



DOUGLAS ACADEMY NEWS

MARCH/MAY 2018



strength through knowledge

Note from the Head Teacher.

There has been an incredibly busy start to the new term with pupils working hard, supported by staff, to prepare for SQA examinations which began on Monday 30th April. We wish all pupils every success and while they are off on study leave it is important they remember that staff will be available to support them as and when required. It is always nice to see our young people move on to the next stage of their lives and while for S6 pupils this is both a happy and sad time, I know that they leave Douglas Academy with many wonderful memories and lasting friendships. Our best wishes and congratulations also go to Miss McGrotty of the Biology Department who has worked hard over the past year and has now secured a permanent appointment in Hermitage Academy.

The themes of peace and respect for others clearly resonate with all staff and pupils in Douglas Academy and this was very evident when we learned a few weeks ago that our Rights Respecting School team successfully secured the Unicef UK Gold Award. Rights Respecting School is an initiative which exists to help promote the rights of children both within our school and globally. It is run in Douglas Academy by a large and committed team of pupils who make a very valuable contribution to the school community. My sincere thanks and congratulations go to Mrs Hoyle, staff and pupils involved in RRSA who have done an outstanding job. We are only one of a small number of secondary schools in Scotland to achieve this award and the first in East Dunbartonshire!

Musically, we continue to thrive and on Tuesday 24th April, staff, parents and pupils enjoyed a wonderful Spring Concert with excellent contributions from our choirs and orchestras. There were many highlights – amongst them ‘Our Song of Peace’ which was sung so beautifully by our Junior and Senior Choirs who came together for the first time.

Over the next few weeks as Senior pupils undertake examinations, those in S1 to S3 will continue to complete courses and prepare for the change of timetable on Monday 4th June. There are lots of interesting events planned over the coming weeks including outdoor trips in History, Geography and CDT which will further enhance pupils’ learning. While teaching staff will be developing new materials for next session’s courses, our office staff will be working hard behind the scenes to ensure that new timetables are ready for all pupils. It truly is a team effort.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the events of the past few months which give real insight into the range of curricular and other activities we offer in Douglas Academy.

Barry Smedley
Head Teacher

Douglas Academy PTA

Quiz Night

@ St Joseph’s Church Hall, Milngavie

Friday 11th May
7pm - 11pm

Prizes – Raffle – Bingo – Bar

£5 ticket inc first drink

Tickets available from Haydock Music, Milngavie and PTA members. More info call 07764679859 (Mary-Lou)

QUIZ NIGHT: Sponsors sought! Will you sponsor a round at the **Quiz Night on Friday 11th May?**

£20 for a round with full credits and a special prize for the winner of your round. There will be 8 rounds with questions tailored to the sponsor if possible! Email marylougraham44@gmail.com or contact the school if you are interested.

Lots of Socks for Down's Syndrome Awareness

Staff and pupils were invited to take part in 'Lots of Socks' to raise awareness of Down's Syndrome on March 21st, with prizes being given for the most creative sock wearer. The key message was to encourage pupils to celebrate our differences by wearing lots of sock so they stood out and looked different. In addition to raising lots of awareness, over £170 was raised which will be donated to Down's Syndrome Scotland. Well done to everyone who got involved.



Students prove themselves sharp at school concerts

It's the end of concert season yet again at Douglas Academy, but those who may feel the passing of time can at least smile knowing the last evening, on Tuesday 24th April, more than lived up to expectations of the audience. The night began with an energetic Wind Band, who ensured woe to any persons considering a slumber after work, for everyone was soon grinning and tapping their feet along in time to the music. There was a large spectrum of variety within the pieces played: The Chamber Orchestra showed great musical skill and maturity, tackling well respected works such as Barber's 'Adagio for Strings', while a memorable gospel chorus from the Senior Choir - complete with clapping – resonated through many heads long after the concert. With its 'Nonsense Songs' the Chamber Choir encouraged both nonsense laughter and an awed hush in the hall as the audience listened attentively to every note. Meanwhile, Second Orchestra and Junior Choir offered a different edge to the concert – with a touching rendition of the gorgeous 'Hushabye Mountain'. Overall, this concert marked a further success for the Music School on the back of the previous week's much anticipated Composition Concert where students are able to show off their own efforts in writing their own pieces and seeing them brought to life by their peers.

The Composition Concert, like the Spring Concert was well attended and certainly enjoyable for both the audience and the students involved, mainly because of its unique nature. Pupils at last have the chance and freedom (good fortune indeed, not unusual at Douglas) to take inspiration from their favourite music and develop it sometimes boldly and always creatively. When listening to many of the pieces, whether describing a trip to an inspiring place in the Highlands or the intense yet incredibly beautiful feeling of nostalgia, it is plain for the audience to see how much of the composer comes across in the music. Indeed for the composer it

can be said that having something so personal performed in public can entice a feeling of vulnerability. So it is therefore a credit to those who stood up and talked freely about themselves and their piece, breaking the barrier that sometimes exists between an audience and performer.

If the products of these two concerts are a beacon of the future of music in Scotland, then suffice to say we're all doing remarkably well.

Sarah Greer S4



The Big Pedal 2018

Douglas Academy took part in this year's Sustrans Big Pedal. This event saw schools from across the U.K. compete to log the most journeys made to school by bike or scooter. The event ran from April 23rd – May 4th and the launch was marked by a Bike Breakfast for participants on Monday 23rd April. Pupils simply cycled or scooted to school and enjoyed a **free breakfast** in the Health & Food Technology department from 8.30am. Staff journeys counted too, so teachers were also encouraged to get involved!

The S3 Cycling Group

The S3 cycling group enjoyed a great day out in Glasgow City Centre on Monday the 19th of March. With the sun shining for the first time in months, the intrepid peddlers set off by train to Central Station where they collected their Next Bikes. Some readers may have seen these bikes dotted around the city, and Sustrans kindly covered the hire cost for the day. The tour saw them make their way down Buchanan Street before joining National Cycle Route 75 by the River Clyde. First stop was the Transport museum where the group marvelled



at the Penny Farthings and gained a new appreciation for just how far bike technology has come. Next was the People's Palace where they re-fuelled with a packed lunch and a hot chocolate before crossing the river to the Southside and a visit to Scotland Street School Museum. In a relatively short time span they managed to cover approximately 10 miles and got to see their home city from a new perspective. Next Bikes are a great way to get around Glasgow and the Cycling Group would highly recommend them for a day out with all the family. In other Cycling News, Douglas Academy signed up for the Sustrans Big Pedal 2018. Between April 23rd and May 4th pupils recorded journeys to school made by bike or scooter. Lots of prizes were up for grabs and with journeys made by teachers and parents counting too, so get involved! Happy Cycling!

Shelf Help

Shelf Help is a new initiative from East Dunbartonshire Secondary School Libraries. School Librarians from across the Council have been working together to develop the idea to show pupils - through fiction and shared reading/writing – that they are not alone when dealing with challenges in their lives. The Shelf Help book collection contains non-fiction books on a range of topics, including how to maintain good mental health and how to cope with stress and fiction books about characters who may be going through similar experiences and challenges.

Pupils have the opportunity to write about a book which has helped them through a difficult time or has made an impact on them. Their contributions will be compiled in a booklet '*The Book that saved my Life*' which will be launched during Book Week Scotland in November.

Also as part of the initiative, librarians and pupils will work together to produce online fiction reading lists that feature characters dealing with mental health and wellbeing issues.

This project is supported by the Scottish School Library Improvement Fund which is administered by the Scottish Library and Information Council.



Study Guides

The Library has a wide range of study guides and past papers available for loan to support pupils in their exam revision.

Fairtrade Fortnight

On Friday 9th March 2018, Douglas Academy Fairtrade Committee hosted a staff coffee morning. Fairtrade tea and coffee was served along with fairtrade baked goods. The morning was very successful and £150 was raised for charity.



Glasgow Medical School S3 Event

Following an announcement at S3 Assembly, I applied for a course at the Wolfson Medical School at Glasgow University to learn a little more about studying Medicine. Along with a number of S3 pupils, I was delighted to gain a place for the event which was held on Saturday 21st April. The day was composed of talks about:

- The structure of the course and financial support available;

- Programmes offered by the university for S4, S5 and S6 pupils; and

- The life of a First Year medical student, as well as one from a recently qualified graduate.

The talks from staff and students were very insightful and interesting and included important information such as how and where to get relevant work experience. There were also different stations in the labs showing us how to take a pulse and other such basic but essential information.

Overall, the day was very interesting, well planned and really helpful. It was really inspiring to hear from staff and students and provided information which will undoubtedly prove extremely useful in the future.

Lauren McGuinness 3F



S3 Pupils who attended Glasgow Medical School Event on Saturday 21st April.



Elliot Anderson with his U18 Scottish Schools Football cap. Elliot played in the home countries international tournament this year. Scotland experienced varying degrees of success most notably defeating England along the way.



Well Done Wood'n Stock!



This year's Young Enterprise Company, Wood'n Stock attended the Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire Final on Wednesday 14 March at Strathclyde University to compete with many other successful Young Enterprise Companies across Dunbartonshire.

On the night, companies had to present to a large audience of 80 people about their experience with Young Enterprise, including achievements and challenges that the company faced. Company members also participated in an interview whereby members of the Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire Board asked company members questions to find out more in-depth information about the company including financial management, structure and marketing strategies. The company was represented on the night by both the management board and company members including : Craig Kidd, Managing Director; Jennifer Cockburn and Mia Evans, Marketing Directors; Scott Brown, Finance Director; and Francesca Nicholson, Company Member.

It was a nerve wrecking and exciting night as with stiff competition between the different companies, Wood'n Stock were not sure how the judges were going to vote. Company scores were based on the following – company trade stand at the annual trade fair competition, company business report, company performance during the interview and finally the presentation. Company members were elated that on the night they won the Best Trade Stand and also, the main award for the Best Overall Company. Company members could not believe that they had won the overall award but they have clearly demonstrated their business acumen and commitment throughout the year to create and manage a company. Going forward, Wood'n Stock will now go ahead to compete in the Young Enterprise Scottish finals at Hampden Park, Wednesday 6 June, 2018 with 17 other companies from all over Scotland to face more business challenges!



Mark Scott Leadership

This year as part of the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award a group of students from Douglas Academy, Bearsden Academy and Bocclair Academy redecorated the living room of the local women's refuge.

Mark Scott was 16 when he was murdered in 1995 as a result of an unprovoked sectarian motivated attack. Since then, Mark's parents set up the Mark Scott Award with the aim of giving young people the opportunity to bring the community closer together. The Award was split into 2 sections; a 5 day residential and a community project. The residential project took place in the Lake District with pupils from all the areas of Glasgow coming together to develop team-building and leadership skills. This involved activities such as raft building, rock scrambling and an overnight camping expedition.

After this, the next stage was planning, organising and carrying out a community project. This was done in association with East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid. Douglas Academy was able to raise a fantastic £340 towards the project from a car wash and additional donations. Over 3 days the

living room of the refuge was redecorated into a more welcoming and comforting place for the women. This has been a great experience and the work done will remain for years to come.



Before



After

'Intergenerational Project'

As the school year progresses, our 'Intergenerational Project is going well as we work towards strengthening links with Abbotsford House. In April, residents were invited to join us for rehearsals for the Douglas Academy Spring Concert and we were delighted to welcome them to this sneak preview. While the musicians amongst us have visited Abbotsford House and entertained residents by singing, playing the piano and the ukulele, others enjoy reading and playing Scrabble and Dominos while listening to the 'Rat Pack' music which plays in the background. We are all learning new skills! Later this month we have poetry recitals planned by our Douglas Academy Poetry finalists in May.

We are sure the residents and pupils involved shall enjoy the entertainment.



Business Education and Enterprise – Volunteering in Action

During Enterprise month all S2 pupils in Business Education volunteered for four hours to gain a Saltire Challenge Award. They had a task of planning and creating an Activity Book to be sent to the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, formally known as Yorkhill Children's Charity. S2 took four periods out of class time in Enterprise to prepare the Activity Book - offering a variety of activities such as wordsearches, mazes, colouring in, quizzes and many more for the children at the hospital to enjoy!



As part of the Activity Book project, S2 received a talk at assembly from Lara MacDonald, Community Campaigns Fundraiser from Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. Lara spoke about Medicinema and how the Medicinema screens recent films for the children and their families. This benefits the children and their families as they can have a great and memorable experience in the cinema! Furthermore, she also said how grateful to receive the Activity Books as this will benefit the children during their time in hospital.



As part of the project a Front Cover Competition was held and the following pupils were successful: Abigail Carrick, James Cowan, Tegan Pittard, Morven MacDonald, Angus Maciver, Katie Pirie, Anna Brownlie and Niamh Stevenson. The winning pupils attended the Royal Hospital for Children to deliver the Activity Books, and as part of the visit they received a tour of the hospital – including Teddy Bear Hospital and the Medicinema.

Well done to all of our pupils in S2 for their hard work and commitment while completing the Saltire Challenge Award!

PTA News

After the success of a most enjoyable Anniversary Ceilidh in January we are now looking forward to our ever popular **Quiz Night** on **Friday 11th May** in **St Joseph's Church Hall**. Tickets £5 include a free drink. Bar, raffle, bingo and lots of fun! Tickets always go fast for this so get your teams together and tickets will go on sale at the start of next term. We are also going to organise a **Family Litter Collection Day** around the school in collaboration with our friends from Milngavie in Bloom. This will happen when the weather improves, probably towards the end of May/early June. I hope you will all agree that this is an important issue and come out in droves to support us! Watch this space for updates on this. Looking further ahead, the present committee which has worked so hard over the last few years is getting towards the end of their children's school years and we really need new members to swell our ranks and take over when we have to leave. Thank you to everyone who has supported our events this session and a big thank you to my fellow committee members for their tireless and cheerful work.

Mary-Lou Graham, Chairperson, Douglas Academy PTA.



Poetry by Heart National Final

On Saturday 10th March, Colin Hood 5D represented the school and Glasgow & East Dunbartonshire region at this year's National Final of the Poetry by Heart Competition. Colin and five other finalists each recited two poems in what was a lovely event held in the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh. The competition was judged by three renowned Scottish poets and the standard of the recitals was very high. Colin's chosen poems were "This is It" by William Letford and "The Season of Youth" by William Knox. The afternoon ended on a high with Colin being declared the Runner Up (2nd place). This is the a personal best for Douglas Academy in this competition and we are very proud of Colin for representing the school so well.

Congratulations, Colin!

A short video of the event, including extracts from Colin's performance, is available on the Scottish Poetry Library's website:

<http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/learn/teachers>

World Book Day Competitions

To celebrate World Book Day, Douglas Academy Library hosted a Scholastic Book Fair in March allowing pupils the opportunity to use their £1 World Book Day vouchers. The Book Fair was a great success with £350 worth of books sold. As a result the Library received £88 worth of new books which are now available to borrow.

A competition was held for pupils in first and second year. First Year pupils were asked to write a book review about their favourite book with pupils in second year producing a book review PowerPoint. Winners received their choice of book from the Book Fair with runners up receiving stationery. The winning entries are currently on display in the Library.

S1 Winner: Sophie Gartshore 1F

Joint 2nd: Kitty-Gene Dempster 1F & Honey Smith 1E

3rd: Marnie Sayer 1C

Commended: Nathan Smith 1C, Alex Maclean 1B, Olivia Wright-Bremner 1C, Ruth Maciver 1C

S2 Winner: Gordon Barbour 2E

2nd: Grace Wilson 2A

3rd: Lauren MacQueen 2C

Commended: Emily Maclellan 2B, Ethan Baxter Mason 2A, Julia Brockie 2F, Adam Nicolson 2E



Douglas Academy Food Bank initiative 2017/ 2018

Since 2015, staff and pupils of Douglas Academy have supported East Dunbartonshire FoodBank.

This year collections took place during September and March and we are delighted to announce that we are well on our way to achieving our targets.

Thank you from the FoodBank team for your continuing support and kind donations.

You can find out more by visiting HFT department or the Trussell trust website:

<https://www.trusselltrust.org>



Restoring
Dignity

Reviving
Hope



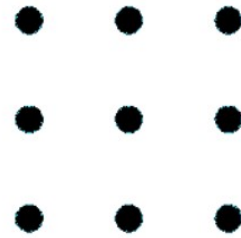
Numeracy

S1 puzzle of the Month

February's puzzle turned out to be a double roll over with the prize worth a £40!

The February puzzle was won by Mihai Urse from 1B!!!
Mihai won £40 worth of JD sports vouchers.

Without lifting your pencil, can you connect all of the dots below with four straight lines?



Can you solve this ?

$$\text{🐼} \times \text{🐼} \times \text{🐼} = 27$$

$$\text{🐼} + \text{🍄} \times \text{🍄} = 84$$

$$\text{🍄} + \text{🕯️} = 13$$

$$\text{🍄} \div \text{🕯️} \times \text{🐼} = ??$$

The puzzle in March was won by Poppy McGregor from 1F!!! Poppy won a £20 voucher for One4All by solving the puzzle below.

All solutions can be found on our numeracy board. Look out for more of our puzzles to win a £20 voucher!!!!

Class Acts Exhibition



Some of our Higher and Advanced Higher work from last year was exhibited at the Lillie Art Gallery in Milngavie this month as part of their annual Class Acts Exhibition. This is a public exhibition showcasing the Art and Design work of pupils from across all EDC schools. As you can see from the photos above, our pupils are a talented bunch!

Douglas Academy Welcomes Jo Swinson MP for East Dunbartonshire

The Higher Modern Studies class of Douglas Academy welcomed Jo Swinson to speak with them about her role as an MP to further enhance their understanding of aspects of the parliamentary process and life at the Houses of Parliament generally. The pupils engaged in a question and answer session which ranged from the current political situation in Syria to Jo's involvement in select committees. Calum Fynn said, "It was fantastic that Jo Swinson could meet with our class. It was invaluable to hear about her work as a government minister and her time in opposition as the deputy leader. I particularly enjoyed our discussion on Syria."

Following from this, Jo took part in a debate on the gender pay gap with the school's debating society. Douglas Academy's Debating and Public Speaking Society continues to be successful in local and national competitions. In the current school year teams from Douglas Academy have been ESU Scotland Mace Finalists; International Competition for Young Debaters finalists in the Oxford Union and the S6 European Youth Parliament Team will represent the UK at the 87th International Session of the European Youth Parliament in Lithuania in July. The motion for debate during Jo's visit was, *This House would make CEOs criminally responsible for the gender pay gap in their companies*. The debate proved to be highly informative and entertaining.

Jo then donated a signed copy of her book *Equal Power and How You can Make it Happen* to the library of Douglas Academy. Commenting on her visit to Douglas Academy, Jo Swinson said:

"It was a bit of a trip down memory lane to take part in the Debating Society's lunchtime event, and I was impressed by the quality of arguments and rebuttal that the pupils deployed. It's no surprise the Douglas Academy teams are enjoying such success in competitions.

It was also good to meet the S5 class and answer their questions, and hope some of the things I talked about might come in handy for them in three weeks' time when they sit their exams. I wish all the pupils the very best as exam season looms."



Jo Swinson donates her book to the library of Douglas Academy



Jo Swinson debates with Douglas Academy's debating team



Jo Swinson meets with Douglas Academy's Higher Modern Studies class



THE LORD SPEAKER'S

PEERS IN SCHOOLS

OUTREACH PROGRAMME

PEERS IN SCHOOLS VISIT TO DOUGLAS ACADEMY FROM LORD PURVIS OF TWEED DATE 20/4/18

Douglas Academy hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords on Friday 20th April to encourage students to become more engaged with the political and parliamentary process. Lord Purvis met the Higher Modern Studies students to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords, followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at the Houses of Parliament. The discussion ranged from reform of the House of Lords to government scrutiny and the role of the UK Parliament in Iraq.

Arun Smith – Head Boy at Douglas Academy said, "Learning from Lord Purvis's experience was very useful. We gained additional insight into the work of the House of Lords and how they effectively scrutinise the government. I was also able to question him on his committee work as this proved useful for our development topic."

The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's "Peers in Schools" outreach programme, which was established across the UK in 2007 and has so far involved around 90,000 young people. Members of the House of Lords visit schools, academies and colleges to give talks in support of the citizenship curriculum. For further information, and to make an application, see the Lord Speaker's web page at www.parliament.uk/lordspeaker.



Glasgow Music Festival Results 2018

Congratulations to all of our pupils who participated in the Glasgow Music Festival and well done to those placed in the top three of their category.

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PERFORMER	CLASS	PLACE
Douglas Academy Senior Choir	School Choirs - Mixed Voices	1
Douglas Academy Chamber Choir	School Chamber Choirs	1
(Ann Wiseman Trophy for best overall choir)		
Douglas Academy Vocal Ensemble	Intermediate Vocal Ensembles	1
Archie Watt & Hugh Kaliski	Intermediate Vocal Duets	3
Sarah Greer & Esther Mandujano	Intermediate Vocal Duets	2
Hugh Kaliski	Songs from the Shows (13 & 14)	3
Jenna Boyd	Art Song (18 and under)	3
Lara Anderson	Art Song (18 and under)	2
Lara Anderson	Opera (18 and under)	1
Lara Anderson	Oratorio or Cantata Aria (18 and under)	2
Archie Watt	Male Voice Solos (18 and under)	3
Sarah Greer	Girls' Vocal Solos (15 & 16)	1
Anna Scott	Piano Sonata	2
Jenna Boyd	Romantic Piano Solos	2
Esther Mandujano	Romantic Piano Solos	1
Joseph McIlree	Modern Piano Solos	1
Beth McAlister	Modern String Solos	1
Oliver Patterson	Modern String Solos	2
Corin Whitmarsh	String Sonata	2
Clara Daley	String Sonata	3
Anna Mackenzie	Violin Solos - Open	2
Erin Black	Cello Solos - Open	1
Mari McGregor	Cello Solos A	1
Anna Mackenzie & Lian Yip	String Duets - Open	2
Jacques Leitao & Marco Martinez	String Duets - Open	1
Douglas Academy Clarsach Ensemble	Scots Music Ensemble	1
Jacques Leitao	Guitar Solos - Open	1
Serenna MacLellan	Modern Woodwind and Brass Solos	3
Raj Bhaumik	Modern Woodwind and Brass Solos	3
Jamie McClenaghan	Woodwind and Brass Sonata	2
Douglas Academy Flute Quartet	Woodwind Ensembles A	2
Douglas Academy Chamber Trio	Chamber Music - Open	3
Douglas Academy Senior String Quartet	Chamber Music - Open	2
Jenna Boyd	Composition and Invention - Open	3
Monica Sharp	Composition and Invention - Open	2
Chun Wei Kang	Composition and Invention - Open	1
Abby Tyson	Composition and Invention A	1
Noah Watkin	Composition and Invention A	3
Anna Hamilton	Composition and Invention A	3