



DOUGLAS ACADEMY NEWS

AUGUST/OCTOBER 2018



strength through knowledge

Since starting back in August this term has been, as always, a very busy time. We were very happy to welcome our new intake of S1 pupils and they have made an outstanding start to Douglas Academy. We were also delighted with our performance in the 2018 National examinations and being given the accolade of the top performing school in East Dunbartonshire. The commitment of staff and parents and the hard work of our young people should be recognised here. We are very proud of their achievements and we continue to work conscientiously this session to ensure ongoing improvements in learning and teaching and development of study skills.

This term there have been a number of extra-curricular opportunities, some of which will be described here and others in subsequent editions of the newsletter. The annual History/Modern Studies London Trip in September was a huge success, as was the French Exchange and the Football Trip to Porto. Meanwhile, a considerable number of our pupils are involved at different levels, in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This week, staff and pupils are working hard to prepare for the Fashion Show. In addition, students from the Physics and Maths departments have progressed to the finals of the West of Scotland Physics Education Group (WOSPEG), and to the Enterprising Maths Competition. A number of S1-2 pupils attended the Big Bang STEM event and 60 S1 pupils had the opportunity to attend a series of workshops delivered by representatives of AECOM addressing the problems caused by flooding to the local environment. Finally, our debating, football and netball teams continue to flourish and are a source of fun and enjoyment (as well as competition) for staff and pupils alike.

Since August, we have welcomed nine Newly Qualified Teachers to Douglas Academy. They are: Mr Boyle (Business Studies); Mr G Brown (History/ Modern Studies); Mr J Brown (Physics); Mr Deveney (Chemistry); Ms Dolan (Biology); Ms Donnelly (Geography/Modern Studies); Ms Hare (RMPS); Mrs Olsen (Computing); and Mr Robinson (Art). Earlier this session, we also said farewell to Ms Currie of the English Department who now takes up a post as an English teacher in the Wellbeing Resource in Kirkintilloch. Congratulations also go to Mrs McLaughlin on her appointment to the position of temporary Music School Clerical Assistant and to Mrs Crawley, Clerical Assistant, who leaves us on Friday 2 November 2018, after 11 years of dedicated service to Douglas Academy, to assume a post closer to home in an East Renfrewshire primary school. I wish each one of my colleagues every success as they embark on new ventures.

Finally, as you are all no doubt aware, our school community received the very sad news in September that Mr Black, former Head Teacher of Douglas Academy, had died suddenly. I worked with Seamus for 5 years in Shawlands Academy and his appointment to the position of Head Teacher in 2008 was recognition of his expertise, commitment and dedication to the teaching profession. A caring and compassionate gentleman, his door was always open and he became a very much loved and respected Head Teacher. Generous in spirit, an advocate of our Music School and lover of music, Mr Black was always welcoming. He did a great deal for Douglas Academy and he was very proud of and grateful to his staff and young people. Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife and daughters. All proceeds from the Douglas Academy Variety Concert on Wednesday 14th November, 2018 will go to charity chosen by Seamus's family and a fitting commemoration of his time here in Douglas Academy will be carefully decided in due course.

Barry Smedley
Head Teacher

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

Parent Council

Douglas Academy Parent Council supports our school in a number of different ways, such as; encouraging links between the school and parents; collating and representing the views of the Parent Forum; and supporting parents to become more involved in their child's learning. You can find out more about the work of our Parent Council on the school website. You can also contact our Parent Council via e-mail at dcouncil@douglas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk.

PTA

If you would like to get involved in the PTA, please have a look at Douglas Academy PTA Facebook page.



Digging for Victory!

This term the S2 Gardening Elective has been doing a lot of things to learn about horticulture. We have been growing micro leaves, such as rainbow chard and parsley which the Health and Food Technology Department have used as garnishes. To celebrate the autumn harvest, we made apple juice with home grown garden apples, as well as apple crumble. The apple juice tasted nice, but the apple crumble was amazing!

The class has now split into two groups - one which is growing food while the other, is designing a tulip colour bed for Spring. With the help of funding from the PTA, we ordered tulip bulbs and designed a colourful garden for Spring that will make people feel happy when they see it in the school grounds. There are dahlias at the front of the school which have fully blossomed and look beautiful. Meanwhile, the wild flowers we sowed in June are growing well and attracting bees. Unfortunately, the gladioli have attracted the wrong kind of wildlife and have been eaten by rabbits – only one survived! We are now going to study how to protect the plants from the rabbits.

Finally, the inside of our new polytunnel needs prepared for spring and those involved in the Garden Elective will be very much involved in this. Everyone at the Elective seems to be enjoying themselves and learning a lot about horticulture. It's been fun!



Alex Simpson and Sophie Moffat S2.



After spending some time discussing colour choice, use of fonts, magazine layouts and demographics, the Design and Technology Department have run a design for print Desk Top Publishing task for the first rotation of S2 pupils. The task involves designing the front cover for one of four magazine types (Douglas Academy magazine; a club the pupils attend; a charity of choice; or Scottish Tourism). The pupils must then research into the demographic of their chosen magazine and then design a cover that would appeal to the chosen demographic.

The winner was **Rio Richardson of 2.7**. Rio designed a Douglas Academy school magazine which made great use of contrast through colour choice. Rio used images of the school building and badge to create an eye catching design. Overall, this was a great display of S2 desktop publishing skills. Well done Rio!

Congratulations to the other finalists who were :

Declan Gorman 2.4

Marnie Sayer 2.4

Hudson Smith 2.7



Congratulations to Connagh Connelly of 4E who won first prize in the EDC Year of the Young People Talent Show. To win this coveted award, Connagh had to prepare a song, work on his pitch and breathing and wait nervously until his name was called out. The song Connagh chose to sing was 'Toxic', in the style of Melanie Martinez. We are looking forward to seeing Connagh perform in forthcoming school productions and talent shows. Well done Connagh!

Contratulations!

Douglas Academy's Stars Align Develop Skills for Learning, Life and Work



On Tuesday 11 September, company members from this year's Young Enterprise Company 'Stars Align', attended the annual Young Enterprise Masterclass in Glasgow City Centre. Pupils worked through various workshops including: Finance Management; Marketing; Branding and Sales Management. During the course of the day, pupils were able to participate in these workshops delivered by experts in the business industry. The workshops provided pupils the opportunity to develop their necessary skills for learning, life and work in order to run a successful business over the forthcoming year.

In the afternoon, pupils participated in the 'Business Game' where they had to buy raw materials to make paper aeroplanes which were then sold by each company. Throughout the game, members of Young Enterprise Scotland emphasised that a strong work ethic and commitment of all company members is essential in becoming a successful business.

Overall, 'Stars Align' found the Masterclass beneficial and all pupils can now take the skills they have developed from this experience and put them in to action over this forthcoming year.



Tennis Success

Andrew Wilson S3 competed in England over the last few weeks of the summer holidays. He performed incredibly well, playing 24 matches within the two week period, winning 18 of them and getting to four finals. Andrew won three of his finals. Firstly the Cromer Consolation under-16s and then, the following week, the boys under-14s singles and doubles at Framlingham, the venue for the second oldest tennis competition in England. In the photograph Andrew can be seen being presented with the Doubles Trophy by Christine Janes MBE, President of Framlingham and former runner-up at Wimbledon.

Andrew plays junior tennis for Strathgyffe in Houston and is currently a West of Scotland County player. He regularly participates in tennis training at the local Nuffield Health Club. During the October school break Andrew is going to Florence for a week of intensive tennis training. We wish him well in his tennis career this year.



Author Talk on Teen Mental Health

Douglas Academy played host to writer and teen mental health champion Natasha Devon on Tuesday 11 September. A group of S3 pupils from Douglas attended Natasha's talk along with visiting pupils from Bearsden Academy, Boclair Academy, and Turnbull High School, learning all about healthy ways to cope with stress and anxiety.

Pupils were enthusiastic about the day and commented:

"I LOVED it! I thought it was informative and helpful."

"She was amazing and I loved how she shared her first hand experiences."

"Her story was so helpful because it shows you're not alone."

"It taught be that being strong is asking for help."

"Sometimes people say things they don't mean because there isn't a word for how they're feeling."

"She explained things in a way that's easy to understand, and suggested coping strategies."

St Ninian's High School in Kirkintilloch also hosted Natasha and accommodated visiting S3 pupils from Bishopbriggs Academy, Kirkintilloch High School and Lenzie Academy. Librarians from East Dunbartonshire Council's secondary schools organised the inter-school event after being awarded generous funding and support from the Scottish Government School Library Improvement Fund and the

Scottish Library and Information Council to run their 'Shelf Help' project.

'Shelf Help' aims to promote teen mental health and social wellbeing by showing pupils – through shared reading and writing – that they are not alone. As well as the coaching from Natasha Devon, all schools have been involved in a creative writing competition, where pupils were invited to share a book which had had an impact on them. The resulting booklet will be launched during Book Week Scotland in November. All school libraries are also fully stocked with an up-to-date collection of fiction and non-fiction on a range of mental health and social wellbeing topics.



SCHOOL CAPTAINS



Our school captains for session 2018/19 are;
Colin Hood and Katie Hamilton

Vice captains are;

Archie Spence, Leticia Nedd, Giorgia Capaldi and Stuart Chalmers

Douglas Academy Food Bank initiative 2018

'Helping Hands'

Our Food Bank initiative commenced this year week beginning 27th August 2018 with nine of our S4 Hospitality pupils. A presentation was prepared by the group who kept the name 'Helping Hands' which was given by last year's S3 group.

Presentations were delivered to pupils in all year groups during this week in assemblies. Pupils were shown how foodbanks work and how important it is to donate.

The food drop commenced on Monday 3rd September and consisted of pupils and staff 'dropping' food items into the shopping trolleys whilst entering school. Green boxes were also placed in each register class and a count for each green box took place at the end of the week. A prize was given to the class that collected the most items and class 1F were this class. 1F collected an amazing **167** items. Well done!

We are delighted to announce **1681** items /**573kg** were collected and delivered to Food Bank No 52 just last week. The Food Bank have been in touch to say many individuals and families have greatly benefited from our/your generosity.

Grateful thanks to all staff and pupils who contributed, raised awareness and 'spread the word'.

Our plan is to repeat the food drop in the new academic year.



Thank you from the S4 'Helping Hands' team.
Samuel Brown, Emily Craig, Cara Doyle, Taylor Getty, Caitlin McBride, Callum McComb, Rhionna McCulloch, Natalie Murray, Nicole Young.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 28th September 2018, the Skills for Learning, Life and Work and S4 Hospitality groups hosted a Coffee Morning at interval in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Staff and pupils baked for the occasion and all contributions were judged by Mr Neill for the much coveted award of 'Star Baker.' Mr Neill, who won the title last year, was delighted to announce the winner for 2018 as Mrs Cammidge who had baked a delicious Victoria Sandwich sponge.

An incredible £230 was raised for the charity. Well done and thank you to all staff and pupils who contributed!



History and Modern Studies London Trip 2018

On the 17th of September 2018, 40 S4 pupils studying History and Modern Studies took part on the annual departmental London trip. While the bus journey was long we all enjoyed singing on the coach.

We arrived in London and went straight to the London Eye. It was a little scary but we all enjoyed seeing London from above. We then went to MacDonald's to have some food and then it was to our hotel for some rest.

On Day 2 we went to the Palace of Westminster. There we had a short tour of Westminster Hall and looked at an exhibition of Women's suffrage. We then took part in a laws and debating workshop where we introduced our own Bill, The Legalisation of Marijuana Bill, 2018. We had a fantastic debate and the Bill was 'passed' by the House of Commons by a significant majority. Our MP for East Dunbartonshire, Jo Swinson, came to speak to us about her role as an MP and we were able to ask her questions about her job. We then spent some time in Trafalgar Square before heading to the London Dungeon. From the outset this was terrifying but well worth the trip. We learned more about London's past particularly enjoyed the Stuart Period. We had our meal at Planet Hollywood before catching the show – Wicked. We returned to the hotel and most of us were too exhausted to even speak to each other.

Day 3 began with a trip to the Imperial War Museum. There we took part in a Holocaust lesson followed by an audio tour of the Holocaust exhibit. This was a very powerful and thought provoking experience. We had lunch and then took a trip down the River Thames on a boat. This gave us the opportunity to hear more about London from the water. We spend a little time exploring Leicester Square before a quick dinner at Pizza Hut and then headed to another show – School of Rock.

On Day 4 we crossed the road from our hotel into the Natural History Museum. We enjoyed looking at various exhibits of rocks and insects. After a quick lunch we embarked on our return coach journey to Milngavie.

Overall, the London trip was a fantastic experience enjoyed by all. We learned a lot which will help us in our studies in History and Modern Studies.



Main School Senior Phase Musicians Perform for Senior Citizens at the Fraser Centre



On Wednesday 3rd October our Senior Phase Main School Musicians performed at the Fraser Centre.

European Day of Languages

For a few years now at Douglas Academy we have been celebrating European Day of Languages (26th September) and this year was no exception. All classes participated in specific EDL lessons in the Modern Languages department: senior pupils looked at idioms and proverbs in other languages; pupils' knowledge of other languages and cultures was put to the test in S2 electives; junior classes looked at different language families and their similarities and differences; and S1 had a go at listening to world pop songs and trying to guess which language they were in. (Who knew that Robbie Williams could sing in French?!) Once again, the overall quality of entries for our S1 poster competition on the topic of 'Why learn a Language?' was extremely high. However, after much deliberation, and with the help of our senior pupils, four overall winners were selected for prizegiving. They are:

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Carys Burns 1A, Eva Fleming 1A, Kelsey Scott 1C and Roshni Bhaumik 1B

Well done to all of the winners and of course to everybody who took part.

