KYLE ACADEMY

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

Tuesday 28 November 2019

**Staffing**

Ms Lawson takes up post in the Music Department on Monday 2 December. She is replacing Mr Baillie. Mrs Hogarth starts on the same day in the English department. She will job share with Mrs Gemmell on a Monday and a Friday. We welcome Mrs Donnelly back to the Modern Languages department on 9 December. She will be working 4 days a week with Mr Alexander continuing in the department one day a week.

**Directorate Visit**

This took place on 30 October 2019. The Senior Leadership team discussed the performance of the school, our current priorities and progress towards these with Douglas Hutchison and representatives from South Ayrshire Council. It was a very positive meeting. The school is performing well and has clear improvement priorities linked to improving wellbeing, learning and teaching and the curriculum to benefit all learners.

**Dyslexia Awareness Week**

We had a week of activities to promote understanding of dyslexia as just a different way of thinking and processing information. This included an inspirational talk by a pupil from Wellington School. We are working towards our Dyslexia Inclusive Schools award. This work is being led by Mrs Quigley and a working group of staff and pupils.

**Mental Health Ambassadors - *Movember***

Our Mental Health Ambassadors led assemblies at the start of the month to share our mental health and wellbeing strategy. They outlined strategies for a healthy life and the supports available in school. They also organised MOVE for *Movember* which involved a 60km class challenge to raise awareness for Male Mental Health (60km as a class for the 60 men we lose to suicide each hour across the world). A representative from the Kris Boyd Charity addressed male only assemblies for every year group to promote awareness of male mental health. Talk to someone was the simple message.

**Official Launch of the Kyle Skills Academy**

The official launch of the Kyle Skills Academy took place on Friday 22nd November. Representatives from the funders (Princes Trust and DYW Ayrshire) attended along with local councillors, pupils and staff. The Kyle Skills Academy is the amalgamation of our DYW Innovative projects – some we have been delivering for several years and others that are new. The aim is to be much more explicit about the purpose of these courses and the value of vocational learning. We have five Skills Academy pathways – cyber security, sports and recreation, engineering, hospitality and hair and beauty. Young people experience relevant work-related learning and achieve accredited awards recognised by industry.

**Growth Mindset and Study Skills**

All S4 and S5 pupils attended a motivational workshop on mindset for exams, study skills and goal setting last week. These were delivered by Live-N-Learn who also ran sessions for staff and parents. This is part of our school improvement focus on improving learning and teaching. Staff have been exploring techniques to support the learning process and model study skills. Feedback from pupils has been very positive. We will be revisiting at Daily Personal Support in the month of December in the run up to the exams.

**Recent Events**

**Holocaust Education**

On 7 November, Mr Gardner took a group of S6 pupils to the Scottish Parliament for the **Vision Schools Award Ceremony**. Mrs Andersson’s commitment to Holocaust Education has resulted in very powerful learning experiences for our pupils over a number of years. She works with senior pupils to deliver workshops to S2 pupils. This work was quite rightly recognised as outstanding through this award.

**Public Speaking**

Kyle Academy hosted the **Rotary Club’s ‘Youth Speaks’ competition** this month. Our team of S3 pupils were outstanding and came first in their round. They go through to the regional final in February. Thanks to Ms Gillies in the English department for coaching them.

**Children ln Need Week**

Many thanks to everyone for their contributions to Children in Need. £4125.85 was raised in total. Our S6 were outstanding this year, demonstrating excellent leadership and team working skills throughout the week. They generated a real ‘Kyle Spirit’. We are very proud of them.

**Book Week Scotland**

A number of events took place last week to celebrate Book Week Scotland and promote #*KyleReads*. This will be followed up by a Reading Week where pupils will take part in personal reading and other reading activities in their English periods during the week. Subject teachers will also be trying to make links to reading and learning in their classes.

**Upcoming Events**

P7 Information Evening – Thursday 28 November

S3 Stock Market Challenge (#KyleCounts) – Thursday 28 November

Reading Week (#KyleReads) – 2nd to 6th December

S2 Parents’ Evening – Wednesday 3 December

Photography, Art and Design Showcase – Tuesday 5 December

S1/2/3 School dance – Tuesday 10 December

S4/5/6 School Dance – Monday 16 December

Christmas Concert - Wednesday 18 December

January Assessment Diet – beginning 6th January