



# HOLYROOD SECONDARY NEWSLETTER

I know I say this every year but it's hard to believe that Christmas is upon us already.

This session has been as busy as always and there has been a real buzz about it.

We have had so many activities and this newsletter will give you a flavour of some of it but for me there have been some stand out moments.

What a superb experience it was for our School when we welcomed the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra into our School. It was magnificent and our young people were just superb!

And what about the group of young people who travelled to the House of Lords to discuss Climate Change? Just wow!

Not to mention the quality of work on display at our Art Exhibition.

Actually I've had so many highlights this year and so many opportunities to be proud of our young people. It's humbling to work with young people who contribute so much in School and also in the Community. Our Advent Charity drive has been brilliant and it was wonderful to welcome some of the community into our School for a Festive treat.

In amongst all that of course we have had learning at the very highest level and I've been enjoying watching how the Ipads have been transforming classrooms and experiences for our young people.

I'd like to pay tribute to all of our Staff who are fully committed to providing our young people with the best possible experience. We have delivered well over 500 supported study sessions and there are more than 60 extracurricular activities on offer on a weekly basis not to mention all of the other activities you will read about. Trust me when I tell you that is not the norm!

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your children in 2020.

My prayers and best wishes go to all of you and your families this Christmas Season.

Sharon Watson



# Parent Council

Moving into 2020 the Parent Council at Holyrood Secondary is turning its thoughts to Parental Engagement and needs your help....

Parents are central to children's lives. You're not the only influence on them, but you are the first, and very important, one. You matter to your children in their earliest years, when they completely depend on you, and as they grow up and become adults.

Parents matter to teachers and others because you are such an important part of the jigsaw. When parents are involved in the right ways, it can add a lot to what children learn at school. This works for everyone, including children and their teachers. It's so much better for children, now and for the long term, when everyone is working together.

Teachers and others in education want to show you how important you are, and to make sure that you are involved in decisions about your child: not just some of the time, but all of it.

Schools may have changed a lot since you were there and they are still changing. Although some parents are already active in education such as through Parent Councils, it will take time for all parents, children, school staff, councils and others to feel 'empowered': equally valued, respected and supported in the education system.

You should notice schools and teachers opening their doors to you, listening to you and speaking to you. You can expect opportunities and encouragement to play an active part in your child's education: at home and at school. You should feel confident that schools want you to be involved, and value you and your part in your child's education.

The Parent Council plans to work with the Parental Engagement Team within the school to provide more opportunities for parents to come into school informally to learn with their child, have fun, ask questions and meet other parents. At the secondary level this can feel more difficult as our children are becoming more independent but there's lots parents can do to support them with their learning. Subject choices and qualifications can be confusing to parents and the Parent Council hopes to help with this in the New Year.

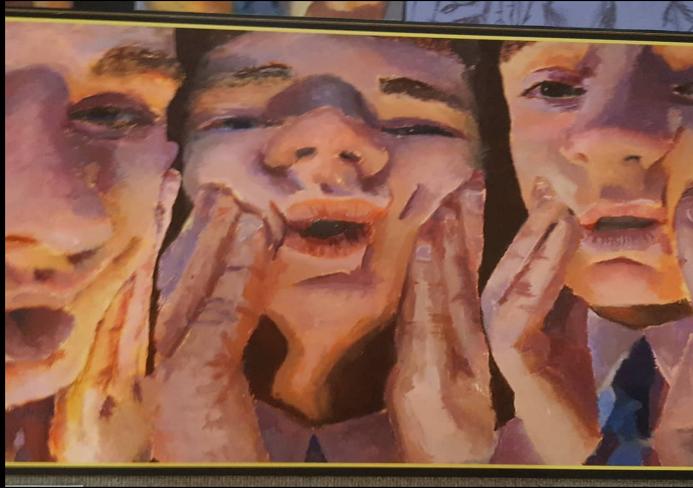
Watch this space....

yours,

Joanna Murphy

The Holyrood Parent Council

# ART & DESIGN



As part of our on going celebration of our talented young people we held this years Art & Design portfolio Exhibition in the assembly hall. The show featured as usual, folios from this years exam diet at National 5, Higher , Higher Photography and Advanced Higher levels. The exhibition opened to the public for a weekend and allowed us to bring our pupil's incredible talent to a wider audience. The school received a fabulous response from the public. The range and volume of work produced is astounding.

The Holyrood Art & Design Twitter page is full of exciting videos, pictures and projects undertaken within the department throughout the year— please take time to have a look.

[@holyrood\\_art](https://twitter.com/holyrood_art)



# Business & I.T.

★ QUALIFIERS: ?		
	Fund Total	Return On Investment
Holyrood Secondary School (W)	414,671	0.502%
Madras College (NE)	407,727	0.047%
Clydeview Academy (W)	406,735	0.099%
Arbroath Academy (NE)	406,590	1.030%
Montrose Academy (NE)	405,520	0.025%
Bishopbriggs Academy (W)	404,454	0.131%

**The Stock Market Challenge** – the Higher Business Management classes had an opportunity to spend on stocks and commodities. Congratulations to Brandon and Evan who won the Glasgow Finals. The top 3 schools will compete in the Regional Finals at the BNP Paribas offices in Glasgow on Thursday 12 December. Well done!

## Young Enterprise - Lumiere Lamps

Very cold day selling in the famous Barrowland Market on Sunday however, Rachel, Amreen, Raza, Mohammed, Hasnain, Zachary, Megan and Holly all showed up to sell our festive Christmas bottles.



S2 have started their journey on the **IDEA Award (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award)**. This provided the S2 with free digital skills education in the form of engaging online badges. Each pupil can work towards achieving a Bronze Award. We have one pupil in the department who has achieved his Silver Award – Narayan 2A.

In the new year Amy Oroko from Matthew Algie will be delivering an interesting insight into sustainability and social responsibility within a business. This is one of the topics the higher class are required to study and may make an interesting topic to research.



# Pupil Voice

The Pupil Parliaments have been busy since August. The S2 PPRs have been leading the Foodbank drive across the school. To date we have sent over 600 items to the South East Glasgow Food Bank and we will soon be delivering a cheque to them for £600. This money was raised via a lunchtime bucket collection.



In November we also held a successful hustings where we elected our Lead and Vice Lead PPRs. The hustings, attended by the full year group, duly elected Neha Shinuraj Pillai, 1A and Anshaj Srivastava, 1M as Lead Boy and Lead Girl. Ruth Jania, 1K and James McFayden 1G, were elected into the Vice Lead roles. The first job of the S1 PPRs was to organise a Selection Box collection for Sick Kids in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.



Our school also hosted our first 'Speakers for Schools' guest at the S6 Assembly. Joanne Jorgensen, Director for Knit Design at Nike, spoke to our young people about her own career in design and the important qualities you need to be successful in the industry. As a local girl Joanne also answered questions from our Young People about her road to success.

Finally, three Senior Pupils took part in the Poverty Debate in the City Chambers. Our three representatives took part in the discussion about how our city can help the less fortunate and improve life chances for all children in Glasgow.





Games night kicked off with parents and carers receiving a personalised invite through the post. They also received an e-invite showing them how to con-

firm their whole family's attendance this made it easy for EAL families to understand what to do with the invite. The event was free, food and drinks and a crèche with games suitable for young children were provided. Halal food was served and there were games suitable for all ages. The music was also inter-generational across decades. This helped capture the community spirit of the event.

The families received a floor map on arrival detailing the different curricular areas and games that matched each subject to navigate themselves this gave the evening structure. Each table had a card detailing the subject area, the skills gained from playing the game and how it tied in with the BGE curriculum area with tasks or engagement strategies to get involved in learning at home. This was given to every family as a hand-out to take away as well as a subject related quiz book and every person in each family received a goodie bag with a different free game and time stables pencils to encourage numeracy skills.

There were games such as the live chase where parents could challenge staff and showcase their general knowledge skills, the minute to win it skilful game gave families the opportunity to work together against other families using skills in communication, manual dexterity, problem solving and team work. The winners of these games won prizes from our local business partner – Asda money vouchers. S4 & S6 pupils showed their leadership through making and serving food. Setting up the hall and working with a staff member from the parental engagement team to instruct families on how to set up and play the games. They also timed challenges and played games with young children in the crèche. Every activity required a pupil and teacher leader and promoted learning. The digital ambassadors set up a green screen and demonstrated how to use the app on the iPad for families to take a family selfie. Overarching all the planned learning activities was the sociable aspect of the evening and the displays of love, encouragement and family bonding. This can be seen in the expressions radiating from the families faces. This type of family engagement can only lead to positive outcomes for our school our young people and our families.



# IPAD DEPLOYMENT...

Glasgow City Council made the dynamic decision to issue iPads to all their students.

Our initial rollout began with our S2 students in October, which saw our Head Teacher taking part along with Staff and our amazing Digital Ambassadors.

It has been an honour to watch everyone come together to achieve a successful deployment.

A note for those pupils who were late returning their AUP (Acceptable User Policy) form, I hope to issue your device before our Christmas Break.



# Numeracy

Last year, more than 260 pupils took part in the UKMT junior and intermediate maths challenges in our school. This was an outstanding achievement!

With that, our pupils succeeded with 9 Silver and 24 Bronze for the junior challenge and 4 Gold, 1 Silver and 16 Bronze for the intermediate challenge!

We are very proud of all our pupils who achieved these fantastic results.

A special mention also goes to Brian Ritchie (4L) and Reza Tahmid (5B) who also managed to participate in the Intermediate Kangaroo last year given their high scores in the challenge.

This year we decided to enter pupils into the senior mathematical challenge. The results were great and our S5 and S6 pupils should be proud of themselves.

Well done to Abdullah Osman, Mark Bozkurt, Reza Tahmid, Chloe McGarvey, Cara Goutcher, Martin Mullaney and Matthew Duffy who all achieved a Bronze certificate.

Congratulations to Kyle McGee, Alice Calierno and David Blair who all achieved a silver award!

And a massive congratulations to Robbie Fleming who achieved a Gold award and best in school.

Robbie also participated in the senior Kangaroo where we await his results. We wish him luck!

The dates for the other challenges are as follows:

Intermediate – 06/02/20

Junior – 30/04/20

If you would like to try any past challenges or wish to get involved in future ones then please don't hesitate to contact the maths department!

Mr. Cooke

Principal Teacher of Numeracy



**Robbie Fleming Gold Award**



**Alice Calierno—Silver award**

# Literacy in action

## ESU House of Lords Debate

Seven of our S5 and S6 pupils made our school proud as they participated in a debate in the House of Lords about climate change. They had prepared well and spoke passionately about the cause. Well done to Sophie, Lauren, Martin, Maria, Noor, Sarah, and Melissa.



## S2 Accelerated Reader

Pupils in our S2 English classes are using Accelerated Reader to improve their reading skills. Each pupil should be regularly reading books within their reading range to support the development of their vocabulary and comprehension skills. They can then log-on and complete a quiz to test their understanding of the novel.

How can parents/carers help: Each child has a unique log-in to the Accelerated Reader website ([bit.do/holyroodar](http://bit.do/holyroodar)). You can have them log-in to see recommended books, what they have read so far, and how they are performing on their quizzes. Please encourage them to read widely and you can check if books from your local library or bookstore are on the programme by checking this website [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk).



## Book Week Scotland

We had many exciting activities running throughout the week including a library raffle (for taking out books), a Kahoot book quiz, staff book recommendations, and an author visit with John Munro. Thank you to all the pupils who participated!

Ms Jessica Longo

PT Literacy



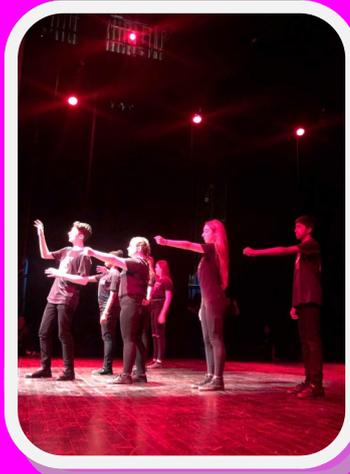
# DRAMA

## Holyrood Drama makes a splash at The Theatre Royal

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December Holyrood Drama Department presented our production of MacBeth for the Shakespeare for Schools festival. The festival is an annual event and is the biggest youth celebration of Shakespeare's work in the world with schools from all over taking part. Six productions took place on the night and Holyrood's production was definitely the best their age category.

Our S3 cast directed expertly by Mr Love and assisted by Miss Healy has some wonderful movement sequences and all involved projected the bard's prose expertly. One member of the audience commented that the production was "visually stunning". Mrs Watson, Mr Roy, Mr Nolan, Mr Deans, Mr Wallace and family members were all very proud of our wonderful actors who conducted themselves professionally during the long day! Special thanks to Mrs Gibb, Principal Teacher of Art who designed the t-shirts. The production was such a success; we are putting on highlights of it at the end of term for staff.

Next up we have auditions for our School Show Little Shop of Horrors in January!



# MUSIC

Holyrood Secondary in conjunction with Big Noise Sistema Scotland hosted a fantastic 5 day BBC Scottish Symphony residency.

Our Holyrood S1 pupils were lucky enough to take part in small workshops lead by a small group BBC Scottish symphony orchestra performers and Lucy Dreven.

They were then treated to a concert to a concert given by an eighty strong orchestra. The power of the music was truly uplifting and our young people had an amazing up close experience.

Many S1 pupils were involved in side by side playing with section of the orchestra followed by a side by side performance with the full orchestra.

This was a truly fabulous experience for our Holyrood S1 Young People.



# Physics

**S3 pupils from the Physics department visited the Viridor Biomass GRRECC where they found out about Glasgow's Zero Waste plan. Our young people participated in an engineering challenge, had a careers talk and got to see the facility in action via the new visitor viewing gallery. Pupils left with a renewed awareness of the importance of recycling. "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do little".**



# Physical Education

## Football teams

So far this year, all 5 of our football teams are progressing well this season.

### S1

S1 football team have won 4 out of 4 so far in the league and are in the QF of the Castle Cup. A highlight of the season so far was a 9-0 win against Renfrew High in the Scottish Cup.



### S2

S2 football team have won 2 out of 2 so far in the league. They are in 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Crookston Cup and are into 5<sup>th</sup> round of the Scottish Cup.



### S3

S3 football team have 3 out of 3 so far in the league. They are into the QF of the Glasgow Cup.

### S4

S4 football team have won 3 out of 3 so far in the league. They are into the QF of the Crookston Cup and are into the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the Scottish Cup.



### S5/6

Senior team have won 2 out of 2 in the league so far in the league.



## S1 Netball team

"The S1 Netball team have had a great start to the year! We have over 30 girls attending training each week and the standard is excellent. Both of our league teams have competed well against strong opposition teams and showed great teamwork and resilience! Our first team are through to the third round of the Scottish cup which will be played in February! Well done first year, keep it up!"



# Religious Education



During August all S1 classes attended an afternoon retreat in the school oratory. We welcomed S1 families to our school community with the S1 Welcome Mass.



Senior Pupil had the privilege of leading prayers of St Therese at St Andrew Cathedral and had the opportunity to view the relics.



S3 pupils within RE used peer education during Vocations Week to share information on key vocation stories. S6 participated in a day retreat in St Mary Immaculate.



Our S2 Interfaith group has delivered successful workshop to S1 pupils during Interfaith week. This group has been working with Glasgow Museums and the Bishop Conference Scotland. The group have had the opportunity to visit different places of worship to gain knowledge of the different religions in Scotland.



Mark Booker from SCIAF came to speak to the Caritas group. He gave them many ideas for service within school and local places of worship. He also provided Laurie with the opportunity to work in the SCIAF journalism team where she interviewed a communications officer about his time in Malawi and wrote an article for their website. Rachel Gallacher was given the opportunity to work in the SCIAF offices assisting in developing policies.



With SCIAF and Gary McLean we closed the SCIAF campaign

A large group of pupils and staff attended the High School Mass at the Cathedral, where two of our pupils were Ministers of Welcome



Senior Pupils and staff attended the Prayer Breakfast where we enjoyed a talk on the Shroud of Turin



Senior pupils and members of Senior Leadership Team joined our local parishes for Sunday mass and spoke about Gospel Values within Holyrood.

During Catholic Education week. We highlighted the importance of Catholic Education by; hosting all primary 7 pupils for an afternoon retreat.



# Duke of Edinburgh

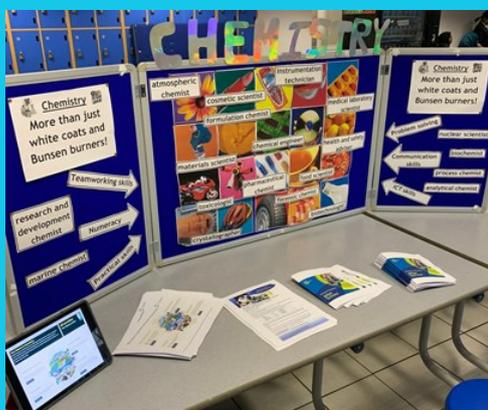
10 pupils from last year's Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group received their certificates and pin badges last month. The ceremony took place at the Royal Concert hall on Monday the 18th of November and featured participants from across Glasgow. To get their award, pupils successfully completed 2 expeditions in the countryside, learning teamwork, communication, camping and navigation skills. They also took part in a volunteering, skill and physical activity of their choice. Activities included skiing, walking, fitness, football, helping out at school clubs, hairdressing, dancing, Islamic studies, music and drama.



# Chemistry

It's been a busy few months for the Chemistry Department with lots of fun activities and opportunities available to young people.

Mrs MacKendrick spoke to lots of budding chemists at the school careers evening and highlighted the excellent careers resources available on the Royal Society of Chemistry website.



Miss Aamir has been setting up her S2 STEM group and pupils have been completing a series of challenges to build up their team working skills, much more to follow from this enthusiastic group.

Dr Hamid has a group of senior phase students working on a chemistry newsletter which will be ready for publication soon. The group have been promoting the newsletter via the tannoy with some very interesting chemistry facts. Watch this space for the newsletter!

A group of S3 chemistry students attended the STEMfest careers event at Glasgow Science Centre. The 40 young people had the chance to visit the Science Mall and interact with the exhibits. They then participated in some workshops set by MacTaggart construction, Scottish Power and Glasgow University. The pupils put their problem solving and team working skills to the test in a series of challenges, with one team winning the Tallest Tower challenge! They were then given the chance to visit an exhibition of various different Science careers where they engaged with employers and asked lots of insightful questions.

For S2 we were excited to welcome Glasgow University Chemistry Outreach Group who worked with 60 young people throughout the day in a CSI Forensics workshop. Pupils carried out a series of experiments and tests in order to solve a crime and uncover the culprit!! Pupils really enjoyed the hands on practical work they were able to participate in and took the opportunity to find about careers in forensics and chemistry.