



Head Teacher's Update 15th October 2021

Dear all, please find a bumper edition of the update. After the October holiday (which starts on Monday 18th October) I will produce a fortnightly update.

Please remember that learners return to school, in uniform, ready to learn on **Tuesday 26th October from 0840.**

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1. [Senior Prize Giving 2021 Presentation](#)

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Another year of Covid restrictions has meant that we cannot have a prize giving ceremony in the traditional sense. We had an extended tutor time this week where the current seniors celebrated the achievement of last year. Please find a short video (14 mins) with all the award winners listed [here](#).

A special note of thanks to Mrs Kelly and Mrs McLean who spent a significant amount of time organising this.

Please note that all the young people have shown tremendous resilience and strength in dealing with the pandemic and challenging circumstances. I am proud to be part of such a supportive, hardworking, positive community. As we continue to work together, I know there is more success to come!

2. Vaccinations of 12-15 year olds

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The vaccination of the young people will be undertaken through the NHS and in the community, not school. The young people will be contacted by mail, please keep an eye out for this.

A wide range of information to support all aspects of the covid immunisation programme is available at www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccineyoungpeople to make sure that individuals, or those giving consent on their behalf, have enough information to enable them to make a decision before they give consent.

Vaccinations for all – please see the flier advertising that the Vaccination Bus is open to all from 10am to 6pm Monday 25th October to Sunday 24th October.



3. Equalities Input (message from Mrs Balfour)

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This is a brief BBC explainer of the Halo Code (of which St Augustine's is a member!): [Black hair code launched to tackle racial discrimination - BBC News](#)

As always feel free to email STA-Equalities@ea.edin.sch.uk if you have questions, concerns or ideas!

4. Congratulations to Isabel (Izzy) McGinley 2D2!!!

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Izzy has played Gaelic football for Dunedin Og (Dunedin Connollys underage club) since she was 9, and absolutely loves it.

She has now **played for Scotland** at an U14 Feile in Birmingham last week....! Congratulations to her and the U14 team who were runners up in the shield. What a fantastic achievement

5. Music Extracurricular Clubs 2021-22

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Music extracurricular clubs have started up again. Please see the table below for details. All pupils are welcome to join - see Miss Maxwell or Miss Murray if you would like more information.

Music Extracurricular Clubs 2021-22

Day	Club	Time	Location	Staff
Monday	Ukulele Club S1/2	Junior Lunch	Music 1	Miss Murray
Tuesday	Senior Choir S3-6	Senior Lunch	Music 2	Miss Maxwell & Miss Barry
Wednesday	Junior Wind Band S1/2	Junior Lunch	Music 1	Mrs McQue
	Senior Wind Band S3-6	Senior Lunch	Music 2	Mrs McQue
Thursday	Junior Choir S1/2	Junior Lunch	Music 2	Miss Maxwell
	Baroque Group S3-6	Senior Lunch	Music 2	Mr Ferries
Friday	Cello Group (All year groups)	Before school (8.15am)	Music 2	Ms Crichton

6. S6 (2021) Leavers' Hoodies

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Last year due to the pandemic and the cancellation of events, the Parent Council funded a leavers' hoodie for all S6 students of 2021. A huge thank you to Ms. Greenhorn for distributing these last week. If you have still to collect yours, please contact the school and leave a message for Ms Greenhorn.

7. Parent/Carer support for children who are anxious about school [Back to top](#)

Please find different supports if your child is anxious about school:

How to help if your child is anxious about school

[School Anxiety & Refusal | Parents Guide To Support | YoungMinds](#)

[Newsletter \(nhslthian.scot\)](#) managing school anxiety from the NHS

[Define Fine – Parent Peer Support for ^P_{SEP} School Attendance Difficulties: Parent Peer Support for School Attendance Difficulties](#) we support our members who are struggling with school attendance difficulties and parent carers from our wider SEND and mental health networks.

[My child is refusing to go to school - Enquire](#)

[School refusal | HandsOn \(handsonscotland.co.uk\)](#)

8. Maths Week Scotland

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Maths is all around us. We use it in our daily lives when cooking tea, playing sport or deciding whether to go for that impulse purchase. It shapes our society in our voting systems and the way we use data.

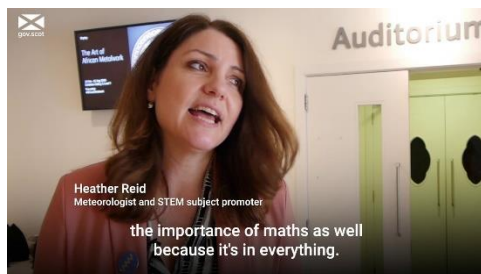
What?

Maths Week Scotland is a week of events and activity, with special events throughout 2021. Now in its fifth successful year, Maths Week Scotland will take place 27 September - 3 October 2021.

You can uncover the maths we take for granted in our lives, and see maths in a whole new light during Maths Week Scotland. Even if you haven't thought about maths since your last lesson at school, there is something for everyone.

Find our more

here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqaTc_sDmDQ&feature=youtu.be



[Maths Week Scotland 2019 Launch](#)

and share it all with friends, family, and the world on YouTube.

www.youtube.com

Why?

In 2016 the Making Maths Count advisory group made recommendations in their [report](#) to transform Scotland into a maths-positive nation through raising the profile of maths, and encouraging enthusiasm for maths across Scotland. One of these recommendations was to establish an annual week of maths celebration to bring together events across the country with online and hands-on experiences

The Maths department undertook a number of activities that week to promote and celebrate Maths. Other subjects will also highlight the importance of Maths within their curricular area using the phrase **"Numeracy Counts"**. We will promote any successful lessons which show **Numeracy Counts** on our maths Twitter account: @stahsmaths (give us a follow too!)

9. [Equalities Update for September \(message from Mrs Evans\)](#) [Back to top](#)

Incidents

7 racist incidents reported and dealt with

1 homophobic incident reported and dealt with

Please continue to report any incidents to any member of staff or use our email: sta-equalities@ea.edin.sch.uk

Intercultural Youth Scotland

Rianna Andrews and Omowale Koukpaki from IYS are in school weekly.

Omo every Monday and Wednesday. Rianna every Thursday.

Rianna is working on anti racist education and student/staff support.

Omo working to support Developing the Young Workforce and 16+ students.

In-House Training

Videos sent and staff drop ins have been held on:

1. What is Anti Racism?
2. 6 Ways to be an Anti Racist Educator
3. Bonnets and Durags – an introduction. Created by an S6 student, Peace Oriabure

School Improvement Group

Staff school improvement group has been set up and tasks agreed to move Equalities work forward.

Events

Black History Month (October) was introduced to students during tutor time and suggestions for teaching resources shared with staff. Rianna (IYS) will be helping the anti-racist lunchtime club organise events in school too.

Events

Debora Kayembe Virtual Q and A – 14th October: 9-12

The wonderful Debora Kayembe virtually visited our school yesterday! Debora is the first Black woman to be appointed Rector of Edinburgh University. She is also a human rights lawyer and activist, refugee, and survivor of racism. We are so lucky that she has agreed to work with us. She shared her inspirational story with our students and took questions from them. The students were a credit to the school - they listened intently and asked some great questions.

Show Racism the Red Card – Wear Red Day on 15th October

Pupils

Committee meeting to held and an agenda agreed to take forward.

10.S5/6 Parent/Carer Consultation

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Please note that the S5/6 Parent/Carer Consultation will be on **Tuesday 9th November 2021** between 4 and 7pm. This will be completed using telephone. More details will be sent directly to parents/carers closer to the event.

11.Learning for Sustainability S2 – 7 Cities Hydrogen Challenge

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On the 5th October, we welcomed a team from Arcola Energy who ran 3 'Design, Build, Race' workshops with 53 of our S2 pupils. Pupils learned about sustainable energy and were challenged to construct the most energy efficient model vehicle from LEGO components and a hydrogen fuel cell powered electric motor.

All pupils participated enthusiastically, and the winning teams were:

Workshop 1 - Gleannah San Diego and Moria Veenboer

Workshop 2 - Jakub Bielnik, Christopher Barclay and Jakub Parylak

Workshop 3 - Imogen McDonald, Nicola Brandenburg and Hend Alaswad

The winning teams attended the Edinburgh final at the Assembly Rooms on Friday 8th October with Mr Blair.

I'm delighted to say that one of our teams came in third place! A huge congratulations to **Jakub Parylak, Jakub Bielnik and Christopher Barclay**.



As prize winners, they have won a very expensive Lego Technic RC set and will go on to compete in the Scottish Finals to be held in Glasgow. Well done!

12.Attendance

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Attendance is critical to a young person's attainment and achievement at school. Please contact us if you wish support to encourage your child to attend school.

The following table shows the real impact a decrease in attendance means.

%		SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	OUTLOOK FOR YOUR CHILD
100%	Excellent	0 Days	Gives your child the best chance of success
95%	Good	9 days (1 week and 4 days)	
90%	Below average	19 days (4 weeks and 4 days)	Starts to become harder for your child to progress
85%	Unsatisfactory	27 days (5 weeks and 3 days)	<u>SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS</u> Harder to make and maintain friendships Becomes difficult to catch up with work A child with below 85% attendance can be referred to the Education Welfare Service
80%		36 days (7 weeks and 3 days) * <u>HALF A TERM MISSED</u> *	
70%	Unacceptable	57 days (11 weeks and 2 days) * <u>1 WHOLE TERM MISSED</u> *	<u>VERY SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS</u> Extremely difficult to catch up with work. Increased risk of social isolation Child unlikely to have a positive view of education Becomes harder to succeed in mainstream education; unlikely to gain qualifications, resulting in a difficult transition to positive destination (employment, further education) Extremely likely to impact on confidence, self-esteem and mental health Risk of legal action against parent/carers which may result in prosecution

If we can improve our attendance by 1% then we will see over 5% improvement in attainment.

One school year at 90% attendance is 4 whole weeks of work missed!

Five school years at 90% attendance is ½ a school year missed!

Please find the table above translated into Polish for convenience:

%		OPUSZCZONE DNI NAUKI	PERSPEKTYWY DLA WASZEGO DZIECKA
100%	Doskonała	0 dni	Daje Waszemu dziecku największą szansę sukcesu
95%	Dobra	9 dni (1 tydzień i 4 dni)	
90%	Poniżej przeciętnej	19 dni (4 tygodnie i 4 dni)	Waszemu dziecku zaczyna być trudno robić postępy
85%	Niedostateczna	27 dni (5 tygodni i 3 dni)	<p><u>POWAŻNE KONSEKWENCJE</u> Trudniej nawiązywać i utrzymywać przyjaźnie</p> <p>Trudno nadrobić zaległości w nauce</p> <p>Dziecko z frekwencją poniżej 85% może zostać skierowane do Wydziału opieki edukacyjnej (ang. Education Welfare Service)</p>
80%		36 dni (7 tygodni i 3 dni) *OPUSZCZONE PÓŁ SEMESTRU*	
70%	Niedopuszczalna	57 dni (11 tygodni i 2 dni) *<u>OPUSZCZONY CAŁY 1 SEMESTR</u>*	<p><u>BARDZO POWAŻNE KONSEKWENCJE</u> Wyjątkowo trudno nadrobić zaległości w nauce. Zwiększone ryzyko izolacji społecznej Jest mało prawdopodobne, że dziecko będzie miało pozytywny obraz edukacji</p> <p>Dziecku coraz trudniej radzić sobie w szkole powszechnej; mało prawdopodobne jest, że uzyska kwalifikacje, co spowoduje, że trudno będzie przejść do pozytywnego miejsca docelowego (zatrudnienia, dalszej edukacji)</p> <p>Jest wysoce prawdopodobne, że będzie to miało wpływ na pewność siebie, samoocenę i zdrowie psychiczne</p> <p>Pojawia się ryzyko podjęcia działań prawnych przeciwko rodzicom/opiekunom, co może doprowadzić do wniesienia oskarżenia</p>

13. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

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Please find a letter [here](#) from the Acting Chief Education Officer explaining the changes in the school calendar. These changes are:

Monday 23rd May is no longer a bank holiday and learners WILL be in school.

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June are now holidays and learners WILL NOT be in school.

14. School of Rugby Update

Our boys were playing Leith Academy in a friendly on Wednesday 13th October. Many of them have not played since lockdown but were keen to get out and play a competitive game. For some, it was their first game, of hopefully many.

The boys took a while to wake up but managed to get into the swing of things. Lots of teamwork while passing the ball wide saw them break Leith down.

Other players such as Antoni, Blue, Makus, Mikey and Joseph took more direct routes through the Leith players.

There will be some tired bodies this week as it was a physical game, however, the score line does not reflect that. The end score, St Augustine's 75 (15 tries) Leith Academy 15 (3 tries).

Well done, fantastic effort!

The girls were playing against Leith Academy in a friendly on Thursday 14th October. The game was organised to develop skills and their confidence in the tackle area.

Our girls played well and showed great tenacity. They played a much physically bigger side who played some very traditional rugby. Our girls showed perseverance and tackled in twos for the majority of the game.

They lost two late tries which saw them draw 45 (9 tries) each. Lots of great individual performances from: Blessing, Alecia, Charlotte, Brooke, and Chelsea.



Congratulations! Well done for persevering, a credit to our community!

15. Children's Physiotherapy Helpline

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Please find a flier [here](#), advertising a new helpline to support questions about motor skills and mobility of children.

16. Catering Menus

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(message from Chris Ross, Catering Manager)

“Due to current national supply chain issues, we may need to change our menus at short notice as we adapt to the changing situation. As you may be aware from the national media there is currently a shortage of HGV drivers, this in some cases may result in product substitutions.

We are working closely with our catering suppliers to mitigate disruption and our catering teams are working to adapt menus at a local level based on product availability. Pupils with special diets will continue to be catered for, however menus may differ from that on ParentPay.

In addition, COVID is having an impact within our catering team resources, in some isolated cases we are having to deliver a packed lunch service offering, our teams are working incredibly hard to provide the best service possible during unprecedented times, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause”.

17. Extra-Curricular Activities

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(message from Mrs Damen, Active Sports Co-ordinator)

“Just to say we have had a great start to finally having after school sports clubs! With 230 pupils signed up (121 being female) online already 😊

Monday we had girls swimming taken by our swim clubs Hearts and Warrender, Junior Netball with Emma and Dance taken by our senior dance ambassadors: Lauren and Katy (they were brilliant!) Every club was busy and was great to see the pupils buzzing as they went home after their activities.

Tuesday we had basketball, volleyball and junior Football with Alex and Paul. Really great to see after so long a break. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this possible!!!”



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2021-2022

MONDAY			
Junior Netball (S1-S3)	3.35 - 4.30pm	Miss Cox	Games Hall
Dance (S1-S3)	3.35 - 4.15pm	Mrs Damen	Gym
Girls' Swimming	3.35 - 4.30pm	Mrs Damen	Swimming Pool
TUESDAY			
Recreational Basketball (S4-S6)	3.30 - 4.30	Mrs Haskett	Games Hall
Recreational Volleyball (S4-S6)	3.30 - 4.30	Mrs Haskett	Gym
Football (S1 - S3)	3.30 - 4.30	Mr Higgins	3G Astro Pitch
WEDNESDAY			
Senior Netball (S4 - S6)	3.35 - 4.45pm	Miss Cox	Games Hall
Water Polo (P6-S6)	4 - 4.45pm	Stingrays Club	Swimming Pool
Club Water Polo (P6-S6)	4.45 - 5.45pm	Stingrays Club	Swimming Pool
Rugby (S1-3)	3.30-4.30pm	Mr Milne	PE then Grass Pitch
THURSDAY			
Boys' Swimming	3.30 - 4.30pm	Mrs Damen	Swimming Pool
Junior Basketball (S1 - S3)	3.30 - 4.30pm	Mr Murray	Games Hall



Keep up-to-date with extra-curricular clubs on the school website or the PE

department twitter page: [@stahssport](https://twitter.com/stahssport)

Applications should be returned by e-mail to SportsAcademy@edinburgh.gov.uk by **Friday 22/10/21**. The date of the new trial is **29th October 2021**.



**EDINBURGH SCHOOLS
SPORTS ACADEMY**

The City of Edinburgh Schools Sports Academy is a training and support programme designed to assist pupils to reach their sporting potential.

The **Hockey Academy** will take place at the University of Edinburgh Peffermill Hockey, an elite environment accessible to players from all across Edinburgh, where some of Scotland's top athletes train and compete.

**EDINBURGH SCHOOLS
SPORTS ACADEMY**

HOCKEY TRIALS

AGE GROUP: S1, S2, S3

VENUE: University of Edinburgh Peffermill
Hockey Playing Fields
Peffermill Road
Edinburgh
EH16 5LL

DATE: ~~FRIDAY 22/10/21~~

TIME: 3.00 - 4.30pm



Scan the QR code to download your application form:



CONTACT
sportsacademy@edinburgh.gov.uk



A moment of reflection

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"God provides the wind, man must raise the sail."

-St Augustine

Have a great break and we look forward to seeing the young people back in school, rested and ready for learning!