

**Head Teacher's Report for Greenwood Connect  
January 28th, Session 2018-2019**

**No. 5**

**Learning and Teaching**

**Technical Craft Club**

Miss McManus in the Technical Department has started a Technical Craft Club after school. Their first activity will be to make a toy car. Very ambitious!

**Senior Phase**

Senior Phase classes are focussed on their assessments this term. There is an opportunity for pupils to experience these in the games hall under the watchful eyes of the invigilators, while the majority of assessments will be in class locations.

The Head Teacher has sent out advice to parents and carers about various ways of supporting young people through this challenging time.

**Support for Pupils**

**Senior Phase Parents Briefing Evening**

A Briefing Evening took place in the school Atrium on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 pm. Parents and carers of S4/S5 pupils were invited to come along to find out about Subject Choices for S5 and S6, Learning Pathways for Young People, College Partnerships and Positive Destinations. Mrs McGuire, Mrs Doig and Mr Brotherston were joined by Senior Phase pupils who talked about their learning journey and lessons they have learned about their choices and their approaches to these. Ayrshire College representative, Yvonne Adamson, spoke about the college offer which is available to pupils while they still attend school as well as the Foundation Apprenticeships, which require a high level of commitment. Scottish Foundation Apprentice and Apprentice of the Year, former pupil, Fraser Wallace, spoke about his learning pathway and how it had worked for him. His managers from GE Engineering provided an employer's perspective and the need for pupils to be able to talk about their skills and ensure they have built up portfolio of experience in and out of class, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Fellow Apprentice, Victoria, spoke about her route into Engineering which differs from Fraser's. At the end of the evening, parents and carers had the opportunity to ask questions specific to their child.

**NAC Senior Orchestra**

Nicola Benedetti visited North Ayrshire on Thursday 20 December to work with the North Ayrshire Schools' Orchestras before the big Christmas Carousel Concert. This was a great opportunity for our musicians to work with Nicola and enjoy a masterclass with this prestigious musician.

**Scottish Space School**

Next year's residential summer school will be held at Strathclyde University (all S5 pupils who would like to apply for the NASA programme 2019 have less than 2 weeks to apply). The Scottish Space School seeks to encourage the next generation of Scientists and Engineers and it is aimed at S5 pupils currently studying Maths and Science subjects at higher level. The website can be accessed at [www.scottishspaceschool.org.uk](http://www.scottishspaceschool.org.uk)

### **Visit to St Andrew's University**

Pupils from Greenwood Academy travelled to St Andrews University on Tuesday 4th December to attend the Royal Society of Chemistry's (RSC) Christmas lecture. The theme of the lecture was colourful chemistry and pupils were entertained with a series of spectacular chemical reactions. The reactions involved solutions of many colours, colour oscillating reactions, colourful explosions and even a chemical sunset!

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip and returned to Greenwood full of inspiration. Thank you to Mr Campbell who accompanied the pupils.

### **Musical Theatre Workshops**

The Music Department are holding Musical Theatre Workshops for the junior school. The workshops run weekly and places are still available for anyone in S1-3. If interested, please speak to Mrs Glover in Music for more information.

### **Greenwood Gatherin'**

Parents and carers are invited to a Greenwood Gatherin' which will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in our Atrium at 4.30 pm. This will be a Scottish celebration with lots of performances from the S1 & S2 School Choir, Brass and Woodwind ensembles, Pipers, Folk Band, Greenwood Cluster primaries and many more. Refreshments will be provided and class work will be displayed throughout the atrium. Entry is by donation for a programme at the door. We look forward to welcoming you.

### **Primary Seven Transition Day**

Cluster primaries will visit Greenwood Academy on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> as part of their induction. This is their second visit to the school and it is hoped they will feel comfortable and get to know their new environment easily. We look forward to seeing them again.

### **Girls Fitness Classes**

The PE Department will be starting up girls from S1-6 fitness classes on a Wednesday after school from 3-4pm in Games Hall 2. The first session will commence on Wednesday 23rd January.

### **Community Cooking**

Community Cooking will commence back on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January. We look forward to some exotic, healthy cookery meals.

## **Celebrating Success**

**F32 Records** F32 Records are having their first ever showcase on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February at [@HACIrvine](#) at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5 and featuring new music from [@ktpalmermusic](#), MacKenzie Fox and support from a new artist working with us [@jostewartmusic](#). Everyone is welcome to come along. Links to tickets: [https://www.ticketweb.uk/event/freckfest-presents-f32-records-showcase-harbour-arts-centre-tickets/8882225 ...](https://www.ticketweb.uk/event/freckfest-presents-f32-records-showcase-harbour-arts-centre-tickets/8882225)

### **S1 and S2 Christmas Cinema Trip**

S1 and S2 pupils attended a Cinema Trip in Kilmarnock in December. Whilst S3 pupils attended Aladdin in Glasgow. Well done to all the pupils who worked hard to receive their award. Keep up the good work. The pupils' behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to the school! Thank you to all staff who supported the trip. Without their help, these trips would not be possible.

### **Bebras Challenge**

S1 to S3 Computing Science students at Greenwood Academy have been participating in the Bebras challenge. Over 40 countries from all over the world participate with challenges designed to introduce students to computational thinking. The Bebras challenges are made of a set of short problems called Bebras tasks and are delivered online.

The tasks are fun, engaging and based on problems that Computer Scientists often meet and enjoy solving. The tasks can be solved without prior knowledge but instead require logical thinking. The aim is to solve as many as you can in the allotted time. As a result of this challenge, six Greenwood Academy pupils have been invited to participate in the Oxford Challenge next year. Well done to all who took part.

### **Christmas Star**

Greenwood received an email from Arnold Clark with regards to Callum Blair and how helpful he was in helping with the Salvation Army Christmas Charity Appeal. Callum helped buy all the toys with the money that was raised during a charity night at the Lawthorn Farm Pub & Restaurant in Irvine. Callum also donated a gift and helped bag up all the gifts for the children. Staff from Arnold Clark said, "He truly is a wee Christmas star and a credit to your school". Well done to Callum. We are proud of you.

### **S1/S2 Concert Performers**

Members of the S1 and S2 Concert Performers sang at Tesco's, Irvine in December. Pupils were accompanied by Mr Rocks and Miss Marshall. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported them.

### **Christmas Concert**

Congratulations to Aimee in S1 who designed our Christmas Concert Poster. This was also the cover on our Christmas Concert programme.

### **Christmas Fayre**

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Christmas Fayre this year. We were delighted with the generosity received from parents, carers, local businesses, staff and pupils who helped make the Fayre a great success. First prize was won by Justin who won the mountain bike. We have raised over £2000 with monies still coming in.

### **Visit to Wolfson Centre**

Pupils from Greenwood Upcycling and Lovilicious attended "Scotland Can Do" event at the Wolfson Centre in Glasgow. They set up their stalls and along with other young businesses which are supported by the Prince's Trust, spoke to the dignitaries about their work. MSP congratulated the young entrepreneurs on all their hard work and commented on the considerable representation from Ayrshire. Government is encouraging these approaches to be rolled out across Scotland.

### **Scottish Concert Band Festival**

Well done to all our Brass and Woodwind pupils who were part of the North Ayrshire Junior and Intermediate Bands at the Scottish Concert Band Festival regional competition in Glasgow. The juniors will go to the Scottish Finals in March. Also well done to the Brass pupils who took part in the Scottish Brass Band Association Competition last weekend. This was with the Irvine and Dreghorn Community Youth Band conducted by our Brass Instructor, Mr Boax.

### **Greenwood Greatest Show**

It was fantastic to see the amazing talent from the pupils who participated in the Greatest Show on the last day of term. We were tricked by our very own magician, and songs sung from artists such as Bill Withers, Ed Sheeran, Celine Dion and Bars and Melody. We also got to hear the violin and piano being played. Staff got involved, with a performance of 'This is Me' from the Greatest Showman, and there was a medley of Christmas carols played by the Staff Band.

Well done to all the pupils (and staff) who took part: you all did fantastically well. Thank you to Mr Collins and Mrs Dobbie who organised this event.

### **The Zone Report**

"We have shared and enjoyed ourselves so much this term (*pre- Christmas*) in The Zone. The pupils have enjoyed 'checking in' and talking to each other. Having a platform to voice their feelings and thoughts has united our friendship groups.

We have taken part in a whole range of activities relating to our targets. We have been taking turns and listening to instructions when making various smoothies, exploring lots of different textures including shaving foam, maintaining eye contact and working together when doing our STEM activities with the help of our science buddy, Miss Parker. Our crystals came out a treat and, of course, we cooked lots of ingredients that we shared with each other. Our omelettes were amazing. Most of all we smiled.”

### **Mountain Bike Trip**

Gear Up: Greenwood’s very own cycle maintenance company; established 2 years ago; funded through the Princes’ Trust and delivering qualifications to senior pupils, as part of the school’s response to Developing the Young Workforce, visited Cathkin Braes as their Christmas outing. Cathkin was the venue for the very successful Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014 and the more recent Red Bull World Championships. Although our riders cannot claim to perform as well as the professionals a great time was had by all developing skills on the pump track, berms, table-tops and the long red from the top. It is safe to say that all are desperate for a return visit despite the rain and the inevitable punctures, although these were repaired at speed by our talented pupils. Gear Up was formed to provide pupils with a context for learning, developing skills for learning, life and work and a qualification in cycle maintenance delivered in partnership with Ayrshire College. Bikes are donated by staff and members of the public, our pupils then assess what is required to repair them and bring them up to standard before finding good homes for them across our Greenwood community. Although our next venture is to provide free bike safety checks and repairs to our current S1 pupils, we continue to welcome the donation of all shapes and sizes of bikes.

### **Greenwood Robotics Club**

Greenwood Robotics Club whose team name was TrouNoir attended Ayrshire College Kilmarnock Campus on Friday to compete in the first round of First Lego League – Into Orbit season. The teams are judged on Core Values, Robot Build & Programming and a research project which was based on sustainable existence in space.

The students worked hard on the overall project and were very resilient when it came to programming having to build, test and go back to the drawing board for many of the missions. Their hard work paid off and the team surpassed themselves when they were presented with a Lego Cup for best robot build and programming.

It was a truly enjoyable day, fantastic venue and pleasant, informative staff. The students would like to thank their mentors from GE Caledonian, they answered any queries and helped with any last minute snags. The Robotics Club would also like to thank the staff from Ayrshire College who made us all welcome. The team also did some networking throughout the day and have been invited back to Kilmarnock Campus for a tour around the Engineering Department and for making links in Software Engineering.

With the Lego Cup taking pride of place with all the other trophies in the Greenwood Academy trophy cabinet, the Robotics Team are now looking forward to the next season of First Lego League. Well done to you all!

### **Staff Charity Christmas Appeal**

Thank you to all staff who contributed this year. The final total raised was £533.50 which will be shared between our own Greenwood Appeal and the Butterfly Club.

### **DYW Ayrshire/Prince’s Trust**

Pupils received Prince’s Trust Development Award cheques. The three projects receiving the cheques are:

- Lovilicious Nail Bar funding - £2,090
- Gear Up Bike Repair and Recycling funding - £1,755
- Brothers Wood Furniture Upcycling funding - £2,250

Cheques were presented by the Prince’s Trust Chair Ayrshire Walter Smith to Head Teacher Christine McGuire and pupils. Walter said, “We are delighted to provide ongoing support to the young people involved in these DYW/Prince’s Trust innovative projects to help develop their employability and vocational skills”.

### **Irvine Clean Up Crew**

Sandra Hughes, organiser for Irvine Clean Up Crew and assessor for four Greenwood pupils who are helping them with voluntary work through the Duke of Edinburgh Programme, reported, "This morning, the pupils kindly assisted me at Irvine Beach as we were photographed by North Ayrshire Council as finalists of the North Ayrshire Council Civic Pride awards. The girls have been such a help in our work that we asked them to come along to share the recognition.

They are a credit to the school and since they have joined our group, have encouraged other young people to come along for litter picks."

Well done, Abigail, Tilly, Hayley and Sarah.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Senior Phase Reports**

Tracking Reports were issued to pupils. These reports detail Working Grades, Behaviour and Homework for the December period. Parents / carers who need to discuss their child's report should contact their Guidance Teacher in the first instance.

## **Staffing**

New staff member, Dawn Cunningham, has joined the Art Department. Welcome also to Colette Mathieson, who has joined us as Classroom Assistant.

We send good wishes to Laura Marshall in Music, who is moving to Notre Dame High School in Glasgow, and to Hazel Inch in HE who is also leaving us this month.

Christine McGuire, Head Teacher, and Billy Brotherston, Depute Head Teacher, have announced their intention to retire at Easter and summer respectively.

## **Communication**

### **Community Engagement - working in partnership**

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 the Head Teacher represented the school at the top table at the Irvine Burns Club Annual Celebration. This is the oldest continuously operating Burns Club in the world. Annie Small is the first female President of the Club in its 193 year history and is President of the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs 2018-2020. Bill Nolan has held the post of President of the Robert Burns World Federation 2018-2019.

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Mr Brotherston accompanied Head Boy, Sam Kennedy, and Head Girl, Ashley Aitken, to the Irvine Moor where they laid a wreath on behalf of Greenwood Academy at the Burns Statue to mark the birth of the national poet.

### **Burns Federation Schools Music Competition 2019**

All pupils are invited to take part in the Ayrshire Burns Federation Schools Competition. This takes place Saturday 2nd March 2019 at Belmont Academy in Ayr.

There are 4 different competition categories:

**Verse Speaking** - This should be 24-40 lines of a Burns poem.

**Singing** - This should be a Burns song from memory.

**Instrumental** - This can be a medley of any Scottish pieces lasting between 2 and 4 minutes.

**Bagpiping** - This can be a medley of any Scottish pieces lasting between 2 and 4 minutes.

Every year we have a team of competitors and do very well. Last year we took 13 pupils and 9 of them made it through to the National Finals Competition.

We are looking for representatives for all three age categories: S1/2 S3/4 S5/6. Winners of each section will receive a trophy which they will keep for one year. This is also presented at School Prize Giving.

1st and 2nd in each section will receive a medal to keep. All competitors receive a nice certificate. All winners and runners-up of each section will be invited to form the Ayrshire team for the National schools Competition. This will be hosted by Ayrshire this year and will take place in Irvine Royal Academy on Saturday 23rd of March. This makes it a special year and we really want a strong home team.

If your child is interested they can speak to Mrs Glover or Mr Rocks. We have a letter your child can take home telling you all about it. All entries must be in by Thursday the 7th of February.

## **Football Report!**

### **Greenwood S1 V Grange Academy Ayrshire League Cup**

On a wet November afternoon at the Grange in Killie town  
A band of brothers and a sister battled for the Ayrshire football crown,  
The wind did howl and the rain did drive and the team did run and run,  
But the Grange they did run faster like bullets from a Gatling gun.

As hard as the Greenwood heroes tried, their efforts proved in vain,  
The game brought very little pleasure and a very lot of pain,  
Goal after goal we did concede until the referee lost track,  
The wind was in our faces and the wall was at our back.

But battle to the end is everything that Greenwood understand,  
And reserves of will and courage is what Greenwood do command,  
We foraged and ferreted for a goal, any goal, come on, just please 1 goal!  
But the Grange defence was impenetrable, no gaps, not a single hole!

When the referee tooted the final toot and all was said and done,  
Greenwood were defeated handsomely and the Grange had clearly won,  
An exercise in the building of character did occur on Wed-nes-day,  
And that's one of the reasons we love to play this beautiful game we play.

## **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 2294 followers. Our next target is 2500. Join Team Greenwood.**