



St Mungo's Academy

Parents' Newsletter

2017-18

Sept-Oct

HEAD TEACHER'S WELCOME

Dear Parent / Carer,

School Session 2017-18 has well and truly started with a brisk pace. The summer holidays seem an age away but staff and young people came back to school enthusiastically looking forward to the new term, as I'm sure you were too!

Firstly, thank you for the support in ensuring that our young people are turned out so well. Most are now wearing a blazer and proudly demonstrating their commitment to our school. We have taken time to negotiate the best deal possible with our uniform suppliers and are delighted with your response. This supports our ambition to have the highest standards for our young people, ever mindful that the local community, as well as partners and employers see this as a sign of young people committed to school, committed to learning and committed to improvement. There will be a final opportunity to order a blazer when School Trends come into school on 28th September for a final fitting this session.

IMPROVED SQA RESULTS

Our SQA results this year demonstrated a marked improvement on our SQA results of last year and we are delighted that the hard work of staff and learners has paid off. In order to keep the momentum going, we are offering a range of opportunities from supported study to study weekends over the year to ensure that we build on this success. It is important that, as parents and carers, you are aware of the opportunities to support attainment and that you work with us in ensuring that your child makes the most of them.

AREAS WE WILL BE WORKING ON THIS YEAR:

You may have read in the newspapers or heard on the news that the Scottish Government's key priority is Education through the National Improvement Framework. This means that additional funding has been provided to schools through the Pupil Equity Fund and in St Mungo's we have benefitted as a result of that. We have made sure that our priorities are supported

through this additional funding and our young people are benefitting directly as a result. The key areas are:

1. **Improving Learning and Teaching** – all staff are expected to continuously update their skills in this area and we are working with Strathclyde University, as well as an organisation called Tapestry, to support teachers throughout the school develop.
2. **Developing a Nurturing School** – this should influence not only how we support specific young people who are experiencing difficulties transferring from primary, but how we support other young people across the school to enable them to cope better with the demands of school and other commitments they may have. There are lots of partners helping us with this including Lifelink, PEEK, FARE to name but a few. Over the coming months we will keep you up to date with what is happening.
3. **Participation and Leadership** – young people who feel they have a say in the direction of the school are more likely to contribute and be more effective as member of the school community and as learners. A variety of approaches to engage and empower young people are planned to take place throughout the year to provide them with a range of skills which both they can benefit from as individuals and we can benefit from as a school. An example would be the Columba 1400 initiative (see inside) which both S5 and S6 young people have experienced recently.

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REQUEST FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Exciting times ahead, then, with lots more opportunities for young people to experience different aspects of school life. The goal of Catholic Education is the formation and development of the whole person and it is fair to say that in St Mungo's Academy we take that goal very seriously indeed. We however need your support in making this a reality and a strong body of parent / carer voice is required. We work in partnership with you in so many ways and we are always grateful for that support. However, the stronger your voice is, the better and there is no better way of making your voice heard than being part of the Parent Council. Once again this session I am asking that you consider giving up some of your personal time and be part of that Parent / Carer voice. This will involve meeting every 6 weeks on a Monday evening usually no longer than 1 ½ hours! Please contact Mr McWatt DHT at the school if this is something you would be interested in. **The first meeting with be at 6.30pm on 2nd October in the school**

IMPROVING FEEDBACK TO PARENTS ABOUT PUPIL PROGRESS

Finally, we will begin to send out tracking reports for this session which will take a new format. We hope that you will find these easier to use and interpret than the last reports in supporting your child. It may well be that after a tracking report has been sent out that you would like to follow up with a phone call or meeting to discuss your child's progress. Please do not hesitate to do so. Conversely we may contact you if there are any particular concerns which have arisen. Communication and partnership with parents and carers are critical factors in ensuring that our young people reach their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support,

Angela Milton
Head Teacher

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon & Wed (8am)	Pilot PEEK S1 Breakfast Activity Club (pilot group of pupils)
15 Sept	St Ninian House Feast Day
w/c 18 Sept	S4-6 Tracking Report
22&25 Sept	September Weekend
2 Oct	Parent Council Meeting 1, 7pm
4 Oct	St Francis House Feast Day
4 Oct	Awards Ceremony (7pm)
w/c 9 Oct	S1 Tracking Report
Wed 11 Oct	S1 Welcome Mass
Fri 13 Oct	Inservice Day
16-22 Oct	October Week (start back 23/10)

NEW VALUES, VISION & AIMS

Thank you all for your contribution to our consultation on our values, vision and aims for the next 5 years. Here's a quick overview of what we've all agreed:

In 5 years time, we will describe our school with the following characteristics:



The values that will underpin our decisions and actions over the next 5 years will be:

FAITH HOPE LOVE

We will work on the following areas to achieve this:

- Pupils' attainment and achievement
- Excellence in learning and teaching
- Support for pupils
- Empowerment of pupils, staff, partners and parents to lead and affect change

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PASTORAL CARE TEAM UPDATE

In our first house assemblies of the term the focus was Leadership. Our young people have been given the opportunity to apply to be part of their House Group Leadership Team. Each house group will have two Junior Captains, two Vice Captains and two House Captains to support and lead our houses.

This is a very exciting opportunity for our young people to support their peers in various ways and to both develop their own leadership skills and encourage this in others too.

The deadline for applications is Friday 8th September and young people are asked to fill in an application supported by two references, one from a teacher and one from a peer. They will then be interviewed.

Each House Leadership Team will meet regularly with their Pastoral Care teacher and DHT. We look forward to many opportunities and ideas to come...watch this space!

A reminder of our House Groups:

House	Pastoral Care Teacher	Depute
St Andrews	Mrs Matthewman	Mr Feeney
St Enoch	Mr Parker	Mr Feeney
St Francis	Mrs Moffatt	Mrs Keenan
St Ninian	Mr Marsh	Mr McWatt
Brother Walfrid	Ms Lynch	Mr Johnstone



RAISING ATTAINMENT

Miss McKelvie (PT)

SUPPORTING LEARNING @ HOME

Prelims start at the beginning of December for our Senior Phase learners. Even though it is a few months away, Senior Phase pupils should be planning their time wisely to ensure that they are starting off the school year with effective study habits. All Senior learners will be learning about study skills within PSE and in their chosen subjects.

Information to help support your child learning at home can be found on the Raising Attainment blog <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/smaraisingattainment/>



SUPPORTED STUDY

Supported Study will start for our Senior Phase learners on the week commencing 18th September. The aim of supported study is to provide learners with a space that is conducive to effective study, and to offer them support to improve their skills in their chosen subjects.

We are encouraging learners to be more independent and take responsibility for their learning. As a result, learners should attend supported study sessions having already identified areas that they are finding challenging and with specific questions to ask their teachers.

A timetable of the classes available will be provided to all learners over the next week.

S4-6 PARENT INFO EVENING

As part of the Senior Phase Induction, there will be a parent's information evening in October 2017. The purpose of this evening will be to provide parents/carers with information on how to support their child's learning at this critical time. The evening will provide parents/carers with information on study skills, applying to college/university, subject specific guidance and much more.

S1-3 HOMEWORK CLUB

I would like to invite your child to attend the BGE Homework Club. The homework club will run on Monday evenings from 3.40 – 4.40pm. During this hour, the young people will be supported by Senior Phase learners in completing their homework tasks for the week ahead. Furthermore, the Senior Phase learners will support the young people in developing and consolidating their numeracy and literacy skills. This club will be run by pupils for pupils.

This is an extremely beneficial support for the young people and will help them to develop good study habits from S1. Your child will have received a permission slip to attend the Homework Club. If you would like your child to attend, please complete the permission form and ask them to return it to Ms McKelvie.

The Homework Club will start on Monday 18th September 2017.

CITYWISE 'HEROES ACADEMY'

The Citywise 'Heroes Academy' summer project ran for two weeks during the summer holiday, with places offered to all new S1 pupils starting at St Mungo's Academy in August 2017. The aims of the project were to:

1. **Increase confidence about the transition to high school**
2. **Refresh Curriculum for Excellence Second Level Literacy and Numeracy skills in preparation for August.**
3. **Raise awareness of the role of Character in personal development and academic attainment**

The theme for the summer project was superheroes, with the core concept being that everyone can develop special powers to become an 'everyday hero'. Children attending were divided into teams, and assigned three adult volunteer mentors, and three 'junior mentors' as their team leaders for the duration of the project.



There were two special days to break up the timetable and offer variety. In the first week there was a full day trip out to the Glasgow Science Centre where they spent time exploring the exhibitions and learning about the night sky in the planetarium. In the second week we ran a Lego play workshop for the children, all of whom went home with a free Lego set.



The Junior Mentor scheme offers young people going into S4 the opportunity to gain experience of full-time work with real responsibility. 9 young people were competitively selected by making a formal application and attending an interview with the Project Leader. Then they were trained, given a uniform, managed and given feedback, and paid a small amount each week for their work. At the end of the project all 9 Junior Mentors received a reference from the Chief Executive of Citywise to go on their academic record and college applications.



When asked how confidence about high school had improved:

- **94% of children said they had improved in confidence**
- **100% said their peers had improved**
- **89% of parents saw improvement**
- **78% of parents said it helped their children transition.**

Feedback:

"I really enjoyed it...Those things we were learning about they are basically like life lessons."
Mentee

"My son has gained a lot of experience and skills"
Parent

"An excellent project!"
Parent

FOCUS WEST

FOCUS West works in 37 schools in the west of Scotland to provide pupils with an exciting opportunity to experience college and university, meet current students, and take part in interesting, challenging and relevant activities.



By involving pupils from S2 to S6, and engaging them in enjoyable learning activities, FOCUS West works with schools to maximise pupils moving on to University.

S2 – In School Session

The session aims to enthuse and inspire, and to get learners thinking about what they like, what they are good at and how this might relate to Higher Education and career paths.

S3 – Campus Day

On a University Campus Day, pupils will have the opportunity to look around a university campus, find out what courses are available to study and what being a student is really like.

S4 – Campus Day

FOCUS on 4 is a one-day programme held at the University of Strathclyde, which helps pupils discover the best ways to study, deal with exam pressure and make the right choices for the future.

S5/6 – Routes for All

To support pupils who are thinking about continuing their education beyond school and applying to higher education courses.

S6 – TopUp

To help pupils prepare for University and make informed choices about their futures.

STUDY WEEKEND

Following on from the success of last year's study weekend, we are planning on holding two study weekends this session. We are in the process of looking at venues and possible dates. We will keep you informed of all advances in planning for the weekend as soon as we can. Watch this space...!



REACH PROGRAMME

Reach works with S4-S6 pupils with an interest in and ability to study a professional degree in **Dentistry, Law, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine and Surgery**. The programme will ensure that you are well prepared for the transition to University. Participants gain an understanding of career pathways, experiences of university learning and teaching, support with every aspect of the application process and advice from staff and students on becoming a **dentist, law professional, doctor or vet**.

Any learners who are considering a career in law, medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry should see Ms McKelvie to register their interest in the REACH programme.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year Group	Activity	Date(s)
S6 (pupils applying to UCAS)	University Exhibition	19.09.17
S6 (pupils applying to UCAS)	UCAS one to one personal statement reviews (20 – 30 min)	09.10.17 12.10.17
S3 (approx. 30 pupils)	Campus visit (full day)	11.10.17
S4 (approx. 30 pupils)	Campus visit (full day)	09.11.17
S2 (approx. 30 pupils)	FOCUS West input in school (periods 1 – 4)	05.12.17
S6 (pupils applying to UCAS)	Top-Up programme (during wider achievement)	15.01.18 22.01.18 29.01.18 05.02.18 19.02.18
S6 (pupils applying to UCAS)	Campus visit (full day)	16.02.18

UCAS APPLICATIONS

If your child is applying to university this year, they should be aware of the following key dates within the application process. All S6 learners who are applying to university have had an introduction to the process presentation from a member of the University of Glasgow's Admissions team. They are also looking at how to write a personal statement in PSE over the next few weeks. During October, a member of FOCUS West will work individually with the young people to review and amend their personal statements to maximise their chances of success at university.

Activity	Date
UCAS presentation – period 6 in room 110	28.08.17
Personal statement check from admissions officer in school – individual appointments	09.10.17 12.10.17
Applications for Oxford, Cambridge or most courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time). The reference needs to be completed before the application can be sent to us.	15.10.17
Applications for the majority of undergraduate courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) on this day (check course details in our search tool for the correct deadline). The reference needs to be completed before the application can be sent to us.	15.01.18
Extra starts for eligible applicants.	25.02.18
Some art and design courses have a 24 March deadline; applications should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time). (Others have a 15 January deadline – check course details in our search tool to confirm the correct deadline.) The reference needs to be completed before the application can be sent to us.	24.03.18
If an application is sent to us by 18:00 (UK time) on this day, we'll send it to the chosen universities or colleges. Applications received after this date will automatically be entered into Clearing.	30.06.18
Last date for applicants to add an Extra choice	04.07.18
The deadline for any remaining conditions to be met – otherwise the university or college might not accept the applicant – this day also marks the end of Adjustment.	31.08.18
The final deadline for applications to 2017 courses. Applications must arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time).	20.09.18
The deadline for adding Clearing choices, and for universities or colleges to accept applicants in Clearing.	23.10.18

DATES FOR THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE

Activity	Date
Applicants can register for UCAS Conservatoires Apply 2018 and start their applications.	19.07.17
UCAS presentation – period 6 in room 110	28.08.17
Closing date for music applications is today at 18:00 (UK time) – applications received after this date will be classed as 'late' and are not guaranteed to be considered by the conservatoires. Dance, drama or musical theatre courses may have different deadlines – applicants should check conservatoires' websites for information. If a course deadline has passed, applicants must contact the conservatoire to check they have vacancies before applying.	02.10.17
Personal statement check from admissions officer in school – individual appointments	09.10.17 12.10.17
Final deadline for 2018 applications. Applications must arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time).	29.10.18



WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

LITERACY NEWS

St Mungo's Academy is pleased to announce that we will begin issuing a monthly Literacy Newsletter to keep young people and parents/carers up to date with all the exciting developments in our school and community.



We'll be giving you information on new initiatives being run in our school, exciting activities your young people are taking part in, and programs and services being offered in our local libraries. Our aim is to help families engage with literacy and support our young people to develop their skills and gain a love of reading.

Best regards,
Ms Longo & Ms Weir



We were privileged to meet Dame Katherine Grainger and Glasgow's Lord Provost who are keen supporters to encourage sport participation.

U15 FOOTBALL

After a successful trial on Friday 1st September the the St Mungo's under-15s football squad has been picked. Fixtures begin the week beginning **11th of September**.

ROWING

St Mungo's Academy is participating in a rowing programme which will last throughout the year. Pupils are welcome to attend indoor sessions during **Thursday lunchtimes and hopefully water sessions after school**.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

Children's University is a program that rewards young people for participating in extra-curricular activities and cultural experiences. Young people record in their 'Passport to Learning' the hours they spend doing a variety of activities (e.g. Debate Mate, PEEK, football, going to the library/museums, Computer Club etc.) and earn diplomas from Children's University based on the number of hours they have completed. The program was very successful last year at St Mungo's Academy and the students enjoyed going to Strathclyde University for the end of year graduation ceremony. We will be running the program again this year and all interested students should come see Ms Longo.



COLUMBA1400—DEVELOPING OUR PUPILS' LEADERSHIP



Awareness

When we travelled to Skye to train at the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy we took part in a variety of activities- over the course of 5 days- which helped to create the perfect environment for us to flourish as a team, and explore our own style of leading.



Focus

On the first day of our leadership journey we took part in a hill walk where we discussed and challenged our core values. On the second day we took part in a mountain rescue activity which challenged our perseverance and our ability to work as a team, on the third day we took part in a canoeing activity which gave us an opportunity to try new things and come up with creative solutions to problems. As well as all of this, we also took part in workshops throughout the day in which we worked together and challenged our perception of what it meant to be a leader.



Creativity



Integrity

The Columba 1400 graduates have had a lot of hopes about what we can bring into the school, and I'm sure when the 5th year graduates return they will have a lot to contribute as well. One of our main aims is to educate staff on the valuable knowledge we have gained about leadership, and to bridge the gap between teachers and pupils. We also hope to implement a variety of workshops in PSE classes to help the lower school understand the schools values as well as their own, and what it means to be a leader- just as we did. We also would like to teach them the importance of their values in everyday life, and their ability to influence change within the school.



Perseverance



Service

By Kelsey Burke, Grace Kouadio and Ryan McCulloch on behalf of the S6 Columba graduates.



**Columba
1400**



SCHOOL GARDEN

As part of our Wider Achievement programme on a Monday afternoon, our pupils continue to be successful in our school garden. Beyond an opportunity to learning about managing a garden and how to grow plants and vegetables, pupils are given an opportunity to develop a variety of skills such as teamwork, communication, and confidence. Pupils' learning and effort means that the garden has seen yet another bumper crop. This year, Onions, strawberries, chard, cabbage, kale and lots of different garden herbs were a success. The school garden is operated by the Technical department with our Wider Achievement students maintaining the garden and learning how to 'grow their own'. There is always room for outside help, so if parents or local community groups want to become involved, please contact Mr Greechan via the school office.

St Mungo's Academy—Extra Curricular Clubs 2017-18

Day	Lunchtime	After School
<p>Monday</p>  	<p>Basketball – Mr Milton - Games Hall</p> <p>Art club – Miss Gibson</p> <p>Ukulele Club – Mr Turner</p>	<p>Homework Club – Senior pupils</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>  	<p>Rowing Club - Mrs Grant - Gym</p> <p>Basketball – Mr Milton - Games Hall</p> <p>Drama club – Mr Turner</p> <p>Funky Fabrics – Mrs Howitt – HE</p> <p>STEM club – Nicole Slavin</p>	<p>Badminton S4-S6 plus staff – Games hall</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> 	<p>Boccia Club - Mr Meldrum – PE Gym</p> <p>Basketball – Mr Milton - Games Hall</p> <p>Science club – Miss Slavin</p> <p>Play Unified – Miss Sullivan</p> <p>Soul Band – Mr Austin</p> <p>Boccia Club – Senior Pupils</p> <p>Netball Club Mrs Gilchrist -Gym</p>	<p>S1-2 Animation Club - Art</p> <p>Debate Mate – Miss Longo – English</p> <p>Dance club – Stacey Cahill – Gym</p> <p>Gymnastics club – Coach lead – Gym</p> <p>Girls Basketball – Club lead – Games Hall</p>
<p>Thursday</p> 	<p>Basketball - Mr Milton – Games hall</p> <p>Knitting Club - Miss Kenny - Maths</p> <p>Samba Band – Mrs Bremaneson</p>	<p>Basketball Mr Milton- games hall</p> <p>S1-S3 - 3pm till 4pm</p> <p>S4-S6 – 4pm till 5pm</p> <p>Choir – Miss Armstrong – Music</p> <p>Eco Committee – Senior pupils</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>Play Unified – Miss Sullivan</p>	<p>ChangeMakers—Mr McWatt 3-4.30</p>



English Department

Mr McElhone (PT) Mr Carney Mr Murray
 Ms Cardle (ActPT) Miss Diamond Mr Johnstone
 Ms Longo Mr Collins

“Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window.” - William Faulkner

NEW STAFF

We extend a warm welcome to Mr Duffy, Mr Collins and Mr Murray, the newest members of our team.

S4-6

It's been a busy start to the term in the English department and we've been pleased with the dedication and commitment that the majority of learners have shown since their return. It's important that this continues into the dark, wintery months ahead so we can keep supporting our young people in their learning and build on the successes and excellent exam results of last year. For the young people who know they haven't had the strongest start to English this term, there is still time to remedy this and forge a more positive and productive year ahead!

Supported study will be starting up again soon and it's vitally important that our Senior Phase make the most of this opportunity to receive extra support across different areas of the English curriculum. Furthermore, the department are always happy to help pupils with homework or any questions they might have at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

CALENDAR

20th/21st/26th September:

JUST GO
 CITIZENS' THEATRE WORKSHOPS
 S5/6 pupils

All 5th & 6th year pupils will be involved in interactive and stimulating workshops about theatre and performance, with a focus on an upcoming play at the Citizens Theatre. This in preparation for their theatre trip and will take place during English.

27th September:

JUST GO
 CITIZENS' THEATRE WORKSHOPS
 S5/6 pupils

All pupils in both year groups will spend the afternoon viewing the performance studied during the preceding workshops. This is the final year of this successful and enjoyable programme.

Time - 1pm - 4:30pm

USEFUL LINKS

[BBC resources for National 4 English](#)

[BBC resources for National 5 English](#)

[SCHOLAR Scotland online revision materials](#)

[Education Scotland - Advice and support for English National Qualifications](#)

READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN

You can support young people with their reading at home in many ways: from encouraging them to read the newspaper, to asking them to practise reading aloud, having discussions with them about the texts they're reading in class or even by letting them teach you what they learned in English that day!



HOMEWORK



Regardless of whether a young person is in 1st year or 6th year, it's critical that we all share the same high standards and expectations needed to do well in English. It is important that homework is completed at home and on time for English. If a young person has homework that is more than one day overdue, they will be asked to spend fifteen minutes at lunchtimes completing it, unless they have a note from their parent/carer.



PARENTAL SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who engaged with the Parental Survey at the end of last session. The results were very interesting and the department is working hard to try and act on the valuable feedback provided. The key points:

- A majority of parents and learners agreed that their experience of mathematics last year was a positive one.
- Parents and learners are happy with the level of out of class support that is available in the department.
- Parents feel that they need to be better informed of progress throughout the year. This was particularly relevant for the Senior Phase, where parents reported that they didn't fully know their child's progress until after the prelim, which was too late. We are addressing this with a more rigorous system of on-going assessment, which will feed in to tracking reports. The prelims will also be earlier this year.
- There will be an opportunity early in October to come to the school and meet members of the maths department for advice as to how best to support learners towards examination in mathematics.

MATHS WEEK

Week beginning 11th September is National Mathematics Week, aimed at raising the profile of the subject across the country. We will be taking the opportunity to launch our St Mungo's Prize Puzzles, which we hope will encourage young people to engage with mathematics beyond the curriculum. The prize puzzles will be displayed in the mathematics corridor all week so ask your child how they're getting on – you might even enjoy working on them together. The inspiration for this comes from the Clay Institute's Millenium Problems – 6 unsolved problems in maths – each with a \$1million bounty. We can't offer a million but winners will receive a maths set and certificate.

All learners in S1 – S3 will also be issued with a Sumdog username and password to take part in the Glasgow Sumdog Maths Competition. Sumdog offer a free app on both Android and iOS so questions can be answered on phones and tablets as well as PCs or laptops.

USEFUL LINKS

[BBC resources for National 4 Maths](#)

[BBC resources for National 5 Maths](#)

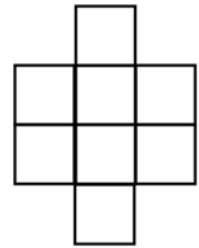
[SCHOLAR Scotland online revision materials](#)

[Education Scotland - Advice and support for Mathematics National Qualifications](#)

PARENTS, WE NEED YOUR HELP

An excellent way to boost young people's resilience in mathematics is to work on puzzles with them so they get used to the idea that being stuck is part of learning mathematics. Can you crack the following?

Arrange the letters A to H in the grid below such that no two consecutive letters touch.



A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H

STEM (Science, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics) at St Mungo's

Girls in STEM – S2

Did you know that the United Kingdom has the lowest proportion of female engineers in the EU? This is something that the government is keen to address, particularly given the current shortage of STEM graduates available to fill essential positions in the UK economy.

The University of Strathclyde will be running a two-day course for S2 girls, designed to give them a flavour of work and research in STEM fields. The Weir-Wise course will take place on 29th and 30th January and the closing date for applications is the 1st October. Places are limited to 50 for the West of Scotland so it is important that interested applicants contact Miss Slavin as soon as possible to seek guidance on the application process.

S1 Faraday Challenge

St Mungo's Academy has been chosen to enter a team in the S1 Faraday STEM Challenge hosted by St Roch's Secondary on Wednesday 4th October. The team will consist of S1 pupils who have shown enthusiasm, passion and commitment to their learning in Science, Technology and Mathematics. Anyone interested in selection for the team should go along to Science Club, which runs during lunchtime every Wednesday.



Art & Design Department

Mr Sheridan (PT)
Ms Carson
Ms Gibson

PRINTMAKING STUDIO

Since the start of term, about ten of Our Senior Phase students, on a Monday, have been working in the Glasgow Printmaking Studio in Argyle Street. During the summer holidays some of them took photographs of the Parkhead area. Our students have been working alongside Professional Printers and Artists. They have started to be develop their prints of their images. The work is an exhibition organised by the Glasgow City Council and the redevelopment of the Parkhead area. The Exhibition will be on display towards the end of this month.

This year's Higher Photography students will be delving into location photography with Glasgow's Doors Open Day 2017 festival in September. We will be visiting various locations in the East End of Glasgow and the City Centre. This introduces this month's theme of Architecture in Photography. Look out for higher photography students snapping happy in your neighbourhood!





Faculty of Performing Arts

Miss Leslie (PT)
Mrs Smith
Ms Armstrong

Mr Glen
Mr Turner
Miss Peebles

HELLOs AND GOODBYEs

We have said a fond farewell to Mrs Birchard who has now begun her well-earned retirement and Miss McAvoy who has begun an exciting new post in Dubai. Miss Leslie has taken up post as Principal Teacher of the Performing Arts Faculty and we have given a warm welcome to Miss Peebles, our new Drama Teacher. We have an outstanding set of SQA results to celebrate this year in Drama, Music Performing and Music Technology which is testament to the hard work and commitment of our pupils, staff and the parent/guardians who support them.

QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

Looking forward to this year we have lots of opportunities for pupils to get involved in Performing Arts both in the Faculty and outside the school. We have already been out in the local community to perform this year. Miss Armstrong took 7 pupils to the Legacy Hub to perform as part of the Queen's Baton Relay celebrations.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER



[@StMungosFoPA](https://twitter.com/StMungosFoPA)

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Music and Drama clubs are up and running from this week onwards, look out for the extra-curricular timetable on our twitter feed @StMungosFoPA. Senior Phase Wider Achievement is well underway with 11 St Mungo's pupils heading to run workshops at St Anne's Primary School. Out with the school there are numerous opportunities to engage in the Glasgow City's CREATE ensembles and groups, with everything from Big Band and Symphony Orchestra to Rock School and Voice Factory there really is something for everyone. We have a new project in the pipeline this year 'Behind The Noise', this is a Music Business and Performing Industries project open to anyone interested in the Industry whether than be on or off the stage.

If you are interested in any of the Performing Arts clubs, in or out of school, please speak to a member of staff and they'll tell you everything you need to know. Alternatively speak to one of our senior pupils involved in our groups and they will fill you in!

JENNA KELLY (S6) ON TAKING PART IN A PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

"Being part of the Glasgow School Symphony Orchestra has been an amazing experience. It has given me a great opportunity to gain orchestral experience with a wide range of music in different styles. This has led to my development as a musician. GSSO has helped me grow as a person. Since I joined I have gained a lot of confidence and team work skills. I would recommend opportunities like this for any young musician."



MODERN LANGUAGES DEPT

Mr Lansdowne (PT)
Mr Heuston
Ms Ballantyne

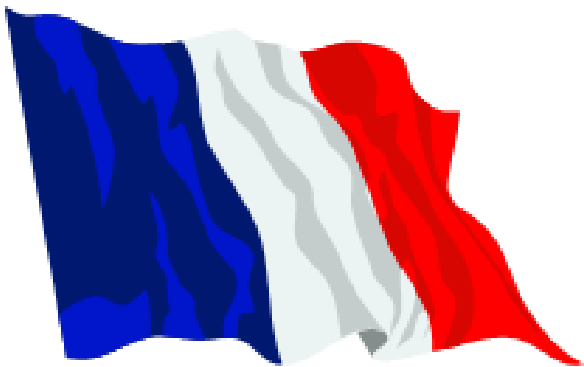
S1-3 UPDATE

Next week sees the start of our BGE Vocabulary Challenge. All BGE learners will have the opportunity to showcase the modern language & vocabulary skills they have been learning this term. Learners will then be invited to take part in our inaugural Modern Languages Spelling Bee on Thursday 21st to celebrate the European Day of Languages.



NEW LANGUAGE ASSISTANT

Our new Italian Modern Languages Assistant, Valentina, arrives at St Mungo's this week from the blazing heat of Italy. As well as looking to develop our young learners' pronunciation skills and cultural awareness, Valentina will offer additional support to our learners through a Thursday lunchtime Italian club. Any learner interested in attending this excellent opportunity should speak with their Modern Languages teacher.



USEFUL LINKS

[BBC resources for National 4 Modern Languages](#)

[BBC resources for National 5 Modern Languages](#)

[SCHOLAR Scotland online revision materials](#)

[Education Scotland - Advice and support for Modern Languages National Qualifications](#)



PUPILS ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING:

S1 learners have settled in well and have been writing essays all about themselves. This task helps teachers get to know the young people better as well as helping to raise attainment in literacy and allowing learners to develop their ICT skills.

How can you help? Encourage your child to look for religious objects and religious symbols and be prepared to talk about them in class (Homework task).

S2 learners are working on a topic called *Covenant*, an agreement between God and His people.

How can you help? Encourage your child to research Old Testament stories of Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Moses. Discuss the importance of sticking to agreements and not breaking promises.

S3 learners are studying *Reconciliation*. They are busy writing essays on forgiveness.

How can you help? Encourage your child to look for inspirational stories of forgiveness (Homework task). Discuss with them what you could and could not forgive.

S4 learners are investigating Pro-Life issues such as abortion. They are currently writing reports on a short video clip called 99 balloons.

How can you help? Talk about moral issues with your child and encourage them to back up their opinions with reason. Help them prepare for a class debate: *Should abortion providers be allowed to advertise on t.v.?*



S5 learners are working on a unit called *Making Moral Decisions* which looks at different moral stances.

How can you help? Talk to your child about how people make moral decisions? Encourage them to watch the news and prepare a short report on a case where someone has seemingly acted without a moral conscience (Homework task).

S6 learners looked at leadership and gave presentations on what makes a good/bad leader. They have now moved on to a topic called *Responsible in Love* which helps them to make moral decisions with an informed conscience.

How can you help?

Discuss who *you* think are examples of good leaders (alive or dead). Allow yourself to be interviewed on what you believe about relationships (Homework task).

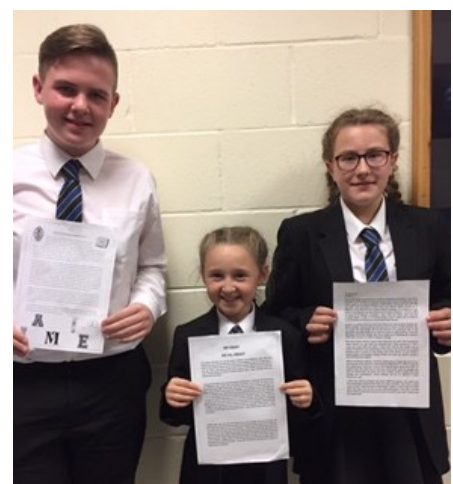
S5 RETREATS

This year, the theme of the S5 Retreat is *discipleship*.

These will take place within the school on the following dates:

September 29th & 30th

October 2nd, 3rd & 4th





SCIENCE FACULTY

Mrs Grant (PT)
Mrs Gallagher
Mrs Mullan
Ms Slavin

Mr Parker
Mrs Keenan
Mr Feeney
Mrs Ali

Ms Shannon

LUNCHTIME CLUB

Science/STEM Club will run during Wednesday lunchtimes All welcome. The focus this year will be engineering activities

JUNIOR SCIENTISTS

Our new S1 are learning to be scientists They are experiencing using laboratory equipment safely:

- Bunsen burners
- Laboratory glassware
- Chemicals

We are learning to measure temperature, mass and volume .

Their next steps will be using their experiences to plan their own investigation

How you can help at home:

Young scientists get homework every week please help them complete their work as this is revision to support their learning. We will be researching Scottish Scientists soon which will be a home research task.

S2 SCIENCE UPDATE—BIODIVERSITY

S2 are focusing on Biodiversity this term and as part of their studies will be visiting Whitelees Wind Farm. This will be a day for young people to discover new environments and learn about the animals and plants that live there. The trip will be part of the Discovery level for the John Muir Award which all S2 pupils are expected to gain this year.

How you can help at home

Pupils are asked to contribute £5 towards the cost of the trip to Whitelees Wind Farm, please contact the school

if more information is required.

Pupils will also be asked to bring a pack lunch and snacks, if any pupil has a lunch allowance pack lunches will be provided by the school.



SENIOR PHASE IN SCIENCE

All National and Higher classes have nearly completed their first unit and end of topic assessments will soon be taking place. Please encourage your child to attend supported study, these are specifically designed to target areas that individual pupils need support with.

National 5 exams have changed and this will have an impact on your child. The exam has changed to more weighting being placed on the external exam and the assignment is now worth 17%. Previously it was worth 20%. The impact this will have is the external exam is now 100marks and 2 hours and 30 minutes compared to 80 marks with an external exam lasting 2 hours.

How you can help:

Encourage your child to be focused on their revision, have a revision timetable and use all the available resources such as Supported study, past paper questions available on the SQA web pages and homework questions. Specimen exam papers are available on the subject SQA web page.

If your child is experiencing any difficulty with a science subject please encourage your child to talk to their teacher.



SUPPORT FOR LEARNING DEPT

Mrs Monaghan (PT)
Mr Latif
Mr Caskie

WELCOME

What a busy and exciting start of term this has been! We welcome Mr Ewan Caskie to the team who will be with us every Wed-Fri. At this time of year members of our team work closely with our new S1 and their teachers to make sure that they settle in smoothly and that any support they need is in place. We had met many of you out at your Primary Schools and look forward to working closely with you in the years to come. In each edition of our Parental Newsletter we will shine a spotlight on one aspect of the work that we as a department do for your young people and tell you more about it. As it is the beginning of term, we will shortly be starting our Paired Reading Programme which is targeted at our new S1 pupils.

PAIRED READING

Paired Reading is largely based on the work of Keith Topping and is one of the most comprehensively researched interventions available, to support the development of reading skills. A paired reading programme involves one partner, (the tutor), supporting a younger partner with their reading.

The impact of the scheme was convincing: **"The boost to school pupils' attainment provided by peer tutoring was equivalent to about three months progress in reading."**

However, some of the younger pupils who take part are already fluent readers, but there are many other benefits to taking part in the programme, such as social and emotional support and developing a relationship with an older, positive role model.



Summary of potential benefits:

- Benefits for the younger partner
- Improved reading attainment.
- Increased confidence and enjoyment of reading.
- improved attitudes to reading for pleasure and increased amount of reading outside of school.
- Interaction with a positive peer role model – learning from their positive behaviour.
- Personal one-to-one attention, allowing them to work at their own pace.
- Increased sense of belonging to the school community.
- Positive, supportive relationship with older member of school community.

Here are some quotes from young people who have taken part in our programme in the past:

"I feel more confident now because of the practice of giving advice"

"I felt it was very enjoyable and beneficial"

"I think it was rewarding to see the first years improve"

If you receive a letter about the Paired Reading programme, please just complete the tear-off slip and return to the school office. This session we will also be providing reading opportunities for our young people whose first language is not English, and would welcome your support in continuing this reading at home.

ASD PARENT/CARER FORUM

This forum has been running for a number of years now, and aims to provide you, as parents or carers of young people on the autism spectrum who are part of our school community, with opportunities to meet and raise issues that you feel are most important to you.

As well as an informal opportunity to talk to each other and share each other's experiences, we provide a platform for outside speakers to come and speak with and listen to you about the issues you have highlighted.

Meetings take place in a relaxed setting during the school day and all newcomers are more than welcome.

Our first meeting this term is on Wednesday, 20th September at 12pm and we'd particularly like to welcome parents and carers of our new S1 to join us and meet our existing parents/carers.

All meetings after that will take place on **Wednesdays at 1.30pm on 25th October, 28th March and 11th June.**

At our first meeting this term, Karen Watt, a Family Support Worker with the Strathclyde Autistic Society, will be speaking to you about Family Support Services and will then be happy to answer any questions you might have. We look forward to seeing you soon!

EAL PARENT/CARER FORUM



Mr Latif, our EAL specialist, introduced a Parent/Carer Support forum for the parents and carers of pupils whose first language is not English. The forum provides an opportunity to meet and to find out about the different aspects of our Education System, how the school system works, school staff and duties, attendance, external agencies and services and much more! Interpreters are provided and all are most welcome.

The first meeting takes place on Tuesday, 27th September at 3.10 pm.

Dates of future meetings are on Tuesdays at 3.10pm on 11th October, 25th October, 8th November, 6th December, 17th January, 7th February, 21st February, 7th March, 18th April, 16th May and 6th June.



SOCIAL SUBJECTS FACULTY

Mr Murphy (PT)
Mrs Jack
Mrs Matthewman
Ms McWilliams

Mrs Jenkins
Ms Weir
Ms Tracey

HIGH STANDARDS IN S1-3

S1 Social Subjects classes will be issued homework once per week. Many of the young people in S1 have made an excellent start and have been awarded merits for homework. Excellent effort by Brooke Burke (1C - Mrs Matthewman's - Social Subjects) who completed a detailed family tree for homework. Keep up the good work!

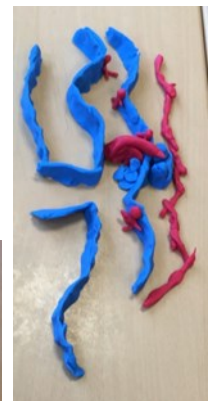


S1 SOCIAL SUBJECTS

It was a busy start in Social Subjects for our S1s as they were met with their first challenge: The S1 invention task. Students were asked to invent, plan and create any kind of machine that would aid their study of Social Subjects. Key to success was the ability to practice not only academic skills such as analysing, creating and evaluating, but also their social skills. Students had to listen to one another, share their opinions and each had a specific role to play in order to ensure their group successfully rose to the occasion. Inventions were presented to the whole class and peer assessments made regarding how successful each group had been. Inventions ranged from Virtual reality goggles, to fact boxes, to your very own social subjects guide! It was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for all and we can't wait to continue our study!

S3 HISTORY

We have begun our study of Scotland and the Great War by exploring the trenches in WW1. Students have explored and analysed the set up of the trenches and the conditions soldiers experienced using a variety of learning techniques including, group work, film and even the use of play dough! The study of our trench formation culminated in a "Build your own trench in 15 minutes" which saw groups try to be as creative as they could be and build a replica trench using the information they had gained through our study. It proved to be a real success and we look forward to continuing our study!



S2 SCOTLAND AND THE GREAT WAR

S3 pupil Tai O'Neill brought in his great uncle's WW1 medals to show the class as part of our exploration of the topic. Students thoroughly enjoyed examining them and discussing what each meant and how they were given out. Big thanks to him and his family for bringing these in!



S3: BELGIUM BATTLEFIELD EXPERIENCE

The Social Subjects department is very excited to launch the Battlefield Experience trip for current S3s, taking place in June next year. The trip coincides with the S3 study of Scotland and the Great War and is an incredible experience for the young people that are able to participate. The young people will visit many important historical sites across Belgium as they trace the footprints of many young men who bravely fought in WW1.

The trip will take place from Sunday 17th June to Friday 22nd June 2018.

Young people will be invited to note their interest in due course and a letter with more information will be issued.

S4-6 SOCIAL SUBJECT ASSESSMENT DATES

Assessments for National and Higher classes for Social Subjects will be taking place in September. These assessments are important for gauging ability at certificate level and it is vital that all pupils attend on these days.

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>HIGHER</u>
HISTORY	26 th September (Mrs Matthewman) 27 th September (Mrs Jenkins) 29 th September (Mrs Tracy)	19 th September
GEOGRAPHY	21 st September	18 th September
MODERN STUDIES	15 th September	21 st September
POLITICS		20 th September

SCOTTISH YOUNG WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Congratulations to the 14 S5/6 girls whom I accompanied to a conference in the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel on Saturday (yes, all day Saturday) 19th August. The conference on Empowerment, What Young Women Need to Succeed, was hosted by the SWC (Scottish Women's Convention). In the morning there were 4 speakers who were, Roza Smith, Gemma Lumsdaine who pays for the Scottish National Basketball Player, Paula Dunn from the Rosey Project (Rape Crisis) and Elaine C Smith, Actor.

In the afternoon session the girls participated in workshops covering, Women in Sport, Healthy Relationships, Work and Education, and Politics, Engagement, Brexit.

As always the pupils behaviour was exemplary throughout the day.

Mrs T Jack (Social Subjects)



TECHNOLOGIES FACULTY

Mr Greechan (PT)
Mr Bonner
Ms Litster
Mr Louden

Ms Dexter
Mr Baird
Mrs White

Technical, Business and Computing make up the faculty of Technologies.

BUSINESS & COMPUTING

The Business and Computing departments have been working with all the S1 young people to get them logged into the Glasgow IT system. All S1 young people have a unique school 'log in' that they will keep until they leave St Mungo's Academy. This 'log in' allows access to all Glasgow City Council education websites, applications and software. Furthermore, every young person in St Mungo's Academy have access to the Scottish Government's GLOW platform, which allows them to be part of on-line communities, where they can access help from their subject teachers. From email access to education approved support software and video tutorials, please encourage the use of GLOW to support your child's educational progress.

Glow is available to access in school, on mobile devices and laptops; all you need is your log-in details. All Microsoft Office software is free for everyone to access through GLOW.

TECHNICAL

Our Technical department have focussed on skill building for the whole month of August. This has involved nurturing the skills needed to succeed across all Technical based subjects. Skills like measuring in millimetres, hand-eye co-ordination, safety in the workplace, working with each other and many more will see every young person safe, happy and achieving their fullest potential across all Technical subjects. The pictures below capture the busy nature of our Technical department. Please check out some of our TWITTER feed photos

What a splendid effort by David Zielinski @StMungosAcademy . Absolutely perfect corner lap and half lap joint. #woodworking #accuracy



fighter / NS graphics. Productive Thursday @StMungosAcademy #learning



S3 Technical. Very productive this morning... Isometric drawing @StMungosAcademy





SPORTS LEADER (LEVEL 6)



Our new level 6 sports leader class have been working hard in the first few weeks of the new term preparing to visit our learning community primary schools for their first 6 week teaching block to lead basketball. All pupils will also complete their Basketball Scotland Getting Started Award over the next two weeks to gain their first governing body Coaching Award.

Over the next few months the group will lead basketball, fitness and tennis in primary schools for 15 weeks. They will also run extra-curricular clubs in their primary schools to help increase health and activity in our learning community.

In addition to this Sports Leaders will also visit Glasgow ASN schools to lead 10 hours of activity and will also be the only Scottish pupils to participate in the new Youth Sports Trust Allianz Dare to Believe Project. This an inclusion project with the end product being our young people delivering a sports festival to approximately 200 young people with and without additional supports needs at a festival in November to promote inclusive sport for all.