



MARCH 2019—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, who are sitting exams, to take a very close interest in their children's preparations. 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.
- Encourage your child to attend Easter Revision Classes—see page 11 of this newsletter.

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

For our S4 pupils who are not sitting exams, we have created our Meaningful May programme. This programme involves our pupils enhancing their career education by taking part in a variety of workplace visits, skills presentations and career talks. The programme includes activities in school and will also see pupils visit workplaces and colleges around the local community. The 8 day programme will take place from **Tuesday 21 May to Thursday 30 May**. The programmes key focus is employability skills and will see the pupils working with organisations such as HMRC, working on CV and interview skills as well as social media training and pupil confidence. We also have a number of exciting workplace visits that will allow pupils to explore careers options in a variety of different industries.

I would like to thank all members of the Parent Council for their support and also thank you to all parents and young people who supported the Christmas Fair which was a resounding success.

Finally thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your family every blessing this Easter.

M McGee
Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 5 April
End of term service
Non-uniform
- Monday 8—Monday 22 April
EASTER BREAK
- Tuesday 23 April
All resume
- Thursday 25 April
Higher PE Exam
- Monday 29 April
SQA Exams
Study leave begins
- Monday 6 May
HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 7 May
In-service—Staff only
- Wednesday 8 May
Pupils resume
- Monday 13 May
S2 Reports issued
- Monday 20 May
HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 21 May
All resume
- Thursday 23 May
Junior Awards Ceremony 7pm
- Wednesday 29 May
S3 Reports issued
- Friday 31 May
Study Leave ends
Leavers Ceremony 12.30pm
- Monday June 3
New timetable
- Tuesday 4 June
S6 Induction
- Wednesday 5 June
S1 Reports issued
- Thursday 6 June
Parent Council Meeting 6pm
- Tuesday 18—Thursday 20 June
P7 Induction
- Monday 24 June
Activities week
- Friday 28 June
End of term service
Non-uniform

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

Charities Committee Easter Newsletter

Mary's Meals

The Charities Committee have been busy since Advent building support for the Mary's Meals Backpack Appeal. The pupils promoted the items needed across the school, and arranged successful fundraising events which enabled them to buy additional items to complete the backpacks which will be sent to those being supported by Mary's Meals across the world. The charities committee are pictured with some of the donated backpacks.

Thanks are due to everyone who supported this appeal, both the charities committee and those who provided items for the backpacks or supported the appeal financially.



SCIAF

The committee are now embarking on their next project. During Lent, the community of St. Augustine's will be supporting SCIAF and their projects across the world. There will be bake sales and pupils can also buy raffle tickets or make donations using the "Wee Boxes" in classrooms throughout the school. Your support is very much appreciated.



The search for Young Sports Ambassadors

Love sport? Perhaps you just love the healthy and happy benefits of leading an active lifestyle? If the answer is 'yes' to either of these questions read on as you're going to love our fab new young ambassadors for sport programme...

Our ambassadors will champion sport throughout Edinburgh; giving young people a voice, inspiring others to get involved and developing new sport and physical activity programmes for young people to take part in.

Inspired by this you'll be challenged to promote initiatives to get your community active and will be offered opportunities that would fulfil your potential; whether you see yourself assisting at a kids sports programme, taking coaching qualifications, volunteering at an international sports event or even interested in an international exchange, we'll help you make it happen!

If you're in S3 love sport, consider yourself as a role model and want to see more young people involved in sport and physical activity then you might be just the sort of young person we're looking for to get involved.

Think you've got what it takes to become one of Edinburgh's sports champions? If the answer is 'yes', fill out an application form. These are on in the PE department or ask Mrs Damen Active Schools. If you want more information ask our current Young Ambassadors or speak to your Active Schools Coordinator.



Careers Event – Employability Express

We were joined by over 40 employers and further education establishments for an enjoyable evening where S1-6 students from St Augustine's and Forrester High School gained a valuable insight into future Career Prospects. Positive Feedback was received for all and we will explore organising a similar event for 2021.

H Lovatt

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

THANK YOU.





On Monday the 4th of March, The British Red Cross visited St Augustine's to deliver a Refugee Awareness workshop to some S2 pupils. The S2 pupils have been learning about refugees in Modern Studies. The pupils engaged fully with the workshop where they enhanced their understanding of respect and empathy.



Languages in action

On February 22nd 2019, several of our S5/6 pupils attended a Modern Languages Immersion afternoon for French and Spanish at the University of Edinburgh. For two hours they were immersed in the foreign language and spoke no English. Not only were they able to practise their speaking skills non-stop but it also allowed them to improve their listening skills.



The students took part in workshops led by Language teachers. These involved various fun role-plays, which they enjoyed enormously. Here are some of the answers they gave when asked why they would recommend the experience to other language learners: "It helped me prepare for my speaking test.", "It widened my vocabulary." and "It improved my confidence as the teacher working with our group was very supportive."

Bravo Aodán, Sophie, Sarah, Joseph, Alannah, Hannah and Komal!

World Book Day 2019

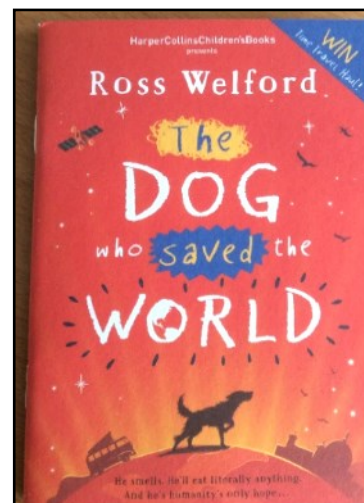
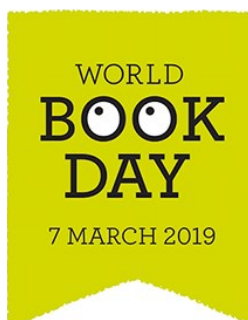
On Thursday, 7th March we celebrated World Book Day at St Augustine's. There were a variety of activities going on and something for everyone to take part in.

The day started with "A Book for Breakfast" at the Breakfast Club. Our librarian Mr Spells joined the pupils at their tables and read a selection of poems to them putting smiles on their faces.

The S6 Library helpers (Elisabetta, Gyllianah and Natalia) created and ran a Treasure Hunt for all pupils throughout the day. It consisted of 10 related clues hidden in the library. It was very successful and those who took part really enjoyed the experience and received a free book for taking part.



A small group of S2 pupils (Tamanna, Holly, Nelly, Paris, Carla, Oliwia and Julia) used "Darkside" by Tom Becker as their inspiration and, with the support of Gyllianah and Mrs Chbira, gave the door to the library a makeover. It is now a spooky portal to Darkside.



All of S1 were involved in a game of "Pass the Book". This meant that throughout the day they were read one chapter of the book "The Dog who Saved the World" by Ross Welford at the start of each period. They read until period 6 and in period 7 they were allowed to do some activities related to the story. Hopefully some will have been inspired to use their World Book Day £1 book token towards a copy of the book

to read on by themselves. I know from comments I received in the staff room that many of the teachers were hooked and want to know how it finishes.

St Augustine's Rugby

Our boys and girls teams have been in action over the last couple of weeks. The U15 girls' team played Gala RFC and lost by one try. The girls were up against older and more experienced players but did very well throughout, tackling and running hard. The final score 65-58.



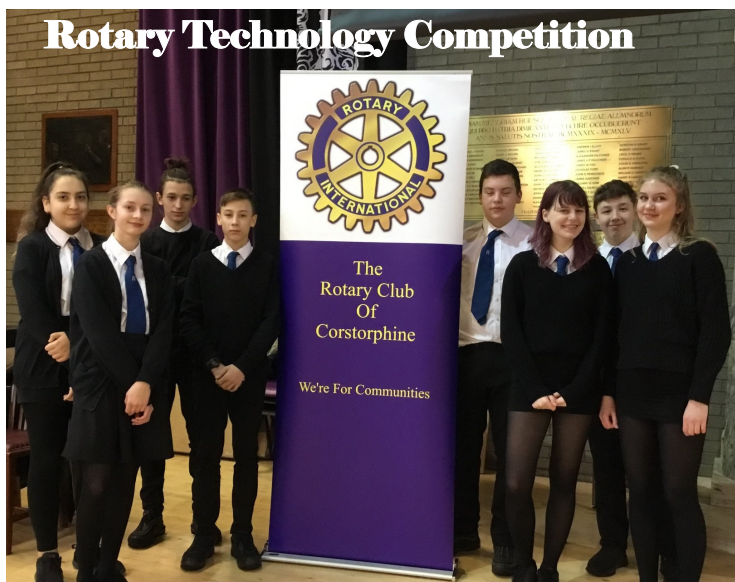
Our U14 boys' team played Leith Academy and won 100-40. The boys played a fast and wide game that Leith could not keep up with. For many of the boys it was their first game.



Our next game will be on Friday 22nd March in the Edinburgh 7s.

Mr K Milne

Rotary Technology Competition



Our S2 and S3 pupils took part in the annual Rotary Technology Competition. They competed against schools from all over Edinburgh. The young people developed their knowledge and understanding of electronics and engineering. The teams came fourth in each of their age groups. A great effort considering it was their first time!

Mr K Milne / Mr A Frances

The Duke of Edinburgh Award's

Our training is well under way in preparation for the expeditions. We have been impressed with the increase in numbers this year with over 50 pupils opting into the programme. Our young people have been developing their navigation, first aid, bush craft and tent pitching skills. As part of the award, they have been undertaking their own skill, physical activity and volunteering. Many of them have been volunteering in a range of worthwhile activities.



Rights Respecting School Award

St Augustine's is currently working towards achieving its' Rights Respecting Schools Bronze Award. To be accredited for this award our S3 pupil-led steering group will be learning about the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. They will also be sharing their knowledge with the rest of the school through assemblies and special events. The group will also be exploring the meaning of 'respect' and how pupils in our school community can model respectful behaviour in everyday life environments.

Through working towards the Rights Respecting Schools Award our school is able to actively involve students in decision-making across the school as they will be able to recognise their rights and be able to better communicate themselves within the school. If our school is successful in achieving the Bronze Award we will then be able to make our way towards the Silver and Gold Awards and making St Augustine's a truly Rights Respecting School. We will also be tying what we have learnt about the Convention on the Rights of the Child with our school aims and visions to help improve our school and make it a friendlier environment where all pupils feel safe and welcomed.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child In Child Friendly Language

"Rights" are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.

<https://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchilddfriendlylanguage.pdf>

**Vision**

St Augustine's provides a welcoming and friendly environment, celebrating inclusion and diversity, providing high quality learning to enable all young people to achieve their potential.

Values

In our Catholic School we value:

Potential

Respect

Achievement

Inclusion

Support

Equality

AIMS

To ensure all young people fulfil their potential we aim to:

Work in partnership with parents and carers and the wider
Community

provide high quality learning experiences

provide a curriculum which meets the needs of all learners

provide support for all based on the Gospel values







ensure that we Get it Right for Every Child

School Electoral Registration

The Electoral Registration Office was in school at the beginning of March registering S4s pupils to vote - the event was a big success and the percentage of pupils registered to vote has jumped massively from 47% to 77%.



S2 CAREER CAROUSEL

Employer Logo	Company
	Graham Construction
	Ballie Gifford
	Laserminar Online Limited
	Engie
	Army
	NHS
	Anderson Strathern



On Tuesday 22 January, we held an S2 careers morning. The aim of the morning was to assist pupils with their upcoming subject choices and to enhance their career education by talking to employers and asking questions about different jobs. The employers above come to St Augustine's to take part in a careers carousel where our S2 pupils spent time with each employer finding out about their jobs, roles, responsibilities and skills required to be successful in their role:

We had a variety of different organisations offering a variety of different employment opportunities including apprenticeships and trainee programs. Pupil feedback was very positive with the majority of pupils saying that the event helped them with subject choices.

Congratulations to Safia in S3, for an excellent piece of portrait drawing which has been selected as a runner up in the John Byrne National Drawing Competition 2019.

Well done Safia!



Easter Revision Classes

Day/ Date	Subject	Time A.M.	Teacher	Subject	Time P.M	Teacher
Mon 8 th April	Geography H	0900 – 1200	J Lewis	Geography N5	1230 – 1500	J Lewis
	Mathematics H	0900 – 1200	C Higgins	Mathematics N5	1200 – 1500	J Dove
	RMPS H	0900 – 1200	L Hind/C Timms	English AH	1300 – 1500	G Lee
	English AH	1000 – 1200	G Lee	English H	1300 – 1500	J Greenhorn
	English H	1000 – 1200	J Greenhorn	English N5	1300 – 1500	L Evans
	English N5	1000 – 1200	L Evans	Art & D N5/H	1300 – 1500	D Cifelli
	Art & D N5/H	0900 – 1230	D Cifelli	Physics H	1300 – 1500	C Blair
	Physics N5	1000 – 1200	C Blair			
Tues 9 th April	History N5	0900 – 1200	M Cochrane	History H	1230 – 1530	M Cochrane
	English AH	1000 – 1200	G Lee	English AH	1300 – 1500	G Lee
	Mathematics AH	0900 – 1200	F Seywright			
	Mathematics H	0900 – 1200	M McGee			
	Biology H	0900 – 1200	D Clark			
Wed 10 th April	Biology N5	0930 – 1200	A King	Biology N5	1230 – 1500	A King
	French H	1000 – 1200	N Heeps	Spanish H	1230 – 1430	S Sharp
	Spanish N5	1000 – 1200	S Sharp			
	Mathematics N5	0900 – 1200	F Seywright			
Thu 11 th April	Biology N5	0930 – 1200	A King	Biology N5	1230 – 1500	A King
	Modern Studies H	0900 – 1130	C Carson	Modern St N5	1200 – 1430	C Carson
				Home Ec N5	1230 – 1500	H Germon
Fri 12 th April						
Mon 15 th April	Phys Ed AH	0900 – 1200	A Haskett	Phys Ed AH	1230 – 1500	A Haskett
	Chemistry AH	0900 – 1200	J Grant	Chemistry N5	1230 – 1500	J Grant
	Mathematics N5	0900 – 1200	L Garside			
Tues 16 th April	History H	0830 – 1130	P Langan	History N5	1200 – 1500	P Langan
	Physics N5	0930 – 1200	D Dalgleish	Physics AH	1230 – 1500	D Dalgleish
	Pract Elect	0930 – 1200	D Dalgleish	Pract Elect	1230 – 1500	D Dalgleish
	Phys Ed H	0930 – 1200	A Haskett	Art & D N5/H	1230 – 1430	S Chbira
	Art & D N5/H	0900 – 1200	S Chbira	Chemistry H	1230 – 1500	J Grant
	Chemistry H	0900 – 1200	J Grant			
Wed 17 th April	Phys Ed H	1000 – 1200	P Higgins			
Thu 18 th April	Comp Science N5	1000 – 1200	S Moore			
	Comp Science H	1000 – 1230	J Fyfe			

School Uniform Policy

Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging the wearing of the school uniform. Wearing school uniform contributes to a positive school ethos and helps avoid discrimination and reduces peer pressure to wear expensive designer clothing.

- **Black tailored trousers or skirts of a suitable length**
- **White school shirt**
- **School Tie**
- **Sensible black school shoes**
- **Blue School Blazer with school badge (for years S5 & S6)**

A plain black v-neck cardigan or v-neck jumper will be acceptable over a white school shirt and school tie

Ties can be purchased from the School Office

**Jeans, joggers, leggings, jeggings, tracksuit bottoms, trainers and designer tops, caps and boots
are not appropriate school wear
(including ankle boots)**



Parent Council Facebook page— St Augustine's RC Parent Council, Edinburgh. To get updates from the Parent Council we invite you to like the page.

Free Schools Meal & Help with School Uniform

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 we do not receive all the additional funding we could.

We would encourage you all to apply if you are entitled to do so (see below). Money for free meals is put 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.

Assistance is also provided to children from low income families in the form of clothing vouchers which go towards buying school uniform. You can claim for free school meals and assistance with school wear for your children if you are receiving:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit

If you are between 16 and 18 years old and receive any of these benefits in your own right, you can claim free school lunches for yourself. If you match these conditions and do not receive any element of Working Tax Credit you can also claim school wear vouchers. The form for applying can be collected from the school office and you can send the completed form and supporting evidence by post (address on the form) or by email to: school.grants@edinburgh.gov.uk

ParentPay - our online payment service

The online payment system is now up and running in all schools in Edinburgh. We can accept payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and school ties. Using the secure website ParentPay you can pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay is our preferred method of receiving payments to school. Currently 52% of our pupils' parent/guardians have activated their ParentPay accounts and are using the system. For those who have yet to activate their account, a letter reminding you of your activation code has recently been sent. If you require any further assistance please contact the school office.

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

For more information go to: www.parentpay.com/Parents

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

School immunisation programme

Immunisation helps protect our young people and communities from a wide range of illnesses.

The NHS Lothian Community Vaccination Team carries out an annual immunisation programme, which includes:

- The HPV vaccine for girls in S1 and S2 to protect against cervical cancer (and also for any girls in S3-S6 who have not completed)
- If you receive a consent form pack please ensure you read this and discuss it at home. Please make sure the form is returned as soon as possible (within 7 days please), signed by both child and parent.