

**Head Teacher Report for Parent Council  
October 1st, Session 2018-2019**

**No. 2**

**Learning and Teaching**

**Junk Food Roadshows** were held in the school on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September. S1 classes enjoyed a workshop delivered by Chef Ross Muir who discussed the importance of a healthy diet, explaining how it affected their long term well-being. Ross went on to show the range of surprising ingredients that might be found in some of the poorer quality processed foods they might eat – many of our pupils will never eat a cheap burger again. Pupils were then shown how to prepare a homemade pizza.

**Heart Start Training**

Staff were involved in a refresher Heart Start training session held at Greenwood. Staff will now deliver Heart Start to S2 pupils during their ACE period. It is anticipated that all S2 pupils will have been trained in this Emergency Life Saving skill by the end of the year.

**Visit to Dumfries House**

Miss Kennedy and 6 S6 students attended a STEM event at Dumfries House, Cumnock. The students are all studying STEM subjects and are contemplating a future career in Engineering. The event was organised by QEPrize for Engineering. The day involved Ambassadors of the QEPrize setting challenges for the students to complete. This allowed our students to conceptualise Engineering in the Real World. The exposure to different career paths within Engineering is extremely important to the students at this time of year, when applying for University. The day was a real success and has had a positive impact in focusing the young people on their future career paths. The students were also honoured with the presence of HRH, Prince of Wales and Lord Browne who explained how important Engineering is to their future and the future of the UK.

**Glasgow Science Centre Visit**

The RMPS senior class had a great time visiting Glasgow Science Centre and the Glasgow Central Mosque. They discovered more about the Big Bang Theory at the Science Centre which will help pupils complete the SQA unit on origins of the Universe. The visit to the Mosque was great at helping them understand more about the beliefs and practices of Islam for the SQA unit on World Religions.

**Deaf Awareness and British Sign Language**

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) delivered Deaf Awareness training to Class 1W2. Lots of British Sign Language (BSL) learning is going on throughout the school. Mrs Nicola Boyle, our Deaf tutor, takes classes for senior pupils and a weekly class for S1-S4 pupils, delivering the SQA Introduction to BSL award. On Mondays, after school, Miss Phillips, Teacher of the Deaf, supports a number of staff who are keen to learn BSL. Such support really helps the integration of our Deaf learners at Greenwood Academy.

Greenwood DeafED had a great time at the BDA Taste Your Future event. They met lots of inspirational deaf adults and enjoyed drama workshops, hands-on experience of cutting hair, film making, photography and much more.

**“Achieving a Higher/National 4/5 in a Social Subject” – Parent/Carers Information Event**

Representatives from Geography, History, Modern Studies and Sociology subject areas attended two sessions at this event.

They outlined the topics covered as well as the format of the exams. They explained the approach pupils should pursue eg an explanation of how pupils should complete homework and engage in ongoing study. Teachers described the ways parents/carers can support and help pupils at home.

### **Lovilicious Nails at the Scottish Learning Festival**

Greenwood's pioneering Lovilicious nail bar project was a key attraction at the Prince's Trust stall at the Scottish Learning Festival held at the SECC. Lovilicious was the first of the innovative school projects supported by Developing Young Workforce Ayrshire and the Prince's Trust Scotland. A number of the pupils from Lovilicious participated in the event and the stall attracted lots of visitors who, as well as getting a nail treatment were impressed by the girls' customer care and communications skills. They were ably supported by Mrs Hill and Miss Rogers.

### **Whitelees Windfarm Visitors Centre Visit**

Some of our S1 pupils enjoyed a windy day out at the Whitelees Windfarm Visitors' Centre. This included a great workshop where they investigated how the shape of the blades and number of blades affects the power output on a wind turbine. They also got outside to have a walking tour of the windfarm and they were shown how effective renewable energy can be. It was a great opportunity to see science in action.

## **Support for Pupils**

### **EGX 2018**

Our students from Greenwood Academy participated and enjoyed another popular trip to EGX 2018 exhibition at Birmingham NEC. The students attended the CareerBiz fair in the morning where they were able to interact and chat with developers already working in the games industry and also looking at different Games Development Courses offered by Universities.

The Greenwood Gamers also sat in on Developer Interview Sessions. The session deliberated an exciting new role playing game which is still in the stages of development. The interview gave insight into what really happens during the video game development process and also giving the students a chance to ask questions directly to the developers creating the game. It wasn't all work and no play as during the day the students were able to experience and play blockbuster video game titles before they are released to the public. Some students discovered a new game called Swim Sanity to be released next year and were lucky enough to get to chat with the PLAY-NYC developers. They built up quite a rapport with the team and were asked back to compete in a Swim Sanity tournament. Although the students were not winners of the tournament, they were very worthy runners-up and gracious in defeat, showing core values when they shook hands and congratulated the winners of the tournament.

### **UCAS Applications**

Greenwood supports and advises each student applying to University. However, the ultimate responsibility to make appropriate course choices, to complete an application and to meet deadlines lies with the student. If your son/daughter needs help or advice with their application they must make an appointment with their Guidance teacher. Additional information is available from the Career's Officer (pupils should see their Guidance teacher to make an appointment), the School Librarian, the Careers Convention, University Open Days, University prospectuses, websites, PlanITPlus website, Skills Development Scotland, UCAS website (which gives a great deal of help in all aspects of the process) and other relevant websites.

Any student applying to Oxford / Cambridge, Medicine, Vet, Dentistry and the Music Conservatoires must see their Guidance teacher immediately as these applications should be completed and submitted earlier than normal UCAS deadlines (beginning or mid-October). Pupils have been issued with a calendar guide to the University Application Programme at Greenwood and the deadlines that students have to meet.

**Scripture Union** held a “Meet and Greet” meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September at lunchtime offering various activities, watching films and a time of fellowship. This is a Christian group open to all faiths and none.

### **Christmas Fayre**

Greenwood will be having their Christmas Fayre on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 commencing 3:30pm. If anyone is interested in having a stall at the Fayre, please contact the School Office on 01294 213124 for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fayre. All proceeds help us support pupil activities.

### **AMD**

Pupils have been working with AMD Photography in the school to create images of pupils working in the school. This will contribute to our web-site development as well as improve our PR material.

### **The Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast Club in the PE department started on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, Children have the chance to take part in a variety of activities. This will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:15am. All pupils welcome.

### **F32 Records**

This is the name of a free-of-charge community record label based in Greenwood Academy. If you know of any budding songwriters/singers locally who have no recording/production/distribution facilities – get in touch! This venture is led by pupils and ex-pupils with a passion for the music instruction. Website [www.f32records.com](http://www.f32records.com) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Former pupil Mackenzie Fox has already launched his debut album “Lost Souls”. The album is available to purchase or stream on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music and Apple Music.

## **Attainment and Achievement**

Congratulations to Erin Cuthbert, former pupil who plays for Chelsea’s ladies football team and Scotland on achieving entry to the World Cup in France 2019. Fantastic achievement!  
Congratulations to Lee Gordon (a member of Largs Gymnastic Club) on achieving a place at the 2018 National Elite and Club Development Grades Finals being held in Birmingham in November. We are very proud of both.

### **Valencia/Villareal Football Tour**

A very successful trip was had by all in the Spanish sunshine. Twenty of our S2-S3 pupils and staff enjoyed the match between Valencia and Villarreal. They also had a tour of the Mestalla (home of Valencia), a history lesson, experience of sitting in the press box and in the dugout as well as running out the tunnel at the stadium. Well done to pupils who were well behaved. The games they played with the local Spanish team resulted in a 3-2 win and 3-3 draw. Very good sportsmanship shown throughout both matches.

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

After 12.5 hours of walking, pupils working towards their Gold Award have successfully completed their gruelling qualifying expedition. Resilience and team work were key to their success. Well done everyone. We’re very proud of you.

### **Cross Country**

Greenwood pupils have been participating in cross country training and competitions as we plan to take teams to the Ayrshire School Event.

## **Work Experience**

Some of our 4<sup>th</sup> year pupils are on work experience with various companies throughout Ayrshire over a two week period. We wish them well in their experiences and thank the employers of the companies who have helped to facilitate this.

## **Rights Respecting Concert**

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, Greenwood Academy held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rights Respecting School Cluster Concert with great success! There was a variety of different musical items including choirs performing with sign language, a string ensemble and folk group! The talented performances from Greenwood Academy pupils and pupils from Glebe, Lawthorn, Dreghorn, Elderbank and Springside primaries meant over 200 pupils were involved in this concert. There was an excellent turn-out in the audience and a positive and uplifting atmosphere as pupils performed items which related to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.

This highlighted the reason for the event; in raising awareness in the wider community for children's rights and raising money for both UNICEF and Make A Wish UK. Overall, the concert was a great success, raising over £500, and we would like to thank all those that performed and attended. If parents/carers were unable to attend and wish to support our cause you can still donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/greenwoodacademy-rrs2>

The following week our pupil Ambassadors led staff through @ The Worlds Lesson 2018, encouraging our school community to take action.

## **Inter House Heilan Games**

On 21<sup>st</sup> September junior pupils and senior leaders took part in the Inter-house Highland Games. Three pupils, from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year from each house attempted a variety of different challenges. Our House Captains did a great job organising these. Montgomery Captains led pupils in teambuilding exercises to raise team spirit and to help younger pupils improve their ability to work with others. The final event of this fun-filled afternoon was the tug of war. Overtoun were really successful and kept their high spirits up until the very end of the day. The event as a whole was a major success and, despite getting drowned in beans and covered in mud, everyone involved had a brilliant time. Overtoun House won most points and were awarded the Inter-House Heilan' Games Cup.

## **Celebrating Success**

Greenwood has been awarded our 4<sup>th</sup> Green Flag for our Eco work. We are delighted that our hard work by many across our school has resulted in this award from Eco Schools, part of Keep Scotland Beautiful. Here is an extract from their report:

*“Congratulations on a true whole-school effort from Greenwood Academy in renewing your Green Flag status. 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.*

*Your Action Plans have a great range of activities and these are clearly being developed further through the curriculum promoting enquiry skills and measuring techniques*

*I enjoyed seeing your simple yet effective slogans “Getting it right at Greenwood – don’t be mean keep it clean” and looking at your supporting images of your beach clean-up and surfing lessons. It is great that your pupils were able to put their learning into context and to consider how they as users of the marine environment could be impacted by discarded materials.”*

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Johana House, Senior Manager from NAC, spent a day with us, focussing on our work around Quality Indicator 1.3. Leading Change. She chaired discussions with pupil and staff focus groups as well as meeting with the Senior Management Team and the Head Teacher. Feedback highlighted our strengths in compiling and sharing our school values as well as the range of opportunities for staff and pupils to initiate and lead change as well as influence learning and teaching.

## **Staffing**

Karen MacKay, our Area Inclusion Officer, has left Greenwood to take up a new challenge with the police force. Karen has worked with Greenwood and cluster schools for 12 years and she was thanked for her sterling work and the immense contribution she made to Greenwood Academy.

We welcomed Neil McIlvanney to our English Department.

## **Communication**

### **Parents' Evenings**

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

S1 – 23 October 2018;  
S2 – 6 November 2018;  
S3 – 4 December 2018;  
S4 – 22 January 2019;  
S5/S6 - 27 November 2018.

### **Holiday Dates**

School will be closed to staff and pupils on Monday 15 October until Friday 19 October. Friday 16 November and Monday 19 November are both holidays for staff and pupils. The school will close 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.

### **Annual Data Checks**

All paperwork (Annual Data Checks, Internet and Email User Policy, Parental email request and consent for photographs) was issued to pupils and we ask that these forms 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.