

S⁺ Augustine's RC High School



DECEMBER 2018 - NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parent/Guardian

Another term has flown by! The following pages highlight some of the exciting events and activities our young people have participated in over the course of this term. We invite you to share these great memories with your loved ones and enjoy reflecting on what has truly been an exhilarating and successful term.

Amid all of the Christmas preparations, we have kept our focus on the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of our Saviour. In Religious Education classes, pupils have been studying the Season of Advent.

Much of our success so far this session is because of the tremendous partnership of staff, pupils and parents. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to the commitment of the staff, the vast number of study support classes and array of extracurricular activities on offer is testament to their dedication in ensuring our young people reach their potential.

On behalf of the community of St Augustine's RC High School, I wish each and every one of you a Happy, Holy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Michael McGee
Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 3—Fri 14 Dec
Senior Phase Prelims

Wed 19 Dec
Christmas Celebration
6.30pm

Fri 21 Dec
Non-Uniform
End of Term

Mon 24 Dec 2018—
Mon 7 Jan 2019
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Tues 8 Jan
In-Service—staff only

Wed 9 Jan
Pupils resume

Thurs 17 Jan
Parent Council Meeting 6pm

Wed 23 Jan
S4 Parents' Evening
4—6.30pm

Thurs 31 Jan
S2 Parents' Info Eve 7pm

Thurs 7 Feb
S2 Parents' Evening
4—6.30pm

Fri 8 Feb
Non-uniform
End of Term

Mon 11—Fri 15 Feb
Mid-term holiday

Mon 18 Feb
All resume

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





Wishing you Peace and Happiness



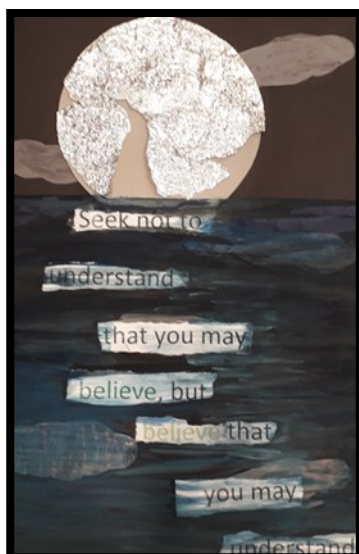
The St. Augustine's RC High School

Christmas Charity Card

Designed by S3 pupils, Maja & Siploma
December 2018

Feast Day Mass

Artwork



..... produced by S3 pupils Dawid, Oliwia,
Siploma, Tina, Assia, Jude and Mary



News from Art & Design Dept

Congratulations to S1 pupils Karolina and Maya. Their artwork was selected as a Winner of Winter Windows 2018. The girls represented St Augustine's RC High School with their 'Kindness' themed window at a celebration event at the The Spiegeltent. Their display is on show in Ratho High Street during Christmas and New Year.



S2 Art & Design students were blown away by the V & A Dundee



Despite a some wild weather S2 Art and Design students were among the first pupils in the world to visit the much anticipated opening of the V&A Dundee.





Netball

Massive well done to our two senior netball teams who played in their first Scottish Cup tournament this year. They were a credit to the school playing some brilliant netball and being outstanding sports-women throughout.

AND well done to our new Junior netball team who played in their first tournament in November. A competitive group showing some brilliant promise.



Women's Innovaton Day, RBS Gogarburn

15 of our S2 girls attended Women's Innovation Day at RBS Gogarburn. They had to come up with a way of improving household recycling and pitch their ideas to a panel of experts, teachers and pupils from other schools. All of the girls thoroughly enjoyed the day and gained a lot of confidence, team working skills and career prospects from the trip.





Geography Field Trips

The geography department have been busy with Fieldtrips this term. S5 & S6 visited Portobello Beach in the morning & Musselburgh Beach in the afternoon collecting interesting information on the coastline.



S4 spent a day in Edinburgh City Centre completing urban research, collecting geography data from The Royal Mile, Lothian Road & Princes Street.



S3 spent a day in December visiting Edinburgh's Dynamic Earth in the morning & the Natural History Museum in the afternoon.





Kori (2D2) is one of the world's leading **WADO Karate** competitors for her age. The school would like to pay tribute to the sporting year that Kori has had in 2018. Here is a list of some of her achievements this year.



- *Danish open Champion*
- *Scottish Champion*
- *Gothenburg Open Champion*
- *North East Open Champion*
- *Wado Kai all Nations Champion*
- *Irish Open Champion*
- *English Open Champion*
- *European Champion*
- *Silver—K1 Youth League, Bulgaria*
- *Gold—K1 Youth League, Venice*

Achieving Silver in the K1 Youth League in Bulgaria was fantastic, as this is one of the most important competitions - as the competitors are the best in the world. This weekend in Venice, Kori won Gold at the K1 Youth League, competing in an extremely tough category with 91 competitors—so to achieve GOLD at this level is yet another fantastic achievement. Following this result, Kori is now the leading WADO Karate competitor for her age group, in the world.

The school are extremely proud to have Kori as one of its own and we look forward to recognising more success for her and all our pupils in 2019. **Well done Kori, a monumental effort.**



Rugby Academy

A Rugby Academy has been launched at St Augustine's, in Partnership with Edinburgh Rugby, helping to grow the game and develop our young people.

The main aim of the programme is to help young people develop their social and potentially academic skills through sport and fitness. The programme has been set up with support from Edinburgh Rugby and Principal and Prosper. Edinburgh Rugby will supply coaching throughout the year to support Mr Milne in delivery. The programme will focus on developing the young people's rugby skills, health and well-being, leadership qualities and nutrition.





We would like to recognise the fantastic achievements that **Brandan (3D1)** has achieved in **WADO Karate** over the past 12 months.

Denmark Ishoj Cup - bronze
Club Championships – 1 x gold; 2 x bronze
North East Open - silver
BKF 4 Nations - Team Bronze
Sweden Gothenburg Open- Team Silver
North East Open - Silver individual 12-13 years, Bronze individual 14-15 years & Bronze in teams
Wishaw Open - Silver
Irish Open - Bronze
Central England International Open – Team Silver

As well as all of this success, Brandan, who has taken part in Karate since the age of 5, in December managed to achieve his black belt.

Well done Brandan a fantastic effort this year!



Further congratulations go to **Olivia (1D2)** for her superb athletic achievements for 2018. Here are some of her excellent results this session.

- **February 2018- silver in the under 13 girls 1500m at the Scottish Athletics National Indoor Championships**
- **April 2018- silver at the Scottish 3x800m Relay Championships**
- **August 2018- silver in the girls u13 1500m in the Forth Valley League President Select Match**
- **August 2018- bronze in the girls u13 1500m and club record at the Scottish National Track and Field Championships**
- **October 2018- silver in the mixed relay at the Scottish Athletics East District Cross Country Relay Championships**
- **November 2018- 1st place at the Scottish East District League Match**
- **December 2018- Bronze at the East District Cross Country Championships & qualifying for the National Inter Districts Championships in January 2019**



Well done Olivia, a fantastic effort in 2018



RE Department News

Celebrating Success in S4

This term saw many fourth year pupils secure an SQA accredited wider achievement award as a result of their participation in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative last year.

The Religion, Belief and Values Award helps learners to deepen their knowledge and understanding of how religion and values can shape and contribute to the lives of individuals and communities. Pupils used their experience of engaging with charities and social issues affecting our local community to consider the impact that this had on their own beliefs.

We congratulate everyone who received the award, and look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Charities Committee Formed

In recent weeks, a charities committee has been formed to organise the school's work in this field. The committee is made up of pupils from across several year groups, and new members are always very welcome to contribute to this important work.

The focus of the committee over the season of Advent is supporting the "Backpack Appeal" for Mary's Meals, a simple idea, designed to support the basic needs of children in poorer parts of the world. To further support this appeal, pupils on the charities committee are also organising bake sales which will take place in the new year.

Implementing National 5 RMPS

The RE Department are pleased to be able to offer the opportunity for pupils to study Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies at National 5 level. RMPS is currently being offered at Higher level, and we look forward to building on this success at National 5.

Marking 100 Years of State-Funded Catholic Schools

2018 marks the centenary of the landmark piece of legislation which saw Catholic schools become part of the state system, and receive the same entitlements as all other schools. Events have been taking place throughout the year to celebrate this, and we were pleased to be able to play our part at St. Augustine's, hosting an icon of "Jesus Our Teacher" for an evening celebration with colleagues from across Edinburgh's schools.

Our evening with the icon included being led by Archbishop Cushey in a celebration of Evening Prayer & Benediction. Our thanks to all who came along to support this event, including our sixth year pupils who were there to welcome guests and assist throughout the evening.



Modern Studies News

Debating Society

The Debating Society has been meeting on Monday lunchtimes to debate topical issues such as “President Trump should be impeached.” We also sent two teams to James Gillespie HS to take part in the Model United Nations Conference. This involved many schools from across Scotland.

Miguel (S6) writes “We represented the Russian Federation and Nigeria in a range of committees which included Environment and Health issues, Economic, Science and Cultural issues, Security, and Human Rights. I took on issues such as genetically modified crops, debating whether they were a biological hazard or the solution to world hunger.”

Participating in the Debating Society has helped Miguel gain experience in public speaking and thinking on his feet. This has been excellent preparation for Miguel’s application for Law at University this year.

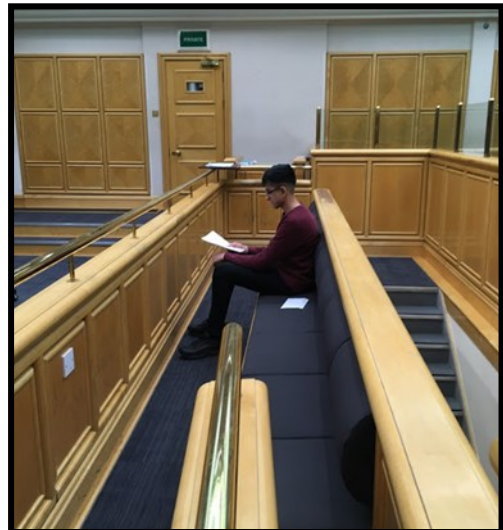


“Taking part in the 2018 Model United Nations Conference at James Gillespies High School has enhanced my understanding of international law and how states cooperate with each other by addressing political issues such as the effects of neo-colonialism. It has also developed my critical thinking and analytical skills by raising inconsistencies in arguments or challenging facts; this furthered my research and public speaking skills.”



Edinburgh Mini Trials

On Saturday the 8th of December eleven S4/5 pupils took part in the Edinburgh Mini Trials event at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. The Mini Trials, held annually from 2003 and supported by the Faculty of Advocates, involves pupils from schools across Edinburgh and are an enjoyable way to learn about the Scottish legal system. Pupils took part in the reconstructions of two criminal jury trials, assuming the roles of lawyers, court officials, witnesses and jurors. Pupils worked with a Prosecution lawyer and a Defence solicitor prior to the trial to prepare their case. Sadiyah, Maryam, Kerri, T-Jay, Brendan, Dylan, Niamh, Skye, Rhona, Harris, Sophie and Callum all did an excellent job and were a credit to the school.





Commemoration and Remembrance



poppy 
scotland





10th St Augustine's Battlefield Experience



10th St Augustine's Battlefield Experience – 24th-29th June 2018

On the 24th June 2018, the 10th St Augustine's Battalion embarked on a journey that they would never forget to the battlefields of Belgium and France. Pupils arrived in Belgium bleary eyed and unaware of how this experience would ultimately change them. The 10th Pals walked in the footsteps of soldiers, heard their personal stories, and came away with a greater sense of respect for the men who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Pupils also had the opportunity to pay their respects to two young men on our school Roll of Honour: Private James Grant who is remembered with honour on the Menin Gate and Lieutenant William Alexander McIntosh who is remembered with honour at Tyne Cot Cemetery. Overall, the experience was a humbling one and the pupils were a credit to the school and their parents.

(Mrs Cochrane)

Lessons From Auschwitz – Amy S6

My Auschwitz experience began when I attended my first seminar on Sunday 30th September. At this event I had the opportunity to listen to survivors of the Holocaust, and reflect on their words and testimony. The purpose of the seminar was not only to deepen my understanding of the Holocaust but to prepare me for my trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau the following week.

As I walked through the camp I was struck by the sheer horrors of the Holocaust. The tragedy of the suffering had a huge impact on me. Witnessing the gas chambers and the living quarters first hand are sights that I will not forget.



Following my experience I will be speaking to S2 classes as well as leading school assemblies to highlight the horrors of the Holocaust and to ensure that we never allow this to happen again.



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, helps avoid discrimination and reduces peer pressure to wear expensive designer clothing. Our uniform comprises:-

- **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 is 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, including ankle boots, are not appropriate school wear



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

