



# Academy News



Dear Parents and Carers,

December is always a busy month in the life of a school, and this has certainly proved to be the case at Eastbank this year. The nine weeks since the October holiday have been incredibly eventful.

As is tradition, we held our annual talent show for Children in Need on 16 November. Once again, this was a very entertaining event with a wonderful array of talent on display. Also, in November, I was delighted to join a group of our S4 pupils as they were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze certificates. This was a well-deserved recognition of their achievements and I am delighted that many of them will be working towards their Silver awards this year.

As we approach Christmas, a number of festive-related events have taken place. To promote kindness, one of our school values, we have encouraged young people to donate to the foodbank appeal to support those less fortunate than ourselves. This culminated in our Christmas Jumper day last Friday when people made payment by way of a foodbank donation for the privilege of wearing a festive accessory to their school uniform. In addition, our senior photography pupils have once again designed the official school Christmas card, and some of our young people have visited local care homes to deliver cards and entertain the residents. And of course, no December at Eastbank is complete without our annual Christmas Concert which took place earlier this week. Once again, this was a truly inspiring and humbling event. I am so grateful to have such talented and wonderful young people, and such supportive and dedicated staff, at our school.

No words from the Head Teacher are complete without a nod to academic matters. Senior Phase Prelim exams took place at the start of this month, and as always, our young people conducted themselves impeccably, and displayed an enormous level of ambition. I trust the results will be pleasing and helpful for planning future progress. During this second term, all young people should have received their second tracking report, and a third will follow for all year groups between the New Year and the Easter holiday.

I trust this newsletter will be an interesting, and dare I say uplifting, read and will give you more insight into life at our school. My sincere thanks to all parents, carers, and families for your support this term and throughout 2023. I trust everyone will have a wonderful Christmas holiday, and wish you all the very best for 2024.

Best wishes,  
Jonathan Graham

## School Term Key

### Dates

#### **December:**

*Schools close at 2.30pm on  
Friday 22 December*

*Monday 25 December-  
Friday 5 January 2024  
(Christmas holidays)*

#### **January 2024:**

*Schools return on Monday  
8 January 2024*

#### **February mid-term break:**

*Monday 12*

*Tuesday 13*

*Wednesday 14 (in-service)*



## Book Launch

We've had such a busy time in the library since Autumn. In October, S1s Lois Cameron, Leah Kelly, Muskan Kosla and Lois Moir all took part in the White Water Writers programme to write and publish their own book within one week! As the picture shows, the girls were successful in this mammoth task, and their book, "The Camp of Mystery" is available to buy on Amazon now. What a great achievement for these pupils, becoming published authors in their first year of secondary school.

[Click here](#) to order your copy.



## Prince's Trust Achieve

S3 and S4 Prince's Trust Achieve Clubs (and some friends) attended Treasure Island Christmas Panto at the Pavilion Theatre. It was a great laugh, especially when Mr Mackay was singled out for not taking part and was made to perform in front of the whole audience! Eastbank Academy also got a shout-out at the end of the show!



## Food Bank Donations

Thank you for all the donations for the Foodbank! The donations have been collected and I'm delighted to say filled most of the van!

The volunteers were delighted with the collection and asked to pass on their gratitude to the staff, pupils and parents.



## CMS Law

CMS Law are once again working with S3 Modern Studies pupils this session. Miss Wright's class have taken part in their first session with the law firm and took part in lots of discussion and activities regarding the law in Scotland and the rights that young people have. CMS were so impressed with this group and described them as "the best S3 group they have worked with".

AMAZING!

### Careers Fayre

We held our Careers Fayre on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Over 20 employees, universities and colleges attended and all pupils were given the opportunity to attend. A fantastic turnout of S2, S4, S5 and S6 pupils on the evening with S1 and S3 pupils attending during the school day. Lots of great discussions about future career paths ahead of the subject choice process. Thanks to all who attended!



### Christmas Cards

The senior photography class have once again very carefully and lovingly created our very own official Eastbank Academy Christmas Cards. These have been sent to people such as the Directorate, our Councillors as well as our partner schools. The cards look great and the personal touch is fantastic. Well done to all.



### S3 EY Foundation Trip

30 of our S3 pupils attended a trip to the EY Foundation in Glasgow. They spent the day networking and working alongside members of the Civil Service, gaining an insight into the career opportunities in this field. After a number of group workshops, the pupils created a TikTok to encourage young people to join the Civil Service. Well Done to Harvey, Haiden and James who won the prize of 'Most Convincing TikTok'!



### Staff v Pupils

November saw the annual Staff v Students Volleyball match for Show Racism the Red Card, organised by our Prince's Trust Achieve Clubs. £450 was raised for this good cause by selling tickets to the match, accessorise your uniform and merch sales.



## Remembrance Day

Carrying on a long-held tradition we held three Remembrance Assemblies on the 10<sup>th</sup> November for S1, S2, and S3. This year was rather special as we included a fabulous display (thanks to Miss Scobie and her Art classes) for former pupil Thomas Haggerty's service medal. Sadly, Thomas was killed in the Gulf War. We are planning to officially unveil the memorial display as part of our Remembrance programme in 2024.



## Library News

Our S1 Reading Leaders (Amber and Autumn-Bailey shown in the photo) were really helpful in getting the free "Adventure" book available for anyone to pick up in the library.

Coming up to Christmas, the Reading Leaders also helped recycle damaged books into paperchains to decorate our space. They decorated and created great displays for our Christmas books, which have proved really popular in the run up to Christmas. Our book borrowing numbers are still very good, and it's great to see Eastbank Academy aiming for an upgrade in the Reading Schools programme for 2024.



## Care Home Visit

A group of Advanced Higher pupils visited our local care home with handmade gifts which were very much appreciated. They performed some music and dancing and Lewis Gore from S1 performed two solo songs. It was a very worthwhile event and was enjoyed by all.



### Gym Fest

Our S3 girls recently competed in Gym fest. They performed amazingly and were an honour to our school. Well done girls!



### Poppy Scotland

Eastbank Academy proudly supported Poppy Scotland with a variety of activities across the school. Our hospitality class made some treats to enjoy at the remembrance lunch to raise funds for the cause.



### Prince's Trust Achieve Club

S4 Prince's Trust Achieve Club had a rewarding, if wet, autumn morning working on team building, communication, and resilience skills through bushcraft activities at Pinkston Watersports Centre.

The team pulled all their skills together and assembled a sea-worthy raft. Only the boys were brave enough to sail it or were the girls sensible enough not to get soaked through!?!? Either way everyone had a great time.



## S2 Values Ambassadors

Our S2 Values Ambassadors programme continued with "Responsibility". A group of our Ambassadors conducted a litter-pick after lunch on the streets surrounding the school followed by a Heritage Walk, taking in some interesting local history. They also visited Shettleston New Parish church and were treated to a tour where they found out all about its history, listed status and wonderful features. The young people involved have achieved a Heritage Hero Award from Archaeology Scotland for this part of the programme.



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Holly Bates in S6 who was accepted into The Ruskin School of Acting in California and has been attending online classes and solo tuition weekly since September. She has also gotten herself an acting agent who has organised auditions and headshots as well as supporting Holly in a successful acting stint with the BBC. Get your autographs off her while you still can! The Drama department are so proud of your success and good luck with your Royal Conservatoire audition in January!



# CONGRATULATIONS

## Netball Team

Our S3/4 netball team have been performing exceptionally well in the NB league. They won against St Andrews and have been displaying the school values of respect and ambition to succeed in the league. Well done team!



# FANTASTIC!

## Duke of Edinburgh

Eastbank Academy collected their bronze awards at the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to all pupils involved. An amazing achievement from Morgan McNelis for receiving the volunteer of the year award, accumulating over 170 hours of volunteer work. Keep up the great work!



# AMAZING!

## Barclays Lifeskills 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Well done to Nikita for representing Scotland at the Barclays LifeSkills 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parliamentary Reception at the House of Commons. We are all very proud of you Nikita!



## Talent Show

We hosted our annual talent show to raise money for Children in Need. It was wonderful to see so many of our young people letting their light shine. Congratulations to all our winners!



## Prince's Trust Final

Congratulations to the S3 Enterprise finalists; Carra Young, Abby Pratt, Josh Hutchison, Aiden Anderson and Ethan Huang! The team came third in the National Enterprise Challenge with the Prince's Trust. The team got down to the final 4 schools and scored the highest number of points in Scotland for the online challenge! They then pitched their business plan in front of more than 50 students and staff at the Prince's Trust Wolfson Centre. They received high praise from the judges and received a certificate of achievement for their excellent efforts!



## Festive Cakes

A big thank you to pupils for delivering cakes to the local police officers at Shettleston. Cakes were provided to thank officers for their hard work through the festive period.



## Christmas Jumper Day

We held our annual Christmas jumper day on Friday 15 December with pupils and staff bringing in donations towards our local foodbank. Thank you to everyone who donated items.

Christmas Jumper Day  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Donation: Foodbank



## SFX Makeup

Thanks Mrs More for teaching our lovely S3 pupils about SFX makeup. They loved the session and were so proud of their 'wounds'.

VERY  
COOL





## Christmas Concert

We hosted another amazing night at the Eastbank Academy Christmas Concert. There were some outstanding performances and great entertainment. Well done to all staff and pupils involved and thank you to Mrs Bradley for organising!



## McAuley Cup

The McAuley Cup is an inter-house sporting event which began last year to mark the retirement of Karen McAuley. Congratulations to Livingston house who won the cup!



## S1 Christmas Dance

S1 pupils had their annual Christmas dance on Thursday 21 December which included some ceilidh dancing. A fun time was had by all!

