



# Academy News



Dear Parents and Carers,

The 13 weeks of the third term of this session have been busy, intense, emotional, and very important.

Regrettably we began the term in incredibly difficult circumstances after losing a member of staff on January 7<sup>th</sup>. This was an extremely tough time for the school community and we are still feeling our loss. You can read a bit more about Melissa further on in this Newsletter.

Also in January, we had a week long inspection, the first time Eastbank has experienced this for 14 years. This was an incredibly challenging week but the outcome was positive and a great recognition of the work we are doing, as well as helping plan our priorities for the years ahead. Again, you can read more about this on the following pages.

For senior phase pupils, the term from January to March is always intense and is focused on completing courses, assessments and second prelims. While this can be a struggle and strain, it is all important work and goes a long way to securing young people's qualifications, which have a huge bearing on their futures. As we move into the Easter holiday we are supplementing our supported study classes with Easter revision sessions. I am sure that these will be well attended and will be a great help in supporting our students' revision. I wish everyone great success with the upcoming exams.

As I mentioned in the Christmas Newsletter, we have returned to in-person parents' nights, and since the turn of 2023 we have met with the parents/carers of pupils in S3, S4, S5 and S6. It has been great to meet so many parents face-to-face and I'm delighted that we can welcome you back into the building.

It's hard to believe that we are already three-quarters of the way through the session. When we return in April there will be precisely 10 weeks until the Summer holiday, and then another school year is over.

I thank you all for your support during this very demanding term. I wish everyone a splendid holiday, and look forward to a smoother and perhaps more enjoyable summer term from April – June!

With best wishes,  
Jonathan Graham

## School Term Key Dates

### **April 2023:**

Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday  
31 March

Monday 3 April – Friday 14 April  
(Spring Break)

Schools return on Monday 17  
April

### **May 2023:**

Monday 1 May  
(May holiday)

Monday 8 May  
(Coronation Public Holiday)

Thursday 25 May  
(In-service day)

Friday 26 May and Monday 29  
May  
(May Weekend)

### **June 2023:**

Schools close at 1.00pm on Friday  
23 June



## Positive HMI Inspection Report

As everyone is aware, Eastbank Academy received a visit from His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education in January of this year. As expected, the week was incredibly intense, with a team of around 15 inspectors scrutinising the work of the school. The inspection team undertook a range of activities in order to understand what we do, how we do it, and the impact of our efforts. These activities included visiting lessons, interviews and focus groups with teachers, support staff, and partners, pupil focus groups, analysing surveys and examining documents. The inspection team left no stone unturned in order to obtain a full and realistic picture.

HMI published their report this week. The report and the Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) are detailed and comprehensive, assessing all areas of our school. These, as well as other supporting documents, can be found [here](#).

We are delighted to share the **very positive** picture that the report paints. In addition to highlighting strengths in school leadership, learning and teaching, and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion, the report also commended the impact of our school values, the ethos and environment, relationships, and the way our curriculum supports transitions to positive and sustained destinations. In addition, the report recognises the recent improvements we have made in relation to attainment, and the strategies we have in place to ensure further improvements. As standard, the report makes recommendations for future improvements, all of which had been previously identified by Eastbank staff.

Moving forward, we will continue to build on our strengths and address areas for improvement identified in the report. We are committed to providing the best possible education for our students and ensuring that they have every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and would like to thank our students, staff, and parents for their continued support and hard work. This report is a magnificent outcome for our school and is testament to the collaborative effort of our entire school community.

Well done Eastbank – Splendat Lux!



## Melissa Hutchison

We were all very saddened to hear of the passing of our friend and colleague, Melissa Hutchison, on 7<sup>th</sup> January this year. Melissa had been a member of staff at Eastbank for four years, having joined our office team in January 2019. She was held in high esteem by everyone; we admired her work, and were very fond of her personally. In addition, Melissa was an MCR mentor for one our pupils, and was considering a career change in the near future, to allow her to work directly with young people.

As well as being 'Celtic daft', Melissa was very family oriented, and leaves behind an extended family who will miss her warm, caring presence, and her involvement in their lives.

Eastbank Academy has planted a memorial plaque and rose bush in our school garden which we dedicated to Melissa at a short event on 17<sup>th</sup> March. We were honoured to be joined by many members of Melissa's extended family, and were delighted that former Celtic player Mark Wilson came along and unveiled her plaque. While we will miss Melissa, we look forward to being able to remember her as we sit in our garden and reflect on happy memories of her, and be grateful for having known her.

Rest in peace Melissa.



## Supernova Kelpies 5K Night Run

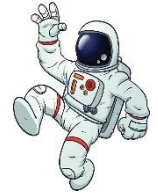
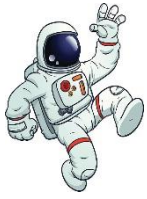
Some of the Eastbank Academy staff ran the Supernova Kelpies 5K in order to raise funds for Sepsis Research FEAT in memory of our friend and colleague Melissa Hutchison who sadly lost her life to Sepsis on the 7th January 2023. They hope the money raised will aid vital research into the symptoms of Sepsis and will help to save the lives of others by funding new treatments.

If you would like to contribute towards this good cause then please scan the barcode below to access their JustGiving page. Thank you.



### S3 visit to the Science Centre

Some of our S3 pupils visited the Science Centre and were able to meet a visiting astronaut from the USA. The pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school.



### Science Club

S1 pupils have been really enjoying Science Club! They have been busy making their own volcano then deciding which ingredients would give the best eruption!



### Police Scotland

MCR Pathways and Prince's Trust Scotland Achieve Club had a great day with Police Scotland learning lots about some of the exciting and varied roles they do.



### Scottish Schools Cross Country

Jack G, 1T1, represented Eastbank Academy at the Scottish Schools Cross Country last week. Jack was 29th/188 in the Under 14 boys' event. He ran the 3KM course in a time of 12:23. (1<sup>st</sup> was 10:47). He was the highest placed pupil from a GCC school.



### Taekwondo Scottish Cup

#### Winners

We are proud of our S3 Eastbank stars! Caiden McMullen won Silver in Sparring, Jack O'Donnell won Gold in Sparring and Bronze in pattern and Max Crawford won Gold in Sparring and Gold in Pattern!



### Giant Heptathlon

S1 and S2 pupils competed in the Giant Heptathlon at the Emirates Arena on Wednesday 16th March. All pupils competed excellently, and a special mention goes out to Harvey Meikleham who won 2 medals overall. 1st place in the Javelin and 2nd place in the 60m sprint. Well done to everyone who took part!



*Well done!*

### Partnership with FARE

More of our young people have achieved certificates and accredited qualifications at Eastbank Academy through the partnership with FARE. Well done everyone!



## Senior Phase College

S5 and S6 pupils can choose to do a Senior Phase college course as one of their subject options next session instead of a school-based subject.

Online applications will open on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and any (current) S4 and S5 pupil should see Mrs Donald, if they haven't already done so, to discuss the application process.

Foundation Apprenticeship applications are open now and interested pupils can apply now via this link: <https://www.fapglasgow.scot/>

Pupils should ensure they have spoken to both Pastoral Care and Mrs Donald before applying.



## Parent Council

The Parent Council is actively seeking new members!

We're keen to expand our Parent Council and would welcome any interested parents or carers at our AGM on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm.

As a Parent Council, we play an important role in helping parents and carers to become more involved in the life of the school and in their children's school experience.

We've got a great school and we want to build on that and have a thriving Parent Council representing parents and carer's interests and feeding back your views.

Have you got an hour or so to spare every couple of months?

If so, and you'd like to become involved in encouraging links with school, come along to a meeting and give it a go! Meetings are informal and friendly and it's a great opportunity to work in co-operation with school and meet other parents and carers over a cup of tea or coffee!

Look forward to welcoming you on 15<sup>th</sup> May!

## Reach Access Programme

A group of S4 pupils set out on their Reach and Access programme, looking at pathways to studying Medicine, Law, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Primary Teaching Engineering and Accountancy & Finance! This is the start of a 3-year programme for pupils covering S4, S5 and S6 via University of Glasgow Widening Participation Programme. Completion of this programme can lead to reduced entry grades into the subject choices of our pupils.



## International Women's Day Event

20 S4 pupils attended an International Women's Day event at CMS Law as part of an initiative to get more women into law. The girls listened to inspirational women, workshops and began networking for future!



### **CMS Law**

CMS Law have been working with S3 Modern Studies pupils to develop their skills and understanding with how the law works. They took part in workshops with working lawyers and completed tasks to understand how different laws can impact them.



### **Visit from local MSP**

S4 Modern Studies and Higher Politics pupils received a visit from local MSP John Mason. They quizzed him on all things from the SNP leadership debate to Brexit, to his plans to make Shettleston a cleaner place.



### **S4 Childcare**

The S4 Childcare classes were involved in visits to Kirktonholme Nursery on Wellshot Road over the last couple of weeks with Clyde College Lecturer Teresa. This gave them an insight into activities taking place in the Nursery and an overview of the careers available within Early Learning & Childcare.



### **S3 EY Foundation Employability Workshops**

S3 pupils attended Employability Workshops with EY Foundation and LNER on 16 March. This event included a Careers Carousel and Team Challenge – Design the mobile phone of the future. Our pupils pictured placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of over 12 schools in the Team Challenge. Well done S3!!



### **Staff Vs Pupils Football**

We held our Staff Vs Pupils football match on Thursday 30 March. Tickets were priced at £1 with the money raised going towards The Jodie and Taylor Muir Foundation and Sepsis. The final score was 2-1 to the pupils. An amazing effort from everyone!

