



**Renfrew**  
High School

DEC  
**16**

# Newsletter

DECEMBER EDITION



## Merry Christmas from Renfrew High

Our December newsletter is packed with news, events and success.

**VISION**

LEARNING  
ACHIEVING  
WORKING TOGETHER

CARE  
FAIRNESS  
RESPECT  
TRUST

**VALUES**

# LEARNING ACHIEVING WORKING TOGETHER

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter which gives us the opportunity to look back and reflect on some of the best moments of the term.

2016 has been our most successful year as a school and we are looking forward to even bigger and better things next year.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for the year ahead.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy".

Billy Burke  
Head Teacher

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## Head Boy & Head Girl

Having been given the privileges of being head boy and head girl, Aminah and I have been extremely proud to represent our school. We have been extremely busy throughout the year so far, helping out depute head teachers and getting involved in many different events within the school and local community. One of the best opportunities we have been given was the chance to lay a wreath at Paisley Cenotaph, along with other schools in Renfrewshire.

On a daily basis we are able to work with lots of different people across the school, including the senior leadership team and our dedicated group of prefects. It has been a great experience for us to develop a wider range of skills and relationships that will help our school community grow. When working with others as part of a team, everyone is offered an opportunity to promote our school vision and values, as we strive to successfully achieve our aims.

One of our favourite privileges so far this year was being able to carry on the tradition of head boy and head girl putting up and decorating the Christmas tree. This was certainly one of the perks of the job which we were unaware of, but very happy to find out. We look forward to our remaining time, representing our school in the highest form.



LEARNING ACHIEVING WORKING TOGETHER

# *Christmas Concert*

MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER 7PM



WE'RE ON TWITTER!

**@RenfrewHighHWB**

RENFREW HIGH HEALTH & WELLBEING



**SCHOOL RADIO**

COMING SOON

LEARNING ACHIEVING WORKING TOGETHER



# DEBATE CLUB

**S1 - S6**

**3.45pm Tuesdays**

**Mrs McLaughlin's Room**



## Can you help?

Many of our parents and partners will have valuable skills, knowledge and experience in the world of work. If you would like to get involved with Renfrew High to further the employability skills of our young people please contact Mr Kennedy or Mr Burke.

Our Eco Team and Pupil Councils are keen to improve the front playground area of the school building. We are looking for help with this project - the design, planning and landscaping.

Can you help? Get in touch with Miss Kourepini or Mr Burke.

Email – [renfrewhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:renfrewhighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

5

## UCAS Information Evening

Our first UCAS information evening took place on Wed Oct 12th. Parents of Senior Pupils who are applying for University this year were invited along to learn about the processes and procedures involved in planning to apply for University.

Presentations from Mrs Kirkwood and Mrs Dickie were followed by a series of workshops from University staff and our Educational Psychologist Wendy O Neill. The evening finished with an extremely entertaining study skills session led by Mr Milligan followed by a Q and A session.

## Upcoming Events for Parents

**10th January**

S3 Parents Evening

**19th January**

Curriculum & Careers Event

**25th January**

S2 Parents Evening

Visit our website for the school year calendar.

## P7 Open Evening

Our P7 Parents open evening took place on Thursday November 3rd. Over 120 families came along to experience a taste of Renfrew High. After an introduction to the evening from Mr Burke and Mrs Kirkwood, our Senior pupils conducted tours around the school and gave parents and P7 pupils a chance to view a showcase of work from a variety of departments whilst chatting informally with staff and Renfrew High pupils.

Parents and P7 pupils were then invited to participate in a range of interactive activities across the school. These included taking part in experiments in science, cooking in Home Economics, and using interactive pods in Modern Languages.

Our visitors were also able to listen to our talented S1 musicians and watch in awe as S2 girls demonstrated their skills on the trampoline.

The evening was enjoyed by all and we look forward to meeting our future S1 and their families again in the New Year.



## Open Mic Night

Open Mic Night was a huge success again this year. This event offers pupils, staff and even parents a chance to perform in front of an audience. Open Mic Night was again popular with pupils in the school and we were able to sell many tickets for the event. I know that everyone attended the event had a very enjoyable evening. We as a school would like to thank all the performers from the night and a special shout out to Mr Milligan for his very memorable performance. We would also like to thank all the pupils who help organise and run the event with help from Mr and Mrs Lockhart.  
- Scott Jeffrey



## The £5 Challenge

From Monday 5th December – Friday 9th December the school held a different fund-raiser each day to raise money for school charities.

Each pupil was sponsored by five different people creating a total of £5 to take part in two events. On the Monday we held a pyjama day, Tuesday a wacky hair day, a sponsored silence on the Wednesday and dress like a teacher on the Thursday (this brought a very convincing double of Mr Burke!). Then everyone came into school in a festive jumper on Friday in support of Save the Children's annual Christmas jumper day. Overall the week was great fun for all who took part and an exciting way to raise money for the worthy causes our school supports.





## Ghost Tour

Each and every year, RHS holds an annual Ghost Tour, performed by S3 drama students. The tours are always highly successful, and this year was no different – with over 100 students and teachers taking part!

The small class of S3 actors outdid themselves once again, putting on such a terrifyingly great performance in a very small time frame, and with many obstacles to overcome. Each pupil exceeded expectations and should be very proud of themselves.

A special thank you also goes to the senior pupils, as well as staff, who helped out on the night of the ghost tour – it would never have been able to run without your assistance!

Michelle Kelly



## Active Girls Day

On Monday 12th December we organised an Active Girls Day event for all the girls in S1-S2. This is part of our role as Young Ambassadors for the school. Our aim for the event was to increase participation in sports both inside and outside of school for young girls. Lack of participation in sports from girls is a huge problem in Scotland. Throughout the day we had at least 120 girls taking part. The girls for a taster session in four sports; basketball, rugby, football and dance. Altogether the girls had a great day and were all very tired at the end. We have hoped to have motivated the girls to become more active whether it be in school or out with school.

Cara Pringle and Amy McCann



## Eco Committee

This year our eco committee has strived to develop a strong presence and raise awareness of the importance good environmental practice around our school and community. Although our group is only small at the moment, we intend to grow and achieve great things.

Our vision for eco schools is to save, care and grow together. Our values are sustain, protect and respect. We have many aims which we hope to achieve over the course of the year and the following year. These include achieving green flag status, implement good environmental practises and implementing a litter policy, as well as encourage the school to reduce its carbon footprint.

This year, members of our group led assemblies to all year groups about our eco committee and to highlight the improvements we want to make in our

school. As the senior leader of the committee, I have been working on plans for the development of our school grounds and the Eco garden to create positive environments for pupils to relax and enjoy time outside the classrooms. We have been working on our litter policy to reduce the amount of litter on the school grounds by putting in place consequences for any mistreatment of litter in and around the school. We hope this will encourage everyone to respect our facilities and the people that keep them running. We have also been planning ahead for upcoming events such as global citizenship week. Behind these plans are our dedicated group of both pupils and teachers alike, we meet at least once a week and welcome any new members or simple suggestions from everyone.



## Young Enterprise Team

Every year from all over Scotland, senior pupils come together to create their own enterprise team. Different roles are allocated just like a business would and teams must decide what product they want to sell. Renfrew High Enterprise team this year is called 'YouNique'.

Our team has worked hard this semester as we have chosen to sell a selection of handmade bracelets and scrabble frames. We have attended various Christmas markets at local primary schools and one of our main competitions which took place at Xscape on the 1st of December. Schools from Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, and Argyll and Bute.

The event ended with two runners up prizes and a 1st place. Our team worked hard to catch customer's eyes, we had our own personalised T-shirts and pamphlets to promote our business and the odd box

of chocolates to make the customers feel welcome (as well as to catch their eye of course). All the school stalls were laid around the balcony on the top floor which allowed easy access for customers and visitors to see.

During this time, judges went around all the stalls to rate their product, service and display as well as to get to know the team. Renfrew High school Enterprise team 'YouNique' never won, however as a team we were proud of our efforts.

We are excited to continue our work and improve our products and looking forward to our next competition in March 2017 at the Normandy Hotel and to show the judges what Renfrew High has got.

Nicola Herlihy 6C1

# Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP)

RHS now has just under 30 trainer MVP pupil mentors who will work closely with S1 to educate of the 'choices' that young people have as 'bystanders' within our school and local community. As a celebration of their success so far they were invited to a very unique event. On Tuesday 6th December 2016 MVP Mentors from all authorities currently involved in the MVP Programme were invited to attend a 'celebration and learning' event at Glasgow's Tramway. 7 MVP mentors from RHS attended and were today inspired by the speakers and the event as a whole!

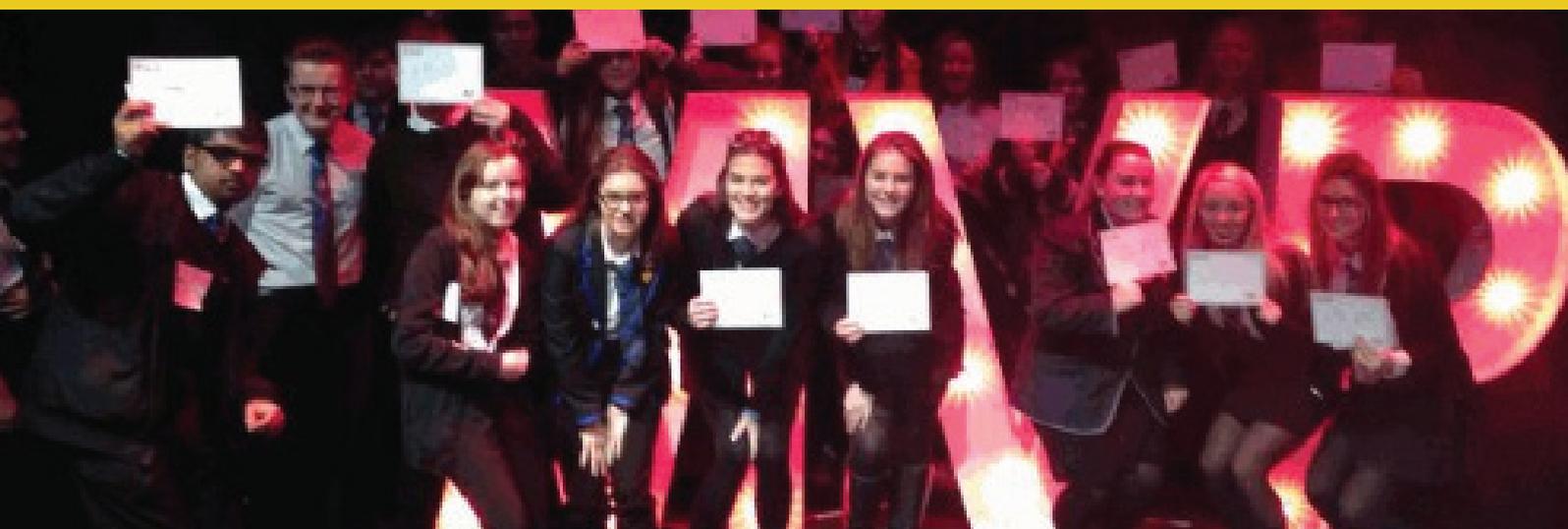
Around 450 young people attended the event which provided a focus both on the values of MVP as well as on topics that are covered within the new MVP Playbook. The event was a great way to thank MVP mentors for their ongoing work which clearly contributes to community safety across Scotland.

The event comprised of short inputs designed to both inspire mentors and enhance their knowledge on a range of topics all of which will connect directly with their mentoring role delivering the MVP Programme.

## **A range of outcomes were covered including:**

- To increase the safety of Scotland's young people, promote positive relationships and develop a positive learning environment.
- To support the growth of positive attitudes which respect gender, diversity and support inclusion and safety
- A knowledge that mentors are contributing to reduction in levels of violence across Scotland
- Opportunity to shape future direction of the MVP Programme.
- Communicate the healthy norms that the majority of young people across Scotland possess.
- Youth participation

# LEARNING ACHIEVING WORKING TOGETHER



**A range of speakers focused on the following topics all of which are relevant to MVP:**

- Leadership
- Transgender
- Pornography
- Activism by young people
- Mental Health
- Disability

The event was according to the pupil mentors, 'the most inspiring thing that we have ever experienced', 'an unforgettable day that had me giggling and crying in equal amounts'. Mrs McColl (MVP coordinator for RHS said, 'I completely agree with the pupil mentors! It was a truly inspiring day for our young leaders. I cannot wait to observe the impact this will have on the pupils that they mentor! I am so proud of them all!'

## Head Boy & Girl Conference

Our depute head boy and I were fortunate enough to attend a conference for head boy and girls along with the others in the Renfrewshire area. We were asked to give a presentation on something which we believed our school implemented well. We chose to focus on pupil involvement in the whole life of the school, highlighting the many opportunities pupils are given to voice their opinions in many ways, regarding major topics in the school. From focus groups to increased pupil leadership roles, we thought that Renfrew High definitely provides pupils with the opportunities to get involved and have their say.

We were also able to gain feedback on things that we would like to improve on, as well as give advice to other schools on things they were aiming to improve. It was a great way of understanding the different programmes or clubs which are implemented in other schools and how they are done. We were able to work together to share our knowledge so that we could all move forward together. Overall it was a great experience and we look forward to having our second conference later in the year to evaluate our progress.





## Volunteering

In Renfrew High School, there are a variety of volunteering opportunities to be involved in for all year groups.

In the library, during break and lunch, twenty S1 and S2 pupils volunteer to tidy, decorate and organise. This encourages them to meet other pupils in order to create bonds between year groups.

**“I like to volunteer because the library is a very social place but also quiet if you want to read” – Eilidh, S2.**

As well as this 25 S6 pupils volunteer within local primary schools to help with primary pupils' maths and reading skills. I would encourage S5 pupils to follow on from the S6 example and volunteer for this worthwhile experience because it encourages social skills with young children as well as helping to inspire a generation of young readers.

Ben Scott

## Christmas Card Extravaganza - £130 raised for Charity!

This year the Senior Enterprise class have been working with Miss Gardner in Art to complete their Enterprise units, and Mrs Ito in Social subjects to complete their leadership units. Together these units make up a dynamic Higher equivalent course, which has lots of opportunities to plan and carry out exciting projects and events, while building upon the pupils skills.

A recent project which the class have been working on is the Christmas card project with Miss Gardner. This was part of their "practical abilities" unit and the aim was to learn some new craft skills, and build on qualities which would look good on their CV's. It was also an opportunity to come up with a creative way to raise some money for a chosen charity.

Throughout the project, the class came up with a number of different Christmas card designs which they thought might be successful and achievable to make themselves by hand. Some of the ideas included a finger-print reindeer design, a thread and bead Christmas tree design, sheet-music snowmen and bauble designs, and a sparkly cut-work snowflake design.

They class began by making prototypes of their different ideas, and then carried out some market research with the staff in the school, to gage which designs were most popular, and what they could change to make them better. There was a really positive response from the staff, and with that the class managed to choose the final 8 designs they were going to go with, and they also decided that the staff in the school would be their target market to sell them to! They then made up order forms and offered a "made-to-order" service, and the response from staff was overwhelming, we were all very pleased!

Although not everyone in the class initially felt confident with their arts and craft skills, everybody managed to find a role in the process which suited them, and many mastered new skills they did not know they could do! They all worked very hard for a number of weeks to complete all of the orders that they received, all the cards were made to a high standard. When the staff received their orders, many said they were really impressed with the service, and it was great to know that they were made by pupils in the school, and that all proceeds would be going to charity.

# LEARNING ACHIEVING WORKING TOGETHER

The class discussed which charity they would like to donate to, and they decided on The Rock Trust – A Scottish charity which helps young homeless people get back on their feet. The class thought that this would be a worthy charity as it toughed their hearts and made them realise how lucky they were to get presents and even have their family around them at Christmas, when some other young people may be own their own, sleeping rough without hot food or even proper shelter.

Overall, once all Christmas card orders were complete and paid for, the class were delighted to find out that they made a total profit of £130! This will be getting donated to the Rock Trust and will make a real difference especially at the time of year. On review of this project, many members of the class felt that they had gained new skills, and enjoyed it more than they thought they would. Miss Gardner was extremely proud of the whole class' hard work and effort!

Beth McQuire said: "At the beginning I did not expect to enjoy this project for find anything I could be good at, however I ended up having fun helping do things that I didn't even know I be capable of!"

Arran Emre said: "It was a really fun and creative task. Raising money for charity was a great cause, and it made us want to make even more money."

Phoebe Marshall said: "It was really rewarding to not only work hard and provide a successful service, but make so much profit for The Rock Trust."



## Prison Visit

On Tuesday 6th December, Rebecca, Ben and myself were lucky enough to have access to HM Prison Greenock. We attended the visit with Gryffe High School.

At the prison we wanted to find information about life in prison and the impact it can have on individuals and families for our Advanced Higher Modern Studies dissertation. The prison kindly organised an interview with Alex Woodside, who had received a life sentence after being involved in a gang fight. He told us the day to day living he has suffered in the past nineteen years. Also showing us how prison has rehabilitated him.

Overall, the visit was amazing, it really opened our eyes to the way a prison works. We would like to thank Prison Officers Tom Murr, and Jim McDonald for arranging the visit and giving us a tour.

Andrew Brennan



## Dynamic Earth

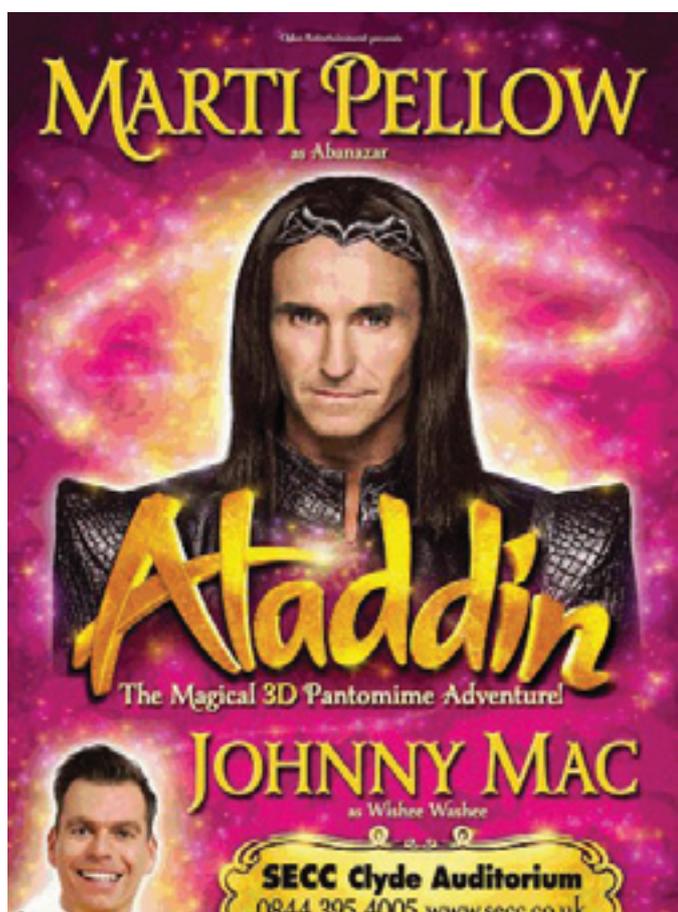
This term, I attended a school trip to Dynamic Earth with our Geography classes to help further our knowledge regarding the course. As we are studying earth forces, we were taken on a journey from the Big Bang to present day. We also got to watch a film about the theory of how asteroids formed our planet.

There were many things I enjoyed about the trip, including the show dome, the 3D experience and the ice block. My favourite part was going in the time machine and finding out all about the first animal with bones. Overall, it was an excellent interactive experience for all of us.

Dair McComick

## OH NO WE DIDN'T!

*S1 Pupils in stitches at Aladdin Panto!*



On the twelfth day before Christmas the whole of S1 boarded a bus to watch the pantomime Aladdin – “Oh no we didn’t” – “Oh yes we did!”

I was a bit sceptical, the last time I went to a pantomime I was eight years old so I was expecting it to be childish. I was wrong! It was fantastic.

It was funny, colourful, witty and all round entertaining. My favourite character was Aladdin’s mum, she or should I say he had me in stitches.

It was a great day out, lots of fun and has really put me in the mood for Christmas. It was really nice doing something as one year group!

Rachel Muir S1

## SPORT

S1-2 Basketball team came 3rd at a Renfrewshire active schools tournament.

Girls football team took part in the Renfrewshire Active Schools Football Event and managed to win every game. More fixtures to follow.

Under 15’s football - Won 4-0 against St Benedicts.

Under 13’s football - Lost narrowly 4-3 against Notre Dame. Superb performance.

# LEARNING ACHIEVING WORKING TOGETHER



**Emma Arbuckle** won the S5/6 Renfrewshire Active Schools Badminton Competition at the On-X Linwood on Nov 22nd . Jack Arbuckle won the S1/2 Renfrewshire Active Schools Badminton Competition beating his brother **Scott Arbuckle** in the final on Dec 6th at the On-X .

**Cara, Euan** and **Abby Pringle** are all nationally ranked after the recent Scottish Indoor Rowing Championships.

**Melissa Roberts** has been a Highland Dancing British Champion and performed for the Royal Family at the last Braemar Games.

**Ihtisham Malik** plays cricket for Scotland.

**Harry McKay** is the British Karate Champion for his age and weight category.



**Grant Armstrong** is the Scottish Novice Boxing Champion for his age and weight category.

**Ben Walker**  
passed Grade 3 on Flute with Merit

**April Dowling**  
passed Grade 4 on Flute with Distinction

**Sherzah Jamal**  
passed Grade 3 on Clarinet with Merit

**Ewan McGivern**  
passed Grade 3 on Clarinet with Merit

**Lawren Matthews**  
passed Grade 5 on Saxophone with Merit



## Young Ambassadors

Renfrew High Schools Young Ambassadors: Cara Pringle and Amy McCann organised a Girls Active Day on Monday 12th December during the school day and aimed to involve all girls in S1-S2 in four key sports: Basketball, Football, Rugby and Dance, with support from REACT Basketball, Renfrewshire Leisure's Rugby Development Officer and the West Region Girls Football Development Officer.

Young Ambassadors is an exciting and energetic lottery funded programme to help develop young people as leaders in sport.

Each year, two pupils from each secondary school in Scotland are chosen as Young Ambassadors to promote sport, and motivate and inspire other young people to get involved in sport in their schools, clubs and local communities.

There have been over 2,500 Young Ambassadors in Scotland since the programme started in 2012, and 650 new Young Ambassadors attend the conferences each year.

The key role of a Young Ambassador is to support Active Schools locally and use the School Sport Award to influence six aspects of school sport -

1. Extracurricular sport provision
2. Links to community sport opportunities
3. Opportunities for competition
4. Celebration of pupil achievements in sport
5. Leadership opportunities for young people
6. PE in schools



## Active Schools

Renfrew High School currently have 4 Renfrewshire School Sport of Education Pupils (RSSE). This is an education and training programme ran by Active Schools offering an opportunity for up to 60 young people across Renfrewshire to become sport and physical activity deliverers. A structured programme of education, qualifications and awards is provided over 20 weeks for 3 hours a week. Qualifications include: TOP Play / Sport, Positive Coaching Scotland, Jog Scotland, Child Protection, Event Management and National Governing Body Awards.

Renfrew High Schools 12 Sports Leaders are developing very well this year under the guidance of Mr. Malcolm and Mr. Mitchell and have so far completed TOPs Play/Sport, Club Golf and currently doing SFA Early Touches. The sports leaders also received a visit from Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Steve Frew in an initiative supported by Sky Sports. During his half day visit Steve presented 6 keys to success:

1. Mental toughness
2. Hunger to achieve
3. People skills
4. Sports and life knowledge
5. Breaking barriers
6. Planning for success

The six keys to success are designed to help young people develop valuable life skills that will help them in and outside of school, now and into the future Steve will be returning for a full day in the New Year.

Renfrew High s1-s3 's recently played against Trinity High and won convincingly.

All picturesv @RenfrewHighHWB