

## **Learning and Teaching**

### **'School Daze' Road Safety Performance**

On Monday 12th November, the Baldy Bain Theatre Company performed a Road Safety play "School Daze" to all S1 pupils. We hope pupils will take on the serious message of this entertaining format.

### **UK Parliament week 12 – 17th November**

On 14<sup>th</sup> & 15th November 6 S3 classes participated in a number of activities. Pupil Council members organised and led the event which allowed young people to consider democracy and the changing face of votes for women in history.

### **Languages for Business Seminar**

Twelve S4 pupils attended the DYW North Ayrshire Languages for Business Seminar at Prestwick Airport on 6<sup>th</sup> November. They heard from business leaders how languages had enhanced their career opportunities and was important in their line of work. Then they went to the "market place" where they were able to talk to representatives of local organisations.

### **'Lowdown Roadshow'**

Two pupils enjoyed the 'Lowdown Roadshow' delivered by Ross from Zoolab & found out more about their link between 'Healthy Eating & Dietary Diseases'. They also got to enjoy Healthy & Vegetarian burgers!

### **Mock Interviews**

Employers from Scottish Water, NHS, Alliance Wine, Kingscroft Logistics, Ashleigh Construction and Gallagher Insurance visited Greenwood Academy to conduct Mock Interviews with S5 pupils who previously carried out a Mock application and Interview module during PSE. This experience will prepare young people for the challenge of the real interview when it will matter.

### **Reach Programme**

Glasgow University visited the school to speak with S5 pupils who are currently on the Reach Programme. Students who choose Veterinary, Medicine, Law, Dentistry, Primary Teaching, Engineering and Finance will receive either 10% on their UKCAT test results or help to uplift their grades to apply for University.

### **Stewart Ivory Foundation**

A representative from the Stewart Ivory Foundation visited Greenwood Academy S6 pupils to talk about pupils managing their finances upon leaving school either in employment, University or attending College courses. Students were advised on good debt and what debt to avoid. This was well received by pupils during their PSE class. Thank you to Stewart Ivory foundation for their input.

### **Accountants in Bankruptcy Visit**

Pupils visited the Accounts and Bankruptcy in Kilwinning where they received a presentation from the company. They will complete job applications forms which may lead to summer employment with the company if they are successful. We wish our pupils all the best with their application.

### **Dumfries House**

S2 pupils attended a `Future Textile` workshop at Dumfries House and made beautiful Christmas cushions! They learned lots of new skills & techniques including how to put a zip into a cushion, how to use bondaweb & how to sew buttons onto their cushions!

The pupils had a great day & also saw the Christmas Tree being put up in the main lounge area of Dumfries House!

### **Christian Focus Week – 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November**

Due to our long standing established link with Fullerton Connexions, a number of activities were organised.

The focus was S1-S3 and all classes were involved in a variety of activities including dance, song and interactive cube. The Music Rock Band 'Sense' was most inspirational and Shance involved our local young people in dance. One of the other highlights was Guvna B, a rapper who has won 2 MOBOS, who took an Assembly on the final day for all year groups. A number of our young people also attended a concert on the Saturday night at Fullerton Connexions.

The overall message was be the best you can be. All activities provided inspiration for us all.

## **Support for Pupils**

### **UCAS**

If your son/daughter is applying through UCAS they should be in the final stages of completing their applications. Applications should be sent away as soon as possible as offers are already being made to some candidates. If your son/daughter has still to complete their UCAS they should speak to their Guidance teacher to finalise their application.

### **Work Experience**

S4 pupils will be taking part in various Work Experience throughout the local area week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> December. This is a great opportunity for pupils to experience the world of work. We would like to thank local employers for investing time in our pupils.

### **Visit to Glasgow City College**

Six of our Hearing Impaired pupils visited Glasgow City College. They had a tour of the college, visiting various departments. Pupils were able to meet a profoundly Deaf BSL student, currently studying a Professional Cookery course. Staff from the British Deaf Association were there to support this visit. Our pupils learned about the support offered to Hearing Impaired students at the college.

### **Modern Languages**

The S3 Careers Event took place and the following speakers visited pupils: Stephen Brown from [www.spice.boutique](http://www.spice.boutique), Louise Whyte from SCILT, Natasha Robinson from Project Trust and Robin and Owen Wilson - former pupils speaking about their gap year in China.

This gave the pupils a great opportunity to see the impact of pursuing languages.

### **S1 Numeracy Workshop**

S1 Numeracy workshop took place for parents and carers to develop a greater understanding of the Numeracy Curriculum and its significance to the S1 pupils career. Thank you to Emma, Family Learning Team, who organised this event.

### **Community Cooking**

Parents, carers and pupils have been enjoying Community Cooking on Wednesday's after school. This has been a great success with 'Spicy Sausage Penne' at only 75p per portion, it's a tasty hearty recipe!

### **Arran Leadership Week**

As part of our Pupil Leadership Strategies 19 pupils attended the Arran Outdoor Education Centre for 4 days of physical and mental endeavours. Brodick Castle was the first location for orienteering skills which sent pupils scurrying about the grounds attempting to find the orange stamps to prove they had found the checkpoint. Wednesday found us on the North West coast starting from Catacol and summiting Meall Bhig at 438 meters. This was a tremendous achievement taking pupils well out of their comfort zone and going off the normal paths tramping through heather and steep terrain. Despite the typical Scottish weather of snow, hail and strong winds all pupils achieved their goal being rewarded with spectacular views of the Mull of Kintyre.

At Sannox pupils were confronted with sandstone cliffs and abseil pitches of 40 and 70 feet. This took staff and pupils to a new fear and trepidation level and with the adrenalin running high all gave it their best shot with some wanting more and more descents. A night walk with head torches in the Forest at Lamlash was a new and exciting adventure, although pupils were unlucky not to see the stars due to cloud cover.

Team challenges included rafting at Brodick pond, Golf Frisbee, collecting of seaweed and fertilizing the apple orchard at Brodick Roots, a community environmental venture. Working on the John Muir award involved pupils in clearing undergrowth and the felling of some softwood trees to allow the native Silver Birch to dominate an area.

A tremendous and hectic week for all which developed pupils strengths, self-awareness, confidence, resilience and self-worth. All deserved a restful weekend.

### **Greenwood's Greatest Show**

There will be a talent show on the last day of term, 21st December 2018. We are looking for pupils to audition for this, so if you think you have talent, come along to Mrs Dobbie's room (G17) at lunchtime on Monday 26th November or Monday 3rd December to audition.

### **MTV Class**

Ms Brennan's MTV class recently attended the Girdle Toll Parish Church to interview staff there who run the area's North Ayrshire Foodbank. The pupils took along food contributions and were concerned to hear about the pressures the food bank is under, especially due to the introduction of Universal Credit, and coming up to the Christmas period.

The pupils spoke to Vicki who is in charge and to other staff who revealed their reasons for 'giving something back' to the community.

It was a fabulous in-depth interview which restored our faith in humanity and we would appeal to everyone in the Irvine area to donate what they can at the Church. Good toys to cater for all ages, selection boxes and other treats would be especially appreciated at this time of year. Opening hours are: Monday 15.00-17.00, Tuesday 15.00-17.00 and Friday 16.00-18.00.

## **Attainment and Achievement**

### **Maths Department**

#### **Senior Team Maths Competition**

A team of 4 (two S5 and two S6 pupils) attended the regional heat of the UKMT Senior Team Maths Competition. The 4 boys (Barney Rome, Teun Buis, Ryan Lai and Amanveer Singh Gill) performed admirably and were a credit to the school not only with their Maths knowledge and skills but also their attitude and manners. The boys finished a creditable 9th out of 30 performing particularly well in Rounds 1 and 2.

#### **Individual Maths Challenge**

Twenty S5/6 pupils took part in this year's UKMT Maths Challenge.

### **Cinema Outing S1/S2**

There will be a Christmas Outing to the Odeon Cinema in Kilmarnock Friday 14 December 2018. This award is for S1/S2 pupils who have achieved their Bronze Award in the school's system promoting positive behaviour and who are continuing to display a positive attitude to learning in school.

### **“Scotland Can Do” Event**

Greenwood Academy was one of three Ayrshire schools, which were the only school groups invited to attend this prestigious event which took place in the Wolfson Centre in Glasgow. Lovilicious and our Upcycling classes had stalls at the event to show off their work and to discuss enterprise in school with the assembled dignitaries, including MSP for Investment and Innovation, Ivan McKee. He said, “I’m impressed by the young entrepreneurs showcasing their businesses and the support The Princes Trust and key partners offer to help them thrive. The Scottish Government is hugely supportive of the collaborative work happening in this space”.

## **Celebrating Success**

### **Youth Participatory Budget**

North Ayrshire Council commissioned Young Scot to manage an online vote for a participatory budgeting exercise which took in November 2018. Voting took place online using the Young Scot online voting platform. Congratulations to five of our school groups which achieved their financial bid, Greenwood Academy Duke of Edinburgh Award Group £800.00, Greenwood Academy Sports Leader £800, Greenwood Academy Voices of Change £600, F32 Records £800, Greenwood S2/S3 Leadership Group £800 and Greenwood Academy Parent Council Dance Forever Group £800. This is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to pupils who took part in the voting and contributed to our success.

### **F32 Records**

Katie Palmer has released her debut single, Out of Luck, through our record label, F32 Records. The song is now available to stream or download on iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon Music. She has already had this song played on radio shows in Scotland, Amsterdam and New York!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnGNxPDh72Q>

<https://www.f32records.com/katie-palmer.html>

### **Remembrance Day**

Thank you to Blair Barclay and Logan McDowall who lead pupil workshops to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War 1.

### **Future Chef Competition – Cook School, Kilmarnock**

Rachel Christie and Lewis Muir were this year's school heat Future Chef winners. Yesterday they both attended the Regional Future Chef Final at Braehead Cook School, where they got to cook in a professional kitchen and meet several professional chefs. They had a great day and the dishes they both made were delicious. Lewis won second place for his two dishes. Well done, Lewis and Rachel. You were both fantastic.

### **Congratulations To Our Young Performers**

There were 30 competitors for the recent competition which took place last week and the winners are as follows:

#### BGE Young Singer of the Year

Winner: Beth Prentice 3W2, Runners-up: Abby Gordon 1A2 and Connor Stewart 1O1.

#### BGE Young Musician of the Year

Winner: Thomas Chan 2G2, Runner-up: Ethan Robertson 3S1.

### BGE Young Traditional Musician of the Year

Winner: Charlotte Johnson 3S2 Runner-up: Freya Watkins 3S1.

### Senior Young Singer of the Year

Winner: Gillian Thorpe 5P1, Runners-up: Phoebe McMillan 5P1.

### Senior Young Musician of the Year

Winner: Ryan Lai 5W1, Runner-up: Alexandra Ramsay 6S.

### Senior Young Traditional Musician of the Year

Winner: Connor McBlane 6G, Runner-up: Rebecca Melaugh 4W2.

### Senior Rock & Pop Musician of the Year

Winner: Aidan Cunningham 6P, Runner-up: Jane Yates 4W1.

### **Eco Schools**

Ruth Maguire, MSP, has lodged a parliamentary motion congratulating Greenwood on achieving our 4<sup>th</sup> Green Flag and has forwarded a certificate containing a text of the motion. We are delighted to receive this recognition.

## **Staffing**

We would like to welcome our Mandarin teacher Grace Yuan. We are grateful for her expertise in teaching Mandarin to our pupils this year.

## **Communication**

### **Foodbank Collections**

Donations are being collected for the Foodbank. They can be handed into the Main Office or during period 3 on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. The donations may include tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned soup, Pasta, breakfast cereals, teabags, biscuits etc. Donations can be handed in until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Each donation gains one house group point. Your donations help to provide three days of emergency food and support to local people in need.

### **Greenwood Christmas Concert**

Preparations commenced on Monday for the Greenwood Christmas Concert which will take place on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at 7.00pm. Tickets for the evening will cost £2 and will be on sale at the school office or Mrs Hogg in the Music Department. There will be a variety of musical items. Parents and carers are most welcome to come along and enjoy an evening of musical talent.

### **S3 Boys Football**

Last Thursday the S3 Boys Football Team proceeded into Round 3 of the Scottish Cup with an away victory over Largs Academy with some last minute changes to the starting line-up. The boys battled to a 1-1 draw in the fading light. Greenwood's goal was expertly taken by Matthew Donald. Greenwood won 3-1 on penalties both goals from Matthew, Jack Barclay and Nathan Lennox. Man of the match Nathan Lennox. Next up Duncannrig Academy away!

### **S1 Boys Football**

A team of superstars travelled to Troon for the first leg of their Inter-Ayrshire League Championship against a top class Marr College who have gone unbeaten all season. The match started at a frenetic pace with both teams keen to attack in numbers with Kenzie McPherson and Brandon Stevenson leading the line for our hometown heroes.

Dean Drysdale and Stuart Gibb were energetic in the centre of midfield linking play and working back to help the defence. Declan Robinson and Leon Barton fulfilled their roles as attacking full backs expertly by linking up with our wide midfielders in attack and assisting the dynamic, impenetrable central defensive duo of Logan Warwick and McKenzie Mitchell when the hosts threatened Ross Lee's goal.

Despite Greenwood's dominance and inspirational style of play it was Marr who drew first blood. A wickedly swerving free kick was swung into the box where it was met by the towering striker who bludgeoned the ball into the top corner with his forehead. 1-0 Marr against the run of play!

A flurry of substitutions saw Lauchlan Deans enter the fray to torment the Marr defence with his trickery and cunning. Kai Watson and Ben Mackie came on to strengthen an already rock solid defence and Jamie Knapp brought more creativity and movement to the front line.

After a rousing team talk focusing on effort, quick forward passing and shots on goal the equaliser arrived! After yet another flowing move involving most of the team, Jamie Knapp arrived to poke home a rebounded shot from close range. 1-1.

We didn't have to wait long for the 2nd goal. Callum Stevenson weaved his way through challenge after challenge as he had done so many times in the game before finishing expertly! 2-1 Greenwood!

With a strong Marr team pushing hard for the equaliser disaster struck. Ross Lee saved expertly at a striker's feet only to smash his knee painfully. Without a goalkeeper on the bench Kenzie McPherson unselfishly volunteered his services in goal and what a move this turned out to be. Kenzie pulled off a string of world class saves to keep the score at 2-1 which allowed Greenwood to break up the park and make it 3-1 courtesy of Kenzie Clegg whose all-round performance had been sublime.

A wonderful team performance from a wonderful team but it's only half time. The 2nd leg will take place at Greenwood after Christmas.

### **S2 Parents Evening**

The S2 Parents' Evening took place in the school. Parents/carers were updated on their son/daughters progress in S2. Thank you to pupils who helped out with hospitality on the evening.

### **S5/S6 Parents Evening**

The S5/S6 Parents' Evening took place in the school last Tuesday evening.

Parents/carers were updated on their son/daughters progress in S5/S6. Thank you to pupils who helped out with hospitality on the evening. Parents and carers were also invited to the Art Department's Expressive Folio Exhibition which was held in the Staff Café, this gave the parents and carers the opportunity to view and discuss the work, and to celebrate the students' successes. Thank you to pupils who gave musical performances at the exhibition.

### **Future Parents' Evenings**

A note for parents/carers for your diaries. All Parents' Evenings will take place from 4.30pm – 6.30pm on Tuesdays:

S3 – 4 December 2018;

S4 – 22 January 2019;

P7 Parents' Tour – 14 May 2019

P7 – 20 May 2019

Briefing Evenings take place on Monday evenings 7- 8.15pm, as follows:

S4 and S5 – 14 January 2019

S2 – 4 February 2019

P7 – 20 May 2019

### **Holiday Dates**

School will be closed to staff and pupils on Friday 21 December at 2.30 pm and re-open on Monday 7 January 2019.

## **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 for pupil photographs.

**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 2450 followers. Our next target is 3000. Join Team Greenwood.**