



Academy News



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now one quarter of the way through 2025, and three quarters of the way through this academic year 2024-25. We come to the end of a bustling term which has been one week longer than usual this year.

As always, for our Senior Phase pupils, the focus has been on completing SQA courses, finalising assessed coursework, and preparing for the final exams. We have had a comprehensive programme of supported study in place and will be running Easter School classes also. All of these are intended to give our pupils the best support we can, to enable them to maximise their attainment in the final exams. I am grateful to staff who have gone above and beyond to offer that support, and I wish our pupils all the very best in the exams.

Beyond the core academic concerns, a lot has been happening in Eastbank since our last newsletter, and you will read all about these in the following pages. From our magnificent Transition Dance Show, featuring pupils from Eastbank and our associated primaries, our FunSTEM event, our Sports Awards Ceremony, and so much more, it has been great to see young people involved and engaged in the wider life of the school, and have these opportunities to shine and for personal achievement.

This Friday we break up for just over two weeks, returning on Tuesday 22 April. I hope that you and your families have a wonderful break, and I look forward to working together in the summer term.

Best wishes,
Jonathan Graham

School Term Key Dates

April 2025:

Schools close at 2.30pm on
Friday 4 April

Monday 7 April – Monday 21
April (Spring Break)

Schools return on
Tuesday 22 April

May 2025:

Monday 5 May (May Holiday)
Thursday 22 May (In-service day)

Friday 23 May and Monday 26
May
(May Weekend)

June 2025:

Schools close at 1pm on
Wednesday 25 June



Mobile Phones

To ensure that we prioritise learning, teaching, and pupil wellbeing, from the start of the summer term we are changing our expectations regarding mobile phones and earphones in school. From Tuesday 22 April our expectation is that:

- Mobile phones will not be visible or otherwise available in the school building during lesson time.
- This means that young people should not be using, holding, or looking at phones, or otherwise have them out in class.
- Phones should not be out as young people make their way from one class to the next.
- This also applies to earphones.

Pupils will still be able to use phones and similar devices at break and lunch time, but not at any other times.

It is important that all young people and parents/carers buy-in to this, and parents have been notified via our app and email. The attached infographic outlines our expectations clearly.

Looking forward to this new approach leading to improved learning, teaching, and wellbeing!

MOBILE PHONE FREE SCHOOL

at Eastbank Academy

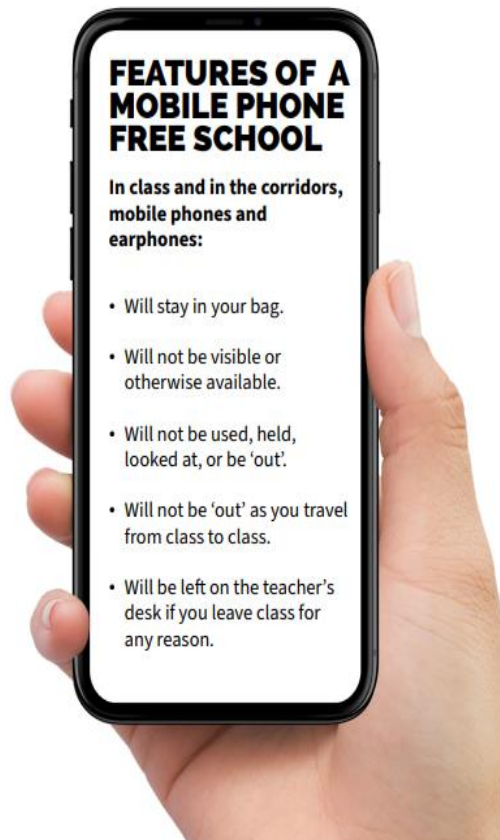
OUR POLICY

The use of mobile phones has a negative impact on learning, teaching & wellbeing

FEATURES OF A MOBILE PHONE FREE SCHOOL

**In class and in the corridors,
mobile phones and
earphones:**

- Will stay in your bag.
- Will not be visible or otherwise available.
- Will not be used, held, looked at, or be 'out'.
- Will not be 'out' as you travel from class to class.
- Will be left on the teacher's desk if you leave class for any reason.



Dance Show

A very well done and thank you to all involved in the Dance show on 11 March. As expected, it was awesome, and the young people were great. A very special mention to Miss McCracken herself, who was the brains and driving force behind this extremely successful event. Also, a huge well done to the Dance Show committee!



Well done!

A huge well done to Jack Gillon in S3 who won the Glasgow State School cross country 3rd/4th year race.



Well done!

Well done to the U15 Girls' Football Team that reached the Scottish Cup Quarter Finals. They were one of the last schools in the competition that are not a 'School of Football' team and this is a huge achievement for Eastbank. The girls fought hard in their games to come from behind several times and even won one of their games in a penalty shoot-out. The girls showed a particularly high skills level throughout the tournament and were a credit to Eastbank.



S3 Enterprise Challenge

A big well done to Miss Kennedy's S3 Business class who managed to get to the final round of the Enterprise Challenge, where five pupils will be selected to present a social enterprise idea to a panel of business experts to potentially win £1000 for the school. Well done to Dylan Wallace for getting the highest score in the game for Scotland!



King's Trust Achieve

S3 pupils in the King's Trust Achieve class preparing their healthy eating dishes for completion of their wellbeing unit! Some very tasty food was produced!



Young STEM Leader Award

Congratulations to Jack Kastek and Sheima Naffe in S5 for being the first pupils in our school to ever achieve Level 6 Young STEM Leader award. Keep up the good work! Special thanks to Ms Koleva for running the programme in the school.



Mother Tongue Day Celebrations

A huge *merci* and *très bien* to Antonii Tkachenko, Yin Chen, Maksym Nekrasov and Adrianna Tarnowska who visited Riverbank Primary in February to represent Eastbank at their Mother Tongue Day celebrations. The young people showed all of our school values as they delivered presentations to children in P4-P7 in which they told personal stories of moving to Scotland and learning English, as well as what life is like at Eastbank! Bravo!



World Book Day

On 6th March, the library was delighted to welcome S1 pupils to claim their World Book Day books for 2025. The fabulous selection of books to choose from included Pokémon, Lego and even a title called, "The Fart that Broke World Book Day!". Needless to say, that was a really popular title. As well as this, pupils from BGE classes also had the chance to watch Mr Seawright's amazing Masked Reader film for 2025 and identify the teachers reading from their favourite books. Thank you to Mr Seawright for compiling such a fun activity for everyone to enjoy.



The Library celebrates Valentine's Day and World Book Day

Valentine's Day is always fun to celebrate and this year BGE pupils had a chance to take part in a "Blind Date with a Book". This involved choosing a book wrapped in brown paper, with only a few clues to try and get an idea of what was inside - letting them pick the book "blind"! Just to tempt the readers a bit more, there were some bookmarks, badges and stickers hidden inside the brown paper. Pupils loved this idea - and indeed all the Blind Date books had been taken within one morning of them being available. Here's the display of all the blind date books waiting to be borrowed.



Eastbank Mascot

The Eastbank Library mascot was unveiled as the Eastbank Ninja came to life (well via a pair of knitting needles...). Here they are in all their glory, taken directly from the mascot competition winner Daisy Cairns' excellent drawing. Have a look at them surveying their library kingdom and spreading the Reading for Pleasure message.



FUNSTEM Event

It was wonderful to have the primary seven pupils attend the Academy to participate in a FUNSTEM event last Friday. Pupils worked in groups to present their research and take part in various STEM activities, while being supported by our senior pupils. The focus was to design and create models which support our journey to reach net-zero. Thanks to Clyde Gateway for organising and running this event. It was enjoyed by all.



S5/6 Business Event

Some of our senior pupils studying Higher Business Management recently visited Strathclyde University for a Business event called 'One Step Forward' which was led by Strathclyde Business school students. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in interactive workshops exploring life as a student studying Business as well as some business activities. There were guest speakers on the day and lunch was provided. All pupils enjoyed their day and learning more about studying Business at University.



University of
Strathclyde
Business
School

Lawyers in Schools

In March, S3 Modern Studies pupils participated in the 'Lawyers in Schools' initiative where legal professionals visited the school to work with classes. Pupils enhanced their understanding of the law around social media as well as developing skills such as critical thinking, communication, listening and debating. The visitors commented on how impressed they were with the engagement and conduct of pupils.



Giant Heptathlon

Our 1st & 2nd year teams represented the school at The PEPASS Giant Heptathlon on 13th March, at the Emirates Arena. Amazing effort from our 14 athletes. The girls' team were 2nd in Glasgow at the relay event and Lois Moir brought back a silver medal for Long Jump.



Badminton Club

We have had record numbers attend our after school badminton club on Mondays, with over 50 players regularly attending each week.

Some of our 1st & 2nd years also participated in an area festival with other secondary schools - hosted by Eastbank Academy.



Sports Leaders

This term our sports leaders have completed placements at our 6 feeder primary schools. The 12 groups of leaders have delivered dance, football, athletics, dodgeball and team games for their 6-week blocks. They have worked together in supporting curriculum PE sessions as well as running after school sports & dance clubs in the primary schools. The leaders have been supporting lunch and after school clubs throughout the year as well as organising and running several events including the Sports Awards, Primary Netball event, Dance show & McAulay Cup.



Excellent effort!



Primary Fun Run - Tollcross Park

A group of our Sport & Recreation pupils worked alongside Active Schools to help support our local primary Fun Run. The pupils led warm-ups, stewarded the course and motivated over 250 runners from Quarry Brae, Thorntree and Wellshot Primaries.



Great work!

Visit to Scottish Water

S5-6 pupils visited Scottish Water to present to a panel of industry experts as part of their Powering Futures award. They have all been working on a solution to either help deal with the housing crisis or to get women back into nature.



Boys Football

Our S2 and Under 16s boys' teams have played in this year's Glasgow Leagues. The U16 boys have made it to the quarter finals in both the league and Glasgow Cup.

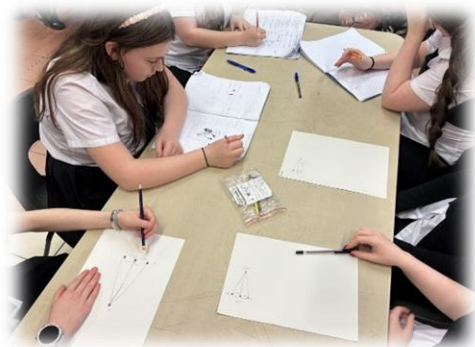
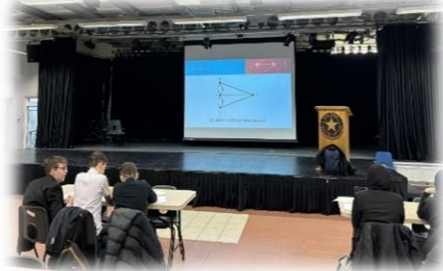


University of Strathclyde –

Mathematics Outreach Workshop

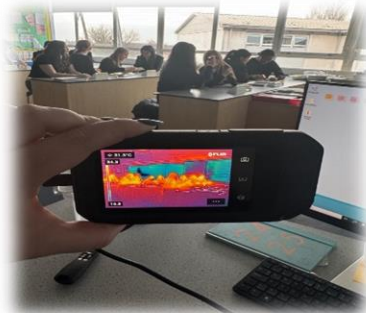
80 of our S2 pupils took part in a workshop provided by Dr Jon Devlin introducing Network Theory (the mathematical study of connections), its history and applications in the real world. Everyone was positively engaged in the tasks and were excellent representatives of the school.

One pupil said, *'I really enjoyed learning about how Maths can be used in real life.'*



Space Masterclass

Our S2 and S3 pupils took part in Space Masterclasses delivered by the National Space Academy. S2 pupils investigated the possibilities and limitations of living in space, chemical reactions in human or animal bodies and how they can adapt. They learned about rockets and got to make their own hydrogen oxygen rockets, which they also tested in the classroom. S3 pupils investigated the human desire to learn about our universe, which traces our journey of space discovery so far, as well as the ways we use satellites and space technology to look back and learn more about our own planet. Pupils learned about different types of telescopes and got to make their own simple optical telescope. Pupils also used thermal cameras to explore heat signatures.



Volcano Fun

Mr Mackay's S1 class visited Mrs Crozier in Science to learn more about volcanos. Pupils got to experience making their own volcano models with erupting lava. How fun!



S3 Physics

S3 Physics pupils learned about Newtons 3rd law this week. To show how this law works in practice, our young people launched rockets outside on the pitch. We made some impressive heights! Way to go young physicists!



S1 Science Club

S1 pupils have been participating in a range of experiments - making ecosystem terrariums, snow, lava lamps and, most recently, elephant toothpaste.



Kelpies Night Run

A staff team from Eastbank plus Mrs Bradley's daughter & husband (who took her place due to an injury) completed the 2025 Kelpies night run.



Staff v Pupil Football Match

We held our annual staff v pupils football match on Thursday 3 April. The final score was 3-3, although staff won on penalties!



Van de Graff

S2 pupils have been enjoying our new Van de Graff. There were sparks flying in Mr O'Neill's class!



S2 Values Ambassadors Trip

S2 Values Ambassadors, with the help from Mr McDermott, arranged a trip to East Kilbride ice-rink on 3 April. Pupils displayed our school values of respect, responsibility, ambition and kindness both on and off the ice.



Study Skills

There are many study techniques which are used in many classes across a range of subjects.

These include; flash cards, summary notes, mind maps, past papers, active recall, blurring, Quizlet and mnemonics.

Our school You Tube page has some visual demonstrations of how to apply these when studying. Scan the QR code below for quick access.



Study PowerPoints

Staff have produced slides which summarise important study advice for all Senior Phase pupils. This collates everything in the one document and will prove very useful to pupils as they prepare for exams.

It can be accessed at the following link:
https://manage.appscentral.co.uk/uploads/client/documents/4306/1c7f_Senior%20Phase%20Study%20Guide.pdf

ambition

[am-bih-shon] *noun*

an overwhelming drive and determination to achieve goals, targets and success. dream bigger.

Achieve

Achieve is an online study resource to which pupils have access. Pupils have their own log-in and can personalise their account with their subjects and levels to ensure easy access to resources to support their learning.

This resource breaks down each subject into topics and has knowledge and understanding areas for each topic with links to past paper questions, marking instructions and further websites.

The resource can be found at
www.achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk



Achieve

IF YOU PUT IN THE
TIME+
EFFORT
YOU WILL SEE THE
RESULTS

Easter School

Dates:

Monday 7 April – Thursday 17 April

Times:

Morning session: 9.30am – 12noon

Afternoon session: 12.30pm – 3pm

A timetable of subjects on offer has been issued to pupils. This will also be displayed on the school app, Twitter page and school website for information.

