



# Academy News



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the Christmas 2020 edition of the Academy Newsletter. This term has been an incredibly busy, if a somewhat irregular, one. It is 18 weeks since we began the session back in August. In spite of the many changes and challenges, we have all coped remarkably well and risen to the occasion. Take a bow, Eastbank Academy! It is important, therefore, that we pause to record and reflect on 'the good stuff' at this time.

As well as the good news highlights contained in this newsletter, we have managed to keep the normal everyday routines going as best we can. So, you should have received at least one tracking report for your child by now, and prelims for Higher pupils went ahead this month as they normally would, with a supported study programme in advance of this. National 5 prelims will take place early in the New Year. In addition, our pupil councils are now up and running, and I've managed to meet with all of them over the last month. And finally for now, our new website is in the closing stages of development and will be 'live' in January 2021.

At the time of writing, there seems to be positive news on the science front, with a vaccine possibly on the horizon. Should this come to fruition, as well it might, this would be a tremendous development for the world, and would certainly help us, at Eastbank Academy, get back to some kind of normality. While this will not happen immediately we can at least look forward with hope.

So, I'm sure you'll join me in saying "good riddance, 2020". I hope, in spite of the restrictions, you and your families manage to have a restful and relaxing holiday. I look forward to us working together, and to have a more positive experience, in 2021.

Season's Greetings,  
Jonathan Graham

## School Term Key Dates

### **December:**

School Closes at 2:30pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
December  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
2021  
(Christmas Holidays)

### **January 2021:**

Schools return on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

### **February Mid-Term Break:**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February (In-Service Day)



## Leavers Progress into Positive Destinations



Eastbank Academy has a consistently strong record in supporting our leavers into positive destinations. Every year, nearly all of our school leavers secure a place in college, university, training, find employment or an apprenticeship.

Our success rate in this area always compares very favourably with comparators such as Glasgow, the West of Scotland, and the National pattern, and in 2019 we outstripped all comparators in this measure!

We're delighted to report that this year, in spite of very challenging circumstances and a difficult labour market, more than 92% of our leavers from summer 2020 progressed to a positive destination. This is a fantastic achievement, and another area in which the work of the school has made a positive impact on young people's lives. A big thank you to our partners from SDS, as well as to staff from Eastbank Academy who all play a direct role in supporting our young people into these opportunities.

## VISION, VALUES AND AIMS



Our vision, values and aims are incredibly important. They define the kind of organisation we want to be, our core purpose, and they guide our daily work. They are pertinent to all members of the school community.

Our school vision, values and aims were last reviewed in 2011. All pupils who were at school at that time have now left (our S6 pupils from 2011 are now in their late 20s!), and most of the families and many of the staff have changed as well. Therefore, this is an ideal time to review these.

Following a consultation in which all staff, pupils and parents had the opportunity to contribute, we have agreed on the following values for our school. Our young people decided each would mean in practice, by defining what we would see in school as a result of these values.

<u>Value</u>	<u>How this should be evident in practice</u>
Ambition	We try to be the best we can be, work hard and aim for the stars!
Respect	We treat others the way we want to be treated.
Responsibility	We are in control of what we say and do and make good choices.
Kindness	We support others and show them that we care.

### **Our school mission statement, encapsulating our aims and vision**

Eastbank Academy is dedicated to ensuring a welcoming, inclusive and supportive school for all. We encourage commitment and resilience in a safe and caring environment wherein all successes are celebrated. We endeavour to equip all learners with the tools and skills for their journey ahead, no matter their path.

Let your light shine!

Splendeat Lux.

And finally, our school strapline: “Our School, Our Work, Our Future”, where:

- The repetition of the word ‘our’ stresses the sense of belonging that we should feel at Eastbank Academy and the sense of ownership and responsibility that we want to inculcate.
- The use of ‘Our school’ is a reference to **where** it happens, and to **what** we belong.
- ‘Our work’ is a reference to **what** happens **now**. It is focused on the present, and that we, and that all members of the school community own and take responsibility for the work we do just now. Work can be considered in its broadest sense, and encompasses all that we do at Eastbank.
- ‘Our future’ is self-evidently future focused and follows from the first two. It is **achievement** and **outcome** focused. It recognizes that members of the school community can influence their own future by the achievements they earn. These will be earned by the work and effort put in now.

Developing these has been a collaborative process, and Mr Graham has met with Pupil Councils, the Pupil Leadership Team, and the Parent Council who have all endorsed these. So, from January 2021 this is who and what we are! Expect to see more of these, and expect this to make a difference.

## Book Week Scotland Writing Competition



As you might be aware, we held a writing competition to coincide with 'Book Week Scotland' and the winners were selected by our S6 Literacy Ambassadors. Our winner was **S2 Jonah Brooks** (pictured below) and we had 4 runners up - **Brodie Collins & Kayla Kerr S2, Sumaya Shinde & Zoe Weir S1!**

**Well done!**



## Rights Respecting Schools

Throughout the school year 2020/2021 we are aiming to achieve our Bronze level Rights Respecting Schools award at Eastbank Academy. We think it's important for young people and the overall school community to be rights aware and respecting. Throughout the year we will be looking for pupil, school staff and parental involvement as we work towards the award - this will include surveys and communication through the newsletter, Twitter and the school app.

To find out more,

visit: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/> or speak to Miss Spalding, Miss Wood, Miss Gibb, Mr Muir, Miss Inglis or Mr Matthews.



## Talent Show

The winners of our Virtual Talent Show of 2020 were **Jamie Lee Woods of S6** and **Otito Michael of S1**. Jamie-Lee sang I Dreamed a Dream from Les Miserables and Otito done a dance with her little sister.



## Virtual Work Experience – Police Scotland Cyber Security

Megan Dowds in S5 secured a place on the first ever Police Scotland Cyber Security virtual work experience programme. Places were limited and Megan had to work hard to make sure her application was strong enough to be selected. Megan began her work experience on Monday 23rd November. She learned more about cyber security and was given a real police project to work on.

**Congratulations Megan!**

## Children in Need

Eastbank Academy raised **£290** for Children in Need through an accessorize your uniform day and Mrs Beard made a Pudsey Cake which was raffled by our senior prefects.



## Virtual Christmas Concert



**Jacob Kennedy of S5 and Jay Glover of S4** are putting together a Virtual Christmas Concert. They are looking for Young People of Eastbank Academy to record themselves, singing, playing an instrument, dancing or telling a Christmas joke and they will make a Christmas Movie out of all the Christmas Talent on showcase.

## Staff Christmas Door Competition

Throughout December, staff members at Eastbank Academy decorated their classroom/office doors with a festive theme. S1, S2 and S6 pupils voted for their favourite. Thank you to the Higher Photography pupils for taking photos of all the doors!

# WINNERS:

## JOINT 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE



Miss Donnachie  
(Technical  
Department)



PE Dept

## 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

Miss Wilson  
(Music  
Department)

## RUNNERS UP...

