



Strength through knowledge



DOUGLAS ACADEMY NEWS

It's Official: Douglas ROCKS!

Our production of the Queen musical, 'We Will Rock You', was a great success! The show ran from Monday 28th – Wednesday 30th October, and audiences were wowed by the talent on display from a huge number of pupils each night.



'We Will Rock You' is set hundreds of years in the future and tells of a massive corporation, Globalsoft (run by Killer Queen), which sends computer generated music to all of the people on the planet. The result is a population of zombie-like clones with no sense of individuality. Singing, musical instruments, and any expression of creativity, are banned. A group of rebels (the Bohemians) are driven by the knowledge that there are lost texts which could lead them to rediscover rock music.



They strive to uncover and make sense of the lost texts in order bring down the corporation, Killer Queen and her sidekick Khashoggi. The two heroes, Galileo and Scaramouche, meet the Bohemians and their leaders (Big Macca, Brit and Meat) and join the search to rediscover rock and defeat the Globalsoft Corporation.

Some of our cast and crew were lucky enough to see the touring production of 'We Will Rock You' at The Edinburgh Playhouse before the October break. Staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip. The show was fantastic, and definitely gave us some more inspiration for our own production.

As well as all of our talented cast members, there were over 40 pupils involved in off-stage jobs including make-up, backstage crew, props, sound and lighting, front of house and lots more! We also had three pupils – James McCorkindale, Ryan McGinley and Simon Panaretau – who rocked out in "Galileo Figaro's Band" every night. All pupils and staff worked incredibly hard and the result was a fantastic show, which received rave reviews from audiences.



For your Diary

**DOUGLAS ACADEMY
Christmas Market**

Saturday 23rd November
Douglas Academy 11am-2pm

Christmas Gifts, Craft Stalls,
Jewellery, Cake Stall,
Beauty Treatments,
Refreshments, Kids Activities

£2 entry (kids free) inc tea/coffee



... So we can now say
that Douglas Academy
officially ROCKS!



Douglas Academy
We will Rock You Logo



COOKING
UP
A
STORM



Four, Fifth and Sixth year pupils who are currently studying Hospitality served a fantastic three course meal along with the Skills for Learning, Life and Work group to teachers and special guests at Massimo Restaurant in Bearsden.

The pupils have been working hard with their teachers Mrs McDaid, Mrs McIlpatrick and Mrs Clark to master the techniques they needed to make this tasty banquet for 100 guests.

Headteachers from local schools, parents, council officials, staff from the school and local councillors thoroughly enjoyed having a lovely meal prepared for them. Guests on the night were extremely impressed by the whole event and one made the following comment,

'What a fantastic evening! The Culinary Excellence pupils' did a superb job of preparing and serving a wonderful meal for us. The food was of an excellent standard, delicious and beautifully presented. The school should be very proud of their effort and commitment.'

Well done to all pupils who took part in this event and the best of luck in your forthcoming exams.

Launch of new Horticulture Course for Dougie Diggers

The new S5/6 NPA has been launched this session to equip students with practical skills for pursuing a career in the Horticulture industry. Our 9 students have already begun to reap the fruits of their labours with a bountiful harvest of squash and courgettes from the school polytunnel. The students have enjoyed cooking with their fresh produce, making soup and crumbles. We were even able to share our harvest with the staff through our 'Honesty Box' and were very impressed by Ms Farrell's 'Courgette and pine nut risotto.' Another fun venture has been growing chocolate from seed – we received a fresh cocoa pod all the way from Sri Lanka and now have miniature chocolate trees sprouting! Other projects this term include growing Christmas trees, French beans, chard, potatoes and cucamelons. Well done, Dougie Diggers!



Lemon and (round!) courgette risotto with toasted pine nuts. Delicious! Thanks very much Dougie Diggers

S2 Visit to Edinburgh Book Festival

On 22nd August 30 pupils from 2nd year accompanied by Mrs McConnachie, Librarian, Miss Di Mambro and Mrs Rutherford (English Department) attended a talk at Edinburgh Book Festival by popular children's author, Darren Shan. The author gave a fascinating talk about his famous series of books 'The Saga of Darren Shan' which feature vampires and also his 'Zom-B' books. In addition, he gave readings and involved some of our pupils in



acting out scenes from his books. It was a very interesting and entertaining talk with pupils having the opportunity to ask questions. Pupils had a chance to browse in the festival bookshop and many bought books and had them signed by Darren Shan who took time to chat with each pupil.

S1 Local History Elective Visit to Milngavie Heritage Centre

Over the years, Douglas Academy has developed close links with Milngavie Heritage Centre. On the 9th and 10th September pupils from the S1 Local History Elective attended the centre's fascinating exhibition on the history of Milngavie week and Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games. Pupils had the opportunity to complete a quiz about the exhibits and enjoyed chatting to members of the Heritage Centre.



Growing Fun for S2 Gardening Elective

Since June, the S2 Gardening Elective have been very busy with various fun projects. As our main project we are growing chocolate. Mrs Aldous bought a cocoa pod all the way from Sri Lanka and we cut it open and took out the seeds. After all the 'slime' had come off the seeds the senior Horticulture class planted them in a propagator. We would love to make chocolate when our plants are ready! As well as that we have been growing Christmas trees and pineapples. We used the leafy part of the pineapple to plant new fruits and then used the actual fruit to make smoothies. And while I am writing this, we are celebrating the apple harvest by making fresh apple juice! The juice is very different to the juice from the supermarkets as it is pink and frothy – very tasty! Last week we had an Autumn photography project in the school grounds – here you can see our winning entry from Toby Arnott showing the beautiful Autumn flowers the Dougie Diggers grew from seed.

John Frame S2



Our Sponsor School

With our first Non-Uniform Day scheduled for 26th September, we thought it would be good to remind pupils and parents about what we do with the cash raised. For a number of years now, Douglas Academy has supported Valley Center Community School in Liberia. The money raised through our Non-Uniform Days is used by Mary's Meals to provide a daily nutritious school dinner for the 114 pupils enrolled there. It connects us to the school directly, and covers the cost of school dinners for a full year.

This photo was taken during last session, and shows some of the children who are receiving a daily school meal, thanks to the generosity of Douglas Academy pupils, parents and staff. Our hope is that with our ongoing support, they will grow up knowing for themselves the meaning of our school motto – "Strength through knowledge."

Ten year old Theophilus Toe is a pupil, and he has sent this personal message to us - "I like science, to know about living things and non-living things. I would like to be a medical doctor to help treat sick people. Mary's Meals is good, it gives me strength and it makes me healthy. If I have nothing to eat, I can't feel fine."

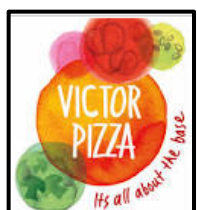


S4 Business Awareness Conference 2019

This year's S4 Business Management pupils attended a Business Awareness Conference on Wednesday 25 September. Over the morning pupils participated in two workshops where they used their team working, decision making and creative skills to take part in real business activities.



Workshop 1 was led by one of business partners Laura Vernett, Marketing Director at Harper MacLeod LLP and spoke about her career, branding and the use of the marketing mix in relation to Harper MacLeod. Pupils were set a branding challenge which they tackled in groups and presented solutions and ideas to their peers. As well as helping pupils to better relate with course content, this workshop provided pupils with ideas and content which will help them when completing their coursework in November which contributes to their final course award in Business Management.



Workshop 2 was led by another of our business partners Anne Marie Cairney, Managing Director of the Victor Pizza Company. She gave pupils an insight in to the day to day running of the business and spoke about how they manage the daily challenges they face from the ever changing business environment. Pupils took part in a sales "pitching" activity where they presented a one minute pitch demonstrating their business acumen as well as providing an opportunity for pupils to develop their skills for learning, life and work.

The feedback from the event was excellent with many positive comments -

*"I **enjoyed** doing the task and **learning more** about what **we are doing in business.**"*

*"I **learned** more about **sponsorship** and enjoyed **producing my own company idea.**"*

*"I realised that I am quite a **creative person** and good at coming up with **business ideas.**"*



We would like to extend our gratitude to Laura Vernett and Anne Marie Cairney who gave up their time to participate in the Business Awareness Conference. Without such business partnerships we would not be able to contextualise learning fully to the real world of business.

Comfort Babies August 2019 News



Date: August 2019

Name of baby: Ibarushimbabazi Noelle

Name of parent: Ingabire Clarisse

Name of sponsor: Douglas Academy

How has the baby's health and weight developed over the last few months?

Noelle has grown her health has been good, she has gained weight.

What did you enjoy about the teams visiting Rwanda this year?

I was so pleased with the team visits. I liked the traditional dance of Scotland, I liked how they hold hands together, it shows unity that was very lovely.

Can you give a message to your sponsor please?

Dear Douglas Academy,

Greetings to you. I and my daughter are doing very well.

Thank you so much for all that you always do for us. I am glad that I have hope for the future. I always meet people that are hopeless and feel pity for them but I pray for them to open for them a way just as God opened a way He may do the same to them.

I received clothes and shoes the teams brought and I also have health insurance for my daughter and me.

May God always bless you for all that you do for us. I kindly ask you to pray for people living in poor conditions like the one I used to be in.

Kind regards,

Noelle & Clarisse



University of Strathclyde Visit

On Tuesday 17th September, Douglas Academy played host to 80 PGDE students from the University of Strathclyde. The students had just started their training to become English teachers and were delighted to spend an immersion the day at the school prior to commencing their first placements.

Pupil volunteers from each year group met with the trainee teachers, which was cited as a highlight by the participants: "Speaking to the students was an energising and informative experience. It was wonderful to talk freely to a range of pupils and to hear them express their views on English, but also to see their pride in showing their work."

The PDGE students also really appreciated their workshops with English staff and the opportunity they had to shadow classes around the school. "The teacher workshops were very helpful and provided us with knowledge of actual classroom situations. The teachers were very encouraging and honest in their approach....the pupil shadowing was great as I could see several techniques used in classroom management. I feel so much better about going on placement because of today."



Business Dynamics Conference 2019



The annual Business Dynamics Conference was held for all S5/6 Business Management pupils over three days in September. Over the course of each day, speakers from industry delivered presentations to students about their role in business. The speakers also set the students real-life tasks and activities to work on in groups.



Presenters included Chief Executive of Scottish Engineering, Paul Sheerin, who gave pupils a fascinating insight into his "story" and about the exciting changes in the world of engineering. Craig Archdeacon from Waterstons set pupils a challenge to become 'Cyber Security experts' through the use of Lego as well as Leanne Teddei from Tarmac Construction who spoke to pupils about the company's Human Resources and Health and Safety. Pupils had to present their HR solutions to real life issues that happen in businesses.



The feedback from the events was excellent and not only did they help pupils to link the theory taught in class to the world of work but also was an opportunity for them to further develop their career management skills.

We would like to thank all the speakers who gave up their time to participate in the Conference – without them the days would not have the same relevance to the real world of business.



Young Enterprise Masterclass 2019



This year's Young Enterprise company attended the annual Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire Masterclass in September. The pupils involved were taken through a series of workshops on Sales Management, Digital Marketing and Sustainability, thereby helping the company generate product ideas and providing pupils with the practical skills required during their time in Young Enterprise.

In the afternoon session, all pupils were involved in a 'lean production' game to allow them to develop knowledge and understanding about what key areas they should be thinking about when creating the product. The message that pupils took away from the game is that quality is key to ensure that customers are satisfied with the product/service they have purchased.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day, and we look forward to seeing the product that this year's Young Enterprise Company create!





Scottish Schools Ski Association Regional Dual Slalom Races

These races took place on Wednesday 2nd of October at Bearsden Ski Club. Douglas Academy entered two S1 – S3 teams of 4 pupils listed below:

Team A

Nikki McKee

Adam Scott

Ross Thomson

Laura Downie

Team B

Gary Downie

Sarah McKee

Lucia Rea Moran

Stella Hinshelwood

All racers had a great day and raced very competitively.....Well done to all who raced!

The highlight of the day was Team A gaining Silver medals in a final race off against Glasgow High School at the end of the day. This gained those pupils a place in the National Dual slalom finals at Xscape on the 30th October.

Kids' Lit. Quiz 2019– Another win for Douglas!

On Tuesday 31st October, Douglas Academy once again took part in the West of Scotland heat of the Kids' Lit. Quiz at the High School of Glasgow. This is the eleventh year in a row Douglas Academy has taken part in this prestigious international quiz which tests pupils' knowledge of literature. This year we took two teams who were accompanied by Mrs McConnachie, Librarian. After ten rounds of challenging questions and a nail biting finish, Douglas Academy team 1 (Catherine Madsen S1, Archie McGhee, Orla Kearney and Catherine Brockie, S2) finished in first place with team 2 (Abigail Bates, Eleanor Currie, Ganna Gebely and Mira Thorp, S1) finishing in a very creditable 5th place, only 8.5 points behind. Both teams each won a round of questions with pupils receiving books. The teams were supported by reserves Milo Cairney 1C and Peter Hall 1F. In addition to receiving the coveted Kids' Lit Trophy, each member of the winning team was awarded with book vouchers. Douglas Academy's team now look forward competing in the UK Final in London on 4th December.



Winning Team!



Both teams with reserves

EDC Has Talent

A big congratulations to Julia Brockie and Anna Hamilton (S4) who beat competition from a number of other East Dunbartonshire schools to win ED Has Talent at the Kirkintilloch Canal Festival. The girls sang brilliantly - "Everything Changes" from the musical 'Waitress' – and took home the trophy! This is the second year in a row a Douglas Academy act has won the competition – can we make it three in a row?!



We Will Rock The Fraser Centre

Our school show principal cast visited The Fraser Centre on Wednesday 2nd October to entertain local senior citizens. Pupils sang Queen hits from the school production of 'We Will Rock You', and the audience thoroughly enjoyed joining in and getting involved. Some of the air-guitar playing was out of this world! Well done to Lewis, Anna, Lucy, Lola, Coast, Joseph, Connagh, Molly, Sarah and Libby.



Music Success

We are delighted to announce that 6 of our students have been selected to play with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain for this coming year. They will be performing with some of the best young musicians across Great Britain and will have the opportunity to play in some of the country's most prestigious concert halls including the Albert Hall in London, as part of the BBC Proms programme 2020. Pictured above, left to right: Mari MacGregor, S4 (Cello), Raj Bhaumik, S4 (Clarinet/Principal Bass Clarinet), Libby Hunter, S4 (French Horn), Erin Black, S6 (Piano), Louisa Buchan, S6 (Clarinet), Chun Yi Kang, S4 (Violin).

Raj Bhaumik and Chun Yi Kang have also progressed to the second round of the BBC Young Musician of The Year Competition, to be held in Cardiff.

Congratulations to them all!



History and Modern Studies London Trip 2019

On the 1st of October 2019 30 S4 pupils studying History and Modern Studies took part on the annual departmental London trip. While the bus journey was long we all enjoyed chatting on the coach. We arrived in London and due to terrible weather and traffic our trip to the London Eye was postponed to. We were disappointed, however a trip to MacDonalds soon cheered us up and then it was to our hotel for some rest.

Day 2 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 before heading to the London Dungeon. From the outset this was terrifying but well worth the trip. We learned more about London's past in particular 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.

On day 3 we went to the Palace of Westminster. There we had a short tour of Westminster and had the opportunity to listen to a debate from the public gallery. The Minister for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Nicky Morgan was answering questions from MPs on issues such as poor broadband coverage in Stirlingshire to on line abuse. This was a fantastic opportunity for us to see the House of Commons at work. We then took part in a laws and debating workshop where we introduced our own Bill, The Legalisation of Medical Marijuana Bill 2019. We had a fantastic debate and the Bill was 'passed' by the House of Commons by a significant majority. Unfortunately, Jo Swinson our MP for East Dunbartonshire was unable to speak to us about her role as an MP as she had an emergency vote on Brexit. We managed to have a short walking tour taking in sites such as Downing Street and then took our trip on the London Eye. This was a little scary but we all enjoyed seeing London from above. We later 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.



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.

West of Scotland Physics Education Group

Higher Physics pupils Roddy McConnell, Aiden Smith and Rory Craig have been representing the school in the West of Scotland Physics Education Group competition. On 3rd September they won their first round at the University of the West of Scotland, and on 2nd October they travelled to Glasgow Caledonian University to take part in the semi finals. On the day the team performed very well, winning their four team heat by a safe margin. The team will now take part in the finals with three other teams on 13th November, again at the University of the West of Scotland. This is the fourth consecutive year that Douglas Academy teams have progressed to the finals of this competition. This year there were thirty schools participating in the competition.



Debating News

West Coast Worlds Debating Competition – October 2019

A Douglas Academy team consisting of Adam Nicolson, Tom Milling and Eoghan Connolly broke to the final of the West Coast Worlds Competition on Saturday 5 October. West Coast Worlds uses the world schools debating format where teams comprise of three speakers. The Douglas Academy team won each of the first three preliminary rounds and broke to the final undefeated. However, they were narrowly defeated in the final by a team from Craigmount High School in Edinburgh who successfully argued in favour of abolishing trial by jury. The World Schools Debating Championship takes place annually, with the 2020 competition being held in Mexico City.

Debating 2019-2020

Douglas Academy's Debating and Public Speaking Society meets in Room 20 on Thursdays at lunchtime. Douglas Academy teams will enter the following debating competitions this session:

- ESU Juniors
- ESU Senior Mace
- Edinburgh University Juniors
- Edinburgh University Seniors
- Glasgow University Union Schools
- St Andrew's University Schools
- Cambridge University Schools
- Oxford University Schools
- International Competition for Young Debaters
- The Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition
- The Hot Air Cup

Any pupil interested in participating in debating should see Mr Sinclair.

ESU Juniors Scottish Champions, 2019

Congratulations to Raj Bhaumik and Eoghan Connolly who won the Scottish Final of the English Speaking Union's Junior Debating Competition on 18 September in the Law Society of Scotland's Headquarters in Edinburgh. Eoghan and Raj successfully argued that candidates in elections should stand as independents and that political parties should be banned. They defeated stiff opposition from St Columba's, Kilmalcolm, Mearns Castle High School and Broxburn Academy in the final. Douglas Academy has now won this competition in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019 – more than any other school in Scotland!

