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ambition

HIGH



responsibility
enjoyment

SCHOOL

2014

success

NEWSLETTER

SPRING



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Dear Parent / Carer



As always, it has been good to meet many of you at the Sport Awards Ceremony and the recent curricular information evenings. Our main focus this term has been to ensure all students are on track for their National Qualifications, and in preparing for introducing our new Senior Phase in May. I am pleased to say that thanks to the commitment and expertise of staff we are in the final stages of assessment, and that the delivery of the new courses has gone well. Our prelims also went smoothly and students should now be acting on targeted advice from staff in preparation for the exams. Please encourage your son/daughter to take part in our rich supported study and Easter School programme.

Our use of IT to support learning has also really taken off this term with the appointment of specialist staff to lead innovation. You can read more about developments in this edition. Please follow us on Twitter!

Other term highlights for me include our on-going development of languages. All students during S1-2 now benefit from opportunities in Spanish and Mandarin, as well as French. In partnership with Historic Scotland our S1 Gaelic students have been performing a play for various organisations and in the final week of term will tour in the north of Scotland. Earlier this term our good practice in languages was recognised in a Ministerial Visit centred around our S1 Mandarin classes celebrating the *Year of the Horse*. I plan to develop further links with China when I visit the Beijing area during the Easter holidays as part of a British Council initiative. Our students have been busy writing greeting cards and making small gifts for Chinese students. Happy Easter!

Mr T Rae

Head Teacher

Ministerial Visit Thursday
30th January 2014

Whole School News



Tynecastle High School welcomed Alasdair Allan, MSP today. The Minister visited one of our S1 Mandarin taster classes and chatted to the students about their progress. They are all very positive about their experiences and have made great progress in a short time thanks to the expert teaching of our Chinese language Assistant, Meiling. We are really delighted to benefit from this excellent partnership with the British Council. All students in S1-3 will be able to access the Mandarin tasters this session. The visit coincided with Chinese New Year so the students found out about the customs and culture related to this. They all now know we are in the *Year of the Horse*, a prosperous year according to Chinese tradition. Follow up work by the class also took place in our House Assemblies the following day as part of our Global Citizenship awareness programme.

Mr T Rae, Head

Teacher

Information Technology

Technology for learning in Tynecastle is going from strength to strength. All of our S3 and S4 students have iPads and we are soon to roll this out to the new S3 & S2. Students having access to their own device means that we can provide learning experiences where use of technology is integrated and accessible to all. Students and staff are creating content and sharing good practice much more easily and readily than before, enhancing the learning experience for all.

Across the school our staff and students are making use of online learning platforms such as Edmodo. These systems help students connect and engage with teachers and resources in a safe and secure environment. There is also an Edmodo login for parents so you can see what your child is working on. Please get in touch if you do not already have a login.

In February, all staff accounts in Tynecastle were moved over to the new Council-wide

Microsoft Office 365 system. Our students will be moved over shortly. This system provides cloud-based email, calendars, storage and the familiar Office suite of Apps such as Word and PowerPoint. Office 365 integrates with the iPad and so the traditional desktop environment is now accessible on our devices, allowing for more innovative use of this technology.

student work, share resources and introduce our students to a global audience.

We have also featured on the Council's Bright Futures blog a t edinburghbrightfutures.com. This has brought to a wider audience the work of our dancers, Chinese language classes and World Book Day

Social Media

Over the last few months we have been looking at social media and the various ways in which Tynecastle can engage with the wider school community and share all of the great things that happen here. To help with this, and to model good practice with social media to our students, we now have a school Twitter account - @TynecastleHigh. Twitter allows us to easily share news and updates about school life. A number of faculties and subjects are also using Twitter to showcase



Tynecastle High @TynecastleHigh · Mar 12

Read about our recent visit from Cathy MacPhail for #WorldBookDay on the Bright Futures blog... edinburghbrightfutures.com/2014/03/11/aut...

[View summary](#)

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activities.

Social media complements our more traditional channels of communication and we are currently redeveloping our school website to provide a more engaging and dynamic place for students, staff, parents and visitors.

Digital Footprints

With social media playing a significant role in many of our lives, including those of our students, we are mindful that everyone at Tynecastle thinks carefully before they publish

information online. We have been speaking to our young people about their 'Digital Footprint' - the tracks that are left when comments, photos and videos are published online, in any social network. As well as friends and family, employers and places of further and higher education are looking to see what information we have online and we want every student at Tynecastle to have a digital footprint they are proud of and would be happy for anyone to look at.

 Tynecastle High @TynecastleHigh Feb 11
53 students at Tynecastle thinking about Safer Internet Day today #SID2014
pic.twitter.com/1gZmmv1o1q7



 Expand

 Reply  Retweet  Favorite ... More

The online world can often be daunting and confusing, and so the Council has put together digital safety resources for parents which you can find on the Digital Learning Team's website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/digitalinformation>

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Support of Learning through Innovative ICT use

I was delighted to be appointed as a teacher at Tynecastle in February this year. My role is to support students, staff and the wider community with the integration of technology into learning and teaching and promote innovative use. With access to what seems like unlimited amounts of information from around the world and the ability to connect with a global audience, it is my goal to ensure that all of our students are able to make the most of this amazing technology to help reach their full potential.

Mrs J

Robertson

Provision for Highly Able Students

It is the ethos of the school that **every** student attains their full potential. The more

traditional focus of Support for Learning is working with students to bring their Literacy and Numeracy skills up to National standards, but we do also have an overview and co-ordinating role for students who are Highly Able. Such students are identified mainly via:

- ✓ Teachers being aware of school policy and asked to identify students
- ✓ DHT / S f P House meetings/discussions
- ✓ Transition information from Primaries
- ✓ S t a n d a r d i s e d Assessment results
- ✓ National Assessments/ SQA examination results
- ✓ Parent/pupil/peer referral
- ✓ Subject specific target setting and tracking and monitoring



To challenge our Highly Able Students we use a wide variety of strategies both in

and outside of the classroom. These include:

- Mentoring
- Subject specific provision including differentiation and the delivery of courses to Advanced Higher Level
- Setting in many subjects.
- Visiting speakers
- Opportunities to engage with Universities for both academic interests and entrance. We subscribe each year to the Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPs) and support students through the UCAS system, including Oxbridge where relevant.
- Wider achievement opportunities
- Visits to specialist institutions

- Engagement with Scottish Network for Able Pupils (SNAP)
- External competitions/projects/prizes

Students have many opportunities to engage in activities outside of school which allows them to liaise and compete with their peers. Some recent examples include:

-  S3 Science and Engineering day at Heriot-Watt university
-  Scottish Poetry Library Twitter Competition
-  Scottish Football Trials at Toryglen
-  Construction and Built Environment Challenge at Napier University
-  Halloween Haiku (Poetry) Competition
-  Heriot - Watt University Design Smash Challenge

World Maths Day at Fettes College

You can follow the wider achievements of all our students on Twitter @TynecastleHigh.

Mrs V Cheung

Support for Learning Leader

S6 Captains' Round-up

Every year the school hosts a Burns Supper that features a two course meal, singing, Highland dancing, speeches, raffles and of course, a ceilidh. This year Burns Night was attended by teachers, students, ex-students and family and friends from as far around the world as China, making it a great social and cultural event.

World Challenge

It's now fewer than 90 days until the World Challenge team leaves for our month long expedition in Bolivia

which seems mad considering that there were over 600 days until departure when we first signed up. Our itinerary has been finalised and squeezes in a week long trek up Apolobamba, a week building homes for poverty stricken families in Cochabamba, a 3 day visit to the unique Uyuni Salt Flats, acclimatization in the Santa Cruz jungle and national park and a visit to Lake Titicaca. We still need to finish getting vaccinated, buying our equipment and paying off the final costs but we're all very excited.

Panto

Following the success of last year's Panto, *Snow White*, was this year's *Pirates of the Panto* which was loosely based on the familiar film, *Pirates of the Caribbean*. This year's cast demonstrated even more student involvement, and lived up to the high expectations of those who performed last year. There were two sold out evening performances and an afternoon performance for the cluster primary schools. There is already great

anticipation for this year's Christmas pantomime.

Ex-Tynecastle student new British Boxing Champion

We are proud to note that Lee McGregor, who left at the end of

S4 to take up a Modern Apprenticeship under the Edinburgh Guarantee scheme, recently won the title of British Youth boxing champion in the under 49Kg category at Meadowbank.

Seventeen-year-old Lee McGregor exceeded even his own expectations on Saturday after being crowned British youth 49kg boxing champion at Meadowbank. Lee defeated a much more experienced opponent to add the British title to his Scottish one.



As the new British champion. Lee will travel to Sofia in Bulgaria for the World Championships in four weeks' time.

Congratulations from everyone at Tynecastle to Lee McGregor, recent school leaver.

S1/2/3 round up

This has been another busy term for our S1/2/3 students. All our S1 students are completing their Junior Award Scheme Scotland Gold level programme this term. JASS is run through our RME department and you may recall from our December newsletter that we are running 6 projects this year as part of the 'Me and My World' element of the award. The S1 students are all now fully engaged with their chosen project. In term 3, there will be an Award Ceremony to celebrate our students' achievements and also an opportunity for students to reflect on what they have learned from this experience.

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 held our S2 into S3 Information Evening for parents on 27 February, which was well-attended. We then issued Learner Review packs to all S2 students during an assembly on 28 February and the S2 Parents / Carers Evening took place on 3 February. 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. These have now all taken place with most students able to have all of their first choice of subjects.

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.

Similarly in S3 this term, there has been much preparation for the move into S4 - the Senior Phase.

In addition to the S3 Parents / Carers Evening on 27 February, I also briefed all S3 students on how they should select the 6 subjects they wish to continue with in S4. I then held 1:1 interviews with each S3 student to ensure that their choices maximised their potential for success in S4 National exams. The S3 Learner Review process is now complete with most students able to have their first choice of subjects. We hope that you feel that the Learner Review process has supported your son / daughter and you through this transition.

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 as part of Tutor Group activities. 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.

S4/5/6

Exam Leave

In line with City of Edinburgh Council's policy on exam leave, students from S4 to S6 will all be issued with individual exam leave timetables. Please note that students are entitled to varying amounts of study leave depending on the number and the level of examinations being taken. The SQA examinations run

from Tuesday 29th April until Monday 2nd June.

Work Experience

On 13 January over a hundred 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 appropriate tasks.

Placements were very varied, including a number of nurseries and hairdressers, the City of Edinburgh's Environmental Services Department, and The Sands Hotel, Blackpool! Other interesting 'billets' were KwikFit, 3D Cakes and The Lighthouse Board.

Students complete a log book during the week, and in a final review receive feedback from their employer on their performance. Once back in school, students complete a

report which, along with the log book, provides any necessary verification. Students generally really enjoy their foray into the world of work, and employers' reports are full of praise for the youngsters' efforts and enthusiasm.

Successful students are awarded a pass at Intermediate 1 Work Experience.

Prelim Exams

S4 and S5/6 completed their prelim exams just before and just after the February Break. Students' attendance and punctuality during these exams were exceptionally good, and invigilators were delighted with our very settled, mature and polite students. This sound preparation 'for the real thing' can be complemented by attending supported study classes at lunchtimes and after school, and our Easter School Revision Programme is included at the end of this newsletter. We continue to feel very proud of our staff who are so willing to give

freely of their time in these ways; do please encourage your son/daughter to make the most of these excellent opportunities.

Senior Phase Transitions

Learner Reviews have taken place for S3 moving to S4, and at time of typing are underway for S4 and S5 moving to S5 and S6.

As explained in various letters and at our Information Evening on 4 March for parents of S4 and S5, Curriculum for Excellence Senior Phase developments mean that next session some classes will potentially be made up of a combination of S4, S5 and S6 students. The most important principle is that 'the right student is studying for the right level of qualification at the right time'; teaching Senior Phase students together will allow us to broaden the curriculum (i.e. number of subjects and levels) on offer.

SQA Exams

The SQA exams are just round the corner, with Modern Studies and English taking place as soon as the 29th and 30th April respectively.

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' success that they have an effective study plan in place. Tynecastle has developed an innovative online study planning tool for which faculties have contributed materials. All S4/5/6 students have been shown how to access this resource through Edmodo and the school website; ask your son or daughter to show you what's there.

In addition to Intermediate 1 and 2, Higher and Advanced Higher exams, this summer sees the first presentations for the new National Qualifications. Our S4 and their teachers have been

working very hard to prepare for 'Nat 4s and Nat 5s', and we await with interest and anticipation the outcomes of a very good year of learning and teaching.

Surviving Exam Season



parents and carers best support the young people in their households? Here are some ideas:

- Help provide a place without distractions for studying
- Help out with pens, pencils, highlighters - it's good to feel organised
- Gently advise that, for some people, music while studying is unhelpful
- Support your youngster in getting enough sleep

- Provide drinks and snacks, including bottles of water for the exams themselves
- Be there to listen
- Offer to help, for example to ask questions, test word definitions, or 'be taught' by your youngster
- Praise efforts to study
- Try to 'cut some slack' if anxieties at times spill over into family life...
- If possible, plan to enjoy together some 'time off studying'

Finally, let us know if we can help in any way, and

all best wishes for a happy, successful exam season.

My World of Work

My World of Work www.myworldofwork.co.uk is a web service produced by Skills Development Scotland (the Careers Service) which encourages young people and adults to plan their future careers. The website is full of features and advice designed to help identify strengths and to match these to the types of learning and activities best suited to them. My World of Work provides information on different areas of work, how to search for jobs, how to apply and be successful. There are also job-related videos and interview tips, and the opportunity to write and store CVs.

Students can register online for **My World of Work**, and the more they use the service the more it customises itself to their interests, for example displaying suitable job vacancies each time the student then logs in. Other features such as **My Strengths** provide great ideas for subject/course choices and related job types. **My Interviews** usefully takes students through the whole process, with interviewers asking real questions and

suggesting good answers. There is also a section on applying to university which offers helpful tips on completing UCAS applications, including personal statements.

Students are expected to register for the web service which they can do either in school or at home, and it would be helpful if parents and carers encouraged their young people to log in.

One to one interviews are also still available in school and, once a student has left school, in the SDS Centre at 79 Shandwick Place.

Skills Development Scotland - Lyn Sutherland

Our Careers Adviser supports the school in a number of ways including advice on completing application forms and writing CVs, registering with online Careers websites and course choice while at school and beyond. While PSE programmes in school support students in thinking about what they would like to do and where they would like to

go, Lyn takes this a step further, through offering individual appointments at which the plan is put into action.

Tynecastle helps students move on to a variety of positive destinations including Employment, Volunteering, Skills for Work programmes, Modern Apprenticeships, College courses and University degrees. Through the Edinburgh Guarantee there are many opportunities available to school leavers in Edinburgh, and every reason for our young people to feel motivated and optimistic.

Edinburgh Guarantee

(A positive destination for all)

The Edinburgh Guarantee exists to make sure that every school leaver in Edinburgh moves on to a positive destination, be this a job, further education or training opportunity, or volunteering. The Edinburgh Guarantee team works with employers, colleges and training providers

in the city to encourage them to create appropriate jobs, training and college placements for our young people. Other exciting possible positive destinations include internship and Modern Apprenticeships.

Check out:

www.edinburghguarantee.org

Extra-Curricular Highlights



Engineering Education Scheme

At the start of term our crack team of young engineers went for a two day residential to Strathclyde University and spent the time researching and modelling a radar transport system for Selex ES.

The team was made up of: Alastair Nicholson, Pratyush Vankadara, Craig Mckay and Sanish Maharjan and they demonstrated impressive team work, research and presentation skills and even managed to be skilled at building models using balsa wood! They now have to write an engineering report to present to a panel after the Easter holidays.

Mr C Harrison

Athletics



Rhona Lloyd, S6, competed in the Scottish Schools Indoor Track & Field Championships in February. Rhona made it into the Over 16 Girls 60

metres final, which is a fantastic achievement where she finished 7th with a time of 8.29secs. The winning time was 7.79s.

Mr

M Connell

Newcastle FC Trip

On the 12th of February we took 34 of Tynecastle's finest footballers, from S1 to S3, on an exciting trip to Newcastle FC. We set off straight after period 3 and enjoyed a full stadium tour of St James' Park, played in a 5 a-side football competition and enjoyed watching Newcastle vs Tottenham Hotspur (unfortunately our new favourite team, Newcastle, were absolutely demolished by Spurs 4-0!) However, this didn't distract from a fantastic day which everyone enjoyed.

Special mention should go to each pupil who represented Tynecastle High School on this trip as they were totally brilliant. From the end of period 3 till 1am in the morning, the pupils were exceptional, prompting praise

from everyone they met including, the bus drivers, our tour representative Connor and the tour guides at St James' Park. They were polite, respectful and enthusiastic for the whole journey and even cleaned the whole bus before departing for a well-earned rest in the early hours.

This was a brilliant trip and one which we'll remember for a long time!



Mr Rahimian, Mr Nisbet, Mr Miller, Ms Moultray and Ms MacGill

Health and Wellbeing

Spring Cycles

We have been encouraging both staff and students to

cycle to school for this year's 'Big pedal'. Students who cycle are entered into a prize draw and Sustrans the National cycling charity will be picking the winners from our school and the region at the end of March.



Ms Welsh

Smoothie Bike

We saw the return of the famous 'Smoothie Bike' in February to kick start the 'Big Pedal' event running from 3rd - 14th March. Students blitzed

up fruity flavours using pedal power. This month's Friday cycle took us along the canal to the outdoor gym where students pumped some iron in preparation for the big pedal.



Ms Welsh

Senior Boys Basketball

This year the senior boys' basketball team have had the opportunity to play numerous friendlies as well as taking part in the Scottish Schools Cup - Open Boys division run by Basketball Scotland. We started the season with a friendly against WHEC which we won 53 - 17. Our next three games were all cup games: first up, at home, we played Merchiston Castle

School. This was a hard fought game against a much larger and dominant team and we narrowly lost 42 - 56. Next up was an away game against Earlston High School. After a bleak, dark and sleety journey we again narrowly lost, this time the final score was 50 - 38. Towards the end of November we had our last cup game, away against Liberton, which we won by 40 points with the final score 10 - 50. We finished third in our group



which meant we did not progress through to the next stage. Since then Tom Griffin (who has returned this year to coach the team) has been working very hard with them on a variety of techniques and plays but also their communication skills with one another on the court and it is slowly but surely paying off. Tom has also been working with the newer, less confident

members of the team to integrate them and build their confidence.

Since the Christmas break we have played a few friendlies, at home. First up was against Liberton High School which we comfortably won 86 - 13. Next we played Holyrood High, which we won 71 - 26. The senior boys played a very challenging game on the 13th March against George Watson's. After a hard fought 40 minutes we were victorious, winning 65 - 57. That's now four games in a row that the boys have won.

In between all the training and games, some members of the team along with some of the senior girls team squeezed in a trip to Birmingham to see the British Basketball League Cup Final, where Leicester Riders retained their trophy. Opponents Esh Group Eagles Newcastle were winning 67 - 56, then in the final four minutes Drew Sullivan, the Great British Captain, scored 11 points to bring the Riders

back in contention. The riders eventually won 72 - 69.

During the Easter break some of the team are off to see the Harlem Globetrotters when they visit The Hydro in Glasgow. This should be a fun-filled evening.

Ms Moyes

DanceQuest Project

Students from Dalry Primary School and Tynecastle High School have been taking part in the nationwide DanceQuest project. DanceQuest aims to get children more involved in arts in their community. The pupils took part in workshops led by dancers from Scottish Ballet. These workshops produced a piece that they performed in January at the Festival Theatre to a packed audience.

The project was enjoyed by staff and pupils alike. Read on for their reports.

I was so proud that nearly forty of our students made the most of this wonderful opportunity to become involved in Dance Quest. Our S3 National Qualification Dance class performed a set in Act one, and a mix of S1-2 dance club students performed in Act 2. All of them showed such poise and confidence in front of over one thousand people, alongside some very accomplished dance schools.

The polished performance is a tribute to all the preparation and hard work the students put in, but is also a measure of the expertise, enthusiasm and commitment from Ms Clarke and Ms McPhee in our Performance Faculty, who were supporting this event. It was also great to see so many parents there in support. I look forward to seeing the comments and reflections in the student e-portfolios over the coming weeks.

This is a really good example of developing wider achievement as part of the curriculum. Given the student feedback on this, we



definitely want to be involved again next year. A proud moment indeed.

What our dancers thought:

Beth Williamson 1D2

The whole experience was very good fun - learning the dances, seeing the shows and best of all performing on the massive stage.

I really enjoyed it and I was very proud of our school. We were very privileged to be chosen and I'm glad I did it.

Naima Zaman 3B2

Before the day approached I never felt that nervous until we were outside the building. We went in and sat and watched while everyone rehearsed. I got really bad butterflies just before we rehearsed, but once we did it, it got me excited to actually perform. When we went on to perform it felt good and nerve wracking to see the crowd in front of us.

Once we did it, it felt AMAZING. I felt like we achieved a milestone. The performance gave us all a boost to perform again as the crowd gave us a really loud cheer.

Lauryn Mutch 3B1

Being part of DanceQuest was a good experience and getting to perform on the Festival Theatre stage was amazing. Our performance went really well. I'd love to do it all over again.

Danielle Morrison 3T2

I thought being a part of the DanceQuest programme was a very good experience. I loved dancing in the Festival Theatre. It was fun getting to be in the spotlight and show people what I can do. I would love to be a part of the project next year if Tynecastle gets invited.

Sarah Gallacher 3B1

DanceQuest was amazing. Being on the massive Festival Theatre stage was a great experience. It would be really good to do it again. I was so nervous at first. We met lots of new dancers too.

Lauren Livingstone 3T2

I really enjoyed being part of the DanceQuest experience, it was really fun. I was worried about doing it at first but after the dress rehearsal I was just excited.

About DanceQuest

DanceQuest is one of the many 'quests' set up by the Princes Foundation for Children and the Arts. It aims to introduce children to the arts and take them on a cultural journey that will encourage and inspire. For more information visit the [DanceQuest website](#).

Senior Football

The senior boys have come to the end of an busy season with a defeat to Currie HS. However, the boys have shown great resilience and commitment to each other and the school throughout this season. They have come on leaps and bounds as individuals and have developed a great team ethos

and have certainly played all their games in the correct spirit. The boys have managed to raise some funds to buy new strips by getting sponsorship from "The Grain Store Restaurant" in Victoria Street. We want to thank Steven Dick and the owners of the restaurant on this matter. The boys will be at our achievement night to receive awards for participation.

Congratulations to Rhona Lloyd who played rugby for Scotland U20s on Saturday 15 March at Peffermill against a full Belgium team.

Congratulations too to goalkeeper Sean Brennan who has been called up several times recently to the U18 Scotland Football Squad, including a 1-1 draw in Kirkcaldy versus Northern Ireland. Keeping with the football theme, former students Paul Hanlon and Jason Cummings continue to play regularly for Hibernian, with Paul already in his

seventh season with the city club, and Jason in his first.

Coincidentally, I went to the same school as Mr Aitchison.

Connell

Mr M

Where and what did you study?

Studied Astrophysics at Herriot Watt.

Interview with Mr Call



What is your favourite topic to teach?

Pythagoras, because it so important and how often is shows up!

Three items you would take to a desert island?

Friends, Bagpipes, the book "Nineteen Eighty-Four" by George Orwell.

Greatest achievement so far?

Recently became an official at a roller disco.

Where are you from?

The borders in Galashiels.

Guilty pleasure song?

Block Party - Internet
Friends

***Would you rather fight a
horse sized duck or a 100
duck sized horses?***

A horse sized duck.
You can simply run in
to a tight alley and it
will get stuck.

***Favourite superhero and
why?***

Superman - For most
superheroes their
disguise is their
superhero costume,
but for him, his
disguise is his human
identity.

***What would be your theme
song and why?***

Ramones - Sheena is a
Punk Rocker

Interview with Ms Mariani

***Where do you see yourself in
ten years?***

Still teaching, but
teaching in foreign
countries.



***What made you get into
education?***

Always wanted to be a
teacher.

Where are you from?

Half Italian/ Half
Scottish

Where and what did you study?

Studied European law & Language at Edinburgh. Also studied Environmental Science with teaching at Stirling

Who are your favourite band?

U2. Others include the Verve

Three items you would take to a desert island?

The three f's: food, family and friends.

Greatest achievement so far?

Running a half marathon and getting degrees

Guilty pleasure song?

Role model?

Jessica Ennis because she is focused and motivated

Favourite superhero and why?

Batman, simply because of Christian Bale

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Still teaching! And hopefully will have visited more countries being a geography teacher

What made you get into education?

Always loved school. Loved going to school and being in school.

Also, had a lot of good teachers.

Would you rather fight a horse sized duck or a 100 duck sized horses?

And Weapon of choice?

One horse sized duck with my sense of humour.

What would be your theme song and why?

Make a new song! Be original.

have recently enjoyed a victory over James Gillespie's whilst the s1 team beat Balerno 6-5 with a goal from their top goal scorer, Chris Finnie, who also plays for Tynecastle Club team. Although both the boys and girls open basketball teams failed to qualify to the next stage of the cup, the games were very close and some success has still been seen in friendlies. Lindsay Ferry in s6 who plays football for Hibs has been offered a scholarship in America, whilst Rhona Lloyd who participates in athletics and rugby was placed 5th in the Scottish Schools national final and played for Scotland U20 against Belgium Women.

Faculty news

Modern Languages

Performance

Sport in Tynecastle so far this year has seen great individual and team success. Both the s1 and s2 football teams (coached by Mr Miller and Mr Nisbet respectively) are performing well in their relative leagues. The S2 team

Mandarin

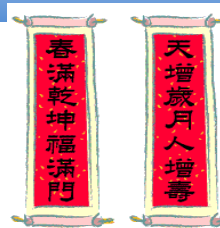
On Thursday 30th of January Dr Alasdair Allan, the *Minister* for Learning, Science & Scotland's Languages, Kate Walker, Head of Education in British Council Scotland and the BBC News Scotland visited the Modern Languages department to experience a Mandarin lesson with class

IBD2 and Michael, Kurt, Courtney and Nathan delivered by our assistant, Meiling.



was the following day, the lesson focused on that. Pupils looked at the traditions behind celebrating the New Year and learned about decorating windows and doors with couplets. Pupils learned to pronounce new words in Mandarin such as 'happiness', 'lantern' and 'firecracker'. Dr Allan joined in the speaking practice and experiences first hand and praised the excellent pronunciation skills of the pupils.

A massive thank you to Meiling for creating such a wonderful and exciting lesson. Also, a well done to all the pupils involved.



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hǎo

Congratulations to Tobasum Miah in S1 who has won an iPad Mini after participating in a competition organised by the British Council. The competition involved writing a short piece on learning Chinese. Tobasum's writing piece will shortly be available to read on the British Council's Website.

Spanish

S2 and S3 students enjoyed their annual Spanish unit between the start of January and the February break. S2 students learned about the

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different diet and routines of the Spanish speaking world.

Some classes even looked at recipes for cooking a Tortilla Espanola. 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.

Gaelic

Our S1 Gaelic Learners performed their Play “Our History: The Clearances” or “Fundaichean nan Gàldheal” at the School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh University on Wednesday 18th March. Pupils have been working closely with Mrs Forrest, our Gaelic teacher and Mrs Paterson the Gaelic Learning Officer at Historic Scotland. The play tells the story of two

families during the Highland Clearances. One family was forced to move out towards the coast and the other family was forced to move to Stanley Mills in Perthshire. This was a fantastic experience for all involved. The pupils will be taking this performance to Perthshire and the Isle of Skye in April, where they will perform for schools and community groups.

S1 pupils are: Leah Notman, Christopher Todd, Rebecca Mears, Heather Ramsey, Alexander Dennis, Subhan Amir, Kyle Ng, Deanna Cochrane and Danielle Wilson

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. Some classes even looked at recipes for cooking a Tortilla Espanola. 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.

*Mrs D
McGinley*

Art and Design

S3 Working Artist Visit

To broaden S3 understanding of art practice and Industry we had a visiting artist from Edinburgh College of Art who spoke to students about her own work as a painter. The artist Tiina Lilja showed images from her studio and exhibitions and brought sketchbooks for the students to see her working processes and inspirations.

She talked about her style and background and shared her journey from school to working in the art industry. She spent time with students discussing their work and answered questions. The students were inspired by this enriching learning experience and are applying what they

have learnt to their final pieces.

Award winning Animals

The Art and design department are delighted to

Painting by Tiina Lilja

announce that 3 of our S1 students were awarded a 'Highly commended' in the SRUC 'Animals in Art Competition'. The winning work including our 3 students will be displayed at the highly prestigious Andrew Grant Gallery at Edinburgh College of

Art from 20th March to 2nd April. Congratulations to Vilte Verbickaite, Jessica Lloyd and Leigh Maquinad for their excellent achievement and we would encourage everyone to go and see the work. *Ms Welsh*



RSA Schools Arts Award



We are delighted to announce that the outstanding work by P h a t c h a r e e Charoennamthongkham was selected for the '*highly commended category*' in the RSA schools Arts Award. This prestigious national competition received entries from hundreds of schools both public and private making this an amazing achievement for our S3 student. Phatcharee produced a stunning mixed

media print based on the local environment using a combination of pen and ink, mono and press print. Phatcharee's work was shown at the Friends of the RSA gallery room on Princes Street from the 14th February to the 12th March, Mon -Fri, 10-4pm.

Physical Education

A select group of S1 students competed at the WHEC in the 2014 Giant Heptathlon. Overall, we finished **6th out of 8 schools** but were the only school to **ONLY** select S1 students to compete - the rest of the schools had either a mix of S1 and S2's or in 2 or 3 cases a full S2 team.

Each event (8 in total) was ranked 1st-8th place, with points awarded and an overall score being created at the end of the Heptathlon.



- In the 30m sprint - We finished an overall 2nd out of all the schools which was really impressive!
- In the Speed Hurdles - we finished 4th
- In the endurance challenge (our 2nd last event when the tiredness had kicked in) we finished 6th
- 3 Spring jumps - we finished 5th
- Standing long jump - We finished 1ST
- Overhead shot put - We finished 8th
- Step Up Challenge (Thanks to Mr. Simpson for the training) - we finished 3rd
- Team Relays - we finished joint 7th



The students were absolutely fantastic. Their effort and support for each really blew me away, during each race they shouted and cheered until they were blue in the face and they pushed and pushed to achieve the best they could. They represented the school in such a positive way and we should all be incredibly proud of them.

Boys

Harvey Lyne, Ramsay McCall, Kye Hutchison, Jack Gordon, Abhai Ponner, Alex Prentice,

Chris Finnie

Girls

Jessica Lloyd , Claire Delworth,

Tina O'Hara, Lauren Finlay,

Ellie Green, Lucy Meechan

Mr C Nisbet

World Book Day Author Visit

World Book Day 2014 fell on 6th March this year and to celebrate, fifty S1 and S2 students from Tynecastle High School welcomed the author, Cathy MacPhail, into our school. With everyone sat in the library, surrounded by books and faced by a display showing many of Cathy's works, the students were treated to a whirlwind tour of Cathy's characters and novels, including "Out of the Depths". This title, the first in Cathy's Tyler Lawless series, came about from a previous visit in 2007, when Cathy provided the school with the first line of a novel for a school writing competition and promptly liked it so much, she decided to turn it into a novel herself.



Cathy

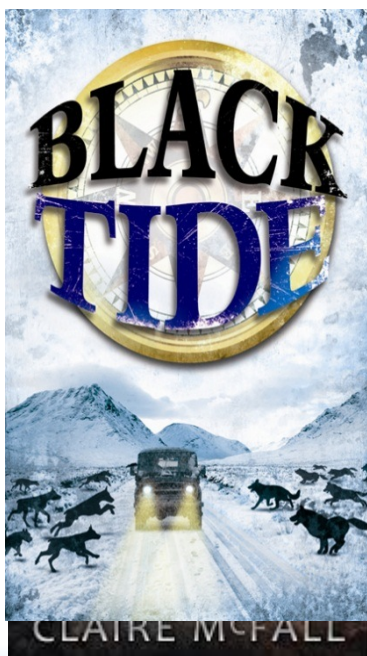
MacPhail

When the time came to ask questions, the students plucked up the courage to ask some really impressive questions that gave everyone even more of an insight into what it is like to write your own novels. From the rapt expressions on the students' faces and the buzz as they left the room, hopefully a creative seed was sown today at Tynecastle: indeed, Cathy even left us with another opening line for a novel - "I heard the knocking at the door and I knew they had come for me" - to set the school's imaginations on fire.

Thanks must go to Tynecastle's librarian, Mrs

Kerr, for hosting and organising such an inspiring event and, of course, Cathy herself for coming. It was clear to see the enjoyment and fun had by all the students who are all looking forward to reading more of Cathy's works and going to see the upcoming film of one of her books, "Another Me", which is coming to cinema near you soon.

Mr Durie



Scottish Children's Book Awards 2014

This year, students from across the school were involved in voting on the shortlist for the Scottish Children's Book Awards 2014. The students read all the titles on the fiction for 8-11 and 12-16 year old's shortlist before their votes were put into a national ballot online. They decided that they wanted to vote for *Ferryman*, by Claire McFall for the older category and *The Black Tide*, by Caroline Clough for the younger category.

Arya Jadhav from S2 wrote of *Ferryman*, that it "is a book about an idea of the afterlife and love. What I enjoyed most about this book is that it showed both point-of-views of the characters.

I also enjoyed the way the idea of the afterlife was put in."

Sravya Vankadara wrote of *The Black Tide*, that it “was really interesting as it told you about the adventure of a boy who tries to save his family.

The best thing about it was that it described things in a way which you understood, even though if you hadn't read the first book of this



series.

Happily, the rest of Scotland agreed with our judges about *Ferryman*, as it won the 12-16 year old's category. They disagreed on *The Black Tide*,

however, choosing instead *The Accidental Time Traveller*, by Janie Mackay, a book that our judges thought was excellent, but not quite as good as their favourite.

Mr Durie

Science

GO4SET Competition

Four students from S2 were chosen to represent Tynecastle High School in a competition organised by a group called EDT. To win this competition we had to think of new ideas to save water at our school and present our views by making a model, writing a report and presenting our work on a stall later. We are trying our best to find new invention ideas to preserve and conserve water and we have done a lot of research about the water at our school which has caused our attitude to change towards water and also let us explore new problems and

find a solution to it which will be really helpful in future.

Sravya S2



Although the four students did not win the competition they were the top team from their panel of assessors.

The students are a real credit to the school! As well as achieving personal GO4SET certificates , they have been awarded silver CREST awards.



Silver CREST awards are typically completed by 14-16

year olds - so well done to Sravya, Jane,

Rachel and Ellie 2T1 & 2D1

Ms K Davis

SCI-FUN

This year the S2 and S1 were invited to a big workshop in the atrium. This workshop let us explore the wonders of Science. We were divided into small groups and were allowed to go around and look at every counter which consisted of many different types of activities. It was a really nice experience as we were able to learn new things a very fun way. The best thing was that they were all interactive activities and also the S6 were helping us to do and understand things.

Parent Council

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Burns Supper at the end of January. We had a fun night with great food and great entertainment (provided by The Roundhouse Ceilidh Band). We would especially

like to thank staff and students who participated, in particular speechmakers, singers, dancers, waitresses, Struan the piper and James for Ode to the Haggis. We would also like to thank the girls who washed glasses, the Friday afternoon helpers and everyone who provided baking. Without the help and support of Mrs Bell, Mrs Cochrane and our excellent in-house bartender, Mr Rae, we might not have made it! We raised approx. £150.

Our main fundraising event for the year is our **Summer Fair** which is being held on **Saturday 14 June** from 12 to 3pm. This year we are very excited to be part of the Gorgie Dalry Gala Day celebrations. You can help by collecting books/CDs/DVDs, bric-a-brac and second-hand jewellery for our stalls. Please don't throw anything out! We are also asking for help to Sow Some Seeds for **The Great Tynie Sowing Bee!** The idea is to grow something from seed now so we have plants to sell at the Plant Stall in June. Ask Grandparents or Neighbours if they would like to help. Some suggestions

are summery flowers such as French Marigolds, Cosmos, Sunflowers or herbs such as parsley or chives. Nearer the date we will be looking for volunteers to help with stalls and, of course, homebaking. Proceeds from the Fair are used to fund our many extracurricular clubs and activities next session, so please get involved and help us raise some money for the school. If you have any fundraising ideas or queries, don't hesitate to get in touch (jbrownlee@blueyonder.co.uk) . Thank you!

Our next meeting is on Monday 28th April at 7pm in the school. All welcome!

Mary

Brownlee

Tynecastle Parent

Council

Active Schools and Transition



There is still time to sign up to **any** activity within the school - give it a go, they're FREE! Meet in the PE

department before the start of the club to join.

New Club in Term 3

A new and exciting fitness/boxercise club will be starting in term 3 with Mrs West. Details will be confirmed after Easter.

Hockey Festivals

Well done to the Girls' hockey team for taking part in the City wide high school hockey festival. We competed against six schools in the City and was a great chance to put their skills into practice!

Hockey Club - boys can come too!

Hockey club will be changing to a **Monday in Term 3**. The club will run from 4.30 - 5.30pm on the amel pitch. Please see Pam Brown if you'd like to join.

Scottish Basketball League

Well done to the boys and girls in their participation in

the Scottish basketball games. A huge thank you to Miss Moyes and Miss Gardner for their support with the teams.

Transition

P5-7 West Primary Basketball League

The primary basketball league has been growing from strength to strength. We now have 10 primary schools from across the West taking part. Craiglockhart and Dalry primary schools have improved in confidence and skill over the past year and are

P6-7 Dalry Football

Dalry Primary School use the high school's amel pitch for their team training every Thursday after school. We currently have 36 pupils attending (boys and girls). It's a great opportunity for the pupils to get used to their future PE turf!

Clubs - Update of Timetable

The timetable of clubs will be updated after Easter. Please check notice boards and bulletin to see your club's details.

How do I join?

Meet at PE department in PE kit for the start time of your club.

Is there a cost?

No - All clubs are free!

Where can I see what's on?

- Notice board
- Pam's office door in music
- PE Department
- Ask a member of staff!

Still unsure? Why not give a new activity a try - you might enjoy it!

Volunteers

If you'd like to help out with any of the clubs we have running please let me know - the more staff that help, the less you have to volunteer!

A big thank you to all staff and pupils who help out at lunch time and after school clubs.

If you have any questions, please come and see me - you can find me in the music department.

Pam Brown

Active Schools Co-ordinator

Tynecastle HS and Cluster Primaries

pamela.brown@ea.edin.sch.uk

Wednesday Lunchtime Clubs



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

- Art
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Board Games
- Computer Games
- Craft and Jewellery
- Creative Writing
- Dance
- Dodgeball
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Eco Group
- Fairtrade
- Fencing
- Film

• Fitness in the Fitness Suite

- Football
- French
- French Trip Planning
- Global Citizen
- Homework
- Internet
- Library
- Mechanics
- Music
- Nail Art
- Photography
- Running/Jogging
- School Radio Station
- Science
- Small Animal Caring
- Small Animal Management

Wednesday Lunchtime Clubs

S3 - S6 Fitn ess	1 - 1.45 pm	Fitne ss Gym	Mr Revolta
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Wednesday Lunchtime Clubs

Da y				
Mo nd ay	S1 Boys Footb all	3.30 - 4.30p m	Astro Pitch	Sea n and Davi d
	Girls Footb all	3.30 - 4.45p m	Astro Pitch	Miss Mou ltra y
	S1 - S6 Girls Hock ey	3.30 - 4.45p m	Astro Pitch	Ian Cha pma n
	S1 - S6 Gymn astics	3.30 - 4.30p m	Small Game s Hall	Miss Mou ltra y

Degu

Acti vity	Tim e	Wher e	Contact
S1/ S2 Dan ce	1 - 1.45 pm	Asse mbl y Hall	Miss Clarke
S1 Dod geb all	1 - 1.45 pm	Small Gym	Adrice and Steven
S1 - S6 Foo tbal l	1 - 1.45 pm	Astro Pitch	Sean, Kerr and David
S1 - S6 Bad min ton	1 - 1.45 pm	Large Game s Hall	Steven, Lewis and Frankie

Tu esd ay	S1 - S3 Baske tball	3.30 - 4.45p m	Large Game s Hall	Tom Grif fin
	S1 - S2 Danc e	3.30 - 4.30p m	Asse mbly Hall	Elid h Cam pbel l
	S1 - S6 Badm inton	3.30 - 4.30p m	Large Game s Hall	Mr Spra tt
	S2 Boys Footb all	3.30 - 4.30p m	Astro Pitch	Mr Rahi mia n
	S3 Techn ique Danc e	3.30 - 4.30p m	Small Game s Hall	Miss Clar ke
We dn esd ay	S1 Table Tenni s	3.45 - 4.45p m	Small Game s Hall	Mr Rev olta
	S1 - S2 Netb all	3.45 - 4.45p m	Large Game s Hall	Rho na Lloy d

Th urs da y	S1 - S3 Rugby	3.30 - 4.45p m	Astro Pitch	Stua rt Den nis
	S3 - S6 Girls Baske tball	3.30 - 4.45p m	Small Game s Hall	Miss Gar dne r
	S3 - S6 Boys Baske tball	3.30 - 5.45p m	Large Game s Hall	Miss Moy es
	S3 - S6 Fitne ss	3.30 - 4.30p m	Fitne ss Gym	CSL A
	S1- S3 Danc e	3.30 - 4.30p m	Asse mbly Hall	Mis s Cla rke

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, students 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	Ms Moultray
Dunvegan	Mr Simpson
Tantallon	Mr Cook

Depute Heads for 2013-2014

Year Group	Depute Head Teacher
S1-S3	Mrs Ramsay
S4-S6	Mrs Bell

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.

Please contact the Absence Line on 0131 337 0336 to

notify or update the school of any student absences.

Tynecastle High School

2 McLeod Street

Edinburgh

EH11 2ND

Telephone: 0131 337 3488

Email:

admin@tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

Welcome to:

Mrs F Borth (Mathematics)

Mrs D McGinley (Modern Languages)

Mrs J Robertson (IT Innovation)

Mrs P Sharp (Depute Head) who is with us on a temporary basis

Website:

www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

[Email:](#)

Absence line: 0131 337 0336

Staff changes

We said farewell to:

Mr D Glazier (Mathematics)

Ms R McGarvey (Student Support Assistant)

Supported Study Timetable

Week 1

Day	Department	Group	Time	Teacher
Monday 7 th	Geography	Int 2/Higher	9.30-12.00	Ms Mariani
	English	Advanced Higher	10.00-3.00	Miss Davie
	English	N5	10.00-12.00	Miss Barnett
	English	Higher	1.00-3.00	Miss Barnett
Tuesday 8 th	Music	Higher-Adv Higher Tech	10.00-12.00/1.00 -3.00	Miss Wallace
	Physical Education	Higher	10.00-1.00	Mr Connell
	Modern Studies	Int 2/Higher	10.00-12.00/1.00 -3.00	Mr Rahimian
	Maths	Int 1/2	10.00-12.00/1.00 -3.00	Mr Call
Wednesday 9 th	French	National 5 and Int 2	9.00-11.00	Mrs K West
	Mathematics	Higher	10.00-12.00/1.00 -3.00	Mrs Steadman
	Music	Higher-Adv Higher Tech	10.00-12.00/1.00 -3.00	Miss Wallace
	English	Nat 5	10.00-12.00/1.00 -3.00	Ms Falconer
Thursday 10 th	French	Higher	9.00-11.00	Mrs K West
	Spanish	S5/6	10.00-12.00	Ms McGinley

	Music	Higher-Adv Higher Tech	10.00-12.00	Miss Wallace
	Music	N5 understanding music	1.00-3.00	Miss Wallace
Friday 11th				

Week 2

Day	Department	Group	Time	Teacher
Monday 14 April				
Tuesday 15 April	Health + Food Technology/Cake Decorating	Nat 5/Higher	10.00-12.00	Mrs Rodgers
Wednesday 16th	History	Nat 5	10.00-12.00/1.00-3.00	Miss Howie/ Mrs Brown
	Chemistry	Nat 5/Int 2	9.00-11.00	Miss Moyes
	Chemistry	H/Adv Higher	12.00-3.00	Miss Moyes
	Lifestyle	Higher	10.00-12.00/1.00-3.00	Mrs Rodgers
Thursday 17th	History	Higher	10.00-12.00/1.00-3.00	Miss Howie
	Maths	Nat 5	10.00-12.00/1.00-3.00	Ms Gardner
	Physics	Int 2	10.00-12.00	Mr Miller
	Graphic Communication	Adv. Higher	10.00-12.00/1.00-3.00	Ms Campbell
Friday 18th				

Significant Dates

Tuesday 1	Gaelic trip leaves

Friday 4	Gaelic trip returns
Friday 4	Term ends
Tuesday 22	All resume
Wednesday 23	Duke of Edinburgh trip leaves
Friday 25	Duke of Edinburgh trip returns
Monday 28th April	Parent Council meeting
Tuesday 29	SQA exam diet begins
Friday 25	Last day in school before exams S4-6
Thursday 1	New timetable begins
Monday 5	May Day - school closed
Monday 12	Health and Wellbeing week begins
Monday 19	Victoria Day - school closed
Thursday 22	In-service day - staff only
Monday 26	Paris trip leaves
Thursday 29	Paris trip returns
Monday 2	New S5 induction
Tuesday 3	New S6 induction
Monday 9th / Tuesday 10th June	S6 Conference
Saturday 14	World Challenge to Bolivia leaves
Monday 16	P7/S1 Transition Fun Day
Tuesday 17 June	P7/S1 Transition visit

Wednesday 18	Information Evening for new S1 parents
Monday 23	Awards Ceremony
Friday 27	End of term assemblies
Friday 27	Term ends
Monday 14	World Challenge to Bolivia returns



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

