from other secondary schools.

This was a very innovative and exciting event to be part of and the students greatly enjoyed the experience. Here’s what they said:

“It was a fun day out and helped develop our observational skills; we tried new exciting approaches to drawing”

English

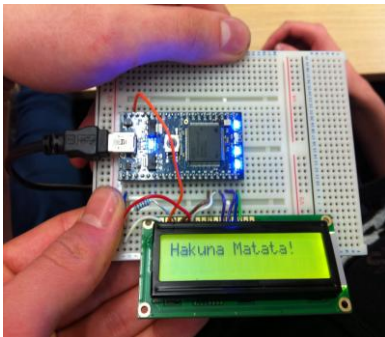
Mrs Falconer’s S2 Class
Financially Speaking Workshop
Thursday 14th January

I have nothing but praise for my S2 class who were absolutely brilliant at this day-long workshop – they were totally engaged and very positive throughout. It was a fantastic seminar as it gave students and staff alike the opportunity to



polish important presentational skills in a meaningful, real-life context. We covered a variety of areas, including the following: the importance of good preparation; how to structure a talk effectively, and of course, skills that encompass the actual delivery of the presentation, such as making eye contact with all members of the audience, projecting the voice and exploiting body language. Students also enjoyed the tasks related to money, which made them aware of the importance of making responsible choices when it comes to budgeting, including having a contingency fund for emergencies.

Physics & Engineering



On the 9th and 10th January four senior Physics students went to The University of Strathclyde at

Glasgow and spent two days working on an EDT Engineering Project. Alastair Nicholson, Karolina Rut, Ludwik Bacmaga and Steven Dick were selected to make up the team and they did an impressive amount of work over the two days.

The team reports:-

“We stayed a night in the Mercure hotel in central Glasgow which was a nice place to stay, had great coffee and really good food for breakfast. “

Alasdair

“After finally constructing a prototype of our ultrasonic sound sensing circuit we had to present our results to all the other teams plus engineers, teachers and technicians.”

Ludwik





"We also had a fun Physics and General Knowledge Quiz in the evening."
Steven

"Ludwik was a natural at programming the chips, I spent a lot of time learning how the sound sensor worked and enjoyed working with the engineers."
Karolina

Science

Interview with a Scientist



2D1 interviewed Leonie Kohlhammer (photo above), a Pro-science volunteer who has been working with the students for several weeks.

Pat + Hannah: Where are you from?

Leonie: *My parents are both German, but I grew up in Italy. I can speak Italian, German and English.*

David + Kieran: What year group were you when you left school?

Leonie: *I left school in sixth year, around the age of 17.*

Sam + Nathan: Do you like being at University?

Leonie: *Yes, as I've made a lot of friends at the university.*

Mathew + Robbie: What do you study?

Leonie: *I am studying Biology, more specifically Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.*

Amber + Vasare: What do you think you will learn from working with our class?

Leonie: *The main thing I wanted to learn was how to explain clearly to someone my knowledge of Biology. As well as this I am also learning from 2D1 how to think on my feet to answer all the brilliant questions they come up with.*

Brandon + Christie: What did you want to be when you were our age?



Leonie: *The first thing I wanted to be was a teacher, then a doctor and finally a scientist. I don't see myself as a "mad scientist" working within a lab though.*

Paige + Chloe: Do you like being in class watching our experiments?

Leonie: *Yes, that's why I come back every week. I really enjoy it.*

Adam + Gary: What University do you go to?

Leonie: *Edinburgh University.*

Amber + Vasare: Are you training to be a Scientist or Teacher?

Leonie: *Both in a way, I am not sure which I would like to be yet.*

Brandon + Christie: Why are you at Tynecastle High School?

Leonie: *I am a part of a Pro-Science society that has links with Science within schools.*

JASS - Tell me a Story

I really enjoyed doing this project for my JASS Gold Award. Meeting the elderly people and learning about their lives and what they were like when they

were our age was really fun and interesting. I was amazed by how different their lives were compared to ours. Rachel Hall 1T1



I liked Tell me a Story because I met new people, that are now my friends. I really liked working with my partner, we always had a laugh. I enjoyed finding out about their life like what happened, hobbies, early life and family. It was interesting. A lot of things have changed since their early life. It was nice seeing our new friends every week, we made them coffee and tea, some had biscuits and cakes too. It was fun showing them around the school. And some of them went to the old school I really like working with them and I have made some new friends and I really liked seeing them ever week.

Caley Hutchison



Performance: Celebration of Sporting Achievements

On the evening of Thursday 14 March the sporting achievements of our students were recognised and celebrated at this gala event.

Spring Fling

Our musicians have an opportunity to showcase their talents on Thursday 21 March at our Spring Fling. At time of writing, tickets are selling well. As you can see, the Performance Faculty has a lot going on this term.

Mr Connell, CL Performance

Modern Languages

A number of S1 pupils have been involved in a project with Historic Scotland. The pupils, when in primary school, were trained as Junior Tour Guides for Edinburgh Castle specifically for Gaelic Learners. They completed a DVD of Gaelic vocabulary to be used in conjunction with Stenhouse Primary Junior Tour Guide

Performances for visiting schools throughout Scotland. We are currently working with a Gaelic speaking artist and a graphic designer on a leaflet to be made available to Gaelic learners/ those with an interest in Gaelic visiting Edinburgh Castle. This project will be exhibited at the Castle in summer 2013. "Bha/Tha spòrs again!"



After the February break P7 students visited Tynecastle for a performance by the Onatti Theatre Company. Ecris Moi was the hilarious story of an exchange visit with a twist. Students were fully involved in the action and really enjoyed their morning:

"At the French play, I learnt a lot more French." (Louise Livingstone) *"I would certainly go to see Ecris Moi again!"* (Lauren Sime)

"I was worried I wouldn't understand most of the French



but actually when I was there I understood it really well. Over all I think it's a great way to learn French." (Jessica Lloyd)

Spanish

S2 and S3 students enjoyed their annual Spanish unit between the start of January and the February break. S2 students learned about the different diet and routines of the Spanish speaking world, with some students even having the opportunity to make their own Tortilla Espanola in their hospitality lessons. In S3, students were looking to the future and in particular learning about the opportunities open to them to study in different countries when they leave school. They were able to show their knowledge by creating their own imaginative and entertaining radio interviews which the students recorded in class.

Tynecastle Community Wing

It's been nearly two years since I wrote about the Wing in the school newsletter and things have really moved on since then.

The Wing is still managed by Community Learning and Development in consultation with the school. Our core activities - women's English for Speakers of other Languages classes, an Adult Literacy group and Adult Education Programme classes in philosophy, local history and Latin are still going strong.

The workers in the Wing have developed strong links with other local organisations which have helped us offer a varied programme to a wide range of people from the local community.



Babies and their carers come for the weekly PEEP group which we run with Homestart. Young people looking for a positive destination attend 'Just do it', an employability programme



run by WEACT. Adults looking for employment can brush up their ICT and job search skills with the Digital Skills Academy. Health All Round has offered 'Raising Children with Confidence' and 'Healthy Eating' courses and we have run parent's groups with Tynecastle Nursery. The local health visiting team run post and ante natal courses and clinics and one to one employment advice is available from WEACT. We have offered 'Tynie Tasters' - 2 hour classes for people who want to try out learning in 'Driving Theory', 'Family First Aid', and 'Soup making on a budget' among others.

We have also welcomed the school's and the Green Team's breakfast clubs, which has been lovely as it means the Wing's café area gets used before a lot of our community users come in.

We are still developing our programme, but with three rooms available, we are almost running out of space - which is really how it should be. If you

would like any information about activities in the Wing or have any ideas about what you would like to see happening there, get in touch with Claudia Esslinger, Community Learning and Development Worker at claudia.esslinger@ea.edin.sch.uk, 0131 337 3275

Environmental Science: John Muir Award



Some of the class

In December 2012, our intrepid group received their certificates from The John Muir Trust in recognition of passing their Discovery level. In order to achieve this award, the students had to partake in a variety of activities in and around Edinburgh.



There are 4 elements within the John Muir Award – Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share. Students had to demonstrate practical abilities within each element. Huge congratulations go to each member of the group who successfully achieved this first level.

Ten full days were spent in and around the Pentland Hills as part of a Forest Schools programme. Students spent time conserving, exploring and learning vital safety skills.



Students are now working toward their 2nd level – The Explorer Award. In order to achieve this award, students must demonstrate a greater sense of involvement in terms of time, activity, responsibility and ownership.

As part of this greater commitment, we are creating a



school wildlife garden and the students have chosen a specific task for which they have sole responsibility in the garden. Chloe Innes thought a living willow structure would encourage more wildlife into the garden. She designed a suitable structure and at the end of February led a team to create a willow hut. Well done Chloe. Look out for further additions to the school wildlife garden in future editions.



Active Schools and Transition



P7 science curricular visits

As part of cluster developments in reporting in Science, all P7 classes were visited by a member of our science department in January to support work being done in class. All P7 classes then enjoyed a two hour visit to our Science department to further develop this work and to focus more on science investigations. The investigation topics covered varied from energy, electricity, flight and chemical reactions. This visit gave the P7 pupils the experience of using a variety of our state of the art science equipment and an insight into what their science lessons at High School will be like.

The P7 perspective

“In January 2013, P7B went to Tynecastle science department to learn about electricity. We all learnt lots and had lots of fun.

Firstly, we made a pretend kind of human circuit thing by moving little pieces of paper like how the electrons move. That was very hard as people moved too fast so there was a clog. Then we were given cables and equipment and we had to build our own electric circuits. After that we did another investigation by connecting two things (a buzzing machine and a light) and we found that only one of them went off, because one would use all the electrons.

To finish off we made a real human circuit using real electricity and after that was finished, we were all giving each other shocks! I loved learning about electricity in this manner and would love to learn more about this area.

Thanks Tynie!!!!”

Beth Williamson, P7, Balgreen PS



P5 Club Golf Festival

Our Community Sports Leader Award senior students put their skills and training into practice when they delivered a Club Golf Festival at Tynecastle High School at the end of March.

Every P5 class from our cluster primaries - Dalry, Craiglockhart, Balgreen, and Stenhouse, were invited to take part in this exciting transition experience.

The festival focused on the basics of golf including the driving, putting, and chipping elements. The Senior CSLA students had received training from Active Schools in preparation for this fun event to complement their learning of planning, training and skills from other elements of their course allowing them to join up their learning and put it all into practice.

Pam Brown, Active Schools

Burns Day at Tynecastle Nursery School

Well done to Struan McCall, S4, who took part in the Tynecastle

Nursery School Burns' Day Celebration on Friday 25 January by playing his bagpipes to toast in the haggis. Struan was invited back for the third year in a row by popular demand. We have heard from Struan's parents that he will have a new apprentice with him next year to learn the ropes – his younger brother Ramsay, currently in P7 at Stenhouse Primary School, who also plays the pipes.

Tynecastle Nursery is delighted that they will continue to have our bagpipe players at their Celebration for many years to come!



Struan also helped make a recent event at Pilrig School a success. He was assisted in this by Colin Marshall, who performed some Scottish dances.



Information for Parents/Carers

Parent Council News

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

- Discussing and feeding back to City of Edinburgh Council on the draft *Vision for Schools* paper
- Helping with Curriculum for Excellence planning
- Planning and organising the successful Burns Night
- Planning our second Summer Fair which will take place on 15th June. Details will come out next term.

Other Parent Council meetings will be held this session on:

29th April and 3rd June. Meetings are always held in school, and begin at 7pm. All parents and carers are very welcome to attend! If you would like to be involved, or would like more information, please contact Mary Brownlee at jbrownlee@blueyonder.co.uk

Communication

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.

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Breakfast Club

Start your day the Healthy Way!



Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8 a.m.
in the Tynecastle Community Wing.

We are pleased to be able to offer a free breakfast to students. It is hoped this will encourage pupils to attend school on time and experience the benefits of eating a healthy breakfast.

ICT – latest news

All school computers and equipment will be replaced over the summer. We will be creating three new computer suites, and upgrading our library facility. Wifi has already been installed throughout the school.

In the meantime, aside from the refresh, we are developing our



ambitions as a school of ICT innovation and have recently purchased iPads for all teachers and learning assistants. This is already proving beneficial in classes as there are so many

educational apps that can be accessed. Next term we will be making a final decision on the purchase of technology for student use.

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
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	Assembly Hall	Miss Clarke
	S1 Boys Football	3.30 – 4.45pm	Astro Pitch	Mr Nisbet/ Mr Rahimian
	S1 – S6 Girls Hockey	3.30 – 4.45pm	Astro Pitch	Hockey coach
	S3 – S6 Girls Fitness	3.45 – 4.45pm	Fitness Gym	PE Staff
	S1 – S6 Gymnastics	3.30 – 4.30pm	Small Games Hall	Miss Moultray
Tuesday	S1 - S2 Basketball	3.30 – 4.45pm	Large Games Hall	Tom Griffin and Anas Tahir
	S3 – S6 Fitness	3.30 – 4.30pm	Fitness Gym	Mr Revolta
	S1 - S6 Badminton	4.00-4.50pm	Large Games Hall	Sean McKinnon and Ross Anderson
	S1 – S6 Girls Football	3.30-4.30pm	Astro Pitch	Miss Moultray
Wednesday	S3 – S6 Girls Fitness	3.45 – 4.45pm	Fitness Gym	PE Staff
	S1 Table Tennis	3.45-4.45pm	Small Games Hall	Table Tennis coach
	S1 – S6 Cross Country	4.00 – 6.00pm See Mr Simpson for fixtures)	PE Base	Mr Simpson
	S1 – S2 Netball	3.45-4.45pm	Large Games Hall	Miss Moultray



Thursday	S1 – S3 Rugby	3.30 – 4.45pm	Astro Pitch	Mr 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	Mr Mackay
	S3 – S6 Fitness	3.30 – 4.30pm	Fitness Gym	Mr Revolta
	S1 – S3 Dance	3.30-4.30pm	Assembly Hall	Miss Clarke



Diary

Monday 8th April	All return to school
Monday 8th April	All resume
Wednesday 10th April	HPV injections Silver/Gold Duke of Edinburgh training trip leaves
Friday 12th April	Silver/gold Duke of Edinburgh training trip returns
Monday 15th April	Spring holiday
Friday 19th April	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training trip leaves
Saturday 20th April	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training trip returns
Monday 22nd April	Parent Council meeting
Monday 29th April	First day of S4 exam leave
Monday 6th May	May Day holiday
Tuesday 7th May	First day of S5/6 exam leave
Monday 13th May	Health & Wellbeing week JASS Adventure Day Visit to Netherlands for exchange students
Tuesday 14th May	S1-S3 Health & Wellbeing day
Wednesday 15th May	S1-S3 Health & Wellbeing day
Thursday 16th May	S1 Healthy Eating & Fitness S2 Rugby Tournament
Friday 17th May	S3 Sports Day
Monday 20th May	Victoria Day holiday Exchange students return from Netherlands
Tuesday 21st May	Staff resume
Wednesday 22nd May	Students resume
Monday 27th May	S1 & S2 Paris trip leaves
Thursday 30th May	S1 & S2 Paris trip returns
Thursday 6th June	New S5/6 return



	S5 Induction (2 days)
Monday 10th June	S6 Conference S5 SHARE Conference am S5 YPI pm
Tuesday 11th June	S6 Conference S5 YPI
Thursday 13th June	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition leaves
Friday 14th June	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition returns
Monday 17th June	P7 transition fun day
Tuesday 18th – Thursday 20th June	P7/S1 transition visit
Thursday 20th June	P7 Parent Transition meeting
Monday 24th June	Awards Ceremony
Friday 28th June	End of term assemblies Term ends



Staff changes

Farewell to:

Mr Sweeney, Curriculum Leader Maths

Miss McCallum, Learning Assistant

PC Cleghorn, Community Police Officer

On maternity leave:

Mrs Brown, History

Mrs Barry, Religious and Moral Education

Mrs West, Modern Languages

Welcome to:

Mr Call, Maths

Ms Sorbie, History

Ms McAleece, Religious and Moral Education

Ms Zhang, Modern Languages

PC Pennycook, Community Police Officer



Notes



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