



## MARCH 2016—NEWSLETTER

### NEWS FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we approach the end of another busy school term, and our thoughts turn to the forthcoming SQA examinations, I would like to take this opportunity to urge our parents/carers of pupils in S4-S6 to take a very close interest in their children's preparations for their examinations. We have been urging pupils to increase on a weekly basis the amount of time spent on revising for their examinations. Many have listened to this message and have grown in security and confidence in their ability to give their best in the exams.

- Ask to see their weekly study planner. If they do not have one, encourage them to draw one up.
- Consider potential distractions in their study rooms - TV's, games consoles etc. Do they need to limit the time spent on these devices or - in extreme cases - have them removed.
- Praise your child when it is clear he/she is studying effectively. Encourage them to keep it up. Small treats can be powerful incentives.
- Where it is clear that your child is not putting in the requisite effort, please challenge him/her about this.

The school, like you, wishes the very best success for your child. Please contact the appropriate Pupil Support Teacher if you require further information or are concerned about your child's lack of preparation.

The standard of school uniform remains generally high. Recently, however, there has been an increase in pupils coming to school with black jeans rather than black school trousers and not wearing a school tie. Please remind your child that black school trousers must be worn to school, as well as a school tie. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Please enjoy this Newsletter. Thank you for your continued support for the school. I wish you and your family every blessing this Easter.

M McGee, Head Teacher

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Thurs 24 March**  
Non Uniform Day  
End of Term Service  
3.25pm finish

**Mon 11 April**  
All resume

**Mon 18 April**  
Public Holiday

**Tues 19 April**  
All resume

**Mon 2 May**  
Public Holiday

**Tues 3 May**  
All resume  
Study leave begins

**Wed 4 May**  
SQA Exams begin

**Thurs 5 May**  
In-Service—Staff only

**Friday 6 May**  
All resume

**Mon 23 May**  
Public Holiday

**Tues 24 May**  
All resume

**Thurs 3 June**  
Junior Awards Ceremony  
7.00pm

**Friday 4 June**  
End of SQA Exams  
Leavers Ceremony—12.30pm

**Thurs 9 June**  
Parent Council Meeting  
6.00pm

**Tues 21—Thurs 23 June**  
P7 Induction

**Wed 22 June**  
P7 Induction Parents Evening  
7.00pm

**Thurs 30 June**  
Non Uniform Day  
End of Term Service  
12.00 finish

**Mon 15 & Tues 16 August**  
In-Service—Staff only

**Wed 17 August**  
Pupils resume



## Enterprise & Employability

Congratulations to Miss Graham's Enterprise and Employability class who have just been awarded the Social Enterprise in Education Award. The S4 pupils started their business, PenPalz, last year selling stationery to pupils. They sold a variety of products on their mobile stationery shop including pens, pencils, notebooks and highlighters. The pupils reinvested some profits back into their business but the majority has been used to fund their pen pals project - the pupils created links with Blenheim care home in Sighthill. The pupils were given a pen pal from the care home and they have been in regular contact writing letters and sending cards. At Christmas the pupils visited their pen pals and brought with them individual hampers filled with gifts. The pupils will be attending the Social Enterprise in Education Award Ceremony on 16 June 2016 at the Hub Edinburgh. Well Done!!



### HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising a free donation for St Augustine's? There are nearly 3000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to St Augustine's to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple and doesn't cost you anything.

#### All you have to do is:

- **Go to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)**
- **Search for St Augustine's RC High School, Edinburgh as the cause you are supporting**
- **Sign up for free**
- **Get shopping** – your donations will be collected by easy fundraising and automatically sent to St Augustine's. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Augustine's will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

**St Augustine's Parent Council**

### DEVELOPING EDINBURGH'S YOUNG WORKFORCE

Here at St Augustine's we are hoping to develop further business links and were wondering if any parents would be able to offer their assistance. Whether it may be coming into the school to run workshops or having pupils on extended work placement. Please could you contact Mrs Lovatt in the Business Education Department if you feel you could assist. Thank you.

## Career Ready Programme

Szymon Klinkosz, Latanya Melville, Conner Scotland and Ian Soutar have successfully graduated from the Career Ready programme at a ceremony in Perth. The pupils have been supported for two years by Graeme Cleland-The Big Partnership, Jen McLeod – Scottish Government, Colin Moodie- Royal Bank of Scotland and Allan Fleming- Scottish Government. Szymon, Latanya, Conner and Ian have developed excellent communication and team working skills and have been given an insight into the World of Work. The pupils feel that they have been given a distinct advantage in facing the challenges head of them. During the 4 week paid internship last July they have realised their own potential and gained an insight into their own capabilities. They would like to thank their mentors for the support and encouragement they have received in their meetings and communication over the two years. We currently have five S5 pupils who are preparing for their internship this summer and six S4 pupils will also be offered the opportunity to take part in the Career Ready programme.



### DIGITAL SAFETY

More and more parents are asking how they can get support for Digital Safety. The Edinburgh Digital Learning Team have collected some of the best of these together for parents to access and these can be found here:

<http://digitallearningteam.org/digital-safety/curriculum-planners/resources-for-parents/> we would encourage you to use these to ensure you are aware of how you can support Digital Safety with your child.

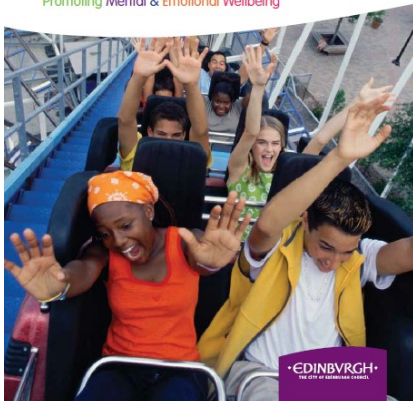


## Raising Teens with Confidence Course

PARENTS AND CARERS TRAINING/COURSE

### Raising Teens with Confidence

Promoting Mental & Emotional Wellbeing



The six session course will be held at St Augustine's RC High School on the 6 Tuesdays between 19 April-24 May at 6.30-8.30pm and cover the following topics:

1. **The Teenage Years:** Why What You Do Matters!
2. **The Amazing Teenage Brain:** What's Going on in There?
3. **Risky Business:** Managing Adventure, Risk and Resilience.
4. **It's Good to Talk:** The Importance of Staying Connected.
5. **The Brain Under Stress:** Overcoming Setbacks and Promoting Resilience
6. **Looking After Your Own Wellbeing:** Coping with the Changes.

It's not too late to sign up for the course but places are limited so if you are interested please contact Mrs Baird, DHT as soon as possible.

## Transitions Project

Pupils from our feeder primary schools were invited to spend three afternoons at the high school to work with members of the English Dept., Jess Orr, a PhD student, our librarian Ms Smith and a small number of current S2 students.

Everyone was very impressed with how switched on, engaged and keen the P7 students were. They were working on a very difficult task and they all got involved and showed great understanding of some difficult ideas. In the first session the pupils analysed an edited and shortened version of the short story "The Beholder" by Ali Smith. The story is about a woman having a difficult time in her life who then begins to grow a tree from her

chest! The pupils spent time reading the text and clarifying difficult words and concepts. They identified and discussed the technique of alliteration and identified adjectives and how they were being used. They then thought of creative ways that they could re-imagine the story and make something new from it. That could be a newspaper article, a painting, another story...whatever they wanted. In the final session they shared their finished work and ideas with the rest of the group and a small audience of teachers and parents.

All involved had a great time and really embraced the ideas behind the project. We look forward to running it again next year.



## News from the Languages Faculty

It has been a very busy term with folio deadlines and speaking assessments but we have also had time to pack in some fun and interesting events:

### LA WEATHERLY Author Visit

LA Weatherly is an American author who now lives in Hampshire in the UK with her husband. She has recently published a new novel called 'Broken Sky' and it was released on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016. She came to our school as part of World Book Day celebrations and to celebrate the launch day.

She talked to a group of S2 and S3 students about how she got the inspiration for 'Broken Sky', and about her experiences during the research stages when she got to ride in Spitfires. She also described how she sees her characters and showed us images of the models that she used to "picture" them. LA then read an extract from "Broken Sky" which was very tense and emotional and finished with a Q and A session which everyone found very informative.



Afterwards she had copies of her book available to buy and she signed copies for those that did. It was a great visit and we all enjoyed hearing how a published author get their ideas, creates their characters and goes about writing their book.

*Julia Zynda S2*

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL HAS UP TO DATE ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, EMAIL AND EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOUR CHILD.

THANK YOU





## Kilmathon

On Sunday 21 March a group of 4 staff, 4 current pupils and 1 ex pupil ran in the Kilomathon event. All of the group were great and as you can see from the 'finishing photo' they look as though they enjoyed it!

They have raised approximately £500 so far (plus gift aid) for the school SCIAF fund, congratulations to the pupils and staff on their achievements.



Staff: Chris Blair, Paul Higgins, Kelly Smith & Joe Whitelaw  
Pupils: Jack Blaney, Phil Blaney, Daniel Horsburgh, Domenico Pacitti & Sean Watt

## Spring Concert

The Spring Concert will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April in the school's theatre. As always there will be a wide selection of music and some drama as well. Please put this date in your diary. More information will be available after the holidays.

## Performing Arts Practical exams

A large number of our pupils have just finished their practical exams for Music and Drama at National 5 and Higher levels. Well done to all those who took part. Now we have to make sure that they are prepared for the written exams next term. Please encourage your son or daughter to continue to study over the holidays so that they can make the most of their chances.

## GIRFEC (GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD)

St Augustine's has always been proud of the way the school community works together to support young people and now we are privileged that Dionne McFarlane who is in S6 has been selected as the Scottish Government's ambassador for the GIRFEC initiative. GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) is a national initiative to ensure that all professionals working with children and young people work together in a consistent way. The approach helps practitioner focus on what makes a positive difference for children and young people and how they can act to deliver these improvements.

Dionne's role is to help deliver the GIRFEC message not only to professionals working with young people but also to young people themselves. As she says' "It's really just about making sure the support for the child is always there. ...this is about emotional, not educational, support". Dionne first got involved two years ago, when the Minister for Children and Young people invited young people to send in a piece of work describing what wellbeing meant to them. Dionne chose to write about bereavement.

Having participated in a range of workshops, Dionne impressed a number of professionals with her ideas, her confidence in expressing opinions and in engaging with others. Since then, she has been in constant demand – speaking at conferences all over Scotland and helping to formulate policy and delivering presentations. How has this benefitted Dionne? "I love it and the work I've done with GIRFEC has made me think seriously about a career in social work".



## Polar Academy Fundraising Walk



At the end of February Nathan Stewart, Georgia McNally and Mackenzie Ritchie completed a 12km walk in the Pentland Hills to raise funds for the Polar Academy expedition to Greenland. Nathan joins the final team and travels to Greenland during the Easter holidays. We all wish him well and look forward to hearing about his adventures next term. More information is available on the official website [www.thepolaracademy.org](http://www.thepolaracademy.org)

