



## **Parents/Carers/Friends**

We have finally made it to the end of 2020, a year I know we won't forget in a hurry.

Alongside all that has happened in this Pandemic your children have been at our school and I'm delighted to say have brought joy, fun and laughter to their peers, their teachers and myself.

This newsletter should give you a small indication of some of the activity that has been taking place. I hope you enjoy reading it.

For me there have been many different highlights. The distribution of the "roodie" was an absolute pleasure. Our S6 were rushed off their feet and who'd have thought there would have been such a buzz.

The Christmas Doors always make me smile and we maybe needed that this year more than ever.

Our S6 Leadership Team have already started to make impact in their roles both driving the rights respecting school and eco schools agenda. Well done to them! Our Columba 1400 leaders are also making their mark. Our leaders of the future I'm sure. It was great to meet with some of you online through our focus groups. A new way of connecting that I'm sure we'll continue to utilise.

Thanks go to our Parent Council for their support of all of us through this challenging period.

As always, the contribution to charity has been inspiring. As a community we have given to the foodbank, the food pantry and to our own families. That's the Holyrood way!

I thank you for all your support and want you to know that it continues to be a privilege and pleasure leading our great school. I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Christmas and look forward to working with you all again in 2021.

**Sharon Watson**

### **S6 Leadership and Christmas Wishes from the Captains**

The S6 Leadership Team is a 'go getting team' of 20 inspiring S6 students (If I do say so myself). Working with our Year Head and HT we took a look at school priorities for the year we decided to focus on becoming a rights respecting school, charity work including period poverty and moving to become an eco school. We are really proud this year to be awarded the Bronze Rights Committed status as part of our Right Respecting School initiative. S6 have been working hard to send backpacks to children in Beirut. We have been encouraging all year groups to contribute and gathered over 150 backpacks. We have also been raising money for our local foodbank 'The People's Pantry'. And finally we have set the bar high in becoming an eco school and working with everyone on becoming a single-use plastic school. We hope that all that we have achieved this year can continue onto future year groups and we want to wish everyone a healthy, safe and happy 2021. Merry Christmas to all.  
Cara Goutcher and Reza Tahmid



# Nurture

## Nurture In Holyrood Secondary

A great hello from the Holyrood Secondary Nurture Department!

Since the beginning of this academic year, the young people in our nurture groups have engaged in a lot of great activities in the Francis Base that I would like to share with you all.

## Halloween Activities

Leading up to Halloween, pupils got involved in various activities such as pumpkin carving, making Halloween posters and we even managed to squeeze in a Halloween film!

In preparation for Christmas, the young people in our nurture groups are designing their own Christmas t-shirt. Pupils have started the research process and have been looking at various Christmas designs to put on their t-shirts.

**From all of the Holyrood Secondary Nurture Department, have a lovely and safe Christmas!**

## Express Yourself

A great big thanks to Miss Kuligowski who delivered an Art Therapy session to our young people! As part of our Emotions day, pupils were able to express how they

were feeling through Art therapy. This was a great activity to encourage relaxation, creativity and allowed pupils to express themselves through music and paint.

Spreading some holiday cheer!



# Little Princess Trust

Well done to Zoe Craig in S4 who raised £540 as of yesterday for the Little Princess Trust by cutting her long hair.

She donated her hair for children who lost their hair to the likes of cancer and other illnesses.



## First Aid

Some of our young people gained a St Andrews First aid certificate., after taking part on the day course. Well done!



# English and Literacy

## Glasgow Hate Crime Awareness Poetry Competition

A number of our pupils entered the Hate Crime Awareness Poetry Competition. They engaged with challenging issues and focussed on the discrimination of people with disabilities and expressed themselves in poetic form. We are incredibly proud of all our young people who entered. Daniella A. (S2) in S2 was commended for her poem and Sahar S. (S1) was the winner across Glasgow!



## **Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year**

A number of our Senior Phase pupils are busy crafting their non-fiction entries for the Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year competition. They are emulating the styles of quality journalists and engaging passionately with topics that interest them and impact their lives.

Pupils will submit their entries on December 9<sup>th</sup> and we have no doubt that they will do exceptionally well!

**Scottish Schools'  
Young Writer of the Year**

## **Narnia**

“What do they teach them at these schools?” — **C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

The English Department hopes we have taught our pupils a love for literature and the importance of charity! We have transformed some of the department into the magical land of Narnia for Christmas and have made a donation to charity.



# Rights Respecting Schools Group



Pupil Voice Focus Group, hard at work on Equity and Inclusion issues



Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group, finalising plans for our Bronze application.

Our Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group has worked hard to complete our application for Bronze Rights Respecting Schools status. They are working with the Pupil Voice team to elect Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors and making plans for 2021.

## Art & Design



1.07 and 1.08 Art classes looked at the Artwork of American sculptor Claes Oldenburg and his giant food sculptures, They created modrock sculptures of french fancies in class. Then they used the Doink green screen app on their iPads to create their own giant sculptures, but placed them on the Holyrood building.



## Home Economics

Quality meat Scotland and United Auctions teamed up for the #LambforStAndrewsDay campaign and provided the Home Economics department with lamb to cook with our young people. All week they have been cooking lamb curry and lamb pizza learning about locality and seasonality.



# Duke of Edinburgh

Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants have been working hard during lockdown and since we returned to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Many activities had to be cancelled during lock down so participants were unable to help out in charity shops, go to the gym or clubs. Many began volunteering at home, helping younger brothers and sisters with their online

homework or shopping for elderly relatives. Some switched to running, walking or cycling for their sports and cooking or baking at home for their skill. Even without an expedition, they will receive the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement.

Since returning in August we have held 2 expeditions, one Bronze and one Silver, although we are not currently able to camp out overnight due to COVID restrictions. The bronze group have now completed this section and the Silver group will complete their next one in February 2021 to complete their award.

All participants are now entering their evidence in the form of photos, diary entries, spread sheets along with an assessors report to complete each section.

We also had our first Gold award completed entirely at Holyrood from Daniel Scullion and several participants from previous years also took advantage of lockdown to complete their Bronze Awards. So, it's never too late, if you've started an award but not yet finished, please see Miss Callan for advice on how to complete it.

Congratulations and Well done to all our successful participants.

## Gold Award

Daniel Scullion

## Silver 2020 certificate of

### Achievement

Ronan Peacock

Brian Ritchie

## Bronze Awards

Haadiyah Rashid

Morgan McDougall

Sophie Gray

Diarmaid McGuigan

Safa Khan

Shae Sweeney

Anes Arulthas



THE DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

# Family Learning

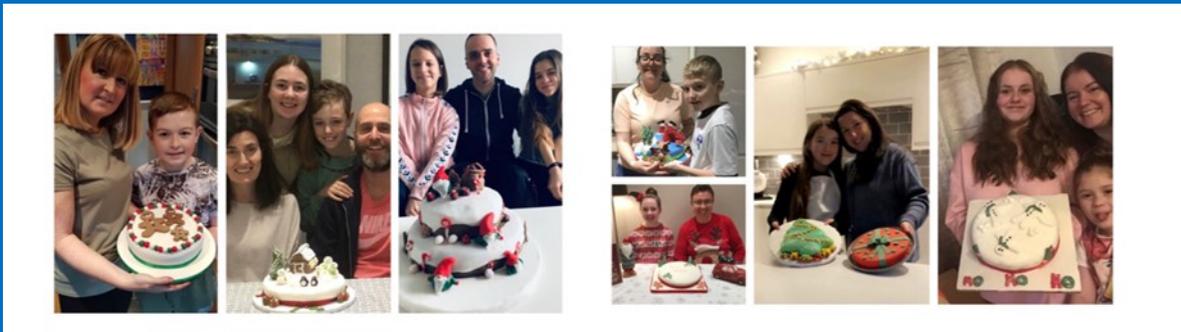
The winners of the family learning cake craft were announced today. The standard was phenomenal the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners are Wylie Watters & her mum Debs, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Julia and the Malinowska family with the nativity scene and 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Georgia and the Dunn family with a Christmas night silhouette sky. These prizes were awarded for design and creativity.



The £50 prize for the family endeavour award for embracing family learning went to Katie and the Gunning family with an elf the movie cake. Even Katie's baby sister got involved in the taste testing and dressing up for the photo opportunity!



Daniel, Rose, Ina, Josh, Caitlin, Eva, Laurie and their families won in this category. All the equipment and ingredients were provided and families learnt skills in numeracy, literacy, creativity, manual dexterity and team work. Well done to all involved!



## Primary Specialist

A warm welcome to our new Primary Specialist Miss Lamb. She started at Holyrood after the October week. She is Principal Teacher, Primary Specialist and her role is to raise attainment in Literacy, meaning she is based in the English department. She loves working with Holyrood's young people to improve their reading and writing skills. Miss. Lamb will mainly be working with S1 and S2 pupils and has already been so impressed with their motivation and willingness to learn. She is excited at the prospect of raising the attainment of the young people here at Holyrood Secondary School.

# Merit Award Scheme

## Rewarding Success Merit Award Scheme

This year we have launched a Merit Award Scheme to highlight the wonderful examples of our young people's success here at Holyrood Secondary. Teachers can award young people Merits each month for any positive interactions over and above the normal high standards we set.

Merits can be awarded in the following categories –Homework, Co-operation, Uniform, Relationships, Attendance, Time Keeping and Engagement in Learning and Life of the school

There is a brief video explaining the Merit Scheme on the latest Parental Engagement newsletter.

In recent weeks Mrs Watson has organised a rota of volunteer classes to pick litter in the local community. S1 and S2 have been involved in litter sweeping our community. Pupils have been merited for this also.

Despite the challenges the on-going “new normal” has presented the scheme has begun to grow and flourish. Both pupils and staff have responded positively to the introduction of the scheme.

Last month all young people awarded a Merit had a letter sent home to their parents or guardians informing them about the scheme. Look out for more exciting developments from the Merit Award scheme over the academic year.

Mr D. Gault

PT Rewarding Success,

# Numeracy

## Pupil engagement and enjoyment

We are pleased to see from the findings that most pupils enjoy maths and use their skills learned around the school. Obviously, we hope more, if not all pupils enjoy their studies in maths and this is something we will aim for in the future.

It is positive to see the motivation is there in most pupils to do the best they can and apply their skills across other areas in the school.

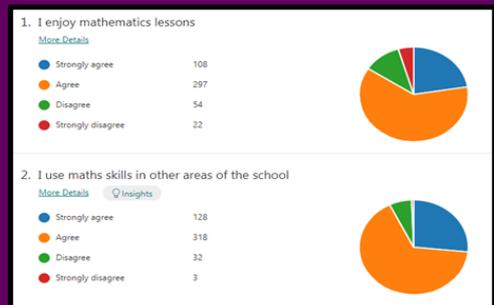
## Plans for the future

- Implementation of new level 2 and level 3 mastery courses for S1
- More support offered for BGE pupils in the form of drop in sessions/homework club
- Introduction of new tasks to develop higher order thinking skills
- New maths and numeracy posters

The full report will hopefully be ready by February midterm where we hope from there to create an action plan that helps raise attainment in numeracy across the school, increase pupil and parent engagement and increase our support network to parents, staff and cluster.

Many thanks for reading,

Have a very happy and safe Christmas

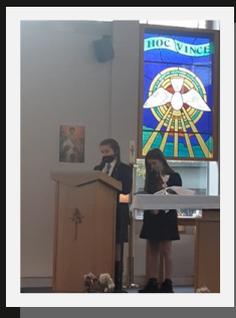


# Religious Education

Morning Mass continues to be celebrated by Fr Paul in the oratory on Monday and Friday at 8.20am. Morning reflections took place in the oratory Tues – Thursday at 8.20am

We celebrated World Porridge Day in conjunction with Mary's Meals in September and all S1 pupils received a flapjack made by the Home Economics Department.

All S1 pupils were given the opportunity to pray for their deceased family and friends during the month of November class mass in the oratory with Father Paul.



Our Christmas Appeal was launched and was successful in delivering donations to the People's Pantry in Govanhill. In other news, some of our S6 pupils, Jasmine, Sam and Sophie represented SCIAF and Holyrood at the World Summit of Child Leaders via Microsoft Teams in November.

# Leadership Academy

## Leadership Academy and Columba 1400

The pupil leadership academy has kicked off this year and already has made a wonderful impact.

We have a pupil Captain and Vice ( S3/S2) who lead a group of students in the BGE.

Each of the 7 groups are led by a teacher team leader. Each group has the responsibility for an area of school improvement and work in stream with DHT strategies. All minutes will be published on our school website so you can follow our developments.

We have pupil teams making change in the following areas:

Nurture

Ethos

Learning and Teaching

Outdoor Learning

Transitions

Parent Engagement



The Academy works under Columba 1400 who are teaching and supporting our young people on leadership through values.

We are looking forward to completing our Leadership Awards in 2021.

# Standards for Success



Dear Parent/Carer, You will be aware that we launched our **Standards for Success (Sfs)** positive relationships policy in August 2020. Since this time we have been reinforcing the Sfs values and expectations with daily tanoy calls from the Head Teacher. Posters have been put in social areas and in every classroom.. Teachers have been asked to highlight the **A,B,C's** in their conversations with the young people. Positive relationships and mutual respect between staff and young people are at the heart of **Sfs**. and play a central role in enabling us to create an ethos within **Holyrood** which will enable all to achieve their very best.

Your support in encouraging your son/daughter to rise to the challenge is crucial. Always encourage them to be the best that they can be in their **Aspirations**, their **Beliefs** about their ability to be successful in all aspects of their learning, and to **Communicate** in their attitudes, words and deeds that they are a positive influence within the Holyrood school community.

Your continued support as the first educator of your son/daughter is a crucial factor in creating the aspirational school ethos within which all can flourish.

## Suggested Actions:

- ⇒ Read the Standards for Success (School Website /Pupil Planner)
- ⇒ Use the A,B.C's when discussing future plans and ambition with son/daughter.

Standards for Success


Aspire

“Start with the end in mind.”

- We recognise who we are when we **fulfil our God given potential** and be a force for goodness in this world.
- Education will enable you to **create a better future** by your own efforts.
- We become what we repeatedly do.

What will you become?

Standards for Success


Believe

“Believe in yourself.”

- We know that we are **created in God's image**.
- Always seek **challenge**.
- Learn** from mistakes.
- Inspire** others / be inspired.
- Effort** is the key to success.
- Tune-in** to feedback.
- Never** give up.

Standards for Success


Communicate

“All behaviour is communication.”

Take a pride in:

- Your school community** (“**Together we achieve more**”).
- Yourself** and the standards which you live by.

We are called to serve God by serving others in all that we do.

# Digital Learning

This year the digital achievements made have been exceptional.

Holyrood achieved the Digital Schools Award. The main focus for this award, was to show that our school and teachers are committed to identifying and achieving effective practice in making digital technologies part of the curriculum. This emphasised how staff had used the iPad as an additional resource within their classroom using a host of platforms. Pupils have made the transition to use those resources effortlessly.

Staff and pupils continue on their journey to learn how other tools on their iPad can assist within the lesson. This can take the form of staff training after school to pupils going along to the Digital Ambassadors Room in IT 5. The school has also received the Digital Schools Award for Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety and I am pleased to announce we are applying for the Digital Schools European award.

What a wonderful and successful year we have had. Well done to digital excellence.

# The Roodies

As we move out of 2020 with prayers of a safer 2021. We are delighted to say that one of our highlights was our 'roodies'.

Maybe our prayers were answer here too.

Pupil Voice 2020

