

Learning and Teaching

Visit to Belhaven Bay

Mr Campbell and Mr Collins took a group of 10 S1-S3 pupils to Belhaven Bay in Dunbar to have a surf lesson with C2C surf school. All pupils had a great time learning how to surf in excellent beginner conditions. Pupils learned how to paddle into waves and catch waves on their surf boards. All pupils managed to eventually get onto their feet and ride waves into the beach. There was a great deal of whooping and cheering all round as pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves taking part in an activity that encourages them to explore and discover our coastline by making the best of what nature can offer. Mr Campbell will be offering another opportunity to surf in the spring.

Work Experience

Campus Police Officers were joined by pupils from Greenwood, Irvine Royal, Kilwinning Academy and Garnock Academy last week. They were given an insight to Recruitment, Public Order, Driver Training and Operational Safety Training Teams. They also had the chance to visit Police Scotland Air Unit and Police Scotland Horses. This has been a fantastic opportunity for the pupils who are interested in a career in the Police Force.

Visit to Theatre

A group of senior Music pupils enjoyed a stunning performance of Verdi's 'Rigoletto' at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. A few of the pupils took part in the opera trip last year and were very excited to return! For others, it was the first experience of opera and they all found it thoroughly enjoyable!

40 pupils to see 'Shrek' at the King's Theatre in Glasgow. The pupils conducted themselves very well; they are a credit to Greenwood Academy.

Animal Rights Trip

Our second year pupils attended Edinburgh Zoo with our English department to investigate Animal Rights. The trip was organised by Ms Martin to help pupils with their understanding of discursive writing. The aim of the trip was to look into both sides of the argument of "Should we have zoos?" This allowed the pupils to gain the skills needed for English throughout the school years. By Chloe Wotherspoon and Lauren Gilmour.

Visit to Dumfries House

S2 pupils had a visit to Dumfries House recently to attend a workshop with 'Future Textiles' where they made a tote bag and learned lots of new skills and techniques in applique design!

DofE Visit

Greenwood Academy pupils participated in their Bronze practice expedition at the start of the week. This was a great achievement for the boys who have spent months working towards their expedition. The boys worked well as a team, learning basic navigation, camp craft skills and how to cook using tranga stoves. The group seemed to enjoy the clear days and coped well at night with freezing temperatures. The expedition season is now over and the boys will start to plan their route for their qualifying expedition in March.

Bikeability

Our Technical Department are running a bike repair shop service for Greenwood pupils, for a minimal charge or small donation. This can range from a puncture to broken brakes. Organised by Mr Torbit, he and his team also work to keep the school bikes maintained for the pupils to enjoy. The service is funded by The Princes Trust and The Developing Young Workforce. By Chloe Wotherspoon and Lauren Gilmour

Support for Pupils

Breakfast Sports Club

Your son / daughter is invited to come along to the PE department on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to take part in a variety of different sports. It's the perfect way to start the day!! This event will take place from 8.15 am - 8.45 am.

School Gymnastics Club

Every Thursday there is a gymnastics club open to all pupils. The club runs from 3.45 pm - 4.45 pm; is open to all S1- S6 pupils & costs £1.50 per session. If your son /daughter is interested, please advise them to go along and develop their skills further or simply take part in a new activity with specialist training.

Young Education Presentation

Pupils in S6 attended a Youth Education Presentation from CHAP, Community Housing Advocacy Project. Thank you to Molly who gave a presentation on accommodation available when students attend College or University and also information on Bursaries and Student Loans. This was very well received and informative.

DoFE

Thanks to a grant from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Diamond Fund, the school managed to purchase additional outdoor camping equipment which enabled the school to provide more of our young people the opportunity to participate in DofE, a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop 'soft' skills and attributes for life and the workplace, along with a healthier respect for health and the great outdoors

Science Club

The school Science Department are running a science club which first year pupils can attend to learn new skills and fun new experiments that they may not get the chance to do in classes. Each club meeting has a different theme and we were able to speak to a pupil who is in the club that told us about the Halloween theme week. The pupil was able to tell us how he enjoyed making a lava lamp, spooky slime, a tea bag ghost and a black carbon snake. He also mentioned how he was now able to safely use equipment and knows the importance to always wear his safety goggles. This week's theme is Harry Potter. By Chloe Wotherspoon and Lauren Gilmour.

Community Cooking

Our Home Economics department are running a community cooking course on Wednesdays after school weekly. There are currently ten families participating. Every week Miss Smith who runs the course focusses on healthy eating by teaching new cooking methods which can save money. The experience helps bond families and develop friendships as well as culinary skills. Written by Chloe Wotherspoon & Lauren Gilmour.

North Ayrshire Schools' Intermediate Choir

North Ayrshire Schools' Intermediate Choir will work towards a beautiful Concert on Sunday 16 December at 3.30 pm in St Peter's Church, Ardrossan.

The rehearsals will be in Kilwinning Academy from 6.00 pm until 7.00 pm on Monday Evenings. If your son / daughter is in S1-S3 they are invited to go along. If further information is needed your child can contact the Music department or contact the Music Service on 01294 324476.

Attainment and Achievement

ECO Schools

Greenwood has achieved their 4th Green Flag as part of the Eco Schools programme! This is a massive achievement. What has been clear in our latest submission is that this is not the work of one small committee, but that our approach permeates many aspects of the life of the school. We all contribute to this success in some way. The judges were highly impressed and think our model emphasises sustainability. Thank you to all staff and pupils for great work! Here is an excerpt from the report from the Eco Schools Scotland Team:

"I thoroughly enjoyed reading your application and hearing of your broader, whole school approach to your Eco-Schools work. It is great to see that this is enabling you to develop vibrant partnerships and a more sustainable and useful approach to Eco-Schools. Your combined approach to the Committee Element of eco-schools demonstrates excellent practise which will also support a best practise whole school approach to fulfilling pupil's entitlement to learning for sustainability."

Our work continues and on October 22nd Alison Duncan, our Youth Worker, will be leading pupils in Ob-litter-ate, a 6 week campaign in our local community, which will address litter issues and raise awareness. PC Tate will be supporting this. Our Eco Committee will also be working in partnership with Streetscene.

As part of the campaign enforcement officers (dressed in an all-black uniform wearing CCTV cameras) from Streetscene will patrol targeted areas for a period of six weeks and young people will be issued a warning if caught littering. If re offending behaviours occurs, a letter will be sent home. Repeated littering offences can result in a fixed penalty of £80. Young people seen disposing of litter appropriately may be issued with a reward. Thank you for your continued co-operation and support.

The Zone

We have our new S1 and S2 groups for 2018-2019 up and running. In the past few weeks the pupils have been getting to know each other and bonding as a group. We are very happy and excited about the activities and time we will be spending in The Zone and the qualities which we will take to the wider school. So far we have worked on team building skills to make fantastic smoothies and some of our groups have painted self-portraits which encouraged self-awareness. This is just the start of our exciting year. We love Greenwood and we love The Zone

Celebrating Success

Princes' Trust

An event was held in Saltcoats Town Hal where innovative schools projects were celebrated. By the Prince's Trust. Greenwood was highly commended for being the trailblazer for projects which emphasise Developing the Young Workforce. There are now 50 such projects across Ayrshire and Ayrshire is recognised as the model the Prince's Trust would like to develop across the whole country. Our Call Me Greenwood class helped organise the entire event and were the "meeters and greeters" for other schools, authority personnel, councillors from the three Ayrshires and personnel from the Prince's Trust. They provided music, helped with the presentation of certificates to schools and successful young businesses. Our Head Boy and Girl read the citations for the winners. Everyone did a fantastic job.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Diamond Crew DC! class invited staff to join them today for their Macmillan Coffee Morning in the staff café at lunchtime last Thursday. The group worked really hard serving teas/coffee, cakes, tablet to name but a few of the delicious home baking donated by staff and pupils. Pupils greeted parents and carers and staff with a smile and worked extremely hard to raise £262 towards MacMillan Cancer Care. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Go Purple Day

Due to the enormous success we had at Purple Day, which took place on Friday before the October break, we managed to raise an astonishing total of £1000. We would like to thank everyone who generously donated towards our chosen cause - Ayrshire Hospice. Written by Chloe Wotherspoon & Lauren Gilmour.

U14 Girls Football

Greenwood Girls U14 team travelled to Dumfries to take part in the South West Regional qualifiers for the National 7's finals. Girls were brilliant and finished as runners up. Everyone has a great time and is looking forward to a forthcoming 11-a-side Scottish Cup Tie against Dumfries Academy. Well done to all the girls.

Snow Sports Event

Five of our pupils were lucky enough to have the opportunity to compete in the Scottish Schools Snow Sports Association. The pupils participated in the dual slalom event. The competition took place at Newmilns. This gave the pupils a chance to learn new skills and have a fun day out courtesy of Mr Torbit. Written by Chloe Wotherspoon & Lauren Gilmour.

Poppy Appeal

Members of the Charities Committee visited classes selling poppies. Pupils and staff gave generously to this very worthwhile cause. Thank you to the Charity Committee for helping to collect donations.

Work Experience Award

Congratulations to Corina Boag, S4 who recently completed her work experience with the police. Corina received the Police Endeavour award for the best student. Well done, Corina, and to all the pupils who took part they all conducted themselves really well and gained skills to prepare them for their future career.

F32 Records

F32 is a one of a kind community record label which is run by the Music Tec department in our school, Greenwood Academy. A former pupil, Mackenzie Fox is our first successful artist to release a debut album, 'Lost Souls'. The album has been released on major music platforms such as iTunes and is available for download. A current pupil at the school Katie Palmer will be releasing her first debut single at the beginning of November. Both artists have received international radio play in New York, California, Ohio, Amsterdam and also here in Scotland.

On Friday November 2nd, MacKenzie launched his album at Duncan's Bar in HAC. Follow him on Twitter, Instagram and download his album on Spotify Apple iTunes etc. By Chloe Wotherspoon and Lauren Gilmour

Hallowe'en Competition and S1 Sponsored Walk

First year pupils were involved, with the help of the Events Management Group, in various Hallowe'en competitions. Money from the sponsored walk is due in by 9th November.

Future Chef Cooking Competition

Home Economics held the school heat for the 'Future Chef' competition and the two winners were selected: Rachel Christie with her Sweet & Sour Chicken and Lewis Muir with his Spicy Chicken wrap. Well done to both winners- they will now go forward to the Regional final at Braehead Foods in Kilmarnock on the 21st November. A big thank you to all who took part as it was a very difficult job for all our judges!

Monitoring and Evaluation

S1 Parent's Evening

S1 Parents and carers had the opportunity to attend their first Parents' Evening at the school on 23rd October. The evening was very well attended.

Thank you to parents and carers who provided the feedback on our transition work. It was very much appreciated. If for any reason parents / carers were unable to attend and require update on their child's progress please do not hesitate to contact their Guidance teacher for an appointment.

Staffing

We welcome Mrs Lesley Kenny to Greenwood. Lesley is our new classroom assistant; she will be working mainly with our Deaf pupils. Lesley will be helping with signed communication support in class.

Gillian Gillespie, Librarian at Garnock Campus, is joining us on Monday, initially on a full-time basis. Restructuring within Library Services mean that this commitment will probably reduce at the end of the session to 0.5 FTE. I am delighted, however, to have a professional librarian back on our staffing. I would like to thank the relief librarians, who volunteered to help us out so that we could have some library provision. Their assistance has been invaluable.

Congratulations to Lindsay Hall, who is the preferred candidate for a post at Keair Campus in South Lanarkshire.

The preferred candidate for the post of Area Inclusion Worker is Connor Stewart, who will be joining us from East Ayrshire. At this time we do not have a start date as we await PVG approval.

Communication

Parents' Evenings

A note for parents/carers for your diaries. All Parents' Evenings will take place from

4.30pm – 6.30pm on Tuesdays:

S2 – 6 November 2018;

S5/S6 - 27 November 2018.

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- 8.15. p.m., as follows:

S3 – 12th November 2018

S4 and S5 – 14th January 2019

S2 – 4th February 2019

P7 – 20 May 2019

Holiday Dates

School will be closed to staff and pupils on Friday 16 November and Monday 19 November.

The school will close on Friday 21 December at 2.30 pm and re-open on Monday

7 January 2019.

Christmas Fayre

To book table at this year's Christmas Fayre, please contact Mrs Dunker at the school on 01294 213124. Or alternatively the cost is £15 and cheques can be made payable to Greenwood Academy. Tables are being taken up so book your table soon. Raffle prizes are very welcome from everyone.

Wonderwall

We are looking for nominations to update our Wonderwall. Each pupil receives five points for their House Group and it is a good opportunity to share their achievements with the school. Please inform us of your child's accomplishments out of school.

Football

The S1 football team have started their Greenwood careers with a couple of very tricky matches in the Ayrshire League Cup. At the end of September the troops suffered a 3-0 defeat at the hands of a very strong Kilmarnock Academy side.

The score line didn't tell the whole story though as the Greenwood heroes worked hard while experimenting with formations and playing in many different positions to create chance after chance but they found the Kilmarnock keeper in inspired form. Man of the match with a commanding and composed defensive performance was Louis McPeake. At the start of October they travelled to Auchinleck Academy to do battle in what proved to be another tight affair. A great travelling support of Greenwood parents and carers roared our team on but defences came out on top in a tight 0-0 draw. Men of the match were Jamie Beattie for his tireless running both in attack and working back to defend and Dylan 'The Wall' Higgins who dominated at the back. Next away match at Loudoun Academy on Wednesday 14th November, 4pm kick-off. Come along and support the team!

Greenwood's S1 football warriors welcomed Carluke High School to the Theatre of Dreams last week to play their long awaited Scottish Shield 2nd Round tie. The atmosphere was electric inside Greenwood astro as veteran legend referee Eddie McQue blew the whistle for kick off. Carluke started strongly pegging Greenwood back in their 18 yard box. A few stunning saves from Harry Lennox kept the score at 0-0 but he could do nothing about any of the 3 quick goals from the visitors all of the highest quality. Greenwood rallied and started to dominate possession but a stunning save thwarted Jack Trainer who was leading the line with authority for Greenwood. 3-0 half time. After a stern half time team talk from Coaches Ross Hastie and Kieran Hayburn, which focused on maintaining confidence and high effort levels, the troops started well. Kayden Boag went through 1 on 1 with the keeper only for a defender to recover miraculously and make a last gasp slide tackle. Aaron Johnstone struck the bar from close range and Rory Prentice curled a delicious Messiesque free kick over the wall that the keeper somehow turned round the post. Against the run of play Carluke broke up the park and scored another 3 goals despite the best efforts of keeper Aiden Russell who pulled off a stunning one handed save high to his left. Man of the match was Leo Collins for his tireless running, never say die attitude and quality of passing

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.

Annual Data Checks

Reminder that all paperwork (Annual Data Checks, Internet and Email User Policy, Parental email request and consent for photographs) issued to pupils should be returned to the School Office as soon as possible to allow pupil information to be updated. Please remember to tell us if you change your home or mobile numbers in the course of the session.

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 2110 followers. Our next target is 3000. Join Team Greenwood.