

Greenwood Academy

Head Teacher Report for Parent Council

September 3rd, Session 2018-2019

No. 1.

Learning and Teaching

Staff not only returned to work after the holidays, they had a Back to the Classroom experience during the in-service day. This contributes to our discussion of quality learning and teaching. Teachers attended a variety of subjects and experienced a BGE lesson. The Head Teacher, for example, took part in an S2 ICT lesson and learned programming. Thank you to all the staff who taught their colleagues! Everyone agreed that they were out of their comfort zone and they were reminded how it feels to learn new knowledge.

Support for Pupils

A special thank you to parents and carers for the terrific turn-out of pupils at the start of the session. Pupils look super smart in school dress and look as if they belong to Team Greenwood. Let's keep this up every day of the session.

Every school day counts and we are keeping a close eye on pupil attendance. If senior pupils miss an afternoon, they miss a third of their coursework for an exam subject. There will always be occasions when pupils cannot attend, but we encourage pupils to avoid unnecessary non-attendance.

Welcome back to Susan England, our School Counsellor, She is available to pupils 4 days a week in the Tutorial Room on the ground floor.

There are lots of opportunities for pupils as new clubs and activities start up. Details of these are available on Glow and Show My Homework where parents and carers can access the Daily Bulletin.

- The Wind Band, the String Group, Folk Group and the BGE Music Club have already advertised, as have the S1 and S3 football team trials. The Chess Club is now in its 43rd year and all are welcome to attend this very successful group. Ignite, a new club for those interested in the Scripture Union, is also advertised. Lovilicious - Greenwood's Nail Bar - is currently looking for S3 pupils who are interested in general nail care and nail art.
- Greenwood Academy is a `Fair Trade School` and we have achieved level 3 which is the highest level! New members are welcome to join the committee.
- First Lego League Club has resumed two teams have been registered for the Lego League tournament: Into Orbit. New members are always welcome to come along and join in with constructing the Lego challenge, programming the EV3 Mindstorm robot and contributing towards the final project.

- The Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors are already organising our RRS concert which takes place on September 19th.
- Expressions of interest are invited from S3- S5 pupils for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Places are limited.
- The trip to "Shrek The Musical" is open to all S1-S3 pupils.

Scholar is an on-line study support system for senior pupils. Pupils have been issued passwords to access this resource. We strongly encourage pupils to make use of this to support their learning.

British Sign Language: there are opportunities for pupils and staff to gain an SQA Award, An introduction to Sign Language.

Attainment and Achievement

At our Senior Prize-giving last week, we celebrated many of the successes of our Senior Phase pupils. A special congratulations to our top pupils in S4:

Emily Nix, Ryan Lai and Megan Armstrong; S5: Lauren Fife, Sam Kennedy, Nicola Singleton, Megan Shek and Cara McMurray; S6: Cameron Dalrymple, Rachel Houston, Natalie Dewar, Emily Shearer and Jack Brown

Cara McMurray was awarded overall Dux of the school for Session 2017-2018. Thank you to Val Russell from the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce who presented the awards. Full details of the awards will be available on our website and on Show my Homework.

Best wishes to all those pupils starting college and university courses over the next few weeks.

Congratulations to 6 of our students who are our first school group to achieve the Gold level in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. They were presented with their awards at Holyrood Palace during the summer holidays.

Congratulations to Gary, who has just left school and has signed for Sunderland Deaf Football Club.

Staffing

Welcome to our probationers:

H.E.: Ms Dobbie

P.E.: Mr Duncan

Science: Ms McGarvey, Mr Collins, Ms Parker, Ms Gilmour

Technical: Ms McManus

Ms Stuart joins us part-time in Maths.

Congratulations to Ms. Dunstall and Ms Reid who started new promoted posts in August in Ayr Academy and Ardrossan Academies respectively. As a result, there are a number of staffing changes here. Mrs Doig and Mrs MacDougall both join the Senior Management Team in temporary posts, while Mr Campbell takes up the PT Guidance post.

Welcome back to Mrs Boax from maternity leave. Ms Rowatt (Science) has been appointed to share her post for this session.

To help parents and carers keep track of key personnel and their contacts, see the responsibilities listed below:

SMT: Year Group responsibilities:

S1: Mrs MacDougall

S4: Mr Brotherston

S2: Ms Greenlees

S5: Mrs Doig

S3: Mrs Dunker

S6: Ms Greenlees

Guidance: House responsibilities:

Annick:

Mr Campbell

Gailes:

Ms Fullerton

Montgomery:

Mrs Boax/ Ms Rowatt (Tuesday & Thursday a.m.)

Overtoun:

Mr Barlow (Tuesday-Mrs McNeil)

Perceton:

Mr Doyle

Shewalton:

Ms Moore

Warrix:

Mrs Tickner/ Mrs McNeil (Wednesday & Thursday)

Parental Engagement

Our Community Cooking programme is running again this session. Parents and carers and their child are working and learning together. This helps build pupil confidence for the classroom and improve organisational skills and paying attention to the pace of their work.

This week there is a Digital Literacy event for parents of S1 pupils.

There are opportunities for parents to carry out voluntary work in Greenwood Academy. We will match your skills and interests with the opportunities we can provide. These can be linked to whole school or subject areas or a particular talent you have. Any amount of time is welcome. Contact the school office on the first instance and leave your contact details and a member of the senior management will be in touch.

Communication

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.