

**Head Teacher Report for Greenwood Connect  
February 25th, Session 2018-2019**

**No. 6**

**Learning and Teaching**

**First Minister's Reading Challenge**

Poet Stuart Paterson visited our Advanced Higher class and tweeted, "cheers Nicola, they did ye proud! The great McIlvanney taught there too. Braw session". His reference was to William McIlvanney, the celebrated Scottish writer.

**Holocaust Memorial Day**

All pupils at Greenwood learned more about the Holocaust through Holocaust Memorial Day 2019, during their ACE classes. This year's theme was 'Torn from Home'. The School Captains also delivered workshops to pupils.

**Barista Training**

As part of the DYW programme, Greenwood pupils were accompanied by Mrs Boax and Ms McCrory to East Kilbride to undertake their City and Guilds in Barista Skills. Pupils and staff spent an intensive three days training and succeeded in achieving their qualifications. They can now use our brand new barista machine!

**Chinese New Year**

As part of our activities to celebrate Chinese New Year, S3 pupils enjoyed a Chinese New Year Gala performance by the Shanghai Theatre Academy Group which featured traditional Chinese music and dance. The pupils travelled to Edinburgh and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of seeing supremely talented musicians and dancers.

**Support for Pupils**

**S2 Social Subjects Trip (Edinburgh)**

The Social Subjects faculty has organised a trip to Edinburgh, for S2 pupils, on 23rd May 2019. This trip will give the pupils an opportunity to visit either the Scottish Parliament or Dynamic Earth. All pupils will also visit the Edinburgh Dungeons (if they dare!). The cost of the trip is £21.00, which includes entry to all venues and travel by bus to and from Edinburgh.

**STEM**

Good luck to our S3 group which has started the competition at Tomorrow' Engineers at the University of the West of Scotland.

**Career pathways**

S2 girls attended an Ayrshire College event: Girls into Technology.

**P7 Transition**

P7 pupils from our Cluster Primaries visited Greenwood over three days. Due to the weather conditions, pupils enjoyed ICT, instead of the planned PE, and created animations.

**Singing Hands'**

Singing Hands' is a new British Sign Language signing choir that will run every Monday at lunchtimes. We will learn to sign to popular songs and have fun doing so! All S1 - S6 pupils are welcome. We will use Miss Marshall's old room in the Music department. Posters will be displayed around the school.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

Two groups of pupils ventured to the Greenock Cuts in February with Ms Allan and Mr Torbit for practice walks as part of their bronze and silver awards.

### **S2 Parental Briefing Evening**

An S2 Parental Briefing Evening took place on 4 February. This gave parents and carers of young people a chance to consider refining their subjects for S3. Having an overview of the Senior Phase provision means that they are aware of the range of pathways which are on offer to their children in Greenwood.

### **Vocational Burst**

Pupils have attended a hospitality course in school for 4 weeks every Friday. In addition to developing their skills in the kitchen, the pupils got the chance to visit Kilmarnock College and were shown round the kitchen and hospitality suite.

### **Leavers' Pathways Event**

All Summer 2019 Leavers are invited to attend a leavers' information event on Tuesday 5th of March. Representatives from Ayrshire College, NAC Apprenticeship programme and Skills Development Scotland will be in attendance and will provide information on the next steps for our young people who are considering leaving school. Contact your guidance teacher if you wish to attend.

### **NHS Careers Awareness Presentation**

4th-6th year pupils interested in finding out more about the wide and varied careers offered through the NHS are invited to a presentation on Tuesday 12th March, Period 3. Interested pupils should give their names to their Guidance Teacher.

### **CSCS Card Training**

The CSCS Card is a required qualification to work within a building site. Greenwood Academy has been offered some training places to achieve this qualification.

This opportunity is open to anyone interested in working in the construction industry who is 16 years or older. Names to be given to Mr Barlow for those interested in taking this training.

### **Apprenticeship Recruitment Day**

North Ayrshire Councils Employability & Skills Team are holding their annual Recruitment Support Day for their Modern Apprenticeship Programme. This year's Recruitment Support Day will take place at Saltcoats Town Hall, on Wednesday 27th March 2019 from 9am until 1pm. Pupils interested in gaining an apprenticeship with the council should attend. Pupils who wish to attend should contact their guidance teacher.

### **Scottish Power - Apprenticeship Information Session**

A representative from Scottish Power will be in school on Thursday 7th March, Period 3 to discuss the apprenticeship opportunities available and give information regarding the application process. If your son /daughter wishes to attend they should give their name to their Guidance teacher at their earliest convenience.

### **Apprenticeship Opportunities**

Ashleigh Building are looking to take on 4 new Apprentices within the Ayrshire area as part of their yearly apprentice intake. The trades will be joinery, bricklaying and painting and decorating. If your son/daughter are interested on applying please advise them to email their CV to Corinne Carswell: [c.carswell@ashleigh-scot.co.uk](mailto:c.carswell@ashleigh-scot.co.uk) Closing date for applications is 12th April 2019.

### **BAE Apprenticeships**

This year BAE in Glasgow are offering apprenticeships in 9 different disciplines. Electrical, Joiner, Mechanical fitter, Painting, Pipework, Sheet Metal Work, Technician, Steel Work and Burner.

Many former Greenwood pupils have went through these excellent apprenticeships and now have very rewarding jobs. For more information and how to apply follow the link. <https://baesystems.gti.co.uk/Vacancy/Search/PreLogonSearchPostedResults.asp>

The closing date for BAE Apprenticeships is the 28th of February.

### **Greenwood Academy 5K Event**

The event is to raise funds for Greenwood Academy - the hope is that it will contribute funds towards a new mini bus. The event is open to pupils and staff from Greenwood Academy and the cluster primary schools. We also hope that parents and other family member of the pupils and staff will join in on the event. By opening it to all, our goal is that it will bring the community together. Details of the event as follow:

Date: Wednesday 17th April 2019

Location: Starts and Finishes at Greenwood Academy

Time: Registration starts 3:45pm - 4:15pm, Race starts 4:30pm - 6:30pm

First 100 get a limited edition wristband.

Refreshments available after the event - provided by the Co-Op Dreghorn.

#### Ticket Prices

Adults - £5

Concessions/Pupils/Kids - £2.50

Family Deal 1 (2 Adults + 2 Kids) - £12

Family Deal 2 (1 Adult + 3 Kids) - £10

Tickets are available to buy in school from Miss McManus (Technical), Miss Gilmour (Science) and Mr Duncan (PE) or from Skiddle event page - <https://www.skiddle.com/whats-on/Kilmarnock/Greenwood-Academy/Greenwood-Academy-5k-Community-Run/13444750/>

## **Attainment and Achievement**

### **Table Tennis**

Two gold medals were presented for Greenwood Academy's Robbie Dunlop and Mason Wilson at the Active Schools' table tennis competition. Robbie won band 3 and Mason won band 4. Well done, boys! This is a great achievement against other pupils from across North Ayrshire.

### **Scottish Youth Parliament**

Four of our pupils are candidates to represent North Ayrshire at the Youth Parliament. This is a tremendous achievement in itself and demonstrates the development of Pupil Voice. Over the next few weeks they will be campaigning for votes and we hope to support them via the bulletin announcements and encouraging pupils to follow them on Twitter. The pupils are Emily Nix, Justin Jones, Carla Kennedy and Nicole Tait.

### **SQA Piping Exam**

Pupils sat their SQA Piping exam last Thursday at Greenwood. We wish Rebecca, Callum, Michael and Blair well for their results.

### **N5 Hospitality Practical Exam**

Last week pupils sat their National 5 Hospitality SQA exam. Well done to all the pupils for their hard work and effort.

### **Intermediate Maths Challenge S3**

Congratulations to pupils in S3 who took part in the recent Intermediate S3 Maths Challenge. Greenwood secured 2 silver and 9 bronze awards. This is a great achievement, well done to Ethan who was best in the year.

## **Celebrating Success**

### **Active Schools North Ayrshire Sports Academy**

Congratulations to our NASA pupils have now gained 14 coaching qualifications!

The pupils came together for a fundraising event preparation workshop which took place last Wednesday.

The pupils will be hosting a family fun night to raise funds for the local charity – Touched by Suicide and their own award day for completing the course. Tickets will be on sale soon at £2.

### **Dance Success**

Congratulations to Lucy Gillespie, a superb ballet dancer, who is the first young person to progress from the Pre-Junior Conservatoire at Dumfries House to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

### **North Ayrshire Music Competitions.**

Well done to our winners who were up against formidable talent from all other secondary schools in North Ayrshire:

Ryan Lai was runner up in the Musician of the Year; Gillian Thorpe was runner-up in Singer of the Year; Connor McBlain won Most Promising Piper 2019; Sophie Harwood won Young Traditional Singer of the Year

### **Fairtrade Ambassadors**

'New' Fairtrade Ambassadors will be visiting staff bases during lunch time to resume the service that Fairtrade used to offer to staff i.e. The purchase of coffee, tea, sugar & chocolate - all Fairtrade products at non-profit making prices! We want to ensure Fairtrade is kept high profile within our school since we have now achieved the highest level of Fairtrade Achievement and our school is now a 'FairAchiever School'!

Bala Sports met our Sports Leaders and test out the Fair Trade footballs.

### **Greenwood Gatherin'**

On 30<sup>th</sup> January pupils, staff, cluster primaries and parents joined Greenwood's Events Management class (GEM) to celebrate our Scottish Culture and Heritage. The group would like to thank everyone who took part and helped make the event successful. There were many performances: String, Saxophone Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Pipers, Sophie Harwood who provided recitation and her own song, S1/S2 Choir and the Folk Group.

Shortbread, oatcakes, cheese and Irn Bru were served. S1 – S3 work from Art, Maths, RE and Guidance was displayed at this event. Audience participation included a sing-a-long of Auld Lang Syne. The event was enjoyed by all who attended.

Following the event, Sophie was invited to give the Address to the Haggis at a community Burns Supper.

### **F32 Live Showcase**

F32 Records ran a live showcase event on Saturday 16th February at the Harbour Arts Centre in association with Freckfest. Mackenzie Fox and Katie Palmer performed previous releases alongside brand new material with a full live band. Singer / songwriter Jordan Stewart supported.

More info is on our website at [www.f32records.com](http://www.f32records.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZ3fwqranhA>

While Ms Rogers was teaching radio to 2 S3 classes on Friday afternoon, Katie and Mackenzie were played live on the radio and the DJ gave both classes a "shout out"! Pupils were delighted!

### **Ski Competition**

Greenwood came runner-up at the Ski Newmilns competition. Well done to our 4 competitors.

### **Flag bearer**

Congratulations to Rachel who carried the Scottish Flag at the 6 Nations Womens' Rugby Match between Scotland and Italy.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

### Prelims

Several prelims took place in the games hall under the scrutiny of our external invigilators while other S4, S5 and S6 assessments took place in class settings. Marking is under way. The experience will give the pupils and parents an indication of how well they are prepared for the final examinations.

## Staffing

Congratulations to Mr Doyle and Mrs Dunker who were presented with commemorative quiches by the Head Teacher to mark 25 years' service to Greenwood Academy.

Alison Telfer is the successful candidate for the Education Assistant post, replacing Mrs Dorrian who is retiring at the end of March.

The Head Teacher's post is being progressed by North Ayrshire and will include two rounds of assessments. The final interviews are scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>. The final interviews are chaired by an Elected Member from North Ayrshire Council and the panel will include a Head of Service and Senior Manager, 2 members of the Parent Council and another Head Teacher.

The posts of Home Economics and Physics have been advertised with an August start date.

## Communication

### Bagpacking

Mr Rocks accompanied pupils to Marks and Spencer in Irvine to Bag Pack in January. We would like to thank the staff who welcomed the groups and to all the customers who donated.

### Mediterranean Water Sports Trip June 2020 S1-S4

After the success of our trip to Tossa de Mar in June, we are running another Water Sports trip this time to the South of France.

The group will be flying out on the morning of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to Girona and then onward by coach to the resort of Argeles sur Mer on France's Mediterranean coast, returning Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Accommodation will be in 4/5 bedded chalets at Taxo les Pins campsite, where facilities include a large swimming pool, restaurant, shop and sports grounds. A free train runs from the campsite to Argeles town and the beach (10 mins).

**The cost of the trip is £695** and includes, flights, accommodation, coach transfers in Spain/France, all meals, all activities and excursions.

The itinerary will include 2 days at the beach doing activities such as wind surfing, sailing, kayaking and snorkelling and 2 days will be spent in The Pyrenees, white water rafting and canyoning at Europe's largest purpose built Canyoning Centre. Evening activities such as Beach Olympics and Treasure Hunts will take place after dinner.

If your child is interested in finding out more about the trip then they should speak to Mr Barlow or Miss Moore for a parental letter.

### EMA Application

The date applications should be received for EMA was "on / before 28 February 2019" to allow back dating to the start of the January term.

If your son/daughter is eligible they should complete the form online. Any problems accessing online information then please call 01294 324482 (Elaine Donald).

### **P1-7 Community Dance Class for the Greenwood Cluster**

P1-7 Community dance class starting back on Wednesday 6th Feb, 4.00 pm - 5.00pm at Greenwood Academy in Games hall 2. This class is free and very fun, it is run by a KA dance coach. If your child is interested in this activity they should go along and join in the fun.

## **Parental Engagement**

### **Reporting an Absence**

If your child is attending appointments, arriving late or feels unwell to attend school you should call the school telephone number 01294 213124.

### **Emergency Contacts**

There are still a number of pupils who have not yet returned their Data Check to the school office. It is extremely important we have all parent/carer contact details and any health issues updated in case of emergency.

Greenwood are also looking at emailing information due to the rising cost of postage, therefore we ask for all email forms which were sent out to be returned as soon as possible, together with the acceptance form to use the internet and permission to have their photographs taken as soon as possible.

**Follow us on Twitter to keep up with our current events and activities. You do not have to have a Twitter account as you can Google us at @Greenwood\_Acad and still access all our information. Thank you to those of you who retweet!**

**Currently, we have 2334 followers. Our next target is 2500. Join Team Greenwood.**