KYLE ACADEMY

**HEAD TEACHER’S REPORT TO THE PARENT COUNCIL**

Tuesday 4 October 2019

**Staffing**

The school is currently fully staffed. Mrs Stewart, PT English, began her maternity leave last week. Mrs Hamilton is covering for her.

**Kyle Skills Academy**

We have been fortunate to receive further funding for our programme of vocational skills courses. We now have a number of different pathways delivered in partnership with Ayrshire College and the Prince’s Trust/DYW Ayrshire, leading to work experience, further study, and/or training. The qualifications young people achieve include industry-recognised qualifications at SCQF levels 3 to 6. We are branding this as the **Kyle Skills Academy**.

* Cyber Centurions – cyber security and ethical hacking leading to further learning in cyber security, computing or software development
* Hospitality – Barista training and customer service leading to hospitality and front of house courses
* Engineering – Bike maintenance training leading to automotive courses or engineering
* Sports and Recreation – Sports and Recreation NPA, coaching qualifications, sports leadership awards leading to careers in sport, coaching and teaching
* Hair and Beauty – hair styling and nail care leading to college course in beauty

These courses are available to S4 pupils and link to higher level courses delivered by Ayrshire College. We have introduced ‘Vocational Bursts’ for pupils in S2 and S3 to give them tasters of the different pathways.

**Senior Phase/UCAS Parent Information Evening**

This took place on 5 September. The evening included inputs on Senior Phase progression pathways, expectations for S6, how to prepare for SQA exams and UCAS information, dates and deadlines. The UCAS input is currently being followed up by sessions with guidance staff for pupils. Last week they received a talk from an admissions officer at the University of the West of Scotland about writing personal statements.

**Parent information evening on changes to reporting and the S3 curriculum**

This event took place on Wednesday 18 September. There was a very good turnout from across S1 to S3. At the event, information about the new system for reporting was shared. No concerns were raised. Details of the options process for the current S2 were also shared along with a timeline. Pupils will begin the process this week.

**Events in September**

**Ayrshire Sportsability Boccia**

A group of our young people attended this event and enjoyed their day. The PE department have ordered equipment for the school and when it arrives will be running a club for pupils on a Tuesday lunchtime.

**STEM Event**

S2 pupils attended the BAE Systems, RAF and Royal Navy Education Programme Roadshow last week. The focus was on how maths and science are used in everyday life, including examples of the practical application of these skills within BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy. Pupils enjoyed practical demonstrations, problem solving games and presentations.

**Careers Convention**

All S5 pupils attended the Careers Convention last week.

**Princes’ Trust Showcase Event**

A group of our Cyber Centurions attended the Princes’ Trust Showcase Event with Mr Currie on 26 September to share what they do and make connections with employers or possible business partners. Once again, the audience were very impressed with their work and their enthusiasm.

**Author Visit**

Martin Stewart, writer and former teacher of English at Kyle Academy, delivered workshops to our National 5 and Higher English classes on writing and editing their work. These very valuable workshops support their folio writing for their coursework.

**Upcoming Events**

Maths Week Scotland – 31 Sept to 4 Oct – follow our activities on Twitter

S1 Buddy Breakfast – Friday 4 October

Harvest Celebration Service – Sunday 6 October – The Auld Kirk

October Holiday – 14 to 21 October – pupils return 22 October

S1 Parents Evening – Wed 23 October