



# Academy News



Dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that session 23/24 is nine weeks old, but here we are at the October holiday with the first term already under our belt. As always, it's been a busy and lively term 1 at Eastbank Academy.

As you are aware we began the session in difficult circumstances, with the loss of a much loved, admired, and respected teacher, Miss Rachel Phillips. We continue to keep Miss Phillips and her family and friends in our thoughts in what is still a difficult time.

Over the past nine weeks our first years have settled well and are now very much part of the Eastbank community. It has been great to get to know all the new faces since August, and I was delighted to meet many new parents at our S1 parents' evening on Wednesday. I'm looking forward to building on this valuable partnership in the years ahead.

Our SQA exam results were fantastic once again this year, and I thoroughly enjoyed congratulating our senior pupils on their achievements at our award ceremony last month. I was particularly delighted to welcome our Director of Education, Douglas Hutchison, and our new Head of Service, Jean Miller, to Eastbank for the occasion. You can read more about the results and the award ceremony in the pages ahead.

I trust you will find this edition of Academy News a pleasant and informative read, and that it will give you a flavour of the 'goings-on' in our school. I thank everyone for your support so far this session, and wish you all a pleasant and relaxing October holiday.

Best wishes,  
Jonathan Graham

## School Term Key Dates

### **October**

Friday 13 October  
*(In-Service Day)*  
Monday 16 – Friday 20 October  
*(October Week)*

### **December**

Schools close at 2.30pm  
on Friday 22 December  
  
Monday 25 December – Friday 5  
January 2024  
*(Christmas Holidays)*



## **iPads**

Please remember to bring your fully charged iPad to school.



## DRESSING FOR AMBITION – SCHOOL UNIFORM

Overall, the standard of school uniform being worn by pupils is very good indeed, and we are delighted to see so many of our young people dressing sharply, upholding high standards, and dressing for ambition. As we approach winter and the cold weather begins, it is understandable that young people will want to dress appropriately to keep warm. When buying items of clothing for school, please help us to uphold high standards by keeping to our dress code. We are very grateful to all parents, carers and pupils for supporting this.

### ACCEPTABLE UNIFORM

At Eastbank Academy we pride ourselves on promoting equality through our school uniform. We have a simple set of expectations for our uniform which consists of:

- Black blazer
- School tie
- White shirt
- Black skirt/trousers
- Plain black jumper or cardigan
- **School** hoodie or zipper (must have school badge)
- Black shoes

Outdoor coats or jackets should also be black and should not be worn in the school building or in class. The school blazer is optional and is strongly encouraged, and is necessary when young people represent the school. The blazer is plain black with the school badge on the breast pocket. Sixth year pupils are entitled to wear a blazer with a gold braid to signify their status as senior students.



### UNACCEPTABLE UNIFORM

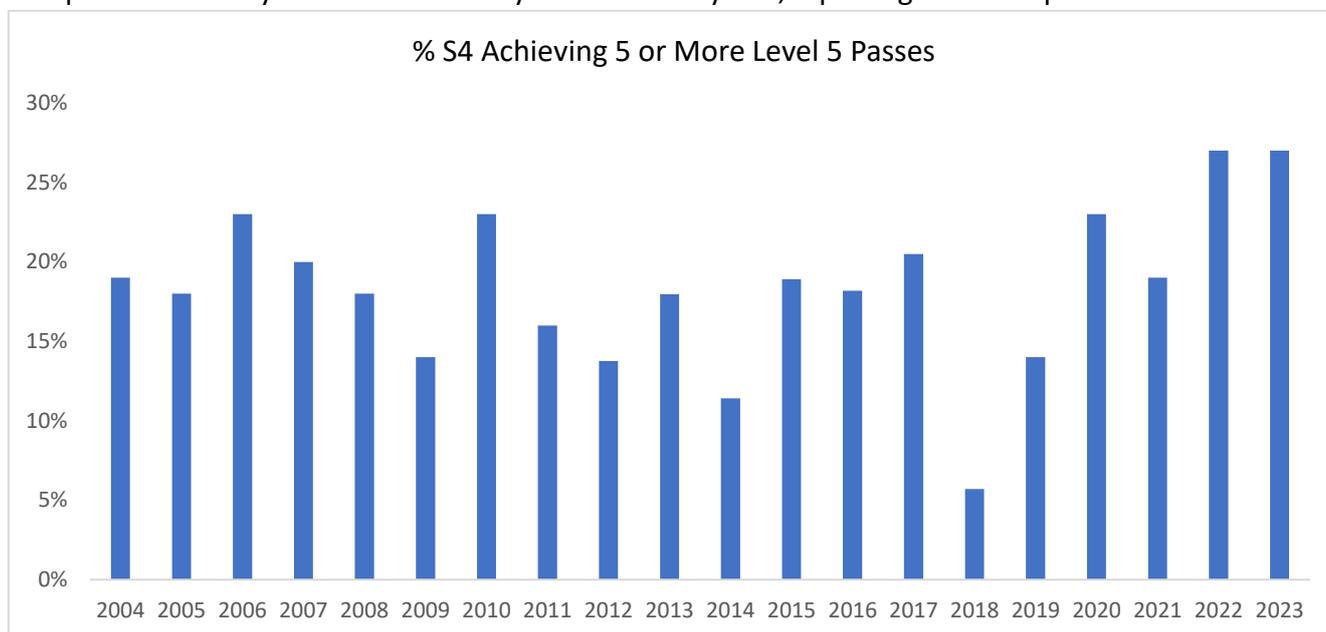
The following items of clothing are not part of the Eastbank uniform and you should not wear them to school. The images to the left are to give examples of unacceptable items, and neither these, nor the list below, are exhaustive. Items which should not be worn to school include:

- Any clothing not in school colours;
- Jumpers with name of manufacturer displayed prominently;
- Jumpers displaying large logos;
- Hooded tops without school badge;
- Jeans, especially ripped jeans;
- Leggings;
- Tracksuit trousers or tops

These are fashion items that are not appropriate for school or work and are usually considerably more expensive than the standard.

## **AMBITION: OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS IN 2023!**

Once again, we were absolutely delighted with the performance of our S4, S5, and S6 pupils in their 2023 SQA exams. There were a number of record-breaking performances, and some superb sets of individual results. Our S4 pupils achieved excellent results at National 3, National 4, and National 5 level. An amazing 27% of our S4 pupils achieved five or more passes at National 5, which is the joint-best performance by Eastbank Academy in at least 20 years, equalling the 2022 pass-rate.

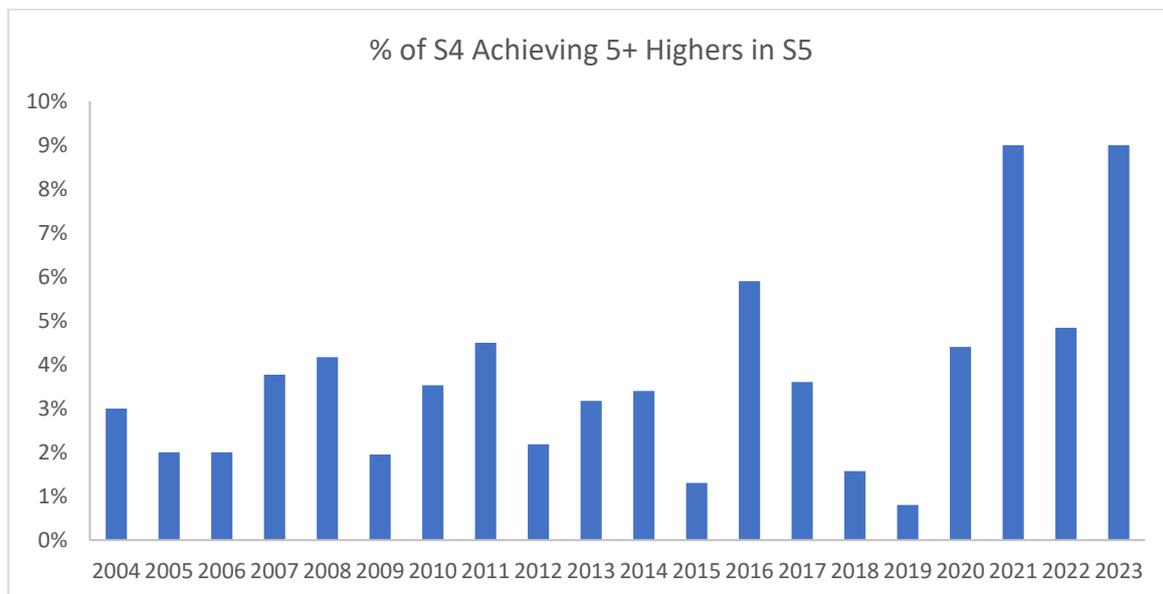


Our rising school roll means that we are also seeing even greater **numbers** of pupils passing. For example, in 2019 we had 131 pupils in S4, 19 of whom achieved 5 or more passes at National 5 (14%). In 2023 we had 195 pupils in S4, 52 of whom achieved 5 or more passes at National 5 (27%). In addition, the number and percentage of pupils achieving 1+ and 3+ National 5 passes has increased, and we are also seeing pupils achieving better quality qualifications, with more now achieving passes at grade A or B. At National 3 and National 4 level, we are also seeing improvements, with the percentage of pupils achieving 3+ and 5+ National 3 and National 4 passes increasing from 2019.

In 2019 only one S5 pupil achieved 5 passes at Higher (AABCC). In 2023, this has increased to 15 pupils - 9% of the (bigger) year group. 2 pupils achieved 5 passes at grade A, and a further two achieved AAAAB).

Ignoring the ACM year, this represents the best year at Eastbank for at least 20 years (and the joint best 'pre-appeal' rate). Similarly, at 1+ and 5+ 2023 has been the best year on record at Eastbank Academy.

The overwhelming majority of our leavers progress to a positive and sustained destination. A significant number of our leavers have secured university places, many having passed Advanced Highers both in school, and in collaboration with the AH Hub at GCU. 2 young people have been accepted to study medicine, on top of two of our 2022 S6 who have now completed their first year of medicine at the University of Edinburgh. In addition, we have many pupils progressing to study Engineering, Science, and Humanities courses at University, and others successfully achieved places to study HND/HNCs at college, as well as many more progressing on to apprenticeships.



We are delighted with these achievements, and we are very proud of our young people. Our new Senior Phase classes have made an excellent start to their studies, and the first tracking reports indicate that the overwhelming majority of pupils are on track to achieve their targets this year.

Well done on a successful year last session. Well done on being ambitious! We look forward to reporting on further and greater successes in the 2024 exams!

### VSE Visit

On Tuesday 19 September our partnering secondary schools (John Paul Academy and King's Park Secondary) conducted a Validated Self-Evaluation visit. This involved a number of our staff being observed in lessons and meetings with our pupils to gather their thoughts on learning and teaching within the school. All visiting staff were delighted with the lessons they observed and agreed we are on our journey to very good, with pockets of excellence also seen at times. They thought our pupils were fantastic, one of whom advised them we run a tight ship and mean business at Eastbank Academy, no messing around!

The following feedback was agreed:

- The learning environment was calm, predictable and similar routines were seen in all classes
- All lessons were very organised and had good resources
- Evidence of well-established positive relationships, meet and greet, and staff were good at settling late pupils
- All felt behaviour was fine. Any issues were dealt with very calmly and issues squashed very quickly.
- The school values were referenced regularly throughout the day. Pupils mentioned the value of the week within both focus groups
- Mobile phones were not an issue. Only a few were seen and it was dealt with promptly.

Well done to all staff and pupils who were involved.



## Senior Pupil Leadership Team

Congratulations to our new Senior Pupil Leadership Team which includes the following pupils:

Zuzanna Sicinska – Head Pupil

Jessica MacLachlan, Melissa McCreadie, Alex Stevenson, Daniel Ekwealor, Neve Keating, Nathan Weir,  
Tia McEwan, Calvin Scott and Amy Leitch



# Congratulations

## Senior Awards Ceremony

It was wonderful to welcome parents, carers, teachers and members of our wider community to our Senior Awards Ceremony on Thursday 14 September. We are extremely proud of our prize winners, who have demonstrated resilience, determination and commitment to our school values. They have proven themselves to be outstanding members of our school community and should be very proud of their achievements in the recent SQA exams. The ceremony also provided an opportunity for our senior pupils to demonstrate the musical talent within our school. All three performances were excellent. Thank you to all staff and pupils who assisted in ensuring the event ran smoothly, in particular the senior pupils who provided us with an abundance of home baking. I'm sure everyone who attended would agree it was a successful evening and the sense of achievement was enjoyed by everyone.



## Young Ambassadors' Programme

Our new Eastbank Young Ambassadors have represented the school in both citywide and national conferences this month. They are planning for a great year of activities and sports promotion. Their profile board and plans will be on display in the PE corridor very soon.



## Primary 7 Masterclass

It was lovely to welcome primary 7 pupils to Eastbank Academy for the masterclasses. The aim was to provide pupils with a fun learning experience within our school building and get pupils excited to join us in August 2024.



## Pupil Parliament

Following another round of well fought elections, the 2023-24 Eastbank Academy Pupil Parliament has been elected and the following pupils will represent their year group:

**Didi Okafor 1B1**

**Andrew MacLean 1T2**

**Yin Chen 2L2**

**Adrianna Tarnowska 2L2**

**Omima Benhach 3T1**

**Ella Thomas 3S1**

**Morgan McNelis 4L1**

**Abbi Bennett 4S1**

**Jonah Brooks 5B1**

**David Morrison 5S1**

**Zuzanna Sicinska 6B1**

**Calvin Scott 6D1**

The group are excited to work alongside year group pupil councils to continue making positive changes to school life!





### MSP Visit

We were delighted to welcome MSP Pam Duncan Glancy to our school. It was a great Q&A session for S4/5/6 Politics and Modern Studies pupils with lots of interesting answers to insightful questions. There was some dialogue on qualification reform too!



### Black History Month

Social Subjects are celebrating Black History Month throughout the month of October, with various different activities and lesson inputs. The theme of this year is celebrating the achievements black women by Saluting the Sisterhood. Young people in S1 will also take part in a poetry competition. The winner could have their work published nationally. Watch this space!



### Eastbank String Players

On Tuesday the 19 September, some of Eastbank's string players attended a concert at The Royal Concert Hall. The live orchestral concert, geared towards young people learning to play an instrument, was performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Teresa Riviero, and presented by SCO composer Jay Capperauld and Musician and artist Kirsty Matheson.



### Black History Books

This October in the school library we are celebrating Black History Month. With a wide range of books on show, we have outstanding autobiographies together with books covering successes in music, poetry and even boxing. Anti-racism titles are also available to borrow, with some titles even covering American history. These are all displayed alongside great fiction by authors of colour, providing lots of excellent reading material to back up this full month of both celebrating and exploring Black History.





### Coffee and Chit Chat

A coffee morning was hosted by the hospitality team where staff were encouraged to attend for coffee and a chit chat. Money raised went to the Samaritans, which is a suicide prevention hotline. Thank you to all staff who came along to support such an important cause and thank you to the hospitality team for providing the cakes and coffee.



### Senior Awards Ceremony Catering

Thank you to all senior pupils who helped with teas and coffees at the Senior Awards Ceremony. There was a great selection of homemade cakes and biscuits which were enjoyed by all.



### Afternoon Tea Boxes

The senior hospitality class made afternoon tea boxes to raise money for Breast Cancer Now. The boxes included sandwiches and wraps, as well as homemade sausage rolls and cakes. The class did an amazing job and raised £100 for Breast Cancer Now. Well done to everyone involved.

Thank you!



Thank you so much for having an Afternoon Tea and paying in your wonderful fundraising.

Your support means so much to us and will help drive forward our life-saving research and provide life-changing support for people affected by breast cancer.

If we can help with anything, please contact us on [afternoontea@breastcancer.org](mailto:afternoontea@breastcancer.org) or 0333 20 70 300.

Amount paid in: **£100.00**



### Show Racism the Red Card

Staff and pupils were encouraged to accessorize their uniform by wearing something red on Thursday 12 October to show their support and raise funds for Show Racism the Red Card.



### S2 Science Workshops

S2 pupils attended science workshops from BAE systems 'From the Depths of the Oceans to Outer Space'. A good time was had by all.



### Staff vs Pupils Volleyball Match

We hosted a staff vs pupils volleyball match on Thursday 12 October. Tickets were £1 and supported Show Racism the Red Card.



SHOW  
RACISM  
THE  
RED  
CARD

### S5 Work Experience

Congratulations to Sophie Jenkins S5 who has secured a place at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow to do work experience during the October break! The Drama department are so proud of such a well deserving pupil who is developing her skills for life, learning and work with such an excellent local venue.



YOU ARE  
AMAZING

### World Buffet Lunch

Thank you to our hospitality team who hosted a world buffet lunch for all staff to celebrate World Food Day. Tickets were £4 and included a range of items such as; pastas, salt and chilli chips, pizza, noodles and lots more. Well done to everyone who helped make the event a huge success.

