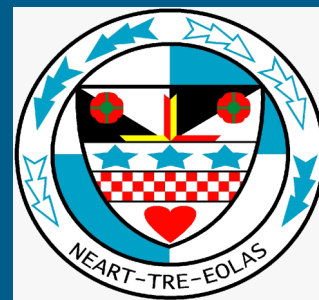




DOUGLAS ACADEMY NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018



strength through knowledge

Over January and February, a great deal has been going on in Douglas Academy. Prelims have been completed and marks returned to all pupils. Supported Study and Masterclasses have begun once again and will ensure that pupils who wish additional help receive it. This is a busy time for all those involved in learning and teaching: teachers and Senior Phase pupils are now working hard to prepare for the final SQA examinations in May; while those in the Broad General Education are continuing with course work and S3 pupils in particular, with Scottish National Assessments. Meanwhile pupils in S2, S3 and S4 have been selecting course options for session 2018/2019.

This has been an interesting and exciting time for teachers too. In conjunction with the University of the West of Scotland, staff have carried out Learning Rounds and are looking forward to evaluating the process and identifying next steps. In addition, many departments are reviewing course content using Lesson Study – a programme imported from Japan. Teachers are enjoying the opportunity to work collaboratively to develop course content and are always enthusiastic about sharing good practice which will further improve teaching and learning.

As always, over the last few weeks there have been many activities which pupils have enjoyed and contributed to. Our English and Biology Departments have taken pupils to visit Edinburgh Zoo as part of the curriculum. Under the auspices of Mr Johnson and Mr Gracie, our football teams are flourishing – and it is clear that we have some real talent here. In addition, our debaters also continue to excel with Mr Sinclair and Mr Gray continuing to support our speakers. For our musicians, preparations are well underway for the Music School Annual Recital on Friday 16th March, 2018. Time certainly passes quickly and it is wonderful to watch our young people thrive and benefit from so many extra-curricular activities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Docherty and Mr Dunsmuir on their recent appointments to permanent Deputy Head Teachers at Douglas Academy. We wish both Mrs Docherty and Mr Dunsmuir every success in their new posts and I have no doubts they will continue to make a positive contribution to the Douglas Academy School Community for the foreseeable future.

*B Smedley
Head Teacher*

The Douglas Academy News is produced for the parents, pupils and friends of Douglas Academy. It appears towards the end of each month. All comments, enquiries, suggestions or contributions will be very welcome.



Debating News

Congratulations to Raj Bhaumik and Eoghan Connolly who qualified for the UK Finals Day of the International Competition for Young Debaters (ICYD) at the Scottish qualifier in the High School of Dundee on Saturday 24 Feb. Raj and Eoghan will now debate in the famous Oxford Union on Saturday 28 April against some of the UK's best junior debaters.

Raj and Eoghan argued the following motions:

This House would ban all drugs
This House would stop space exploration
This House would let democratic countries assassinate dictators

Congratulations also to the all Douglas teams who debated with considerable skill and insight: Orla Johnson, Imogen Milling, Tom Milling and Kiron Dutton.



Congratulations to Kerr McQuillan of 2D who won first place in the North American Solo Drumming Championships. Kerr qualified for the event following success at the World Solo Drumming Championships held at Glasgow Caledonian in October 2017. Accompanied by his dad, who is also a drummer, Kerr travelled to Kansas for a week long stay. Kerr said, "It was great! I really enjoyed it and learned a lot about drumming ... and the meat capital of the world!" Well done Kerr!

Douglas Pupils Show Computational Thinking Skills

The Computing Science Department would like to say a huge "Well Done!" to all our pupils who took part in November's Bebras Challenge. Everyone enjoyed their day and all the pupils made sure to give it their very best shot. In particular, some of our pupils showed fantastic computational thinking to record scores that were in the top 10% of all pupils in their age group *in the UK!!!* This is an incredible achievement and the Computing Science

Department would like to congratulate them:

Alfie Smith, Finn Eker and Nathan Smith from S1

Kiron Dutton from S2

Cameron Johnston, Orla Johnston, Robert Molloy, Rico D'Agostino and Marnie Anderson from S3

Everyone who took part can feel proud of their efforts, but to be listed as the top 10% in the whole of the UK is something very special indeed. Over 70,000 S1-S2 pupils took part, and over 14,000 S3-S4 pupils. Those pupils who were in the top 10% will be invited to join a further competition run by Oxford University in March. We wish our competitors the very best of luck!



University of Glasgow

Computing Science Undergraduate Ambassadors' Scheme

This month we welcomed Maria Papadopoulou, a final year Glasgow University Computing Science student, into the Computing Science Department. Maria is taking part in the Ambassadors' scheme which encourages university students to gain a module by working with teachers and pupils in school for a period of five days. During that time Maria delivers Computing Science workshops and gives pupils an insight into the world of Computing Science.

Maria is working with a wide variety of classes from S1 to S6 running workshops which help to inspire and enable children to be creators of technology. She is also giving presentations on the study of Computing Science at university. Maria will run 2 workshops in her time with us – the first on Parallel Processing and then another on Searching and Sorting Algorithms. This provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration with the University of Glasgow which always receives a very enthusiastic response from pupils and staff.



Intergenerational project

Our new Intergenerational project is going well as we continue to establish links with Abbotsford House.

Pupils are reading to residents, playing scrabble and dominos and we are all enjoying the 'Rat Pack' music which accompanies these activities.

Some of the residents joined us for the 'Douglas Academy' Burns supper on 25th January and all thoroughly enjoyed the meal, the entertainment and the visit to the school. Many of our Dementia Friends Group were in the kitchen preparing food and some were front of house serving our guests.

Pupils have also visited the cafe in Abbotsford

House for a lunch and enjoyed the bright cafe with its lovely menu. The cafe is open to the public and is situated on the first floor of the House.



Artist of the month



Jonathan Mitchell 2B



Mark Gittins 2B

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 1st March. Pupils will shortly be receiving their £1 World Book Day vouchers. These can be spent at most book shops from 26th February – 25th March. The Library will be holding a

Scholastic Book Fair from Wednesday 7th – Tuesday 14th March allowing pupils the opportunity to use their voucher. In addition pupils in First and Second Year are taking part in a Book Review Competition with winners receiving their choice of book from the Book Fair.



S1 Local History Elective

Pupils from the S1 Local History Elective have been learning about education in Milngavie. On 6th February we visited the local archives at Bearsden Hub and met Janice Miller who is the Information and Archives Officer for EDLC. Pupils enjoyed working as 'history detectives' finding evidence from old school log books, photographs, maps and newspapers. It was a fascinating visit with pupils having the opportunity to see around the new hub building.

Burns Supper



Our 50th Anniversary Burns Supper celebration was held on the evening of the 25th in the school. Guests from Contact the Elderly, Carers'Link, Oakburn Daycare Centre and Abbotsford House enjoyed a traditional Burns' Supper

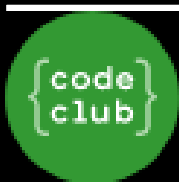
with all the trimmings! The Haggis was piped in to the hall and duly dispatched with a few careful twists of a very sharp knife. The meal that followed, cooked on the premises by pupils, was delicious. The speeches followed with the usual references to the life of the Bard and his various interesting views on Politics, Nature, and Love.

With various musical interludes and recitations and songs from his work the evening was rounded off with some demonstration dancing that had participants and guests joining in. A very enjoyable evening which has left us all looking forward to the 51st Anniversary Supper: Same time, same place next year!



Poetry by Heart Scotland

On Wednesday 31st January Colin Hood (S5) and Calum Silcock (S6) represented the school at the Glasgow & East Dunbartonshire heat of this year's Poetry by Heart Competition. In what was a lovely event held in Glasgow University both young men recited two poems to a very high standard, along with competitors from eight other schools. The night ended on a high with Colin being declared the regional winner. He will now attend the national final of the competition in Edinburgh on Saturday 10th March. We wish him all the best and hope that he will enjoy reciting his poems again to a panel of renowned Scottish poets. Good luck, Colin!

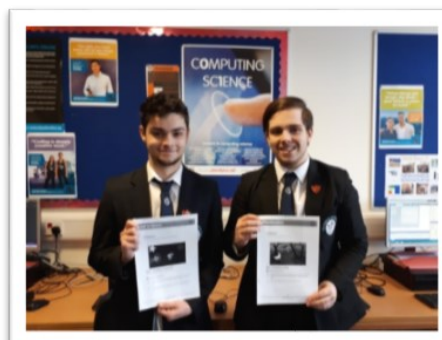
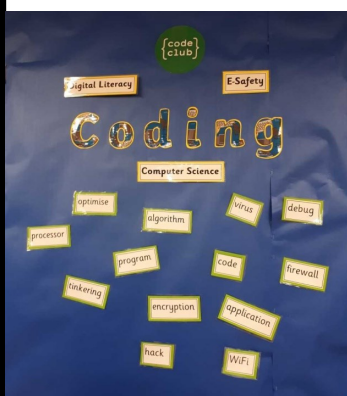


Codeclub at Craigdhu Primary School

Mrs Tuohy and two Advanced Higher pupils from the Computing Science Department are supporting Craigdhu Primary school in running a CodeClub.

P5 and P6 pupils have so far enjoyed the experience and we have been delighted by the uptake and the enthusiasm of the younger pupils.

CodeClub is a an online resource that encourages enthusiastic volunteers to team up with a community venue, such as a school or library, to run an after-school club for young people aged 9-13, using specially created Code Club resources. More information can be found at this link <https://www.codeclub.org.uk/>.



Inverclyde Music Festival

Congratulations are extended to Matthew and Joseph McIlree, both Music School pupils, who performed brilliantly at the recent Inverclyde Music Festival.

Matthew: 1st in Vocal (Self Accompanied); 1st in Instrumental Recital & 1st in Piano Open, winning the James Sandison Memorial Quaich.

Joseph: 1st in Grade 7/8 Piano, winning the Gwendolyn Lithgow Trophy. He was also awarded the George Parkhill Memorial Trophy for the best Piano Performance in piano classes up to Grade 8 level (for the second year).

Both boys were invited to play at the final concert in Greenock Town Hall where Joseph also competed for the Andrew B Cockle Award (the highest award in the Festival). He played really well but unfortunately lost out to some very beautiful clarsach playing by a pupil from the Glasgow Gaelic School.

The boys were a credit to the Music School of Douglas Academy and to their very fine teachers especially Mrs Scott and Miss Hutchison. Well done!