

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT TO THE PARENT COUNCIL

Tuesday 29 March 2022

SQA Exams 2022

Our senior pupils have been working hard in advance of their exams which begin on 26 April 2022. Attendance at our study hub and supported study sessions has been very good. SQA assessments have already begun for some. Music performances, French and Spanish speaking exams and Admin and Business assignments have taken place. English and PE portfolios have been sent away. Mr Gardner, SQA Coordinator, has spoken at assemblies about the expectations in exams and the procedures for exceptional circumstances and appeals. This information is also being shared with parents.

Holocaust Education

Every year Miss Andersson asks senior pupils to plan, lead and deliver lessons to S2 pupils as part of our Holocaust Education programme. It is always a very powerful learning experience about tolerance, respect and justice. This year the theme was 'One Day'. The lessons, prepared by seniors, got the pupils to learn about how the lives of different people changed on one day in 1943 as a result of the Holocaust. They engaged in various group activities before reflecting on what small actions they could take that might lead to 'one day' when there is no discrimination, no racism and no hatred. The lessons were a great success and made all the more meaningful because they were delivered by young people.

Young Musician of the Year Competition

On Wednesday 23 March, we held our first musical event since Covid began two years ago. It was wonderful to have pupils performing to an audience again and to have a few parents joining us. The performers were outstanding and there was a great variety of instruments and musical choices. Due to Covid, our adjudicators were unable to attend so the results are not yet in! Hopefully this is the start of more school events to come.

Donald Dewar Memorial Debates

Our team of senior debaters made it all the way to the semi-finals of this national debating competition. This was an outstanding achievement for the team coached by Mrs Limardi and Mrs Raleigh as none of them had debated before. The semi-final took place on 10 March and they were narrowly beaten by Hutchison's Grammar school. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are keen to have another go next year.

S1 Positive Behaviour Pilot

This initiative, led by our Pupil Council, was piloted with S1 over the month of March. The pilot came to an end last week and teachers have entered the merits on the system. Pupils were able to earn 3 merits in each class for being Ready, Respectful and Responsible – our three key expectations. E-certificates will be sent to parents. The Pupil Council will be evaluating the initiative to roll out across the other year groups.

Science Refurbishment and Beach Volleyball Courts

Work began this week to prepare for the installation of 2 temporary classrooms in the rear car park that will be used while the Biology classrooms are refurbished next term. The contractors start on the refurbishment on 18 April so the temporary huts will be in use from our return after Easter. They will be fully kitted out with Promethean boards and wifi.

Good progress has been made with the beach volleyball courts and they are on track to be completed for our return after Easter. We are looking forward to some sunny weather so that we can try them out!

Upcoming Events

Easter Holidays - closed Fri 1 April reopening on Tues 19 April

Next Parent Council Meeting - 26 April

SQA Exam diet for S4 to S6 – 26 April to 1 June