



Rutherglen High School

April 2018

Spring Newsletter 2018

Welcome to our Spring edition of the Rutherglen High Newsletter.

As you can see we have been very busy this term with fundraising events, enterprise activities (the e-café being very popular with staff, pupils and parents alike), sporting events, success at the annual SLC Dance competition, Duke of Edinburgh Award, literacy and numeracy initiatives and two successful visits to Arran outdoor centre to name but a few.

On behalf of the staff and pupils I would to say a big thank you to Mrs Blake and HSBC for their generous donation of £1200. Part of this money will be used to purchase outdoor play equipment (photo on back page).

I would also like to thank all the staff at Rutherglen High School for their hard work and support during this term and I would like to wish them a well deserved and relaxing break.

May I take this opportunity to wish you also a happy and enjoyable holiday.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE ACTIVE SCHOOLS DANCE COMPETITION 2018

For the eighth year in a row, a group of Rutherglen High pupils took part in the South Lanarkshire Active Schools Dance Competition. Yet again the pupils were given an incredible reception from the audience and commended for their performance. A special congratulations to Kathleen Collins who choreographed the dance and on winning the award for the best individual dancer.

19th ANNUAL CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN SPORTS PERFORMERS OF THE YEAR AWARD CERMONY

We received news last month that our school had been nominated for the Sporting Secondary School of the year for the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area. Gary Neil and Kathleen Collins from S6 went along to the Rutherglen Town Hall to represent the school on Friday the 16th of March and hear if we had been successful. We had a fantastic night which was topped off by the brilliant news that we had won! This award win has been down to the amazing commitment and participation levels of the Rutherglen High pupils and staff. We would also like to thank Tony Gilhooly, our active schools co-ordinator who has worked tirelessly to provide many new sporting opportunities for our pupils through the year. Well done everyone!

Dates to remember

Pupils return to school ;

Monday April 16th at 8:50am.

May Day is Monday 7th May.

In-service Day Tuesday 8th May.

Holiday weekend is Friday 25th and Monday 28th May

School closes Thursday 28th June at 1:00pm for Summer Break.

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Parent Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on Thursday 19th April 2018. Jane Thomson (Senior Educational Psychologist) will be joining the meeting and is keen to hear your views around post school transition. An invitation is extended to all parents

Parents Evenings

S1 – S3 15th May 2018

S4 – S6 22nd May 2018

Dates of Future Meeting:

Thursday 19th April 2018 9.30am

Monday 30th April 2018 6.45pm

Monday 4th June 2018 6.45pm

Thursday 7th June 2018 9.30am

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you to all parents for supporting the schools and South Lanarkshire Council's policy on school uniform. The pupils look really smart and are a credit to the school. School uniform can still be purchased from the office. It would be really helpful if you could label your son/daughter's uniform.

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Rutherglen High Football Team attended another round of the ASN Football league fixtures in February and March. The team worked very hard and on both days winning two games and losing two. This takes their overall record to: **Played 16 – Won 7 – Lost 9**. After these fixtures, the team now have 30 points. The pupils who played on the day were: Rehman Ashraf, Daniel McGarr, Jay Naylor, Dean Rodger, Markus Doonan, Liam Stobie, Jordan Lloyd, William McGarr, Frankie McGurk, Jay Dignall and Lewis Markson. Well done!

NUT FREE ZONE

We have a number of pupils with nut allergies, it would be most helpful if you could ensure that pupils do not bring nuts or products containing nuts into the school. Thank you for your consideration.

TRANSPORT

Several parents have contacted the school with concerns regarding transport. If you have any concerns please telephone 0303 123 1023

PARENT HELPERS/VOLUNTEERS

If you have any spare time on your hands and would like to come along and help us out on outings or working in school (paired reading, E cafe, lunchtime clubs etc.) please contact Mrs Geraldine Johnston. Please note you will need to obtain a PVG prior to working in the school. We can arrange this for you. Thank you in anticipation.

MOBILE PHONES/VALUABLES

Thank you for your continued support regarding mobile phones. Could you please remind your son/daughter that mobile phones should be handed into the office at the start of the day and should be collected at home time. Also expensive items should not be brought into school e.g. I Pods, jewellery etc. In the event of loss South Lanarkshire Council has no insurance cover.

ST VALENTINES GIFT SHOP

As part of S2 Enterprise topic the pupils organised a St Valentines gift shop. The fantastic sum of £70.00 was raised. S2 decided that they would like to donate £35.00 to the school fund and £35.00 to the Red Cross.

Well done S2!

RUTHERGLEN TENNIS CLUB, DISABILITY TENNIS

Rutherglen Tennis Club hold a coaching session every **Wednesday evening from 6.30pm-7.30pm** for Wheelchair users and pupils with Learning Disabilities. The coach Cedric is well known to Rutherglen High pupils as he comes into the school on a regular basis to coach Tennis. The cost is £5 per class.

SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL, MORAL AND CULTURAL VALUES

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/ carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and / or religious and moral education. If a pupil is withdrawn the school will make suitable arrangements for the pupil to participate in a worthwhile activity, in consultation with parents.

Parents may also request that their child be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Advance notice should be given and the absence will be recorded as an authorised absence.

The theme for our assemblies for the rest of this academic session is "Caring".

26th April 2018 – "Caring in the school", 24th May 2018 - "Caring for the environment"

Please remember to check out our Website. There's lots of information, photos and important dates. You can also view this Newsletter online. If you think there's anything else we can include on the

Pastoral Care

If you have any concerns please contact the pastoral care link:

S1& S2

Mr J Longworth

gw11longworthjamie@glow.sch.uk

S3 & S4

Mr G Williams

(Acting PT)

gwo7williamsguto@glow.sch.uk

S5 & S6

Mrs K Watts

gwo7wattskaren@glow.sch.uk

Supported Classes

Mrs G Johnston

gwo7johstongeraldin@glow.sch.uk

Contact no.

0141 643 3480

The Easter Service took place on Monday 26th March 2018 at 11.00am.

The theme for the Easter Service was: "Shine a Light"

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DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Eight of our students and ex-students were at the annual South Lanarkshire Duke of Edinburgh's Award presentation night at the Council Offices on the 12th of March.

All eight were there to collect their Bronze award, five were also collecting their Silver awards. All had worked hard doing a wide variety of projects ranging from Childcare to music to Computer games and Community work. All had taken place in their expeditions - which had taken place in conditions ranging from wintry to very sunny!

Well done to Lewis Markson, Gary Neil and Aaron McVey in S6 for completing their Bronze awards and to ex pupils Morgan Wakeling, Morgan Pert, Monica Brannan, Alex Forwell and Euan McDowall who earned both their Bronze and Silver awards.



A TAIL TO TELL

S1 recently enjoyed a visit from Dogs Trust, Glasgow. The pupils were studying animals and how to look after them. So Alison from Dogs Trust and her dog Alfie came along to speak to the pupils. They presented the pupils with a very interesting talk with pictures and even some tricks from Alfie which everyone enjoyed. They learned a great deal from Alison and Alfie about looking after dogs and other pets. The pupils have a visit to the Dogs Trust to look forward to when they return from their Spring break (all bags will be checked before we leave to make sure no cute doggies have been kidnapped – especially by the staff!) A massive thank you to Alison and Alfie for their brilliant visit.



STARTER PACKS VISIT

S6 pupils and staff enjoyed a visit from Gavin at Starter Packs this term. Starter Packs is a charity based in Govan which provides all sorts of support, including packs for people moving from homelessness into accommodation, to people who have experienced homelessness and poverty. The pupils in S6 have been studying the topic of homelessness in English and had loads of questions for Gavin about the work the charity does. Gavin gave a very informative and interesting presentation which really helped everyone listening to understand more about this important issue. The pupils will be visiting the Starter Packs headquarters and shop this term to see it for themselves. A big thank you to Starter Packs once again for supporting the school and the pupils' learning.



LITERACY NEWS

Pupils and staff took part in a number of events to promote Literacy , on the week beginning the 5th March , making it more of a 'World Book Week '.

Firstly, we decided to have a 'Stop, Drop and Read', where all pupils and staff took part in stopping whatever they were doing and reading a book! The majority of the school took part and brought in their own books or borrowed them from class libraries – even the pupils and staff running the E-café were reading, which was a terrific achievement.

We had a trip to Waterstones Bookshop in East Kilbride for S1 pupils. As well as listening to a short talk on reading and browsing the shelves, our pupils had the chance to swap their World Book Day vouchers choosing from the specially commissioned range of novels from different authors.



NUMERACY

As part of our response to the Scottish Government's initiative to improve attainment in Numeracy, all our pupils have been dedicating one period a week to improving their numeracy skills. In this period they focus on activities designed to help them become more confident using numbers in every-day situations. They do this in a setting which helps them socialise with others and helps them to improve their number skills. Pupils take part in activities that involve number, money and time, including games like Bingo, Monopoly, Cleudo, UNO, Dominoes and Darts. Feedback from the sessions so far has been very positive, with pupils enjoying practicing their number skills in a social environment and learning in a less formal setting than in the maths department. There will



workshops later on in the year for parents to get more information on what we're doing, receive updates on how it is going and try out some of the activities.

ARKEEN THEATRE COMPANY

March saw our friends from the Arkeen Theatre Company visit Rutherglen High again to perform their production '*Is this me*' – An alcohol awareness drama. The pupils watched on as the cast performed the play before letting us take part in their workshop. Markus Doonan, Angela Clemente and Rian Cullen all got up and showed off their acting skills, carrying out different parts of the play. Arkeen said they are already looking forward to visiting us again next year!

SCIENCE WEEK—MARCH 2018

Pupils celebrated British Science Week this year by participating in a number of activities.

Sixth year pupils demonstrated how oil is recovered from beneath the ground, after which all pupils took part in a poster competition titled: "Exploration in Science". Mrs Allan was impressed by the standard and creativity shown by all of our learners and especially by the winning entrants: Jack McGuigan, Abbie Law and Louise Foy. Congratulations to the runners up Rian Cullen, Lewis Kelly, T.J. Kerr and Euan Brown.



At Rutherglen High we hosted a number of interesting visitors from Zoolab. The Zoolab Ranger was enthusiastic, patient and knowledgeable and pupils responded well to him by taking the opportunity to see (and hold) exotic creatures like pythons, lizards and giant spiders ... a fantastic experience for our learners!

To complete Science Week 3.1 and 3.2 visited the science centre where they had an opportunity to try out lots of interactive experiments. Pupils also visited the Imax where they witnessed a 3D movie called



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day might have been slightly delayed this year due to the snow but after the whole school took part in a Stop, Drop, Read in the morning, S1 were in a great big hurry to get to Waterstone's in East Kilbride to celebrate the day. The pupils went with staff to meet Wendy from Waterstone's who made everyone feel very welcome and gave everyone information on the bookshop and the kind of books which might be of interest to pupils. All the pupils looked at all the books available for World Book Day and chose the one they wanted with their book token. Once again a huge thank you to Waterstone's for supporting this important event and to Wendy for making it fun for everyone.



PARA—SPORT FESTIVAL 2018

Para - Sport Festival 2018 at Ravenscraig Regional sports facility is an event designed to allow young people with a physical disability or visual impairment to experience a range of new and exciting Para - Sports delivered by some of the best clubs and coaches available in Scotland. 5 pupils ranging from 2nd to 4th year were selected to take part in selected activities to introduce them to what clubs and sports would be available to them out with school. The event also highlights the opportunities available to them to enable them to achieve at the highest level and hopefully inspire them to become stars of the future.



YOUNG WRITERS

The team from Young Writers came in to do writing workshops with the S1 and S2. The topic was 'Heroes'. First of all the pupils were put in to teams for a fun game of which team gets the most points from the heroes they pick. Then pupils enjoyed identifying their own heroes, the special talents their chosen hero had, and why this would make them a good hero. All pupils and staff got involved and had a huge amount of fun creating their heroes. Well done to everyone



REACH FORWARD IN ARRAN

Reach Forward had another very successful trip to the Arran Outdoor Centre from the 19th to the 21st February. The group travelled by train from Cambuslang Station into Glasgow Central, where they spent an hour waiting on the connecting train to Ardrossan Harbour. The Pupils visited the shops and managed to get some free promotional breakfast bars while the staff squeezed in a quick coffee. After disembarking at Ardrossan Harbour we all boarded the ferry and proceeded to the Restaurant where John Sanderson (our School Chaplin) bought the group a fantastic lunch. Arriving at Brodick Harbour we were met by our instructor Daz and we all got onto the minibus and made our way to the AOC in Lamlash.

Once we had all been issued with our wet weather gear, backpacks, hats and boots we visited Whiting Bay where we went for a walk along the beach and had a stone skimming competition.

Later on that night we had a very informative talk from COAST about the no take zone off the coast of Arran and the damage being done to marine life from plastic being washed up on the shore line. The next day the group hiked to the “King’s Caves” where we had a go at lighting our own camp fire using only kindling and a steel & flint.



Luckily we managed to all start our camp fires and roast marshmallows on sticks – then we had lunch! On the walk back to the minibus we picked up rubbish that had been washed up on the beach and disposed of it in a safe manner. Later that afternoon we returned to the AOC and had a go at the climbing wall plus at night went swimming at Auchrannie Hotel then played team games back at AOC. The weather was cold but sunny and we managed to fit in a lot of activities and had a brilliant time.

REACH FORWARD AT UNIVERSAL CONNECTIONS

This year we are running a pilot project called RF at the UC which is taking place at Rutherglen Universal Connections and is jointly headed by a member of teaching staff from Rutherglen High School and a youth worker from Rutherglen Universal Connections. RF at the UC is initially taking place on a Monday morning with the young people being collected from School by mini bus and transported to the Rutherglen Universal Connections building. It is important that both the Teaching Staff and Youth Worker collect the Young Person to indicate their commitment to the Young Person's learning. The course is designed to engage the Young Person in their own learning in a nurturing environment.

The program consists of:

- Circle Time

- Lessons for Living – Relaxation

- Literacy

- Numeracy

- Health and Wellbeing – making healthy choices (i.e. snacks, lunch). Having responsibility for preparing food and drinks for the team.

- Personal project of the Young Person's choosing – This could be a solo talk, PowerPoint or film which will be used as evidence in their Youth Achievement Award.

- Game Time – Allows the pupil not only choice in the activity but responsibility to set up and tidy away.

In conjunction with Glasgow Kelvin College the Young Person will be entered onto the Community Achievement Award at SCQF level 4 or 5. These Awards are designed to recognise and accredit learning in a community based setting and are based on a 3 stage process:

- Planning – choosing an activity and setting milestones.

- Implementation – carrying out the activity as outlined in the planning stage.

- Evaluation – reviewing success, thinking about what could have been done differently, identifying, learning and looking at the benefits to themselves and others.

Our pilot group have visited Glasgow Kelvin College to enrol and have met their Glasgow Kelvin College Community Learning and Development worker Jane who will support the Young Person and their mentors throughout the process.

The group have begun to start work on their Personal project and have participated in making their own healthy lunches. We hope to be able to invite the group's Parents down to Rutherglen UC where the Young People can display their work and provide refreshments.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE NETBALL FESTIVAL

We recently attended another Netball festival at Bellahouston Sports Centre. Most of the team are relatively new to netball but again worked hard against some tough opposition. The pupils had a great time and are building up their skills and knowledge of the game. They now have experience of playing in different positions in a full court game. The pupils who attended were Abbie Law, Jay Dignall, Jamie McBride, Nicole Henderson, Kathleen Collins, Gary Neil, Matthew Mitchell, Evan Clements and Angela Clemente. If anyone else is interested in coming along see Mrs Cresswell or a member of the PE department.

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GALLERY



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