

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT TO THE PARENT COUNCIL

Tuesday 23 February 2021

Pathways and Options Evening

This information evening took place on Zoom on 28 January. It was aimed at S2 to S5 parents and outlined the options process and the different pathways available through the Senior Phase. Susan Woods, our SDS Careers Adviser, also attended to promote the ways she can provide help at this time. Over 100 parents joined the session and the feedback has been very positive. The online options process is working well. Almost all new S3 and new S4 options have already been returned. Pupils have engaged very well with the online PSE inputs and the individual option slots with their Guidance Teacher. All option information including the presentation from the Pathways evening have been uploaded to the website.

Young People's Mental Health Week

This took place on week commencing 3 February. While we were not able to run our usual events, all PSE teams had an input and our school counsellor, Kim Cleland, messaged all pupils through their PSE team to share our new self-referral form. She also shared this with parents. In the past, we have aimed to raise awareness about mental health. Now our focus is on signposting the supports available both in and out of school.

Holocaust Education

As a Vision Scotland School, we always commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. This year, instead of the annual peer education event, Mrs Andersson and the Advanced Higher History pupils, AR and DS, arranged for the school to join the live stream with Holocaust Survivor, Eve Kugler. They also provided some thought-provoking slides putting the talk in context. This year's theme of Holocaust Memorial Day was 'Be the light in the darkness'. It reminds everyone of their ability to make a difference and take a stand against intolerance and inhumanity.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

All pupils in S3 have been given the opportunity to participate, remotely, in this year's YPI Project. This initiative gives pupils the opportunity to win £3,000 for a local charity which addresses social issues in the community. In order to win the £3,000, pupils need to connect with a charity and create a presentation which convinces the judges that their charity is most deserving of Kyle's £3,000 YPI grant. The virtual school YPI final is scheduled to take place on Friday 26th March 2021 and we would be grateful if two members of the Parent Council could join our judging panel virtually.

AB in S4 won last year's YPI project during lockdown and has been supporting our current S3 cohort. He provided an inspirational insert to pupils during the YPI launch session and is representing the school nationally by recording a vlog about his YPI lockdown experience at Kyle Academy. His vlog discusses the impact that the YPI project has had on his winning charity, Hansel Village, as well as his own personal development. Congratulations to AB who will now share his passion for philanthropy nationally and inspire teachers and young people across Scotland.

Digital Skills

Staff have continued to develop their digital skills. On the afternoon of Friday 5 February, we held a 'Digital Showcase' on Microsoft Teams to share practice. The session included tips on how to increase pupil interaction in live lessons such as the use of polls, Kahoot quizzes and Microsoft Forms; how to manage and moderate the 'chat' stream; creating instructional videos with Flipgrid; and how to chunk live lessons. Over 50 staff attended the voluntary session. Their enthusiasm and commitment to continually improving remote learning is outstanding. Acting on feedback from pupils and parents, we have developed a consistent approach to Microsoft Teams and posting assignments and we have increased provision of live lessons.

Upcoming Events

Fairtrade Fortnight 22nd February to 7th March 2021 - Our Fairtrade Group is planning a number of online activities for the school community