

**Head Teacher Report for Greenwood Connect
March 18th, Session 2018-2019**

No. 7

Learning and Teaching

Outward Bound Trust

An exciting opportunity for Greenwood pupils presented itself in the form of a week long Outward Bound trip to Loch Eil, Fort William. Loch Eil is a former shooting lodge and is overlooked by Ben Nevis. It is a short distance from sandy shores and the water. The 23 pupils were involved in a variety of activities with pupils from 3 other secondary schools. Challenges on land, e.g. walking and mountain-biking, and water, eg canoeing and rafting, tested pupils' resilience, independence and team-working in the wintry weather. The pupils were accompanied by Ms Duncan and Mr Cochrane. We look forward to seeing them develop their leadership skills back in school.

Book Shop Visit

Pupils accompanied Mr Cornyn to the opening of the 'Dilley Dally' Book Shop in Irvine. The pupils entered a competition to draw their favourite literacy character and write 100 words on their chosen character. The pupils were the first to visit the shop and were very impressed by the array of books. Anyone who entered the competition will receive a voucher for £1 to spend in the shop.

Home Economics

The Frankie & Benny's pasta & pizza competition was held on 13th March and we have two S2 groups going through to the final to be held in the Frankie & Benny's Restaurant in Irvine later this month.

The S2 semi-finalist groups are Brendan and Sasha with their 'Paprika Passion' & Katie, Lucie, Alix and Erin with their 'Sizzling Sausage Surprise'! We look forward to seeing how both teams do in the final against pupils from Ardrossan Academy!

A huge well done to all the entrants. Miss Smith & Mrs Dobbie are extremely proud of all who took part.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Pupils visited staff to promote their Fairtrade products, highlighting the fairness for a reasonable price on goods. Chocolate, tea bags and coffee were just a few of the goods on sale.

Support for Pupils

Education Maintenance Allowance

EMA applications forms will only be processed for the academic year 2018/2019 until 31 March 2019. No applications will be accepted after this date. Students within the eligible date of birth range (1 March 1999 to 28 February 2003) who have not previously submitted an application for this session should do so before 31 March 2019 if they wish to be considered for an award.

Parent Council

Thank you to PC Tate for coming along to the last Greenwood Connect meeting. This was a very informative session on Internet safety and finding out about the role of campus police officer.

Blood Donations

The blood transfusion service visited the school and S6 pupils and staff donated blood. The bus was extremely busy as attendance was very high. Thank you to all who donated; their contribution was very much appreciated.

Aerospace Visit & Apprenticeship Opportunity

Sixteen pupils visited UTC in Prestwick where they were given a tour of the site and information on the Apprenticeships available there this year. This was appreciated by the pupils. Thank you to Mr Cochrane who accompanied the pupils to Prestwick.

Scottish Power

Greenwood Academy would like to thank Mr Giff from Scottish Power who gave a presentation to pupils with information on their forthcoming Apprenticeship programmes available to pupils.

NAC Apprenticeships

Representatives from North Ayrshire visited Greenwood last Tuesday to give advice and presentation on the Apprenticeships available throughout North Ayrshire Council.

There are many opportunities available for Modern Apprenticeships and pupils and parents can access this information by visiting @Greenwood_DYW.

Greenwood Academy 5K Community Fun Run

The local community are invited to join in with Greenwood Academy 5K Fun Run which will take place on Wednesday 17 April from 3.45 pm until 6.30 pm. Registration opens at 3.45 pm (last entry 4.15 pm). The run will commence at 4.30 pm. There are no age restrictions. Tickets can be purchased from Mr Duncan (PE) Miss McManus (Technical) or Miss Gilmour (Science) in school or on line at skiddle.com

Attainment and Achievement

Data

The publication of Insight data reveals that our Positive Destinations for Session 2017-2018 are as follows:

96.85% compared to 95.37% last session and compared with the 2017-2018 NAC figure of 95.57%, South West Collaborative of 94.17% and national figure of 94.39%.

The figures for Numeracy and Literacy are as follows:

88.58% achieving level 4 and 65.35% achieving level 5, both figures above the virtual comparator.

96.85% achieved Level 4 Literacy and 85.83% achieved level 5, considerably above our 78.56% figure in 2016.

88.98% achieved level 4 Numeracy and 66.93% achieved Level 5, above the virtual comparator of 65.04%.

Raising Attainment: Arran Study Weekend

A number of staff and pupils spent the weekend at the Arran Outdoor Centre at Lamlash to help boost their knowledge on key subjects.

The Pupil Council also attended and worked on improvement planning.

Pupils were accompanied by Mrs Dunker, Mr Doyle, Ms Burns and Mr Campbell.

Raising Attainment: Easter School

As additional preparation for the forthcoming SQA examinations, revision classes for a number of subjects will be held. Pupils will be asked in advance what classes they will attend.

Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, it is important that pupils attend if they have indicated that they will take part. Pupils are advised to register in the Atrium on the day of classes. Pupils who have more than one class are expected to bring a packed lunch.

Celebrating Success

S1 Basketball

S1 Basketballers reached the semi-final of North Ayrshire Active Schools tournament, winning 2 games and losing 2. Greenwood won the first game 20-0, great scoring for an 8 minute game. Sadly, they were defeated in the semi by a strong Ardrossan S2 team 10-4 and there was great play by all the team. Thank you to Mr Campbell & Mr Duncan for their dedication and hard work with the pupils every week

Ayrshire Burns Federation

Last weekend Greenwood Academy won numerous trophies at the Ayrshire Burns Federation competition which took place at Belmont Academy, Ayr. Congratulations to all the pupils who took part.

Winners were:

Singing /Speaking: S3/S4 - 1st Aimee Lee, and 3rd place to Beth Prentice

Singing /Speaking: S1/S2 - 1st Sophie Harwood

Singing /Speaking: S5/S6 - 3rd Ryan Young

Instrumental – 1st Charlotte Johnston

Scottish Medley Fiddle, 2nd Chloe Mansfield and Freya Walker.

The prize winners now go on to represent Ayrshire at the Robert Burns World Federation's National Festival.

North Ayrshire Music

Congratulations to the Senior String Ensemble who have won the trophy yet again. Congratulations to Greenwood pupils who are members of this talented group.

Also to the Junior Band who gained a Gold Award at SCBF.

More Music!

Thank you to two of our pipers who were part of a group of 5 welcoming the guests to the Provost's Civic Pride Awards.

Gear Up Cycle Maintenance

The bike maintenance group cycled a local 12K last week. They also serviced the bikes at Elderbank Primary.

Pupils have been involved with bike maintenance and the up cycling in school since August last year. This has been funded by the Princes Trust.

The pupils have now been invited to attend a Prince's Trust Celebration event at the Wolfston Centre Glasgow on Wednesday 20 March 2019. At this event they will demonstrate some of their bike maintenance skills and display some successful up cycled bikes. In attendance will be various dignitaries from the Princes Trust and MSP and Justice Minister Humza Yousaf.

S1/2 West of Scotland Team Maths Challenge

Last Tuesday 26th February two S1 pupils (Adam Currie and Tristan Chan) and two S2 pupils (Thomas Chan and Thomas Carling) represented Greenwood Academy in the S1/S2 West of Scotland Team Maths Challenge held at UWS in Paisley.

Competing against 27 other schools (including Glasgow Academy, Kelvinside Academy and the High school of Glasgow) over 4 rounds which included a Relay, Cross number section, Shuttle and Group round the team finished a creditable 18th out of 28. The boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school in terms of manner, attitude, behaviour and effort.

Year of Young People 2018

Nicole and Zoe joined Arran McDonald, MSYP, to deliver the cabinet report to local councillors on the legacy of the Year of Young People. They have carried out fantastic work as part of the strategic work-stream in North Ayrshire Council.

Sports Scotland Young Ambassador

Well done to our former pupil, Ellie Hannah, who has been selected to be part of Sports Scotland Young Ambassador delivery team 2019. Ellie was Young Ambassador for Greenwood Academy last year and has now moved to University.

Chess Competition

Dawid in S2 was a joint winner in the Ayrshire Chess Association's JBW Robertson Cup competition last week. There were 23 entries from all over Ayrshire to the Grading Restricted Competition. Dawid scored 4/4 jointly with a Stewarton player who also attends Greenwood's chess club.

Mr Taylor was delighted for him especially as he is such a big help with the young chess players at Glebe Primary.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Tracking Reports

Tracking reports have been issued to pupils in S4-S6. These reports detail Working Grades, Effort, Behaviour and Homework for the February period. Parents and carers are welcome to discuss their child's report with their Guidance teacher. If for any reason parents and carers have not received their child's report please feel free to contact the School Office.

Staffing

Congratulations to Neil Brotherwood who is the preferred candidate for the post of Teacher of Inclusion at Doon Academy. We wish him all the best for the future.

Congratulations to Kirsty Dobbie in Home Economics and Danielle Gilmour in Physics, who are the preferred candidates for the permanent positions here in Greenwood Academy, starting in August 2019.

The preferred candidate for the post of Head Teacher is Mrs Katie Hegarty, currently Head Teacher at Stewarton Academy. Her start date has still to be agreed. We wish her all the best for the future.

Ms Greenlees, Depute Head Teacher, will be Acting Head teacher in the interim period.

Communication

Groupcall Texts

The issue with Groupcall Texts has now been resolved and parents/carers should have no trouble sending reply texts to Greenwood Academy, using this system.

School Holidays

School closes on Friday 29th March 2019 and pupils and staff return on Monday 15 April. The school will close again on Thursday 18 April and opens again on Tuesday 23 April 2019 after the Easter weekend.

Parental Engagement

Breakfast Blether

On Monday 4th March P7 parents/carers and pupils from Dreghorn Primary joined Mrs MacDougall, Mr Campbell and Emma for a 'breakfast blether'.

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. There are only 100 parents and carers who have not yet provided an e-mail address. We would appreciate it if we could reduce this number as far as possible.

Acceptable use forms so that pupils can use the internet as well as permission for photographs should also be submitted.

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.