

Tynecastle

Challenge

Ambition

Responsibility

Enjoyment

Success

High

School



Newsletter Winter 2014



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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you enjoy our winter newsletter. A lot will already be familiar, as our new website allows us to upload news and achievements instantly. I am particularly proud of our two prestigious awards from City of Edinburgh. Key themes this term have been our marking of the WW1 centenary with a range of activities, including a trip to Flanders, Poppy Scotland fundraising, and the hosting of a professional performance on the Home Front in Edinburgh. Students benefit greatly from such experiences. Another theme has been our commitment to developing Global Citizenship. All in S3 had the opportunity to complete a John Muir Award, and in S1 all students took part in a *Changing Habits for Good* transition project. This aims to raise awareness of ethical issues in world trading. Of course, citizenship can also be fostered locally, and once again large numbers of students have been involved in working with local senior citizens, and in raising substantial funds for a number of charities. Many will gain Saltire Awards as a result of this.

Finally, we put on yet another fantastic pantomime production, *The Snow Queen*. This was supported by a large staff team, and it was great to see even more students involved. I hope you were able to attend. The panto says so much about us as a school as it encapsulates our friendly, inclusive and innovative ethos.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2015.

T Rae

Head Teacher

Whole School News

World Challenge June and July 2014

Whilst students and school leavers from across the UK jetted off to the exotic destinations of Magaluf, Kavos and Zante on their end of school holiday, 10 students from Tynecastle High School opted to take on an alternative adventure. With only the bags on our back and a foam rugby ball, we set off to Bolivia in South America to spend a month volunteering, trekking and travelling the length of the country.

At 3am on the 14th of June, we anxiously said goodbye to our parents at Edinburgh Airport and tears ensued as mobile phones and all means of communication with home were tentatively handed over. It was going to be the longest we'd been apart. The same applies regarding our parents. Four flights and two days later we landed in Santa Cruz airport on a budget of thirteen thousand dollars, for thirteen people over thirty three days.

With respect to our tight budget, our means of travel suffered first. To get to our hostel from the airport we boarded a rickety green and white bus with our rucksacks bundled on top of the roof, and no apparent highway code. It seemed like a

nightmare. However, that was day one and as the trip progressed I thought of that luxury travel fondly. On numerous occasions, the thirteen of us squeezed into eight or ten man taxis – and the average Bolivian person is significantly smaller than their Scottish counterpart. Travelling to our project phase in Cochobamba saw the group squeezed into an open back truck, with the wind in our hair and our hands desperately gripping to any rare part of the truck that didn't strain under our weight.

Accommodation was equally far from ideal. During our trekking phase in Apolobamba we would arrive at the chosen campsite at approximately 5pm and set up our tents. Camping above cloud level, beautiful but only for an hour. It was winter in Bolivia and as quickly as the sun set, darkness took over; sporting all our layers, we sat shivering in our tents and basking in self-pity. Surprisingly, the small, unhomely, supposedly three man tents were among the most comfortable places we rested our heads. Our first hostel was lined with grime, gaping holes in the ceiling and a price tag above budget. During our project phase we stayed in Residencial Familiar which may have been cheap, but was by no means cheerful. The electric shock-providing showers were so renowned there was a warning about them in the

guide book, yet still they persisted. Over our six nights at the hostel we found three solutions: only touch the handle with a plastic insulator, jump to prevent the shock reaching the ground or simply bear it out. None of these made the freezing experience more bearable. Served alongside the electric shocks were gruelling bed bugs, leaving teachers on medication and students sleeping on the wooden floor as a comfier alternative to the bed.

We learnt a lot from the trek: teamwork, perseverance, organisation and that Bolivians lie. Many times we were told that only flat ground remained for the rest of the day, this proved to be false. Despite the aches, strains and frost, to have been seventeen years old and walking through clouds and alongside glaciers, peaking at five-thousand one-hundred metres above sea level is an experience I treasure. Our project phase consisted of equally long and tiresome days. We were split into indoor and outdoor groups. The indoor groups sanded and painted the walls whilst the outdoor group, armed with homemade rakes and broken shovels, renovated the garden. Although a delivery truck knocking over a wall meant that we couldn't finish the project, the family were very thankful for the difference we

made, and their gratitude made the hard work worthwhile.

Rhona Lloyd, Struan McCall, Aaron Martin, Kyle Fairgrieve, Alastair Nicholson, Craig McKay

Erin Haggie, Alex McIntosh, Lindsey Ferry, Lauren McCulloch



My advice to any future World Challenger would first and foremostly be learn the language. At the time I resented being the only Spanish speaker - I felt lumbered with a lot of tasks and organisation out-with my role. However, in retrospect the trip greatly improved my Spanish and confidence using the language, and had there been another Spanish speaker it would have been very evident how many of my translations were based solely on hand gestures. Speaking the language allows you to gain a different perspective and have a much greater insight into the country and culture. I understood the vandalised slogans littering the streets regarding the minimum wage (which is still lower for women than

for men, a wrong that was abolished in Scotland thirty-four years ago), women's rights, domestic abuse and abortion.

A best experience in Bolivia is very hard to choose. Highlights include camping on the beach of Isla Del Sol on Lake Titicaca, touring the world famous Salt Flats in a jeep, climbing the largest El Cristo Statue in Cochobamba, stargazing on top of hostel Sonia in Copacabana, trekking through the jungle, swinging from vines and showering under waterfalls, going out for ice cream in Santa Cruz with new found best friends. What I miss most however, is the concept of it all. Everything that has any value to you is sitting in a bag on your back. You're a mobile home. If you don't like where you are, you move.

A much easier task is choosing a worst experience. It wasn't the sickness bug crawling around camp, or losing three-hundred and seventy five dollars in Salar de Uyuni, it was returning to the UK- to gruelling training sessions, to emails from universities, to overtime at work, to responsibilities. Travelling gives you a sense of freedom that you don't feel in the UK or on typical holidays, and I find myself wishing the year away to see another corner of the world and experience it again.

Rhona Lloyd

Historic Scotland Commemorative Plaque for Wilfred Owen



I am delighted to report that our application to Historic Scotland to have a commemorative plaque for Wilfred Owen at Tynecastle High School has met with success. The plaque was unveiled on the 21st August by the Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop with representatives from Historic Scotland and the press in attendance. Also present at the ceremony were some of the students and staff who were on the Battlefields trip.



Why Wilfred Owen should be commemorated at Tynecastle High School

Wilfred Owen's First World War poetry has stood the test of time and continues to engage and move students in the present day. His unflinching portrayal of the visceral realities of combat send a powerful message to our young people about the dreadful physical and mental toll of conflict. His work is characterised by his anger at the cruelty and waste of war which was strongly influenced by his experiences on the Western Front during World War I. Wilfred Owen's legacy to us, through his poetry, is a better understanding of the nature of battle during World War I on the Western Front. Wilfred Owen's association with Tynecastle High School had long been known about but remained unmarked.

Background

Owen was diagnosed with neurasthenia (or shell shock) on 25th June 1917 which was attributed to his experience of heavy fighting on the Western Front where he had been since January that year. He was evacuated to Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh where he met the poet Siegfried Sassoon, also a patient, who shared Owen's views on the horror and futility of war and who

became a friend and mentor to Owen.

In September 1917 the hospital began, as part of their recuperation programme, to send patients to assist with Boy Scout troops and a small number of officers were released to teach at Tynecastle High School. Wilfred Owen wrote to his mother during this time about his experiences of teaching English Literature at the school saying that teaching here was 'one of the most humanly useful things I am doing now'. In scholarly circles it is widely believed that he was working on the poem 'Anthem for doomed youth' during this period and many believe that some of his inspiration may have come from working with children whose fathers and brothers had fallen and the loss of innocence that ensued.

Wilfred Owen had further insight into the impact of WWI on the home front as his technical teaching colleagues at Tynecastle left to work in munition factories or to serve at the front and Home Economics staff trained soldiers in field catering and domestic chores. Owen taught students whose families in the local Gorgie / Dalry community had already experienced loss and injury of their own and even more poignantly by 1917 Tynecastle High School was beginning to have its own student

fatalities. So far research has uncovered the names of 14



Tynecastle High School students and one teacher who died during World War I. Close relationships were formed with students in Owen's care – a field trip to the Pentlands and other areas of the city associated with Robert Louis Stevenson (Owen was studying 'St Ives' with the class) described in another of Owen's letters alludes to a great bonding experience. Another example of Owen's popularity with Tynecastle students was evidenced by an account of the students making Christmas cards for him during a return visit to the school in December 1917, his army address having been put up on the board by Mrs Fullerton. This was to be Owen's last Christmas as he was killed on November 4th 1918 whilst leading his men across the Sambre canal near Ors just a week before the ceasefire on the Western Front and the signing of the armistice.

Owen is widely regarded as one of the most talented poets of World War I.

Biography

Wilfred Edward Salter Owen was born on the 18th March 1893 in Oswestry, Shropshire.

After leaving school he became a teaching assistant and in 1913 went to France where he worked as a language tutor for two years.

In 1915 he returned to England enlisted in the army and was commissioned into the Manchester Regiment, he left for the Western Front in January 1917. After experiencing heavy fighting he was diagnosed as suffering from neurasthenia (or shell shock) which led to him being evacuated back to Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh in June 1917 where he met the poet Siegfried Sassoon, also a patient, who shared Owen's views and became both a friend and mentor to Owen.

Craiglockhart War Hospital had the reputation of being at the forefront of treatment for those suffering from Neurasthenia and Owen became an ergotherapy patient of Dr Arthur Brock who encouraged him to continue with his writing, translating the experiences he had suffered into

poetry. Craiglockhart War Hospital also released Owen to teach English Literature at Tynecastle High School in 1917 as another part of his rehabilitation designed to reintegrate patients back into society.

At the end of November 1917, after three weeks leave, Owen returned to light regimental duties at Scarborough and shortly after that to training at Ripon.

Owen rejoined his own regiment in Scarborough on the 5th June 1918 and returned to France. He was killed on 4th November 1918 whilst leading his men across the Sambre Canal at Ors.

The news of his death reached his parents on Armistice Day 11th November 1918. Legend has it that this devastating news was delivered to the accompaniment of the church bells ringing out to mark the end of hostilities.

Mrs C Kerr

Achievement Awards

We are so proud of our successes at the annual City of Edinburgh Council Achievement Awards ceremony which took place on Thursday 11 September in the Assembly Rooms in George Street. There were 5 categories of

awards with a winner and 2 Highly Commended awards in each category.



We were joint winners in the Getting it Right for Every Child category for our work on promoting emotional and mental wellbeing through our Growing Confidence programme of training for staff, students and parents. This is a prestigious award to win and we are very proud of all those who have taken part in the training and how they have used this to further support our students.

A huge well done also to Carolyn Kerr our librarian for receiving a Highly Commended in the Improving Literacy category for her work on Wilfred



Owen. This is further recognition of Carolyn's hard work in securing a plaque for the school which commemorates Wilfred Owen's time as a teacher here.

Mrs J Ramsay

Knitted Poppies

One of the first year JASS (Junior Award Scheme Scotland) options this year at Tynecastle High School was 'Knitting for Charities'. A number of charities had been proposed by both staff and students and 'Poppy Tynecastle' was chosen as our very first project. This involved knitting or crocheting poppies which were later sold in aid of the work done in supporting service personnel and their families by Legion Scotland.

This project generated quite a bit of interest from students who wanted to learn to knit, many more than could be accommodated in the JASS knitting class and so in order to try to meet this demand a brand new Wednesday lunchtime school knitting club alongside the already established homework club in the library came into being.

The idea behind 'Poppy Tynecastle' was to try to produce 100 knitted or crocheted poppies on an annual basis as we are at the start of the 100 year commemorative cycle 2014 – 2018.

We are delighted to say that the 'Poppy Tynecastle' project has



attracted interest not only from our students but from staff and parents too.

We are still really pleased that we did make £100 this year for the Legion Scotland charity. As there was a really good response from staff, students and parents to our 'knitters recruitment drive' this year our expectations for next year are even higher. The aim would then be to start selling the knitted poppies once more at the beginning of November 2015.



Many thanks must also go to all who have supported this initiative at Tynecastle High School whether it was by giving of their time, expertise and materials or simply by buying one of our creations.

Incidentally, we could have sold our knitted poppies two or three times over such was the overwhelming level of interest. There was a surprisingly great demand for the more ‘blingy’ variety - basically anything with a bit of sparkle, as well as the more traditional plainer knitted poppies.

Carolyn Kerr

School Library Resource Coordinator

Easy ribbed poppy pattern



Body of Poppy

Using Col A Cast on 60 stitches.

Size of needles will decide size of poppy but 2.5, 2.75 or 3mm recommended

Rows 1 – 10 : K2, P2 across whole row (for a slightly smaller poppy just do 8 rows of rib)

Row 11 : Knit 2 stitches together across the whole row (30 stitches)

Row 12 : Slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together then pass the slip stitch over ... repeat across the whole row (10 stitches)

Break off yarn with long tail and thread back through remaining stitches and pull tight. Join seam.

Centre of poppy

Using B cast on 16 stitches. Cast Off. Coil into a tight spiral and sew base to centre of poppy, alternatively sew on a button.

Alternatively use a black button or crochet a magic circle and 10 dc into ring or chain 4 ss to first ch from hook and 10 dc into centre join with a ss. Add Kirby grip.

Leaf

with green yarn and size 2.75mm (UK 12) needles, cast on 4 sts

Row 1: k all sts tbl (through back of loop))

Row 2: inc 1 st, k to end.

Rep last row until there are 10 sts

Knit 10 rows

Next Row: k1, s1, k1, pssso, k4, k2tog, k1

Next Row: k1, s1, K1, pssso, K2, k2tog, k1

Next Row: k1, s1, k1, pssso, k2tog, k1

Next Row: k2tog twice

Next Row k2tog

Fasten off.

Mrs C Kerr

World War One play



Many thanks to you and your staff for making us all so welcome and enabling our first try-out performance to be such a success. The

feedback was excellent. Most pronounced the show 'interesting', 'entertaining' and a few 'surprising' and 'sad'. No one found it 'boring'! The students told us that they'd learned a few things about Edinburgh during WWI from the play; they found all the characters interesting including the father. One pupil

thought he could relate to him as he thought 'that's what I would do if I was in the war'. They appreciated the mother for the way she was coping. I think it was a very successful community event and reassuring for us to find that the play appeals to a mixed age audience.

When I got home I found that Thom Dibdin is interested in doing a preview piece about the show and sent him this:

'When the War Came Home' is scripted by 7 members of the WEA Playwrights Workshop and performed by Citadel Arts Group. The script explores the impact of World War I on ordinary and some well-known Edinburgh people. We give voice to the Hearts supporters who volunteered to fight beside their heroes, the Hearts players, in McCrae's Battalion. Other scenes show pioneering Edinburgh Dr Elsie Inglis imprisoned by the Germans in Serbia and Wilfred Owen teaching



English in Tynecastle High while recovering from shell shock at Craiglockhart Hospital. The script expresses a range of attitudes to the Great War including the protests of courageous pacifist Chrystal MacMillan. Unlike most of the current TV programmes and plays about World War I, we show how ordinary Edinburgh people were affected by the war, caught up in the Zeppelin raid that hit Marshall Street and the White Hart Inn in the Grassmarket, women poisoned by TNT while working in munitions and young men lying about their ages to get to the Front. The many strands are held together by the character of Iain Sutherland, a fictitious journalist on the Scotsman/ Evening Dispatch, which produced scandalised Edinburgh people by bringing out their first Sunday paper to announce the outbreak of War.

Citadel is performing the show in SW Edinburgh where many of the play's events took place: on 14th Jan 7pm in St Bride's Centre in Gorgie and on 15th Jan Tynecastle High school for the students and on 16th Jan 7pm for the community.

Citadel is trying out scenes from the developing show with inter-generational audiences in SW Edinburgh. Today at Tynecastle High we presented the Zeppelin Raid

scene for a group of older people from Oaklands Day Centre alongside two classes of students some of whom had visited the battlefields. The feedback was totally positive ('The play made it realistic. . .I didn't know this area had been bombed' - pupils' comments; 'I was a reservist so can relate to the storyline' - older audience member) All are looking forward to seeing the compete play in the New Year. We will present the McCrae's Battalion scenes in Balgreen and Stenhouse primary in December.

The Green Team



The Green Team wins RSPB Nature of Scotland Award for Youth and Education Work

At a fabulous dinner and ceremony held at The Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh on 20th November, The Green Team was announced as winners of the Youth and Education category of the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards. And were one of the shortlisted finalists in the

Community Initiative Category too.
Not a bad night's work!

Now in their third year, The Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate excellence, innovation and outstanding achievement in Scottish nature conservation. Over 300 guests attended the presentation dinner, hosted by naturalist, author and TV presenter Chris Packham. The youth and education category which was sponsored by Edinburgh University, was hotly contested and included the work of the John Muir Award amongst the finalists.

The award is recognition of the long-running and sustained impact that The Green Team has made to the natural landscape of Scotland and the lives of thousands of young people. It is thanks to the hard work of all our participants, volunteer leaders, board, staff and support network over the last 20 years that we now have this enviable accolade. It was particularly special for The Green Team that Peter Higgins, lecturer and highly respected author on play and outdoor learning, presented the staff with the award. Well done everyone!

Ms J Walton

A Tree is for life, but also for Christmas

The Green Team, will be celebrating 20 years of working with young people in 2015, conserving Scotland's natural landscape and wild places across Edinburgh, The Lothians and beyond. And what better way for this milestone to be celebrated than with the creation of a new woodland called The Green Team Wildwood.



Why not give someone a very special Christmas gift this year? Perfect for the person who has everything – the present that keeps on giving. For each tree sponsored you will receive a gift card with information about the trees we are planting and the site. All monies raised from sponsorship

donations will go directly towards the charities minibus fundraising appeal.

Our Green Team Tree Sponsorship e-flier can be downloaded from the website

www.greenteam.org.uk/about/news/ and then you can tick one or maybe lots of people off your Christmas shopping list!

The Green Team has been fortunate to have been granted 400 trees from The Woodland Trust for this new woodland and volunteers have already been on site this month to start the creation of a brash hedge enclosure which will protect the trees from the hungry deer population. The main tree planting will take place on Sunday 15th March from 1-3pm as part of the charities 20th Anniversary celebrations to which everyone is welcome.

Ms J Walton

Student Council

This session the Student Council members sprang into action from the very first meeting. They have been busy producing posters to display at parents evenings, school events and around the school to allow parents, carers and visitors to see exactly what they've been up to. S2 reps

have also produced posters on the Food Comparison survey that they undertook in June. Perhaps not surprisingly, the school canteen is the



cheapest place for all items that they compared. A small team are working with Mrs Robertson to create Student Council pages for the school's new-look website. Reps were also encouraged to complete the CEC Budget Challenge, which produced interesting discussion, and was a challenging and interesting experience. Student Council also suggested how they might contribute and help Parent Council with the Burns Supper and Ceilidh.

Ms L Moyes

Former student

Lee McGregor



Former student Lee was on home territory on Friday 5th December boxing in the Meadowbank Amateur Boxing Club annual show, successfully

winning his bout. Lee is the current Scottish and British champion for his weight and January sees him move from the Junior to Senior weight. We wish Lee all the very best for the future.

Ms L Moyes

1/2/3 Round Up

S1

All our S1 students now seem to have settled in very well to the routine of High School and there has been very positive feedback from parents and carers about many aspects of the transition process, both at the End of Transition meeting in August and also at our S1 Consultation Evening for parents and carers on 30th October.

As part of the settling in process, our Student Support Leaders, Ms Moultray, Mr Rahimian and Mr Cook

have coached the new S1 students in Restorative Practices. This philosophy underpins all of our working relationships here at Tynecastle and is based on fairness and respect and aims to teach our students how to restore relationships if they break.

The S1s have also experienced a programme in PSE called Cool, Calm and Connected which looks at emotional and mental Health and Wellbeing. This programme is co-taught by our S5 students as peer educators. The feedback from our S1 students about the effect of this programme on their understanding of emotional wellbeing has been overwhelmingly positive.

S2 anti-bullying focus

As part of our annual focus on anti-bullying, all S2 classes PSE have been discussing different types of bullying behaviour and what they should do if it happens to them or if they witness someone else being bullied. All S2 students take part in a city-wide bullying survey every year. We shared these very encouraging results with students in our November assemblies. This demonstrates that students are clear about our message to them that if they report bullying behaviour to us, we will act on their information.

S1 JASS Award – Gold Level

All S1 students this year are participating in the Junior Award Scheme Scotland (JASS) during their RME classes. JASS is a personal achievement award for young people P6 to S2 and aims to help students to develop new skills and build self-confidence JASS can help to increase the motivation of high achievers, giving them more challenges out with the core curriculum. There are four sections in the JASS award: My Interests; Get Active, Stay Active; Me and My World and the Adventure Day. Students must complete 18 hours of each section and a full Adventure Day by the end of the year to achieve the award. They are supported and tracked through each section.

The 'Me and My World' section involves students working with members of their community or working on an environmental project locally. S1 projects this year are Community Bird Boxes; Knitting for charity; Eco work at Gorgie Farm; Raising funds for Charity through fitness; Choir for local senior citizens; Community clear up at Saughton Park.

What can I do as a Parent to support my son / daughter with JASS?

You could help your child to identify an interest. You can help your child to gather evidence for their folder for all

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

S1-3 Tracking Reports and Learning Goals

Student Support teachers have worked with all S1-3 students during PSE time on reflecting on their Tracking reports, which were issued to parents / carers at the end of October. This 1-1 talk reviews the student's individual learning goals from their subject teachers and aims to support students in identifying their next steps in learning and setting targets for themselves, which they record in their e-portfolio.

Tracking of Wider Achievement

We as a school acknowledge the growing need for students to have opportunities to develop their skills and talents in the widest sense throughout their school career. This aspect of their development is becoming increasingly important for job, college and university applications, as well as being a key

part of many interview processes. To this end, we provide a range of opportunities for all students, ranging from tutor group representative at our Student Council to participating in our panto or joining one of our free Wednesday lunchtime clubs. Please encourage your son / daughter to take part in as many opportunities as possible.

To enable students to keep an up to date record of their achievements, all our S1-5 students are developing their own e-portfolio. The e-portfolio aims to provide them with the opportunity to record their participation and successes and encourages them to reflect on their achievements and the skills they have developed as a result of their experiences. The Learner Statement section of the e-portfolio is an opportunity for students to reflect on who they are as a person, their responsibilities at school regarding attendance, uniform & homework, what they enjoy in their learning, both at school and outwith school and how they like to learn.

As a school, we are also developing ways of having an overview of each student's wider achievement profile. This will allow us to celebrate successes at assemblies and also to identify gaps in our provision and address these gaps.

S2

S2 Design Interdisciplinary project

All S2 students have a timetabled period a week of Design. This course combines skills from art and Craft and Design and was produced through collaboration between staff in these two departments. Students experience the Design Process, responding to a variety of briefs by formulating design specifications, solving problems through a range of media and technologies and producing solutions. The aim is to encourage imaginative responses and to develop creative and critical thinking. We are looking forward to seeing final displays of work, which will be on show towards the end of the session.

S3

At the start of this year, all our S3 students moved into the third year of their Broad General Education and chose a focus subject within each curricular area. This allowed them some choice of subjects for S3, but in line with Curriculum for Excellence, also allowed them to continue to develop their learning in all areas and not specialise too soon. A good example of this is in science, where all students experience the same unit of work at the start of S3 called 'Fragile Earth' and then move on to specialise in their chosen science subject. In

S3 University LEAPS visit

On the 10th of December a group of S3 students attended an orientation event at Edinburgh University. During the trip the students saw around the University campus and were asked to create a short video to explain what they had found out. The group took full advantage of the trip; completing a complete set of video blogs in less than an hour. The opportunity to explore what university life might be like has given the S3 food for thought as we plan for our Senior phase and life after school.



The clear message from this event and the LEAPS organisation is that University is accessible to all, and with the right planning and hard work, barriers can be overcome. Opportunities to explore University life through LEAPS events will take place from S3 onwards and this will give all those interested in University the chance to find out more.

Cluster News

Transition visits to Tynecastle

We are always delighted to welcome our cluster primary pupils to Tynecastle and this term pupils have enjoyed visits to our Technologies faculty and our Social Studies faculty.

P7 Technologies curricular visit

P7 pupils have visited our technology faculty for a series of lessons focusing on the use of appropriate instruments, materials, tools and equipment to make quality products. In Health and Food Technology, pupils made carrot cake to complement their World War 2 learning. In Fashion & Textiles Technology, pupils took a sewing machine 'Driving Test' and made a simple design on textiles using a sewing machine. In Design & Manufacture, pupils used appropriate workshop equipment to make a key ring, which they took home as a souvenir of their visit here.

P7 Social Studies visit

Primary 7s have been experiencing a 'Propaganda' lesson as part of their work on WW2 in History. The pupils were asked to think about the ways in which Propaganda impacted on everyday life during WW2 and the ways the government used Propaganda such as posters to help win the war. Students worked in cooperative learning groups and

examined and discussed how effective different replica WW2 posters were. The students have now been set the challenge to create their own propaganda WW2 poster back in their primary classes. The completed posters will be judged by the Social Subjects faculties. So far the lessons have been a huge hit and the quality of the work the P7s have produced has been outstanding. Dalry and Balgreen Primary schools have competed the experience this term and we are looking forward to welcoming Craiglockhart and Stenhouse after Christmas.

P6 PE visits

Our Community Sports Leaders' Award provides many opportunities for our senior students to develop their teaching and delivering of sporting skills. They attain many sporting qualifications, such as Football level 1, Basketball Refereeing and Rugby level 1. To put these newly attained qualifications into action, the sports leaders have been working actively in the community with local sports clubs and schools. They have also delivered sessions to pupils at Dalry Primary School and Craiglockhart P6 pupils have visited Tynecastle to experience PE here at High School. Developing these close links has been a real benefit to the learning experiences of

our cluster primary pupils and our sports leaders have flourished and have been a real credit to the school.

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

S5/6 students have also volunteered to help out at cluster primary events, such as Parents' Evenings, Sports events and the JASS activities on Friday afternoons at Balgreen Primary.

Religious Observance Programme

As of this year, all City of Edinburgh schools have to provide a Religious Observance Programme for all students. The aims of the religious observance programme is to promote spiritual development and to express and celebrate the shared values of the school and the community, providing experiences which are meaningful to all. Our school community comprises students, staff and families from a variety of faith backgrounds and worldviews. This diversity will be valued and considered when planning our acts of religious observance. We would like to reassure you that our religious observance adopts an open and respectful approach and does not seek to compromise the beliefs of

any students or their families. There will be 3 religious observance events during the year, each lasting around 20 minutes. Our religious observance programme can be viewed on our website at www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

If you wish your son / daughter to be withdrawn from our religious observance programme, please inform the school in writing.

Mrs J Ramsay

4/5/6 Round Up

Home Learning

Many parents of Senior Phase students will be aware that, during November, there was in school a particular focus on promoting the vital contribution made by Home Learning to students' chances of attainment success.

Senior and Support for Pupils staff shared important messages about establishing sound home learning routines, and ensuring that there is a well-struck balance between time spend on study, out-of-school work and 'down time' (including use of social media and computer games). For example, a part-time job can be an extremely worthwhile way to learn about the world of work, and

to build excellent routines for the future... But no such job should be allowed to detract from the time and energy available to devote to students' important exam years.

Moreover, National and Higher courses are generally considered to require a minimum of 40 hours home study per year, equating to at least an hour per week per subject... Devoting this kind of amount of time to study will most certainly improve the grades attained in results which are published in August.

If you have any questions about this area, please do feel free to contact members of the school's Senior Team.

Mrs A Bell

Referendum Awareness

It seems a long while now since the excitement and hype of the Scottish Referendum, and there will continue to be mixed feelings about the outcome of that important vote. It's important to note, though, the part played by schools in preparing our 16 and 17 year olds for their first opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

At Tynecastle, Mr Rahimian (with his Modern Studies hat on) led special

Assemblies which explored the importance of using our vote, and the privilege of being able to do so. (Of course, there was no party-political element whatsoever to these Assemblies.) Students were encouraged to register to vote, and we are proud of the contribution we made to raising awareness of this important aspect of citizenship.

ZEST



Lauren and Michael learn about how to enrich the lives of Yellow-breasted capuchins!

Some Tynecastle students have had the opportunity to participate in ZEST, which stands for Zoo Environment and Skills Training. The students were introduced to a range of job opportunities available at the Zoo, and then applied and were interviewed for posts in areas which included Property Maintenance, Education and Visitor Services. The students continue to visit the Zoo

once a month on average, and they learn through lectures about the work of the Zoo, as well as completing a week long Work Experience.

Currently Tynecastle's ZEST students have been working towards enriching the environment of the Zoo's yellow-breasted capuchin monkeys... This is an unusual and exciting opportunity! We will develop our link with the Zoo further in Session 2015-16.

Wider Achievement



This session at Tynecastle many of our senior students are busy with a whole range of Wider Achievement opportunities which include working in classes to support junior students, work experience at local nursery schools, delivery of the school's Cool,

Calm and Connected approaches,



Buddying, and welcoming local senior citizens into school to help them become 'Silver Surfers'



We look forward to developing further our Wider Achievement



Programme, including accreditation and awards for our young people.

Positive Destinations for All

This session a high number of post-16 students chose to return to school for the 2014-15 school session. This is excellent news, as most young people's attainment and achievement gain momentum as they move up through the school, and therefore opportunities increase in regard to moving on to Employment, Training, College, University or Volunteering.

We continue to feel very proud of our sound 16+ positive destination statistics (which compare very favourably with those across the City), and we congratulate and celebrate with young people when they secure whatever is, for them, 'the right destination at the right time'. Already this session we have seen young people move on to a variety of destinations including College, Modern Apprenticeships (in Engineering, Hairdressing and Painting and Decorating) and Employment (in Childcare and Business settings).

If you know of any vacancies (including opportunities for internships or apprenticeships) in your work place, please contact us, as

we value highly our excellent relationships with local partners and businesses.

KPMG Business Mentoring

We are delighted that we are again engaged this session in a Business Mentoring partnership with KPMG. Six young people have been matched to KPMG employees in what is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of the knowledge and expertise of professionals from outside the school environment. Our S5 and S6 students are able to consult their mentors for advice and assistance as they prepare themselves for SQA exams, and gaining employment when they leave school.

Mrs A Bell

Extra-Curricular

Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to the Bronze DofE group who managed to pass their assessed expedition just before the summer holidays. The team walked from St Mary's Loch to Traquair along the Southern Upland Way in mostly sunny weather and all showed

excellent teamwork, camping skills and high spirits.



The group is: Hannah Berry, Amber Lee, Karolina Rybak, Abbygail Hutt, Lucy Bruce and Lauren Livingstone and they can now go onto their Silver award. New members always welcome at Bronze, Silver or Gold level.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Success!

The School's Silver Duke of Edinburgh group successfully completed their assessed expedition in the Trossachs in the October break, walking from Loch Chon to Strathyre via Aberfoyle, Loch Venachar and the Rob Roy Way. The team had to contend with chilly nights, tricky navigation on the many forest paths and not enough Maltesers to go around.



They have now finished their Silver awards (Tynecastle's first four students to achieve this level) and are keen to go all the way and get their Gold awards in the following year. The Silver group is Matthew Mcdiarmid, James Gibson, Evie Brownlee and Ola Poziemska. New members welcome to join any of the school DofE groups – see Mr Harrison in RT009 for more information.

Mr C Harrison

**Gold for
Ramsay McCall**



Congratulations to Ramsay McCall (S2) who was selected for the Scottish National Novice Diving Team Squad to compete in the Celtic Cup against Wales and Ireland on 20th and 21st of September. Ramsay won 4 gold medals out of a possible 4 and made a great contribution to team Scotland who won the Celtic Cup. Well done Ramsay, an outstanding success!

Mrs C Gill

Community Sports Leaders

Our community sports leaders at Tynecastle have been working closely with local primary schools and sports clubs providing sporting opportunities for local children developing close working partnerships.



A 5 week block at Dalry primary school teaching primary 4 followed by Craiglockhart primary 6 now

starting to visit Tynecastle for the next 4 weeks has seen the sports leaders implement the football, basketball and rugby qualifications they have received.



The sports leaders have been a credit to the school developing close links with local community and will continue to provide opportunities on a Wednesday lunch time.



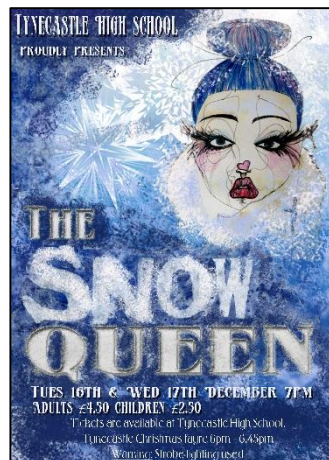
Mr J McPartlin

These qualifications are put into place every Wednesday lunch time when they organise many different sporting opportunities for pupils. Most recently sports leaders have attended a rugby festival at Murrayfield from which the following feedback was received:

Your sport leaders were fantastic. Such enthusiasm, commitment, communicative skills and great with the kids. Most importantly they seemed to enjoy themselves too. So many happy faces having do much fun.

Michael Dawson, Trustee Murrayfield Wanderers rugby foundation

The Snow Queen Pantomime



This year's Pantomime is an original production of 'The Snow

Queen'. Written and directed by Ms McPhee it is a re-telling of the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale of a boy who becomes transformed when pieces of an evil troll king's mirror fall into his eye, and he is whisked away by the Snow Queen to live with her in her ice palace. The story then follows the progress of the heroine of the story, Kai's best friend Gerda, as she tries to seek out her friend and free him from the Snow Queen's grasp.

This year's production is bigger than ever before with over 60 cast members and a production team of 18 members of staff. In addition to Ms McPhee's original material, Ms Clarke has choreographed original dances with the input of our senior dance students. We also have the benefit of our very talented design students, led by Ms Primrose and Ms Welsh, in creating scenery and props. Ms Robertson's digital expertise has also been put to great use and Mrs Clarke and Ms Crombie have done a fantastic job in taking on the role of costume and make-up respectively. Mrs Cheung has also proved very resourceful in tracking down props this year. We could not put on such a large scale production if it was not for the support of the THS staff covering classes and donating time, not to mention substantial amounts of energy!

We are certain that, with the talent and dedication of staff and students, 'The Snow Queen' will prove to be as successful as the Pantos of previous years, and contribute hugely to the school's festive spirit!

Ms L Howie

Interview with Mr Murphy



What are your best attributes?

My sense of humour.

What is one goal you have always wanted to complete?

Play a guitar well enough to perform in front of people.

Who inspires you the most?

Socrates the footballer... Not the philosopher.

If you could live anywhere, where would it be and why?

Venice, it's like living in a painting.

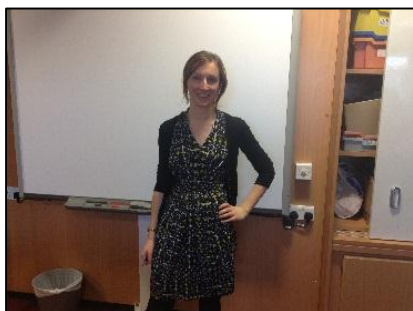
Why did you choose to be a teacher and do you enjoy being one ?

I love being a teacher, because I love science and I love maths... And I'd like to try get people interested in it.

What one thing you wish you can change / improve about yourself?

I wish I could be twelve stone like I used to.

Interview with Ms Taylor



What are your best attributes?

I think I'm very reliable, and I'm never late.

What is one goal you have always wanted to complete?

Getting a job at Tynecastle has been one of my life ambitions.

Who inspires you the most?

My mum.

If you could live anywhere, where would it be and why?

Definitely Paris, because they've got the best coffee and the best cakes.

Why did you choose to be a teacher and do you enjoy being one ?

I enjoy teaching students new things.

What one thing you wish you can change / improve about yourself?

I'd like to be more competitive and better at languages.

Rabia Ishfaq and Raegan Moir S6

Faculty News

English

Edinburgh International Book Festival

This month students have had several opportunities to visit the Edinburgh International Book Festival. There was a prominent war theme this year as would be expected in this year of commemoration. Mrs Falconer took a group to see the *Women at War* event with authors Theresa Breslin and Mary Hooper. The next day Miss Davie took some S1/2 students to hear Alan Burnett discuss his book *True Tales of the First World War*. Students were very positive about both of these events.

The following week senior students had the rare opportunity to hear from Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl who was shot by the Taliban for speaking out in favour of education for girls. The *Harry Potter* author J.K. Rowling surprised the audience by introducing Malala at the start of the event. It was quite something to hear such a famous author describe how honoured and privileged she felt to be able to meet the seventeen year old schoolgirl! Malala herself was a marvellous speaker and none of us left in any doubt that she would achieve her ambition of becoming Prime Minister. It was a truly inspirational event.

Ms L Barnett



Photo (L-R):

Busra Basbaydar, James Gibson, Ashleigh King, Ola Poziemaska, Amy Meechan, Evie Brownlee, Gabi



Thomas, Amanda Shek, Mitco Ivanov, Manish Jayant

Pat Barker's 'Regeneration' Theatre Trip and Poetry Workshop

Wednesday 1st October

A group of 20 Tynecastle S5 and S6 students from Miss Barnett's Higher English class were accompanied to the King's Theatre in Tollcross to take part in a poetry workshop offered by the TheatreCloud Touring Consortium - the theatre company who are staging Nicolas Wright's adaptation of the Pat Barker Regeneration trilogy. This had been organised by Miss Barnett in conjunction with Cerin Richardson the Learning and Participation Manager at the King's Theatre. The workshop was followed in the afternoon by a matinee performance of the play itself. The students who attended are currently studying the first book in the Pat Barker trilogy in English class.

The theme of the poetry workshop was WW1 and this was led by Jacqui Rowe who introduced our senior students to a variety of 'proper writer's exercises' designed to equip them with some tools to aid concentration and focus when it came to doing some writing of their own. To start with students were invited to take part in a sensory deprivation experience by putting on blindfolds and trying to imagine what it might feel like to have been either temporarily or permanently blinded



as many WW1 soldiers were. They were then given a small object which they were asked to concentrate their other senses upon, whilst imagining they were a WW1 soldier, to start the creative process.

The objects were removed before the blindfolds were taken off and the poetry writing began. Students were then asked to look at what they had produced and to choose the 6 best

lines or phrases from what they had written and to work a bit more on these. Later they discovered what their objects had been. At the end of this session Ashleigh King S6 and James Gibson S5 read out their poems to the group. Jacqui explained about using the technique of 'constraint' when writing poetry to students and encouraged them to develop what they had already produced. Jacqui also suggested that students might like to enter the Pat Barker's Regeneration Poetry competition online at www.theatrecloud.com/warpoetry.

Other exercises included the use of a 100 word grid to write up a news report type article based on a WW1 photograph of their choice and changing the words of a popular song of their choice to reflect the feelings and experiences of WW1 soldiers in much the same way as soldiers during WW1 changed the words of popular songs of their era.

Maths

S1 Students get off to a SUPER start in Maths

In their first week at Tynecastle High School all S1 students took part in a group research project where they were tasked with finding out about a famous mathematician. The students were asked to learn about the life and history of a wide range of

mathematicians and research the impact their Mathematical discovers had on modern mathematics and the wider world. A number of students then went on to use their research to create Maths Superheroes. One group researched Rene Descartes and created a sidekick based on the fly that inspired the Cartesian Coordinate system. Another group created a whole gang of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Napiers" based on the work of the local Mathematician, John Napier. All students thoroughly enjoyed the project and delivered interesting presentations on their research, posters and Maths Superhero characters.

Ms H Gardner



Rachel Lewis, Anya Opara, Brogan MacLeod

Performance

Dance

Girls from S1 and S2 will be participating in the successful Dance Quest project again this year at the



Festival Theatre and rehearsals will take place for this starting in October.

We have just introduced National 5 dance class to our PE curriculum; the group are working hard on both their contemporary and jazz dances with these being assessed early next year.

The dance rehearsals are well underway for this year's Snow Queen pantomime and everyone is working very hard and having great fun!

Ms K Clarke

Rugby

Friday 24th August Tynecastle PE department was taken over for a two hour action packed rugby festival. All of first year competed for house points and the trophy. Bradley Moffat the Murrayfield Wanderers youth development officer

along with a team of coaches and the assisted by the PE department delivered a four week block of Rugby to all first years cumulating in a festival on the final Friday.

Blessed with sunshine probably for the last time this year and the ten teams set the tournament was being scored on how many tries each team could score. The team with most tries at the end of the tournament would earn the most house points and the trophy. This encouraged all pupils to try their best no matter the score, and that every try could count.

Thanks to all teachers who came down and showed their support. Also thanks to teachers whose classes were interrupted by this the pupils, Rugby staff and PE department very much appreciated this.

All of first year were a credit to themselves. Effort, teamwork, communication and encouragement was displayed throughout the afternoon. One try was all that



separated first and second place and with a great total of 33 tries scored happiness was indeed egg shaped for team Tantallan 4 consisting of Jack Stewart, Ben Robertson, Kenzie Foy, Katie McKenderick, Rebecca Banks, Sami El Yamani El Ghaailani, Jasmine Sneddon.

Well done to all involved.

Mr J McPartlin

Music

Music Performing Events Diary:

Monday 25th August 2014

Musicians from S2 to S5 performed at the annual St Martin's Art Exhibition Schools Concert. St.

S2 Samba band led by Beth Williamson 2D2:

From left to right Miss Wallace, music teacher, Beth Williamson 2D2, Brandon Watson 2D1 (top of head in view), Rebecca Crawford 2B2, Robyn Hill 2B2, Jessica Lloyd 2D2, Anthony Hall 2D2, Jordan Hunter 2T2, Eamon Islam 2T1, Roberta Puiu 2D1, Leah Notman 2B1, Ewa Bohdan 2D1, (top of head in view) Leigh Maquinnad 2B1,

Rebecca Mears 2B1, Stephane Thomas 2T1



Alix Robertson 3D2 (L) and Evie Brownlee 5D (R) performing their Cello duet “Seven Nation Army”



James Murray 5T performing “Sunshine of your Love” from his N5 Performing programme on Bass Guitar



Rachel Finnie 5T performing “Somewhere only we Know” from her N5 Performing programme on Voice



Erin Wylie, Guitar/Vocals (L) and Kristen Nayar, Vocals (R) performing their mash up of “Thrift Shop/No Diggity”



Friday 7th 21st 28th November 2014

2D2 Students Beth Williamson Vocals (L), Abhai Ponna Piano (C) and Anthony Hall Acoustic Guitar (R), performed Green Day’s Good Riddance (Time of your Life) at

Braemar, Dunvagan & Tantallon House assemblies.



Friday 28th November 2014

Tynecastle instrumental students performed at the City of Edinburgh Council Instrumental Music Service Fanfare Concert at Central Hall.

Evie Brownlee 5D and Alix Robertson 3D2 performed with Edinburgh Schools Symphony Orchestra on Cello

Jessica Lloyd 2D2 and Robyn Hill 2B2 performed with Edinburgh Schools Senior Wind Band on Trumpet

Friday 5th December 2014

Tynecastle percussion students performed at the Childline Winter Concert as part of the Edinburgh North Percussion Ensemble.

Morgan McEwan 1T2, Nooriya Ali 2D2, Finlay MacIntyre 3T1, Carlidh Campbell 4B2

Monday 8th December 2014

Tynecastle percussion students performed at the Closing Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games Events at Meadowbank Stadium as part of the Edinburgh North Percussion Ensemble.

Morgan McEwan 1T2, Nooriya Ali 2D2, Finlay MacIntyre 3T1, Carlidh Campbell 4B2

Friday 12th December 2014

Tynecastle musicians from S1-S5 performed at the annual Carrickvale Community Centre Christmas Concert.

'Let it Go'

Vocals: Rebecca Tant 1B2 Elle Bisset 1T2 Jamie-lee Hart 1T2 Tasnia Miah 1T2

Morgan McEwan 1T2 Kayla Ramage 1T2 Kristen Nayar 5B Chloe McIntyre 5B Erin Wylie 5D Rachel Finnie 5T

Acoustic Guitar: Julio Marcello Pedro 1B2 Jake Cunningham 5D

Keyboard: Daniel Stranger 1B2

Glockenspiel: Erin Wylie 5D

Bass Guitar: Maya Watson 1D1, James Murray 5T

Stand by Me

Electric Guitar: Harvey Lyne 2B2 Dean Thomason 2B2

Bass Guitar: Moses Urhie 2B2 George Fenton Hunt 2B2

Good Riddance (Time of your life)

Vocals: Beth Williamson 2D2

Piano: Abhai Ponna 2D2

Acoustic Guitar: Anthony Hall 2D2

Cello Trio - The Snowman

Evie Brownlee 5D

Alix Robertson 3D2

Caitlin Monro 2B2

Trumpet Trio Oh Come all ye Faithful

Rebecca Tant 1B2

Robyn Hill 2B2

Jessica Lloyd 2D2

Violin Trio: Silent night & Jingle Bells

Ada Poziemska 2D1

Ewa Bohdan 2D1

Savana Salkeld 2D1

S1 JASS Choir

Caravan of Love, Auld Lang Syne & Christmas selection

Emma Alexander 1D1, Amy Anderson 1B1, Rebecca Banks 1T1, Megan Fraser 1T1, Jasmin Graham 1B1, Jordan Jamieson 1B1, Rachel Lewis 1B1, Chloe McLean 1T1, Natasha Murphy 1B1, Abbie Preston 1T1, Demi Preston 1T1, Jennifer Shek 1B1, Alana Thomson 1D1, Kelly Zheng 1B1

PDA

Working in the Community

S3 PDA group have been working on their community project and have

visited local shelter housing. They decided that they would like to have a link with elderly in community and to see what could be done to have a link between Tynecastle and elderly in community.

One of the suggestions was to visit Scottish National museum, which was done over two weeks Tuesday 8th September and Tuesday 16th September. This was enjoyed by both students and residents sharing knowledge and experiences.

The students also made up pack lunches for residents which they sat down and enjoyed before the trip



Residents from Chesser House and Stenhouse mill wind outside museum

S4 PDA cemetery and coffee morning

S4 PDA group have been working on practical abilities where they must provide a service or volunteer within

their community. They decided to clean up the commonwealth war



graves at North Merchston cemetery and Dalry. Cleaning up deserted graves, painting gates and re-staining benches which they got permission from owners to do so.

During their time cleaning graves and weeding them Levi Russell discovered a grave that was from 1873 Boar War where the man had received Victoria Cross. James Davis



served with the Black Watch, Levi was really pleased with his find. Levi took a photo of this and we updated it to Black Watch Facebook Page lots of positive comments from serving soldiers.



Coffee morning



PDA group had a staff coffee morning on Friday 26th September to raise money for Macmillan they raised total of £279.44 in 20 minutes it was also a nice way for staff to say farewell to Mr J Simpson who retired after 36 years at Tynecastle



Social Subjects

Battlefields trip



On the 10th September 30 students and four staff set off on the Tynecastle High school Centenary WW1 Battlefields Trip. Everyone was in agreement that it was a very special experience, particularly in the centenary year marking the outbreak of this terrible and momentous conflict. Amy Meechan one of the S5 students who took part, described her experiences:



"The battlefields trip to Belgium was very moving and interesting. We

visited many cemeteries where the bodies of the soldiers that lost their lives in World War 1 are buried. We visited places that 100 years ago would have been where the battles took place e.g Newfoundland Park which is owned by Canada. Because many Canadian soldiers were stationed there, this is where the battle of the Somme took place. We saw the Thiepval Memorial which is a memorial for all the missing of the battle of the Somme, there are 72,195 names on this memorial.

We went bowling on the Friday night and that was a lot of fun. I learnt a lot about WW1 that I didn't know before and it was an honour to pay respect to those who lost their lives fighting for their country. I would encourage anyone who gets the opportunity to go on a trip like this to take it because it is incredibly interesting."



Four students were specially selected to be THS's representatives and take part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. This ceremony has taken place every day at 8 o'clock since 1928 except when Belgium was occupied during WW2.



Some of the students who came on the trip have volunteered to pass on what they saw and experienced to the rest of the student body in a special assembly. We have also been asked to take part in a WW1 centenary memorial service taking place at the Gorgie Memorial Hall on the 11th of November. We hope to offer a future opportunity to take part in this rewarding and valuable experience in 2016, which will also coincide with the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Ms L Howie

The students selected were two S5s: James Gibson, Kristen Nayar; and two S4s: Matthew McLaughlin and Amber Lee. They were chosen as staff felt they had truly committed to the spirit of the trip and appeared to have gained the most from visiting the sites.



Milkolay Durczak in S5 along with his father did some research into his family's involvement into WW1 prior to the trip. Milkolay managed to find out where his Great Grandfather's remains were buried- Langemarcke German Cemetery.



His Great Grandfather Kazimierz Saskowski fought on behalf of the Prussian army, he was a telegraphist and lost his life on 5th November 1918, 6 days before the end of the war.



Milkolay found his name on the memorial in the Langemarcke Cemetary and was able to pay his respects on behalf of his family.

Ms L Howie

National Poetry Day

Thursday 2nd October 2014

This year all Tynecastle High School students were given the opportunity to view a power point presentation on the life and work of the World War I poet Wilfred Owen. They were then invited to take part in a poetry competition on the theme of 'Remembrance'. There were an impressive 58 entries and the standard was so high it made

deciding on the winners a very difficult task indeed.



Eva Smiles 2B1 was the outright winner for her outstanding poem.



Raymond Pearson 1B2 and Robyn Hill 2B2 were both highly commended.



A display of student entries can be viewed on the noticeboard immediately outside the library.



Well done to all of our students who took part!

Mrs C Kerr

Art



The advanced Higher Art and Design students visited the Tramway Arts

Centre in Glasgow to see the exhibition of Advanced Higher SQA work. This was an excellent opportunity to see some of the best



work from across Scotland. It was a great experience in offering them inspiration and ideas for the creation of their own portfolio of work.



Students attending Michael Burns, Naz Aguado

Mrs S Primrose

Science

On Wednesday the 5th of November our carefully selected team of four together with Ms. Davis went for an exciting trip to The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh, for a day filled with absorbing workshops and

compulsive lectures. After a quick bus journey we were finally there, bang on time for the first part of the day – a scrumptious lunch. An alluring buffet dressed with tonnes of sandwiches, spring rolls, spinach baguettes and pakora sticks was waiting for us, inviting to dig in. And so after many second helpings we joined a group with Leith Academy and Drummond Community High School and workshops began. The first one: 3 Pathogens up close. We went into a big laboratory classroom, which scale couldn't be compared to any one the labs we had seen before. Each of us, professionally dressed up in a lab coat and latex gloves, worked in pairs following an instruction sheet in order to perform six tests: gram staining, catalase test, clumping factor, DNase, hyaluronidase and haemolysis on sheep blood agar, of which results we had to use in order to identify bacterial species. Before this however, we received a brief training of how to use certain apparatus and learned that normally 1st year students would have three days to prepare these experiments and perform them in exactly same way as us! At the end we successfully identified the bacteria as *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Ola Poziemska 5D



The second part of the trip was in the microscopes room. The room had a principle microscope in the middle of the room. Another 12 microscopes was attached to the principle one. The pathologist, show us many types of pre-prepared blood slides. Healthy blood from animals (pandas, dogs, monkeys), and blood with cancer in different stages. We saw the blood cells represented by a red colour and the cancer represented by a purple colour. I enjoyed all the parts of the trip, and I recommend a visit to that university.

Irina Savu 5D



We also got an amazing opportunity to see whole dissection of a sheep. First we had to wear white suits and plastic overshoes.

In one room there were animal organs that had already been dissected. We were also asked to wear gloves, to be able to touch the organs. We could touch the sheep's kidney, and we could compare a horse brain and sheep brain.

On a big metal table in the middle of the post mortem room was a dead sheep with an incision along its belly. We saw a dissection of each of the sheep's 4 stomachs.

This experience showed us the reality of being a vet. It definitely helped us to make the decision, if we really want to do this job. I'm sure that I'll never forget the skills I gained and I'll be looking forward to another dissection trip.

Julia Jemiolo 5T

There were three talks/presentations at the end of the event which were extremely interesting. The first man that spoke gave us an insider view on what it is like to be a pathologist. The second person was a woman who

enjoyed marine pathology. She investigates mammals such as dolphins and whales that swim ashore but unfortunately are usually found dead. Sometimes they are so big that they do not fit into a vehicle and cannot be taken back to the lab therefore they have to be dissected in the exact place they were found. The last man spoke about how he went to London and dissected a Russian criminal to find the cause of his death. Upon arriving he discovered there were many tattoos engraved on the dead man's body, one of which was a dagger. The dagger, when tattooed on the back, is a symbol of the crimes he has committed. This dead man had a dagger tattooed on the front of his body apparently because he was so proud of the crimes he had committed. He also had "Don't Kill the Sleeping" tattooed onto his eyelids, in order to scare away potential murderers.

Nawshin Ridi 5D

Ms K Davis

Modern Languages

S1 Gaelic and Mandarin

S1 have been experiencing Gaelic and Mandarin as part of their Modern Languages lessons. Currently two S1

classes are working with Mr Neithercut in Gaelic and the other two are working with Ms Xu in Mandarin. After Christmas, the classes will swap over! This is a fantastic opportunity to learn some basic phrases in both languages and explore the culture too.

Some students had already learned Gaelic at primary but are enjoying learning more at Tynecastle. The students who have never done the language before are relishing the challenge and have particularly enjoyed the games which are helping them to learn. They are currently working on creating presentations about themselves using the Gaelic language they have learned.

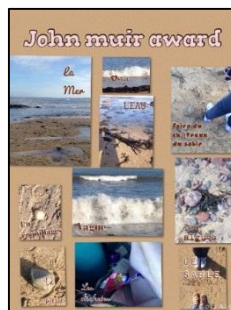
The other set of S1 classes have been learning about China and have recently been practising how to talk about sports and their likes and dislikes. This has involved watching short clips related to the Youth Olympics which took place Nanjing in August 2014.

The Modern Languages department are excited to share S1's achievements with everybody soon.

S3 John Muir

S3 classes have been contributing to their John Muir Award in their French lessons this term. Students

have had the opportunity to research facts about John Muir by completing group reading tasks in class and learning new vocabulary related to the environment.



Students also had a very successful trip to Dunbar, organised by Social Subjects, where they carried an iPad



French dictionary exercise on the beach. Students then created some fantastic posters using the new vocabulary in their next French lessons. Work by Amy Begbie 3T1, Georgia Oats 3D2 and Becky MacKenzie 3B1



Spanish Lessons

Our S2 and S3 classes will experience a taster of Spanish after Christmas until the February holidays. Students in S2 will be learning about Spanish culture including food and drinks and the S3 classes will be learning about employability and the European Union. Buena Suerte.

National 5 French

Leckie and Leckie have recently published a success guide ok for French at National 5 level. It's a really valueable resource, useful for revision of topics. It contains all 4 themes (Society, culture, learning and employability) as well as grammar pointers and preparation for the final exams. Listening files are included too! See Mrs McGinley if you would like to order a copy.

Mrs D McGinley

English

Theatre Trip

A group of S5/6 students enjoyed an English department trip to the Lyceum Theatre in November to see the Scottish play 'Bondagers'. The play is about the tough and challenging lives of Scottish women agricultural workers in the mid-nineteenth century. We all enjoyed the clever stage set in which the whole stage was covered with earth to represent the fields where the women toiled and there was some fantastic singing.

S1/2 Library Workshops

S1/2 students have recently enjoyed taking part in one of two different workshops in conjunction with Edinburgh Libraries. Lindsey and Tony from the Glitz Lit and Level Up library groups gave students a taster session of the fun activities libraries are offering young readers and we're really pleased to hear some of our students have joined their groups at local libraries.

Scottish Book Week

All students have been invited to make a reading pledge for Scottish Book Week (24th-30th November). The aim of the pledges is to encourage students to consider their reading habits and think about how they could increase the amount they

read or challenge themselves to read a greater variety of texts. We've seen some fantastic pledges- everything from reading for ten minutes every day to reading two books a week!

Ms L Barnett

Parent Council

Parent Council News

The Parent Council are pleased to have welcomed several new members this year as well as a new chairperson, Sue McKendrick. Sue would like to thank the previous chairperson, Mary Brownlee, for her excellent work over several years including organising the very successful Burns Supper and ceilidh, and establishing in our calendar the Tynecastle Summer Fair.

Student Subsidy for Burns Supper

We have pleasure in announcing that there will be another Burns Supper with entertainment and ceilidh band on Friday 30th January 2015 – we hope you will be able to support this event. Numbers are limited so get your tickets early (cheques dated 30th January will be accepted!) and don't miss out on this unique opportunity to attend a traditional Scottish Burns night. The tickets are only £12.50 for an adult (approximately cost price) and we will subsidise the student

tickets at this event which will be just £8.

Calling all Bakers and Tablet Makers

We would be grateful for any donations of tablet, fudge and home baking to be handed in to the school on 30th January for use at the Burns Supper.

Parent Council Funding Across the School

We are delighted that the Parent Council have agreed to fund £1850 of projects across the school including:

£400 English Departments World Book Day Author Visit

£270 Subsidy of students Burns nights tickets (£8 instead of £12.50)

£250 Music department jack leads, drum sticks, saxophone reeds and subsidy on music tutor books.

£250 John Muir Award resources and subsidy for Dunbar trip

£200 JASS/PE - Tamper-proof lock for bike shed; oil; brake pads; Hi-Vis vests

£150 Radio Station Renewal of Licence

Fee
£100 PDA Resources for community projects.

£100 Computer Science Club
Raspberry Pi starter kits
£85 Modern Languages Annual
subscription to website: "Grow Story
Grow"

£45 Library Book Token prizes for
National Poetry Day

£20 Materials for repotting of plants
in student support area

Why not submit a request for funding
for your lunch time club to be
considered in the next round of
funding? Please see Angela Bell for
details.

Free Fundraising through Online Shopping

For those of you who do online
shopping for groceries, Christmas
presents, holidays, phones, insurance
etc, we would be very grateful if you
would do this via easyfundraising as
it's a way of fundraising that doesn't
cost you any extra. You can visit most
major retailers (such as Amazon,
John Lewis, M&S) via
easyfundraising.org.uk. Once you've
ordered, the retailer makes a
donation to your chosen good cause.
There are already a small number of
people raising donations for
Tynecastle High School and we have
raised over £320 so far and
rising! Email Sue

([TynecastlePC@mckendrick-
family.uk](mailto:TynecastlePC@mckendrick-family.uk)) and she can send you a link
which will raise an extra £1 for inviting
you or visit the school website for
more details. It's a lovely way to give
something back for free!

Tower of London Poppies

To mark the centenary
commemoration of the start of World
War 1, the Parent Council has funded
the purchase of three Tower of
London Ceramic Poppies. We look
forward to their arrival and
subsequent display in school.

Come and Join Us!

The next parent council meeting will
be at 7pm on Tuesday 13th January
and subsequent meetings will be held
on 3rd March, 28th April, 2nd June
(AGM). Please contact Sue
([TynecastlePC@mckendrick-
family.uk](mailto:TynecastlePC@mckendrick-family.uk) or 0782 4449265) for more
details on the meetings or anything
else. If you like, Sue can add you to
her email list and you can find
minutes of previous meetings on the
new look school website.

Mrs S McKendrick PC Chair

Active School & Primary Transition

It's been a busy term in the cluster! We've had a great term with the extra-curricular clubs at both primary and secondary, rugby festivals, transition events, Scottish Basketball league games, football friendlies and working with the Sports Leaders and Young Ambassadors at the high school.

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, including Dalry and Craiglockhart Primary. The Sports Leaders have been a tremendous support with regular help and input from the Sports Leaders students.

Sports Leaders and Primary delivery

We've had a great term building upon transition links in the cluster. Active Schools and the PE department arranged senior Sports Leaders students to deliver to Dalry and Craiglockhart Primaries. The Sports Leaders delivered up to six weeks of sessions to P4 and P6 classes. This was excellent experience for the students to put their leadership skills

into practice and work with different ages and abilities.

Both primary classes had a fantastic time, with many pupils stating how much they enjoyed the high school facilities and one pupil stating sports leaders were great fun!

P6-7 Rugby Festival at Murrayfield

The Sports Leader students were fantastic at the primary event on 28th November. The Sports Students have ran a circuit of stations followed by a game for over 100 primary children. Both Stenhouse and Balgreen primary schools took part, enjoying a fun filled morning at Murrayfield. Feedback from staff, parents and pupils was excellent on the day – fab transition opportunity for the school pupils and Sports Leaders.

Sports Leaders

With the great help from the Sports Leaders, Active Schools and Mr McPartlin organised sports course training for the students. The sports leaders had the great opportunity to complete a basic rugby course and basketball referee officiating course. These courses have been a great help with the rugby festival and basketball cluster challenge.

Young Ambassadors

Two new Young Ambassadors were recruited this term. Jennifer Ward and James Gibson have been helping to promote the extra-curricular clubs at the high school by speaking to students, handing out flyers and helping with promotional materials.

Both James and Jennifer have been a great help in particular with promoting and recording the Wednesday lunch time club information.

Extra Curricular Clubs at the High School

The timetable of clubs can be found on the school website and notice boards. Clubs will start back in January – join up in the New Year!

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 at the high school.

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 High School and Cluster
Primaries*

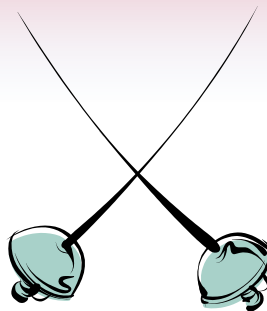


Wednesday Lunchtime Clubs

- Accounting
- Art
- Badminton
- Board Games
- Cool, Calm and Connected
- Craft and Jewellery



- Creative Writing
- Chemistry
- Dance
- Dodgeball
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Eco Group
- English
- Fencing



- Film
- Fitness in the Fitness Suite
- Football
- French
- Girls Group
- Global Citizen
- Homework
- Internet
- Library
- Music
- Puzzles
- School Radio Station
- Science
- Small Animal Caring
- Small Animal Management
- Table Tennis



Activity	Time	Where	Contact
S1 Dance	1 – 1.45pm	Small Games Hall	Miss Clarke
S1 Dodgeball	1 – 1.45pm	Large Games Hall	Sports Leaders
S1 – S6 Football	1 – 1.45pm	Astro Pitch	Sports Leaders
S1 – S6 Basketball	1 – 1.45pm	Large Games Hall	Sports Leaders
S3 – S6 Fitness	1 – 1.45pm	Fitness Gym	Mr Revolta Mr Urquhart
S1 Table Tennis	1 – 1.45pm	Assembly Hall	Sports Leaders
S1 Tennis	1 – 1.45pm	Astro Pitch	Sports Leaders
S3 Football	1 – 1.45pm	Astro Pitch	Mr Brown
S1-S6 Fencing	1-1.45pm	Large Games Hall	External (See Mr McPartlin)

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

After School Activities

Day	Activity	Time	Where	Contact
Monday	S3 - 4 Dance	3.30 – 4.30pm	Small Games Hall/ Assembly Hall	Miss Clarke
	Girls Football	3.30 – 4.45pm	Astro Pitch	Miss Moultray
	S1 – S6 Hockey (boys and girls)	4.30 – 5.30pm	Astro Pitch	Emma
Tuesday	S1 – S3 Basketball	3.30 – 4.45pm	Large Games Hall	Tom Griffin Miss Moyes
	S1 – S2 Dance	3.30 – 4.30pm	Small Games Hall	Miss Clarke
	S1 – S6 Badminton	3.30 – 4.30pm	Large Games Hall	Sports Leaders
	S1 – 3 Boys Football	3.30 – 4.30pm	Astro Pitch	Mr Rahimian Mr McPartlin
	S1-S6 Rugby	3.30 – 4.45pm	Astro Pitch	Bradley Moffat Mr Urquhart
Thursday	S3 - S6 Girls Basketball	3.30 – 4.45pm	Small Games Hall	Miss Gardner
	S4 – S6 Boys Basketball	3.30 – 6pm	Large Games Hall	Tom Griffin Miss Moyes

Information for Parents/Carers

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 Rahimian
Tantallon	Mr Cook

Depute Heads for 2014-2015

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
Absence line: 0131 337 0336

Email:

admin@tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

Website:

www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

Twitter: [@TynecastleHigh](https://twitter.com/TynecastleHigh)

Staff changes

We said farewell to:

Mr J Simpson

Maternity leave:

Mrs S Campbell

Ms T Welsh

At the end of term we will be saying farewell to:

Ms L Barry

Mrs P Sharp (DHT – seconded)

We welcomed:

Mr J Brown (CDT)

Ms S Crombie (English)

Ms J Fleming (Art)

Ms C Hay (Science)

Mr A Murphy (Science)

Mr J McPartlin (PE)

Mr R Neithercut (Gaelic)

Mr R Rahimian (Support for Pupils)

Ms M Taylor (Social Subjects)

Ms Q Xu (Mandarin)

Tynecastle High School – Newsletter Winter 2014

Tuesday 16 th December	The Snow Queen pantomime
Wednesday 17 December	The Snow Queen pantomime
Thursday 18 th December	Dress Down Day
Thursday 18 th December	S1-6 Ceilidhs
Friday 19 th December	Dress Down Day
Friday 19 th December	End of term assemblies
Friday 19 th December	Term ends
Monday 5 th January	Staff resume
Tuesday 6 th January	Students resume
Friday 9 th January	S4-6 Merits/demerits issued
Friday 9 th January	S4-6 Tracking Reports issued
Tuesday 13 th January	Parent Council meeting 7pm
Thursday 22 nd January	HPV injections (S2-S6 girls)
Friday 30 th January	Parent Council Burns Supper
Friday 30 th January	S2 Reports issued
Friday 30 th January	S2 Merits/demerits issued
Monday 2 nd February	S2 Parents' consultations
Monday 9 th February	National 5 prelims begin
Wednesday 11 th February	S3 Reports issued
Wednesday 11 th February	S1 & S3 Merits/demerits issued
Friday 13 th February	National 5 prelims end
Friday 13 th February	Mid-term break
Monday 23 rd February	Staff resume
Tuesday 24 th February	Students resume
Tuesday 24 th February	Higher and AH prelims begin
Thursday 26 th February	S3 Parents' Consultations
Monday 2 nd March	Higher and AH prelims end
Tuesday 3 rd March	Parent Council meeting 7pm
Thursday 12 th March	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio & Meningitis injections
Friday 27 th March	Senior Phase reports issued
Friday 27 th March	Senior phase Merits/demerits issued
Thursday 2 nd April	Term ends
Tuesday 21 st April	All resume

Tynecastle High School

2 McLeod Street

Edinburgh

EH11 2ND

Website: www.tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

Twitter: [@tynecastlehigh](https://twitter.com/tynecastlehigh)

Email: admin@tynecastle.edin.sch.uk

Tel: 0131 337 3488

