

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT TO THE PARENT COUNCIL

Tuesday 30 November 2021

Staffing

Mrs Harper, DHT, is now back at school. Mrs Semple will continue as acting DHT to support the Senior Leadership Team. Mrs Donnelly has begun her mat leave, she will be replaced by Mr Alexander and Mrs Fretwell. Mrs Fisher will be off for a period of time. Arrangements are in place to ensure continuity in teaching for her classes. A Geography subject specialist has been advertised.

Launch of Mentor Groups

Principal Teachers of Attainment, Mr Kane and Mr McElnea, have launched a mentoring programme for S4 and S5 pupils. They were selected on their potential to achieve highly with some additional support on study skills and study planning. They have begun to work with mentors and senior pupils delivered study skills sessions to the groups. These were so well received we are planning to roll them out to all S4 pupils before the winter assessment diet. A parent information session has also been held on Zoom for the parents of those involved.

Cop 26 Mini-Conferences

The Geography and RME dept organised mini Cop26 Conferences for S1, S2 and S3 classes. Due to Covid restrictions these took place in their normal classes. Senior pupils from Mrs Fisher's Higher Environmental Science class led the junior classes in discussions about climate change and ways to reduce the negative impacts on our world. The conferences ended with pupils pledging some small steps they will take to reduce energy consumption.



The department was awarded the Fair Trade and Sustainability Award at the Scottish Fair Trade Awards this year for their work which includes not only the recent conferences but for their tireless work over the last ten years to raise awareness of the climate aims and impact of Fair Trade and its role in contributing towards a more sustainable world. The Kyle Fair Trade Group, led by Mrs Rankin, won a very well-deserved special recognition award at the same event.

Fair Trade – Dragon's Den

Kyle's Caring Café – which like a lot of hospitality venues is closed just now – won first prize at Cop26's Climate Change Dragon's Den (run by a partnership of the West of Scotland Development Education Centre and Social Enterprise Academy Schools). Twelve social enterprises were short-listed for the final from all over Scotland, so we faced some exceptional competition, but our Eco and Fairtrade pupils stole the show. They won £50 for taking first place in the Secondary schools section.

The Donald Dewar Debates

Continuing our winning streak, a group of S5 and S6 pupils won the preliminary round of the national Donald Dewar Debate competition. The team, mentored by Modern Studies teacher Mrs Limardi, beat stiff competition to get through to the next round. The subject of the debate was, 'This House would arm the police.' They were outstanding!

Food Bank Challenge

The Charities Committee led by Mrs Galloway organised our first House Challenge of the year to generate donations for the South Ayrshire Foodbank. Morrison's shopping trolleys were stationed in the foyer and were overflowing by the end of the challenge. Many thanks to all families who have contributed. The winning House who gained house points was Rozelle.

Children in Need Week

Organising a week of events to raise money for Children in Need is an S6 tradition at Kyle Academy. Fundraising activities this year included a tuck shop, face painting stall (with mask-friendly designs), fairground stalls like Guess Percy Pig's Birthday, how long can you hula hoop for and match the S6 pupil to their baby photo, and football and netball tournaments organised by our S6 Sports Leaders. The big finale was on Children In Need Day itself - a non-uniform day, a very professionally pre-recorded and edited show and a lunchtime of flash mob dances! Our greatest money spinner has been the raffle. Parents and partners generously donated prizes that include tickets to football matches, vouchers for shops and restaurants and even a weekend stay away in Arran. The grand total is an amazing £5891! Thank you to everyone who donated so generously.



Upcoming Events

Mon 6 December	Winter assessment diet begins (recommences Mon 17 January)
Wed 15 December	Christmas lunch
Wed 22 December	School closes 2.30pm for holidays (reopens Thur 6 January 2022)

Theme of the Month for December - Achievement