

St. Augustine's



One Community of Faith & Learning



JUNE 2017—NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are at the end of another successful year. At this time of year I have the opportunity to say thank you to all of the staff who work so hard on behalf of the young people in St Augustine's. Every day I see staff, teaching and non teaching, going that extra mile in supporting and caring for our young people. I am very grateful to them all and I know from the number of conversations with parents and letters I receive, that you agree with me. So a special thank you to them all.

Staffing. As we start the new term in August we will be welcoming a number of new staff

- Mr Cifelli - Art
- Ms Miller (Probationer) - Business Education
- Ms Baird - Drama
- Ms Laing (Probationer) - Maths
- Ms Macleod - Music
- Ms Cox - PE

Our thanks to Mr Stobie and Mrs Falconer who are both retiring. Moving on to pastures new are Ms Ballantine and Mrs Ogilvie, we wish them all the best. We also reluctantly say goodbye to Mrs G Malone, Chair of the Parent Council. After a long spell on the council and having seen the last of her children through to S6, Mrs Malone leaves us having shown real commitment to the development of St Augustine's! She always had the interests of the young people and staff very much at heart. A very big **THANK YOU** goes her way! I would also like to thank all our parents for their support throughout an extremely busy and successful year.

The students have been extremely busy this session, the summer holiday will provide welcome relief from all the pressures and will allow them to recharge their batteries.

Inevitably, during the holidays, your thoughts will turn to purchasing new school uniform. Please bear in mind the school uniform policy outlined below. I know young people can try to persuade parents to buy trainers, hoodies, designer gear etc. Please resist the pressure put upon you and stick rigidly to the school uniform policy. This will help us enormously with security and in matters of health and safety.

I wish everyone, pupils, parents and staff a relaxing and enjoyable holiday—however you chose to spend it.

Michael McGee

St Augustine's RC High School—Uniform Policy

School ties can be purchased from the school office— cost £7.00

School tie <u>must</u> be worn	✓	
A white school shirt <u>must</u> be worn	✓	
A black v neck jumper or black v neck cardigan	✓	Not acceptable: Hoodies/round neck jumpers/cardigans Fashion logos eg Hollister, Jack Wills etc
Black school trousers	✓	Not acceptable: Jeans, joggers, leggings, jeggings, combats
Black skirt of an <u>appropriate length</u>	✓	Not acceptable: Short/tube skirts unsuitable for active learning in classrooms
Black leggings can <u>only</u> be worn with a skirt	✓	Not acceptable: Leggings on their own
Outdoor coats/jackets must be removed in the school building	✓	
Plain black shoes <u>must</u> be worn. Plimsolls, trainers or leather shoes can be worn if fully black	✓	NOT ACCEPTABLE: Coloured trainers/plimsolls Black shoes with white rims/logos/stripes

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Fri 30 June 2017
Non uniform day
End of term service
- Mon 14 & Tue 15 Aug 2017
Staff resume
- Wed 16 Aug 2017
Pupils resume
- Tues 5 Sept 2017
Higher Education Convention
Royal Highland Centre
- Thurs 7 Sept 2017
Parent Council Meeting 6pm
- Mon 18 Sept 2017
HOLIDAY
- Tues 19 Sept 2017
All resume
- Thurs 28 Sept 2017
S4 Mock Interviews
- Mon 2—Fri 6 Oct 2017
S4 Work Experience
- Wed 11 Oct 2017
S1 Parents' Consultation
4.15-6.45pm
- Thurs 12 Oct 2017
Parent Council Meeting 6pm
- Fri 13 Oct 2017
Feast Day Mass 11am
- Mon 16—Fri 20 Oct 2017
HOLIDAY
- Mon 23 Oct 2017
Staff only
- Tues 24 Oct 2017
Pupils resume
- Wed 1 Nov 2017
S5/6 Parents' Consultation
4.15-6.45pm
- Thurs 9 Nov 2017
Mass of Remembrance
Oratory 7pm
- Mon 13 Nov 2017
S3 Parents' Information
Evening 7.00pm

Salters' Festival of Chemistry

Four of our S1 pupils took part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry at Heriot-Watt University. They competed against other schools in a series of experiments in the University laboratory. At the end of the day they also saw a fun Science show presented by one of the University lecturers. All of the pupils worked extremely hard and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

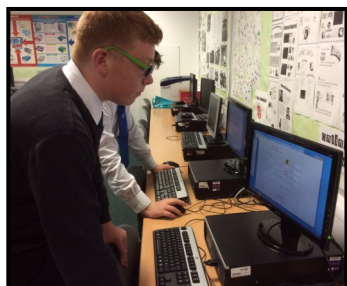


GENERAL ELECTION MOCK ELECTION VOTE THURSDAY 8th JUNE

S4, S5 and S6 pupils had the opportunity to vote in a mock General Election (run by the Computing Department and Modern Studies Department) on the 8th June. Pupils voted electronically – clicking an 'X' against their favoured constituency candidate.

Edinburgh South West Mock Constituency Result

Miles Briggs (Cons)	10
Foysol Choudhury (Lab)	76
Joanna Cherry (SNP)	72
Aisha Mir (Lib Dems)	12



Our mock constituency result showed a close run between Labour and SNP with Labour just winning. The actual constituency result was a close win for SNP over Conservative.

TRUE Colours: Inspiring Volunteers

On 7 June, Harry Lyons and Beth Marshall received an Inspiring Volunteering Award on behalf of the TRUE Colours equality group at St Augustine's. The ceremony took place at the City Chambers, with the Lord Provost presenting awards to teams and individuals from across the city.

The TRUE Colours group was commended for the work it does to raise awareness of equalities issues and to celebrate the diversity of Scotland. This year the group has supported Polish National Day, Unity and Diversity week, St Patrick's Day and Refugee Festival Scotland.

TRUE Colours meets Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime in Sfl - new members always welcome.



Beth Marshall and Harry Lyons representing the school at the Inspiring Volunteering Awards 2017 at the City Chambers

Spring Concert

The St Augustine's Spring concert took place on Thursday 27 April. A cabaret style evening with performances from the schools 5 main ensembles, the Wind Band, Keyboard Group, Choir, Baroque Group and for the first time in recent years, the String Orchestra. All of these groups are taught by visiting instructors. They were joined with solo performances by our senior music pupils with pieces prepared for their recent music exam programmes.

Refreshments were provided by senior pupils who are fundraising for their summer working trip to Lourdes. £100 was donated to SCIAF.



Year 2 Career Ready Graduates

Congratulations to our Year 2 Career Ready Graduates. A great day was had in Perth with parents, mentors, Mrs Barry and Mrs Graham celebrating our pupils success at the graduation ceremony.

Well Done!



Crazy Culture Carnival



Our S3 pupils had a business meeting with @weebeginnovate.

Pupils presented at RBS Gogarburn to RBS graduates about the success of their business event, Crazy Culture Carnival. Well Done to all involved!



Clothing Grants—The council is changing the way clothing grants are paid. If you qualify and have applied for a clothing grant you will receive a payment directly into your bank account. You should receive your payment sometime after Monday 17 July and it will appear on your bank statement as 'clothing grant'. If you have not received your payment by Wednesday 2 August please contact the school grants team on 0131 469 3471.

Free School Meals—Some funding allocated to schools is based on pupils receiving Free School Meal entitlement. This allows us to provide extra support to our pupils. We do think a number of families who should be receiving this benefit are not currently claiming this support. This means they do not receive the help with meals but also means the school does not receive all the additional funding it could.

We would encourage you to apply if you are entitled to do so. Money for free meals is added automatically on to pupils Young Scot cards. The cards can be used to purchase food at lunchtime and a variety of hot and cold food is available. If your child does not have a Young Scot card, or has lost their card, the school office can issue a pin number and give details of how to get a new card. If you think you are entitled please do apply! Help with the form is available through your child's pupil support teacher.



Summer Internship—Career Ready Programme




This summer some of our pupils will be taking part in a paid summer internship as part of the Career Ready programme. The pupils have attended all the masterclasses and most recently attended the “Preparing for Work” masterclass at Standard Life. They are now ready for their summer internship and we can’t wait to hear all about this fantastic experience! Good Luck!

S6 Prom

We held our annual S6 prom on Friday 9 June at The Hilton, Edinburgh Airport. The event was a great success and we wish all our pupils the best of luck for the future!



THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHARGES 2017/18

	Current fee 2016/17	Fee 2017/18	Effective From 1-Aug-17
School Meals			
			
Secondary Schools	£2.45	£2.55	

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
- 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

On Wednesday 14 June, Baylee Harrison represented the Edinburgh Syncro Swimming team at Grade 3 and as such was chosen to represent Edinburgh at the opening of the New Cumnock Open Air Swimming pool. As you can see Baylee is speaking to Prince Charles and was telling him to send Prince George and Princess Charlotte to St Augustine's as it's the joint top school in Edinburgh for positive destinations and a great school all round!!!!

Well done Baylee a fabulous achievement!



The Prince of Wales chats to swimmers as he officially opened the refurbished New Cumnock open-air swimming pool in East Ayrshire.

Positive Destinations

Feeling proud of our pupils who left last year, 97% have moved to a positive destination which puts St Augustine's in the top four schools in Edinburgh.



Junior Awards Ceremony: Thursday June 1 2017

The school hosted its Junior Awards Ceremony on Thursday June 1st and it proved to be a fantastic evening. Over 300 pupils, parents and staff were in attendance to congratulate all Junior Award winners who had worked very hard throughout the year. It was a fabulous occasion to showcase the talents of all of our young people and it was wonderful to see the support from all their parents, guardians and extended family. We were fortunate to have an outstanding speaker, Mr Kevin Clancy, Solicitor Advocate and FIFA International referee who spoke passionately about how school had such a positive impact on his life and how it can on our own young people. Hopefully the pupils can build upon their fantastic successes this year.



Well done to all award winners and a special thanks to the performers in the choir, the cello group and to the Music department for providing excellent entertainment on the night.

Loch Eil

Twelve third year pupils from St Augustine's made the long journey to Loch Eil to spend a week participating in different activities with the Outward Bound Trust. These activities were fun and challenging, whilst also developing the organisational skills, leadership and confidence of our young people. They participated in Abseiling, Zip-lining, Gorge Walking and the Loch Eil tradition of the 'jog and dip', where they jumped into freezing cold Loch on the first day. Well, most of them!



The trip also included an expedition to Smirisary Beach. This was a difficult task for some as it involved an hour long walk through the hills through rough coastal terrain carrying large, heavy back packs.

Our instructor for the week, Fiona Clarke, was brilliant and provided the pupils with challenging and engaging tasks, keeping all motivated throughout. The weather was beautiful and the pupils had a fantastic time—a truly great experience.



Yale Games

St Augustine's Young Sports Ambassador team, in conjunction with other Sports Young Ambassadors from North West Edinburgh, organised the first ever Yale games. The event was held at the Royal High School, with competitors from Broughton, Royal High, South Queensferry and of course St Augustine's.



Congratulations to the entire St Augustine's S4-6 team who won the event overall, competing in a variety of sports including football, table tennis and dodge ball. The St Augustine's team was selected with support from the school and transport covered by Active Schools. The pupils leadership and communication skills were excellent and the feedback was very positive on this new competitive event for senior pupils.

Over 20 senior pupils have undertaken coaching and CPD courses this year in Basketball Umpiring, Tennis, Leadership, Child Protection, First Aid, Swimming Level 1 and Life Guarding. We currently have 4 pupils who work in the St Augustine's/Forrester Sports Hub after school and a team of 8 Sports Young Ambassadors who support the PE department and the Active Schools coordinator Mrs Damen within the school.

Our Sports Young Ambassadors were successful in securing £1000 of funding from **Western Edinburgh Partnership**. This funding was used to develop our new girls Volleyball club and team, who entered in the Scottish Cup playing at the new Oriam centre. The funding was also used to further develop and boost after school swimming clubs. We now have an average of 25 swimmers attending and around 15 playing volleyball all thanks to this funding. The Sport Leadership pupils and Young Sport Ambassadors in the school have also contributed a great deal of their own time to help organise various sporting events at the school and to assist with after-school sports clubs. Due to their hard work and commitment, the school have managed to achieve the Sport Scotland Silver Award this year.

The school leadership program in sport has led to a fantastic level of confidence and set of skills in our pupils leading to events such as Sky Sports for Living in Sport project being achieved. This involved British Champion Fencer Keith Cook coming in to the school to deliver a presentation and interactive workshops with our S1 and S2 pupils. Keith also ran a session on Mental and Emotional factors in Sport with our Higher PE pupils.

Pupils volunteered at the Paralympic Games held in the school in March and also at the Edinburgh Primary 6 Games at the Hub in May – where over 1000 pupils took part in a wide variety of sports.

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



Caritas Award

The Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award was established by the Bishops of Scotland as a way of keeping alive the legacy of Pope Benedict's historic visit in 2010. The award encourages and promotes the ongoing faith journey of young people.

Congratulations to twenty-five of our S6 pupils who successfully achieved the award this year. They have spent the year giving their time in loving service to our school community and to fifteen local Faith Communities. They have reflected on their own faith and the teachings of Pope Benedict on God is Love.

Their loving service in school has included contributing to Liturgies, volunteering at the breakfast and lunch club, leading Advent and Lent assemblies and volunteering for the Peace and Justice Group. In Parishes and Mosques, they have worked with young people, fundraised, helped with Arabic lessons, served as readers, altar servers and pass keepers. They have co-ordinated nativity plays, volunteered at homeless projects, collected items for a foodbank and spoken in parishes during Catholic Education Week.



The impact of Caritas is immeasurable but the pupil reflections give us some insight into what the year has meant to them:

'As a result of Caritas I have been able to rediscover my faith at a time when I felt lost.'

'Explaining what it really means to love someone has been the biggest lesson I have learnt while partaking in Caritas.'

'To me, Caritas is a celebration of God through helping others in our school and local community. By offering our help through Caritas we are showing not only love towards others but returning all of our love to God.'

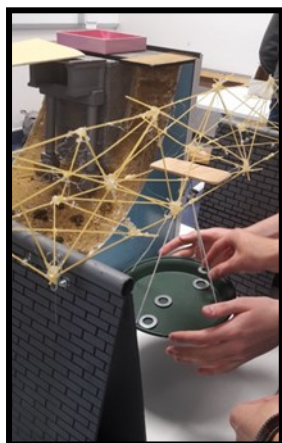


Space School 2017—Geevarghese Joji, 6M1

During the 2017 Scottish Space School, 100 students from Scotland were selected and I was lucky enough to be chosen as one of them! We were put into groups of 10 and our mentors guided us throughout the week.



We completed a variety of experiments and activities like building rockets, bridges and viewing space food. We had a chance to hear from NASA astronauts and engineers about their experiences in space and their tough journey into becoming astronauts and engineers which was greatly motivating and inspirational.



We had the great opportunity to learn about the many types of engineering available to us, with lecturers giving us in depth talks about different engineering types. This inspired and encouraged me to consider engineering as a future career choice. I also met many current engineering students in the Uni and learnt more about the courses on offer and Uni life in general.

Space School gave me the opportunity to meet amazing like-minded people from around Scotland who share similar interests and I have made many new friends due to being part of this exciting programme. Overall Space School was one of the most memorable weeks of my life and I highly recommend it to any S5's who are interested in engineering, science and technology in the future to apply to the programme, you will not regret it.

Nuffield Placements

Nuffield Research Placements provide students from across the UK with the opportunity to work alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians during their summer holidays. Over the past few years several of our pupils have undertaken Nuffield placements, working at various Scottish Universities, and this year 3 of our pupils have been selected to undertake placements following a rigorous application process. They are Klaudia Rafinska, Raven Ward-Baker and Derek Kuchenmeister (all now in S6).

Derek's placement will involve the development of teaching aids for geotechnical engineering using 3D printing technology at Edinburgh Napier University. Raven will also be working at Edinburgh Napier University where she will be undertaking research into improving soil properties. Klaudia will be helping with the designing, building and testing of new components for use in the teaching labs for Chemical and Mechanical Engineering courses at Heriot-Watt University.

Congratulations to all three pupils and we look forward to them sharing details of their placements with their peers in the new school year.



National 4 People and Society

The following pupils have been involved in promoting a new course in the Social Subjects department called People and Society. They chose and researched key events from the 1900s to 2017. All events can be linked to the learning of History, Geography and Modern Studies. This major research task is currently being displayed in the school library and it is hoped that all our pupils will engage with the wall display and be encouraged to use the library resources to find out more information on the events. Well done to all those involved. Mrs Cochrane

Sabia Ahmed 4D2

Khadiza Akter 4D2

Aodan Burns 4D2

Sarah Campbell 4D2

Georgia Clelland 4A1

Kerri Ford 4A1

Roisin Fredrick 4D1

Erin Graham 4M1

David Lumsden 4M1

Alyssa Mackay 4A2

Rachel Murray 5D1

Abigail Okoro 4A2

Jamieleigh Oswald 4D



ParentPay - our new online payment service

The City of Edinburgh Council are now in the process of rolling out a new online payment system to all schools in Edinburgh. We will shortly be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and school ties. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school.

What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint
- Full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at anytime
- Your children will not have to worry about losing money at school
- Parents can choose to be alerted when their balances are low via email and/or SMS text

We will shortly be sending you your account activation details, just follow the instructions in the letter we give you to get started with ParentPay.

If you want to find out more about ParentPay go to: www.parentpay.com/Parents

**Keep up to date with all our news and events by
following our twitter feed @stahsnews**

Refugee Festival Scotland—20 June to 2 July

St Augustine's RC High School—TRUE COLOURS



Abdul from the Scottish
Refugee Council



Alistair Dutton, Director
of SCIAF



Our wonderful Scottish Country Dancers

The magnificent piper—Alex McCartney

St Augustine's resident house band—The Wild Rovers

