

Tynecastle

Challenge

Ambition

Responsibility

Enjoyment

Success

High

School



Newsletter Winter 2015



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Dear Parent/Carer

It seems incredible that the holidays are upon us and the first very busy term is over. Before starting as Head Teacher I had heard so many positives about the school but this term has far outweighed my expectations

Challenge - a real highlight has to be the two week trek across the Arctic with The Polar Academy which two of our students and one member of staff are planning for.

Ambition – our ambitious young people have achieved a great deal this term as you will see and we are building on this with our continued work on Growth Mindset for both staff and students.

Respect – particular highlights have been our outstanding work on MVP, as well as the extensive fundraising we have undertaken.

Enjoyment – whether attending the Debating Club, surfing at Bellhaven, performing in the pantomime or visiting NASA, our young people have had hugely enjoyable learning experiences beyond the classroom too.

Success – from our examination results in August to our Winter Windows' winner in December, the range of achievements of our students reflects the breadth of their talent.

A vibrant busy school with a reputation for innovation, hard work and caring, our newsletter will hopefully give you a flavour of what we have achieved.

However, this has only been possible with your support as well as that of our Student and Parent Councils so thank you. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy holiday and all the very best for 2016.

H Kinnear

Head Teacher

Whole School News

House Captains for 2015-2016

Braemar

Manish Jayant and Abbie McDowall

Dunvegan

Ola Poziemaska and Brooke Steele

Tantallon

James Gibson and Matthew

McDiarmid

Edinburgh's Intrepid Explorers

What have Captain Scott, Chloe Hogg and Sara Michno got in common? The answer is exciting. They are all intrepid explorers taking on some of Earth's coldest and least explored habitats. Next Easter students from Edinburgh, including Tynecastle's very own Chloe and Sara, will be embarking on a two week trek across the Arctic with The Polar Academy. The Academy's motto is "inspiration through exploration" and the students will take on the challenge of a life time -



proving that Edinburgh's students can achieve anything.

Chloe Hogg and Sara Michno

The Expedition Team will include ten carefully selected students, a team of experts and Biology teacher Mrs Clarke. They will be camping under the Northern Lights in Greenland; traversing across sea ice; experiencing temperatures below -20°C; skiing for 8 hours a day; hauling 45 kg sledges; communicating with local Inuit hunting groups; and conducting scientific research for the European Space Agency.

Supporting the Expedition Team over the next seven months will be the Leadership Team which includes another ten Edinburgh students, including Tynecastle's Rebecca Alexander. They will be taking part in the intensive training program and gaining all the skills required to take on the expedition.



Rebecca Alexander

The expedition will be tough but it will be life changing. The project will show Edinburgh's young adults that they can achieve anything with enough hard work, preparation and belief and on their return Sara and Chloe will share their story in schools across Edinburgh to help inspire others to realise their goals.

Refugee Collection

Tynecastle would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who contributed towards the refugee donations collection. The many bags of clothes, jackets, toiletries and bedding will be hugely appreciated by those in a less fortunate situation. The donations were delivered to the charity CalAid who were more than delighted to receive them.

Mrs S Clarke



2B2 tutor group with the collection

Pantomime

The school pantomime this year was Cinderella. It was quite a bumpy road this year, due to staff ill-health, but this has pulled us closer together as a family and made us appreciate every laugh and clap even more than last year. A special mention has to go to Mhairi in S1 as she took on the role of an Ugly Sister with only 10 days until first performance and coped very well. This pantomime wouldn't have been possible without a lot of people but special mentions go to Ms Johnson for being our producer, including organising the stage ninjas; Ms Wallace for directing sound and music; Mr Harrison for organising lighting and of course Ms McPhee for being our director.

Manish Jayant

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 29th 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.

This year for the first time our S1s have been taking part in the Mentors In Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme in tutor group time on Friday mornings. This programme focuses on developing positive relationships and creating an inclusive culture in our school that proactively prevents and deals with all types of bullying behaviour. Individuals are not identified as perpetrators or victims but as empowered bystanders who can support their friends and classmates. Our S5 & S6 students are trained as mentors to deliver peer to peer sessions in the school.

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 and in last year's survey 79% of students who had experienced bullying behaviour said that Tynecastle was either good or very good at dealing with bullying and 80% said that after they had reported it, something was done about it. 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. We shared these encouraging results with students in our November assemblies.

S1 JASS Award – Gold Level

All S1 students this year are participating in the Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS). 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 knitting pet blankets for the Edinburgh Cat and Dog Home; Eco work at Gorgie Farm; Raising funds for Charity through fitness runs; Working with some local senior citizens to make diaries of their lives; Gardening in and around the school. Our Adventure Day is a day's cycle to Cramond. Half of the S1s managed to complete their cycle before the weather changed in October. The remaining classes will complete their cycle in the Spring when the better weather returns – hopefully!

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 online portfolio for all the JASS sections by writing up 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.

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 portfolio in One Note which they can access from home. The 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 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.

S1-3 Target Setting Reports

Teaching staff worked with all S1-3 students in September on identifying strengths and targets in each subject. These were issued to parents / carers in October. The subsequent 1-1 talk between Student Support teachers and students helps students take responsibility for identifying their next steps in learning and setting targets for themselves, which they record in their portfolio. Progress with these

targets will be commented on in the forthcoming full S2 and S3 reports which are due out in January.

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 after the October break. All S3s will also complete a John Muir Award in term 3. This award provides opportunities for outdoor learning in an interdisciplinary setting and is run by the Social Subjects faculty

S3 Gaelic Project with Stenhouse Primary School

In partnership with Iomairt eòlaidh Ghàidhlig Dhùn Èideann and the Scottish National Library and funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, 9 of our S3 students along with pupils from Stenhouse Primary School are taking part in a project which involves them in performing a drama with Gaelic vocabulary in the Western Isles in Spring/Summer 2016. The drama is the story of the sinking of the *Iolaire*. Here is a summary of the story:

It is 1918, the Great War is over. The men from Lewis and Harris were coming home on His Majesty's Yacht Iolaire, but, the horror was not over for the islands. The loss of The Iolaire, New Year's Day 1919 is one of the most

tragic events to befall the Western Isles as over 200 Lewis and Harris men were drowned in sight of Stornoway harbour lights. Through drama, Gaelic poetry and song the pupils will take us back to that black time in our history.

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, our PE faculty and our Social Studies faculty. We have also welcomed the P5s to the PE faculty to work with our Community Sports Leaders' Award students. This award provides many opportunities for our senior students to develop their teaching and delivering of sporting skills. To put these newly attained qualifications into action, the sports leaders have delivered sessions to pupils at Dalry Primary School and Craiglockhart P5 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.

4/5/6 Round Up

House Captains

This year's S6 House Captains are great student representatives, and have been working hard alongside staff to make Tynecastle an even better place to learn.



Braemar – Manish Jayant and Abbey McDowall



Dunvegan – Ola Poziemka and Brooke Steele



Tantallon – James Gibson and Matthew McDiarmid

As well as leading student Assemblies and helping to organise and run Student Council Meetings with Ms Taylor and Mrs Bell, the Captains have a range of responsibilities... Here we see Olia, James and Manish decorating the school's Christmas tree.

Positive Destinations for All

This session a high number of post-16 students chose to return to school in August. 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 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 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.

ZEST

ZEST (Zoo Education Skills and Training) is a course run by Edinburgh Zoo. Each week we visit the Zoo and work alongside staff and students from other schools to gain an understanding of what it is like to work with animals and children (visitors to the Zoo).

In ZEST we have learned about co-operating in teams. We have also learned about different species and habitats. We even went on a trip up to the Cairngorms to learn about the wildcat conservation that takes place there. We stayed overnight in

Aviemore with students from other schools and visited the Highland Wildlife Park.

We have worked closely with all different types of animals and we have been learning about the different types of care plans and enrichments for animals in the Zoo. ZEST has been a great experience so far and an amazing opportunity for both of us.

Amber Lee and Carlidh Campbell S5

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, MVP (Mentors in Violence Programme) and Buddying. We look forward to developing further our Wider Achievement Programme, including accreditation and awards for our young people.

Mark Scott Leadership Award

Time for adventures

At the end of spring some of the S5 students (current S6) had an opportunity to see a presentation about The Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award. It was presented by instructors working on this project. Interested students were invited to apply, with only two places available: Zuzanna Marchewka and Jurgita Strungyte were chosen as participants to represent Tynecastle high school.

The leadership for life programme involves 12 young people from different backgrounds being brought together for a team building course. Participants in the programme are given training in various skills including team building, project planning, marketing, presentation of budgets and project monitoring. Thereafter members of each group separate into two project teams and identify a community project which typically takes around 6 months to deliver. The aim of the project is to organise an event lasting 3 days which will make a difference to others in the team's local community. When group members have successfully completed the programme and have delivered their community project they will receive the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award.

At the end of September there was a week-long residential course at Loch Eil. Zuza and Jurgita met many other students from all around Scotland who were also participating in The Mark Scott Leadership for Life award.

They tackled challenging activities based on teamwork such as raft designing and building, an expedition to Ben Nevis, and outside climbing and clambering on Jacob's ladder. These activities taught the young people how to overcome fears and encourage team mates even when you think you might want to give up. At the end of each day Jurgita and Zuzanna had a chance to share ideas and opinions with the rest of the team.

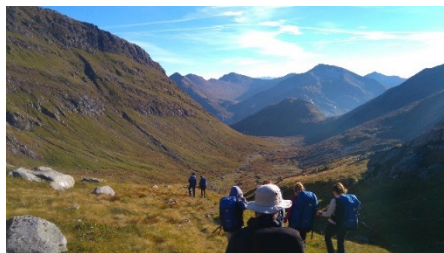
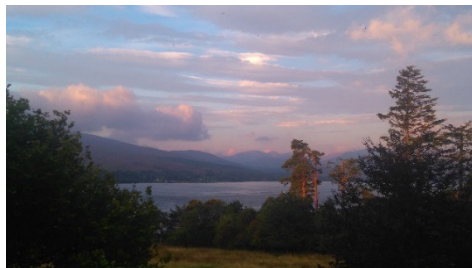
Once they completed their residential course, the girls started attending weekly meetings with their team mates. Their aim is to develop their community project. A few weeks ago they came up with the idea to teach 3 foreign languages: Mandarin, Polish and Lithuanian. Currently the team are looking for community centres where they would be able to teach young people. The community project has to be completed at the end of February and in March Jurgita and Zuza will go to the award ceremony. The girls look forward to

achieving the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award.



Jurgita Strungyte and Zuza Marchewka S6

...and some more wonderful images from their residential trip. Thank you Jurgita and Zuza!



SQA Examinations

For many of our senior students, Prelim Exams begin soon after our return to school, on Monday 11 January 2016. We wish all our young people well in these important assessments and beyond; we all know that hard work always yields its own reward.

Extra-Curricular

Surfing Trip to Belhaven Bay

Ten brave students from S1-S6 braved the chilly waters of the Firth of Forth recently on a surfing trip to Belhaven Bay near Dunbar. The waves were a massive 8-10ft in size but good fun was had by all and there were some impressive wipe outs. More trips to come in the summer term.

Mr C Harrison



James Gibson, Matthew Mcdiarmid, Darek Nowicki, Ben Robertson, Christina McCardle, Finlay Macintyre, Ola and Ada Poziemka and Richard and Jane Ambler.



Darek, Finlay and Richard racing to get in.

Polar Training

Whilst some relaxed or enjoyed the sun this holiday, the Polar Academy team camped in freezing temperatures and climbed some very big hills!

Chloe, Rebecca and Sara all went on a 6 day residential in Aviemore to learn skills involving tents, stoves, polar bear fences and navigation that will all be used in Greenland. As

part of the leadership team Rebecca then had a couple days gaining skills in canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling and archery.

Sara and Chloe along with the expedition team had a mini expedition in the Cairngorms, involving climbing 2 Munros in 2 days and reaching the top of the third biggest hill in the UK! The team was absolutely fantastic – showing motivation, determination and endurance in very cold temperatures. The girls feasted on dehydrated meals that they will be eating in Greenland and learnt the importance of working together as part of a team whilst making great friends from other schools.

The girls are standing their fundraising for the expedition and any support would be hugely appreciated.



Chloe Hogg and Sara Michno

Congratulations to the girls on such a great effort - bring on Greenland!

Interview with Ms Howie



Why did you choose to study your subject?

I have always loved History, my dad used to take me to random places like ruined castles and old graveyards and I think my love for the subject began then. At school I was swithering between English and History to take up at Uni, but in the end I chose History. I think it's because I'm noseey and like learning about peoples' lives!

Why did you become a teacher?

I knew that I wanted to have a career involving History. Academic didn't really appeal to me and I really wanted to work with young people and teach them about the past.

Did you always want to be a teacher?

No - when I was younger I really wanted to be an actress. I loved drama, but I hated the audition process and turned to teaching instead. The two jobs are similar in the sense that I have to speak to an audience, so I still get to perform but in a more worthwhile way.

What's the best part of your job?

For a start, every day is different. Each day I have different classes where I teach different topics, so no two days are the same. The best part of my job, though, is watching the growth and development of the students. I love that I am helping people expand their knowledge and hopefully making a difference to their lives, especially if they plan on continuing history when they leave school. And I get to have fun and be silly and do amazing things outside of the classroom like the Battlefields Trip and the Panto.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

I will most likely still be teaching history, but whether or not it's at Tynecastle who knows!

If you weren't a teacher, what would you do?

I'd probably become a tour guide. To get paid for exploring Edinburgh and telling people all about its history would be amazing.

Who was your inspiration growing up?

My family. My dad in particular was a very hard worker, who supported me throughout my life and encouraged me to do History. He always wanted to be a Geography teacher so in a way I am living out his dream. My sister was a big influence too as she decided to move to Edinburgh for university and I sort of followed her here. My mum and my brother are awesome too!

What type of music do you listen to?

I like most genres, but that's a pretty bad answer. My favourite band are Belle and Sebastian whom I have seen 5 times, and once in a really small gig in the Glasgow student union which was amazing. I like singer songwriters like Neil Young, John Grant and Joanna Newsome. I also like anything you can dance to, my ultimate dancing music would be to some classic Motown.

Do you have any pets, and if so, what are they called?

I don't have any pets myself, but my parents do. They have a dog called Selkie which means seal in Gaelic because she looked like a baby seal when she was a puppy.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy cooking in my free time, and also watching food-related programmes. Apart from that, I spend a lot of time playing with my nieces and taking them out on trips to various places.

Interview with Mr Laydon who began teaching at Tynecastle in August of this year.



What do you teach?

I teach English, however I have also previously taught Media and Drama.

Where are you from?

I am from Edinburgh, Bruntsfield to be precise.

Where and what did you study?

I first studied English and Art History in Glasgow and then I went onto studying acting at the Webber & Douglas Academy in London which doesn't exist anymore because it merged with another drama school.

Which three items would you take to a desert island?

If people count then I would take my wife and daughter because they would be heartbroken without me. I like music and I would take a solar powered iPad to listen to music. I'm an English teacher so I should probably pick a book... It may be a bit cliché but I would pick the complete works of Shakespeare.

Your biggest achievement so far?

Of course I would go with my little daughter but I am also proud to pass my driving test on my 5th try at the age of 30 because I failed so many times but never gave up.

Favourite movie quote?

'This is the start of a beautiful friendship.'

What made you want to be a teacher?

I like working with children and helping them through the most important time in their lives.

If you had a theme tune what would it be?

'Three Little Birds' by Bob Marley because I like the message behind it about being happy.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

Still teaching, possibly on a desert island with only 3 items..!

Would you rather fight 50 duck sized horses, or one horse sized duck?

Well I'm not really a fighter. I would fight 50 duck sized horses because I like ducks too much to fight them. They are so cute!

*James Gibson and Matthew
McDiarmid*

Faculty News

English

Three groups of Tynecastle students enjoyed English Department trips to the Edinburgh International Book Festival during August. S5/6 went to hear Brian Conaghan and Andrew Smith at the *Coming of Age* event on 24th August. Although the audience were initially shy about asking these two authors about their work, after hearing extracts from their hilarious novels the questions couldn't be held back. The length of the queue in the signing tent was a testament to how much students enjoyed this event.

The following day S2 went to hear Steve Feasey at *Fictional Futures*, and had a great time hearing about his post-apocalyptic *Mutant* series. The final trip involved S3/4 hearing *The*

Dangerous Stories of Catherine Bruton and Salla Simukka, and this was as successful as the preceding events. We can't wait for next year's festival!

Mrs L Barnett

It has been an exciting couple of weeks in the English Department with the recent launch of Debate Mate, a debate training programme for S1-4 students. Debate Mate has run successfully in England for some time but this is the first year it has been available in Scotland. On 3rd November a group of 10 students travelled through to Glasgow to attend the inspiring launch event at the Glasgow University Union. Students were introduced to the programme and watched a show debate by the Debate Mate trainers on the controversial topic of whether or not Irn Bru should be banned!

The first official Tynecastle Debate Mate session ran on Thursday 12th November with a fantastic turnout of 16 students. Our trainers, Lisa and Marina, took students through lots of fun and engaging exercises and participation was very active.

Students had a great time and really impressed our mentors with their enthusiasm and intelligence.

Debate Mate will run every Thursday from 3.30-4.30 and is open to all S1-4.

Mrs L Barnett

Modern Languages

French

The Modern Languages Faculty would like to welcome our assistant in French, Laurie Guyard. Laurie will be working with our Senior French classes, helping students to prepare for AVU assessments and for talking assessments. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn from a native speaker.

Gaelic and Mandarin

In addition, we are also extremely pleased to have Mr R Neithercut working with us all day on a Thursday. Mr Neithercut is working with our S1 and S2 pupils, building upon their previous Gaelic experiences. Lui Jin, our Mandarin assistant, joined us in September. Lui will be working with two of our feeder primary schools, Craiglockhart and Dalry as well as with our S1 and S2 students. In both Gaelic and Mandarin, students will

have the opportunity to learn about the language as well as the culture.

S3 Gaelic Project

The Modern Languages Faculty have been given the fantastic opportunity to participate in a Gaelic Project working with our visiting specialists Yvonne Forrest and Ann Patterson and some of the Primary 7 students from Stenhouse primary. This project will involve students writing and performing a play in Gaelic based on the Iolair Disaster of 1919. Students will also be involved in writing and performing songs and poetry in Gaelic. There will be an opportunity for the students involved to participate in researching the disaster at the National Library of Scotland. In addition, once the play has been created and rehearsed, students will share their performance with the local community and with communities further afield, in Lewis and in Harris. Watch this space for further updates!

European Day of Languages

Bonjour! Hola! Ni hao! Ciao!

There are over 25 languages spoken by Tynecastle Students and this was celebrated with some fun European Day of Languages events. All S1 – S3

classes took part in a languages quiz, the highlight of which was Mrs West's Bushtucker Trial. Students had to be blindfolded and test different European foods. The German Haribo was definitely a hit! There was also an opportunity to take part in the QR code hunt around the school to scan questions about the languages spoken in Europe. Well done to Pranith Gowda in S1 who won the quiz and is off home with a fantastic haul of prizes.

Mrs D McGinley

Technologies

Cyber crime



Do you keep your passwords safe? Of course, you update your Security Suite regularly, don't you? You're fairly safe from hackers, right? Ever wondered how safe your information really is? S3 Computing Science found out just how much information is stolen each year and

why perhaps we are a little too comfortable allowing others to look after our data! Guest speaker Matt Little, CTO of ZoneFox (a Cyber Security Company), brought home the reality of the cyber-warfare the rages on 365 days a year!

Students had the opportunity to take part in a 'real life' exercise, carried out by organisations across the globe, used to reduce potential security threats. A figure that may perhaps pique your interest is 1 billion, because that's the number (or rather over this number), of records stolen in security breaches within organisations last year alone. Just ask the S3 Computing Science students, the information they now have about cyber security may surprise you! Suffice to say, that you should not be asking 'if I will be hacked', but perhaps 'when will I be hacked'. Student quotes after the event include: "I found it very interesting", "I liked it, it was good", "He made cyber crime understandable", "He brought it at our level", "Good tips on how to protect your computer", "It was fun" and "It was very informative".



Students enjoyed the experience and are a little better equipped with knowledge (if sometimes worrying!) about cybercrime. We hope to have Matt back with us in the near future to help spread the message about data security and cybercrime.

You're fairly safe from hackers, right? Think your passwords and information is safe, maybe you should think again.

Mr W Spratt

Science

Florida trip

At 3:30am on Sunday the 11th of October, our journey began. After a five hour coach ride to Manchester, a stressful walk through Manchester Airport security and an eight hour flight we landed in Florida. Once we had unpacked, eaten dinner and cooled off in the hotel pool we settled in for the night, all looking forward to the week ahead. Day One: Universal Studios and Wonderworks! At the Universal Studios Theme Park

we were lucky enough to be given a behind the scenes tour. We had an exclusive look at how their different rides work, from the mechanical aspects to the special effects. We were also given information on different things they do around the park for example how they have thousands of audio clips playing at once in different locations, from small bits of dialogue in Cartoon Island to loud rock music in Marvel Island, all to add to the atmosphere. Once the tour was finished we were given some free time to enjoy ourselves in the park before we headed back for Wonderworks. Wonderworks began with a dinner of unlimited pizza and yes, it was as amazing as it sounds! All accompanied by a magical-comedy performance. We then went on to

walk around the building where we experienced minor hurricanes or earthquakes in simulators, had a go in a human gyroscope, played laser tag, went on a high ropes course and got an impromptu lesson on black



holes from Mr Call using a penny drop.

Day Two: SeaWorld and the NBA Game! We started off the day at SeaWorld where we were given a tour and got up close and personal with some of their sea creatures like manatees, seals, sting rays and sharks. We got to stroke the sting rays and sharks too! Then we got taken to watch the sea-lion and otter performance and the orca show. Once these were finished our tour guide bid us farewell and we were given free time to go around the SeaWorld theme park. After SeaWorld we sped back to the hotel and then left again in time to get to the basketball game. We were sat really high up in the stadium, Orlando Magic won and we got to go down and take a photo on the court when the game was finished, so it was a great experience!



Day Three: Busch Gardens! Unfortunately the education

programme at Busch was no longer running so our teachers became our tour guides. They explained some of the things that we might have learned and took us all on the train ride round the safari to see all the animals. After that we were given free time to look around, look at some animals and go on rides. Busch gardens was definitely one of my highlights as it was the first time I have ever seen a white tiger in real life and the first time I have been brave enough to ride a roller coaster. When we got back from Busch gardens we were given the choice of staying and relaxing in the hotel, going out to the shops or going to a nearby arcade before we had to come back and go to sleep.

Day Four: Wet 'n' Wild and Shopping! Wet 'n' Wild was definitely one of the most enjoyable activities on the trip. We were given the majority of the day to rest on the loungers, swim in the wave pool and go down the water rides. It was a nice change from the fast pace of the previous few days. After our swimming, relaxing and 'tanning' session we were taken to a huge shopping outlet where we got to spend a considerable amount of our holiday money.

Day Five: NASA! Breakfast at 6:30am and then we were on our way. As soon as we got there the cameras

were out and we were taking group photos in front of every cool-space-looking-thing we could find.



We then got shown into an atrium and got to hear talks from both our guide and an astronaut, John Blaha. It was very interesting how Blaha focused more on his childhood and what lead him to his incredible career than his actual journeys out into space. We were then challenged to build a rover out of a limited supply of basic stationary supplies and a few of the groups who either won or came second were awarded prizes. Later on we got a tour around the rocket garden and a coach out to see the massive buildings where they build and assemble the rockets. Without a doubt, the most impressive part of the NASA trip for me was walking under the Saturn V rocket and taking in its incredible size. After getting some souvenirs from the NASA gift

shop we headed back for our last night in the hotel.



Day Six: Re: Universal Studios and the Journey Home! We were surprised by the teachers with an extra day on the other side of the Universal Studios Theme Park, meaning we could go on everything we missed on Monday. It was a really nice way to end the trip. From there it was a simple 13 hours or so of journeying until we arrived back at school and - despite the fact that we would miss the sun, the brilliantly unhealthy food and the jam-packed schedule - I think we were all glad to be home for a rest.

Rachel Hall, S4

Art

Winter Windows Competition



Winner

Congratulations to Art and Design student Amelia Dziedzic 2D1. She produced one of the 25 winning designs in the Winter Windows competition from an entry of over 200.



Her

winning design will be displayed in in East Princes Street Gardens from the 26th November.

Ms S Primrose

Social Subjects

S3 History Trip to see Suffragette

On 3 November S3 History classes went to see Suffragette at the Film House. It was a great experience as we were the only classes in the school to get to see this new movie on the big screen. We went to see it because it was related to what we were learning about in class – Women and the Vote. We got to see their lives and how people lived in the early 1900s. It was a worthwhile time out of school as it was a good educational film. The teachers who came with us also enjoyed it. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who hasn't seen it.

Savana Salkeld 3D1

Lessons from Auschwitz 2015

This year we were fortunate to be given a place on the Holocaust Education Trust's 'Lesson From Auschwitz' course for the fifth year in a row. Students participate in a 4 part course where they meet a Holocaust survivor, flat to Poland and visit Auschwitz-Birkenau in a day, and finally take part in a follow up seminar where they plan a 'next steps' project to use their experience to educate

others about the dangers of prejudice and discrimination back in school. Two S6 students Elliot Buist and Lucie Meechan were chosen to represent the school and have written the following about their experience:

Elliot's Story

I was chosen to participate in the LFA visit to Auschwitz and it was a completely different experience as to how I would have imagined it. Listening to our survivor Ziggi was great, he gave a testament of his life to present day (the first memory to the last) and majority of his life was affected by the Holocaust and strangely a lot of it was a positive impact. The trip itself was not as how I anticipated, as a Jewish Rabbi later on told us; Auschwitz is just a plot of land, the birds still fly over and wildlife such as foxes occasionally make an appearance. I realised from this that it's those who were a victim of mass genocide for simply being Jewish should be what is in our memory and not just "Auschwitz-Birkenau" itself. Finally, the two main things that shocked/touched me the most from the trip was seeing the 100,000's of shoes, clothing, general home accessories and suitcases etc as it

represented every Jewish person that had hope and ventured to Auschwitz in an attempt to gain a better life for themselves – a sad thought really. Lastly, seeing the two tonnes of female hair in the glass casing the size of an average room; I had to come up with a little thought for my own perspective, whenever I go to the barbers to get a haircut, I get loads taken off and there is hardly anything on the floor so I had only imagine about how many lives had to be lost to produce 2000kg of hair.

Lucie's story:

My Auschwitz experience

I got the amazing opportunity to travel to Poland to visit Auschwitz which was a concentration camp during Hitler's time in power.

When I found out that I was chosen to go on the lessons from Auschwitz trip I felt extremely honoured to be able to represent my school with such an important opportunity. Before we went to Auschwitz we had the opportunity to listen to a survivor's story which was extremely moving and I can honestly say that it has positively effected many aspects of my life. After learning about the

holocaust and finally getting to visit Auschwitz I have completely changed as a person. I would definitely recommend anyone that has the opportunity to take part in the lessons from Auschwitz trip to go and to take as much from the experience as possible as this is a once in a life time opportunity. Since the trip I have thought a lot about discrimination and prejudice and how anyone can be affected and how important it is to treat everyone as equals. It has encouraged me to become a better person and I am extremely thankful for my opportunity to learn more about the holocaust and the different experiences people want through.

regular visits to the School Library with their English teachers. Students answered a variety of questions about Scottish authors, stories and poems, having hunted round the library to find questions and clues. At the end, a comic haggis was found lurking under the library counter!

All completed answer sheets were entered into a prize draw, resulting in at least one student from each class being selected for a small gift.

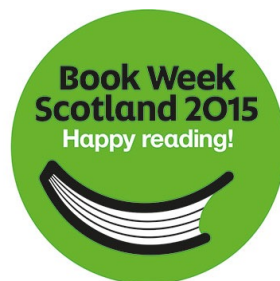
Well done to all S1 and S2 students who took part so enthusiastically in the “Haggis Hunt”.

Ms E Forrest

Library

Book Week Scotland 2015

Book Week Scotland, the annual celebration of books and reading, took place from 23rd – 29th November this year. To celebrate the event, S1 and S2 students took part in a “Haggis Hunt” during their



Parent Council



Invitation to a **BURNS NIGHT at TYNECASTLE HIGH SCHOOL**

You and your family are invited to our Burns Supper on Friday 29th January 6:45 pm til 11pm. It is always a fun evening and the ticket price of £12.50 for adults is excellent value for money as it includes entertainment, meal, coffee/tea and shortbread, and ceilidh band. The Parent Council subsidises the student price which is just £8. This year we will be piloting two non-haggis meal options so if you don't like haggis, this is your chance to come along! In addition to the traditional haggis, neaps and tatties, there will be a veggie haggis option, vegetarian casserole and sausage, beans and mash. Tickets will be available from the school office early in the New Year so don't miss out! Thanks to those students and teachers who participate and provide the entertainment and speeches.

The Parent Council has been delighted to provide the following Support for School Clubs and Departments:

- £420 for new strips – Basketball Teams
- £200 for workshop equipment – Senior Mechanics Club
- £180 requested by PE for the Sound system as noted above.
- £150 license for Tynie FM
- £150 for spare PE kit – PE Department.
- £100 for Ukuleles – Tynie Music Rocks Lunch Time Club
- £100 for supplies for Personal Development Award (PDSA S3/4) activities.
- £59.40 for iPad tripod and mount – ICT to enhance learning.
- £30 for supplies - Beauty and Nail Wednesday club
- £1,000 for school toward their contribution to Place2Be.

We have also been looking into the potential of applying for grant funding to further support the

school.

The Parent Council would love to see a few new faces at our meetings so please come along if you are able. Our next meetings are at 7 pm on:

- Monday 11 January 2016
- Tuesday 23 February 2016
- Monday 25 April 2016
- Tuesday 31 May 2016 (AGM)

Thanks for your support, Sue McKendrick (Chairperson)

Wednesday Lunchtime Clubs

- Accounting
- Art

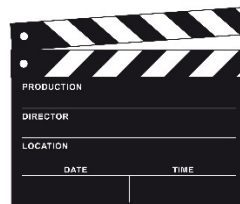


- Badminton
- Board Games

- Cool, Calm and Connected
- Craft and Jewellery
- Creative Writing
- Chemistry
- Dance

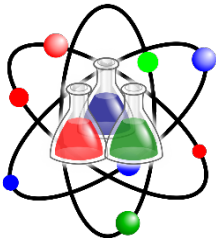


- Dodgeball
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Eco Group
- English
- Fencing
- Film



- 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!

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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)

Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

From January 2016, the income thresholds for Education Maintenance Allowances are increasing for those students born before 1 March 2000 and this means more students may qualify to receive weekly payments of £30 per week. The income threshold for families with one dependent child will increase from £20,351 to £24,421 and for those with more than one dependent child will increase from £22,403 to £26,884. If you believe your son or daughter will now qualify for an EMA you can find out more at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ema Applications can be submitted from 26 October 2015.

School immunisation programme

Immunisation helps protect our communities from a wide range of illnesses. Thanks to immunisation, diseases such as polio have disappeared in the UK. However, these diseases could come back as they are still seen in many countries throughout the world - which is why it's so important to get your jabs.

The NHS Lothian school nurse team carry out an annual immunisation programme. The vaccinations will be given in spring term 2016. Consent packs are being issued now. Please discuss the consent pack at home and return it to school as soon as you can.

The teenage booster to ensure protection from tetanus, diphtheria and polio will be offered to pupils in S3. This completes the programme, begun in infancy, to give life-long protection.

In addition this year all S3 – S6 pupils are recommended a meningitis vaccine (ACWY). This is to protect against the W strain of meningitis which is on the increase across the UK.

Staff changes

We said farewell to:

Ms P Brown (Active Schools)

Ms J Fleming (Art)

Mrs C Kerr (Library)

Mrs Lindy Feneysel (EAL)

Maternity leave:

Mrs D McGinley (Modern Languages)

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

Mr M Call (Maths)

Mr A Murphy (Maths)

We welcomed:

Mr A Bryce (Maths)

Mr A Enwood (Performance)

Ms S Johnstone (Social Subjects)

Ms J Kean (Active Schools)

Ms H Kinnear (Head Teacher)

Mr S Laydon (English)

Ms A McGregor (Student Support)

Mr I MacLeod (Music)

Ms G Osgerby (Home Economics)

Mr K Sangha (English)

PC P Scott (School Liaison Officer)

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Wednesday 6th January	Staff resume
Thursday 7th January	Students resume
Friday 8 th January	S2 Full Reports & merits/demerits issued
Monday 11th January	Parent Council meeting 7pm
Monday 11 th January	Senior prelims begin
Thursday 14th January	S2 Parent Information Evening
Thursday 14th January	S4-S6 Prelims begin
Tuesday 19th January	S2 Parents' Consultation Evening
Wednesday 20 th January	Senior prelims end
Friday 29th January	S3 Full Reports and merits/demerits issued
Friday 29 th January	S1 Merits/demerits issued
Friday 29th January	Parent Council Burns Supper
Monday 8 th February	S3 Parents' Consultation
Friday 12th February	Mid-term break
Monday 22nd February	All resume
Tuesday 23rd February	Parent Council Meeting 7pm
Friday 26 February	Senior Phase Full Reports issued
Friday 26 February	Senior Phase merits/demerits issued
Wednesday 2nd March	DPT Injections
Thursday 17 March	HPV Injections
Thursday 24 March	Term Ends
Monday 11th 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

