



# Academy News



Dear Parent/Carer,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Autumn newsletter, the first of session 2022/23.

The first term has been very busy and intense – it always is. We have been back at school for 9 weeks, and it has passed in the blinking of an eye. In addition to the daily ‘buzz’ of learning and teaching, there has been an array of enrichment activities at the school. This newsletter contains a wide range of articles to give a flavour of life around the school over the past couple of months and I hope you enjoy the insight into the life and work of the school. You can, of course, keep up to date with these on a daily basis via our twitter feed (@EastbankAcademy).

Our timetable is now settled and all young people are making good progress with their courses and academic studies. Teachers are working hard to ensure pupils enjoy effective and challenging learning experiences and are prepared for the exams ahead. We’ve already reached the point where the first tracking report for our Senior Phase pupils has been issued. I’m pleased to see so many progressing well and, for the Senior Phase, on track to achieve their targets and pass. The prelim exams, which begin on 5<sup>th</sup> December, are only 6 weeks away!

S1 pupils also received their first tracking report this week, and on Wednesday we held our first in-person parents’ night for three years, again for S1. It was wonderful to welcome parents back into the building again, and engage in meaningful dialogue on academic progress. I’m looking forward to many more this session.

Session 21/22 was incredibly successful for Eastbank and you can read more about this in our [Standards and Quality Report](#) on our website (<http://eastbankacademy.schoolwebsite.scot/>). More specifically, you can read more about our pupils’ excellent exam results later in this newsletter. Going forward we continue to be ambitious for our young people. We have created our [School Improvement Plan](#) and have set development goals centred on learning and teaching, meeting learning and care needs, and raising attainment and achievement. I am confident of more success, and an abundance of Ambition, Respect, Responsibility and Kindness, in session 22/23.

Splendeat lux!

Jonathan Graham

## School Term Key Dates

### **October**

Friday 14 October  
*(In-service day)*

Monday 17-Friday 21 October  
*(October week)*

### **December**

Schools close at 2.30pm on  
Thursday 22 December

Friday 23 December – Tuesday 3  
January 2023  
*(Christmas holidays)*



## iPads

Please remember to bring your fully charged iPad to school.



## SQA Highlights 2022

We were delighted with the performance of our S4, S5 and S6 pupils in last session's SQA exams – the first set of exams since 2019. 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 best performance by Eastbank Academy in at least 15 years.

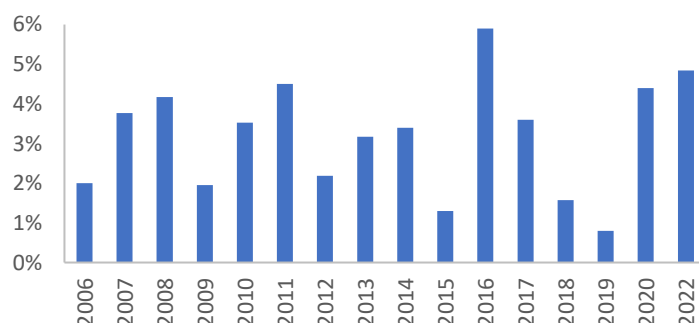
### **% S4 Achieving 5+ Level 5 Passes**



In addition, the number and percentage of pupils achieving 1+ and 3+ National 5 passes has increased since 2021 and has increased significantly from 2019, the last exam year. We are also seeing pupils achieving better quality qualifications, with 15% now achieving 5 or more National 5 passes at grade A or B, up from 5% in 2019. While our curriculum structure allows for seven presentations in S4, one young person achieved 9 passes at National 5 (8As and 1B) and 14 young people achieved 8 passes at National 5. 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 S5, nine fifth-year young people achieved five or more awards at Higher level, with 3 pupils achieving 5 passes at grade A, and a further two achieving AAAAB. This has been the second-best set of Higher results at Eastbank for at least 18 years. This is also a significant increase from the last exam year in 2019, where only 1 pupil achieved 5 passes at Higher (AABCC).

### **% of S5 Achieving 5+ Highers**



A significant number of our leavers have secured university places, many having passed Advanced Highers. 2 young people have been accepted to study Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. 9 pupils (6%) achieved one or more pass at Advanced Higher, including:

- Miriam achieved Bs in Biology and Maths, and is studying Medicine.
- Robyn achieved As in Chemistry and Maths, as well as an A for Higher Biology. This was on top of the 5 As she achieved for her Highers last year. Robyn is studying engineering at the University of Strathclyde.
- Eric achieved three Advanced Higher Passes (BBB) in Maths, Art & Design, and Music and has taken up a place to study Architecture at Edinburgh.

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 2023 exams!

## The Eddie Miller Eastbank Foundation

Eastbank Academy is grateful to the Eddie Miller Foundation for their ongoing and generous support for our young people engaged in the study of Music and the Performing Arts.

### **Eddie Miller**

A local boy, Eddie Miller was born and raised in the East End of Glasgow. He was a pupil at Eastbank Academy and became Captain of the School in 1947. Eddie became an English teacher, and taught at a number of schools, including Whitehill Secondary. He was the first Director of Education for Strathclyde Region and was awarded a CBE for his services to education. Eddie believed in the power of music and the creative arts to transform the lives of young people and, following his passing in 2005, his family established the foundation to help, support and inspire young people at his former school.



### **Support for Eastbank's Young People**

The foundation has worked with and supported the young people of Eastbank Academy for a number of years. The trustees have agreed a programme of support for our students for the next five years. This support includes The Eddie Miller Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Music, and The Eddie Miller Eastbank Bursary for Performing Arts Higher Education Students, amongst others.

This year the first Eddie Miller Eastbank Bursary for Performing Arts Higher Education Students was awarded to Kimberley, who completed her sixth-year last session and left Eastbank Academy in June, and has secured a place in a Performing Arts course at college. Kimberley's course requires her to purchase a great deal of specialist equipment, and the bursary will make a difference for her. She was both delighted and extremely grateful for this support.



In addition, the Eddie Miller Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Music was awarded jointly to Michelle and Lucy, who were presented with their prize at our annual Awards Ceremony last month. This prize will be awarded annually to the pupil whose academic performance, as well as improvement and commitment to music, merits recognition and reward. The award will allow the prize winners to purchase musical instruments or equipment, which will enable them to continue to pursue their passion for music in years to come.

More detail can be found on the *Resources* page of our school website. Eastbank Academy very much appreciates the ongoing support of the Eddie Miller Foundation. These awards, and others, will have a huge impact on young people's lives and future prospects.

## Awards Ceremony

It was wonderful to welcome parents, carers, teachers and members of our wider community to our Senior Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 14 September. The pupils who collected the awards have overcome years of school disruption, lockdowns and online learning, but despite all of this, they have gone on to reach success in exams and assessments in their SQA qualifications. 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.



## Senior Pupil Leadership Team

We are delighted to announce that Bailie Shepherd will be our Head Pupil for Session 2022-2023. Bailie will be supported by our Deputy Head Pupils: Lucy Duggan, Amy McLaughlin, Jay Glover, Keisy Zimunya and Tyler Hill.



*Congratulations!*

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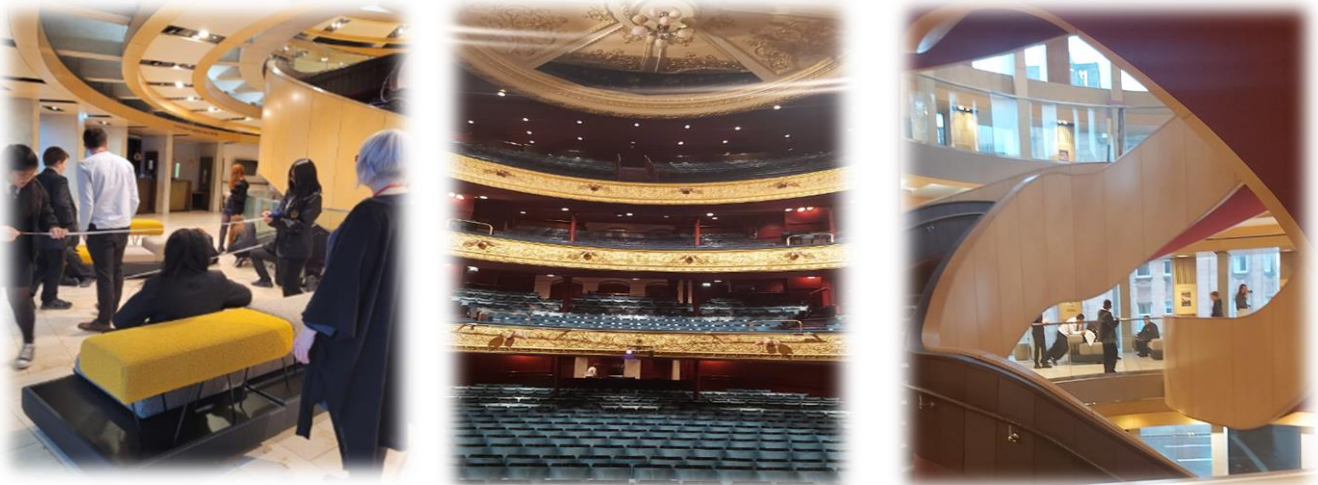
## Mentors in Violence Prevention Pupils

12 of our senior pupils have recently participated in a 2-day training course and are now qualified Mentors in Violence Protection pupils. The MVP programme provides our young people with the skills to recognise the differences between what are appropriate and acceptable behaviours and what are not. Our senior pupils will now be delivering 6 sessions to our S1 pupils during PSE lessons.



## Maths Week Event

It was an amazing morning on Friday 30 September with S1 pupils at The Theatre Royal for a Maths Week event – The Beauty of Maths. These involved challenges set by the architects of the Theatre Royal foyer. We even got a backstage tour and found out about some jobs in this sector too.



## European Day of Languages

S1 - S3 classes celebrated the European Day of Languages at the end of September. Pupils were given taster lessons in Spanish, Italian and German and learned about the culture of these countries. They also discussed the importance of language learning and showed their creativity with poster-making.

Finally, our Head Teacher Mr Graham lead by example by reading a tannoy message in various languages! Bravissimo!



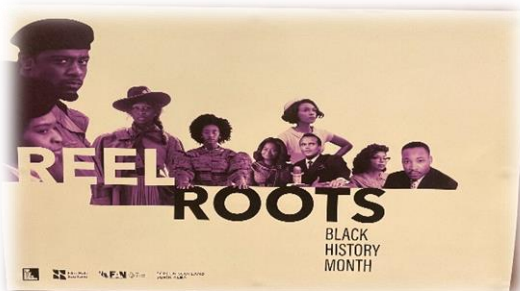
## Family Learning

The Family Learning team have successfully delivered two Family Learning events so far this session: one for our Senior Phase pupils and parents and one for our S1 pupils and parents. Evidence shows that by involving families in their child's learning, it can contribute to raising their attainment in school. There will be at least one event per month, and you can find the dates until Christmas on their Twitter page: @eastbankfamily. You will also receive information the week before via the school app. If you have any questions, please DM on Twitter or email Miss McKeating. We look forward to seeing you soon!



## Black History Month

For Black History Month, members of the S2 Pupil Council visited the GFT to attend a special screening of Hidden Figures that celebrates the inspiring role three African-American women played in the NASA Program in the 1960s. They will then prepare a display that explores the roles that black men and women have had in society and will share this with peers. It will be their first task as Rights Ambassadors for the school and they are very excited to take on this opportunity!



## Glasgow City Council Young Ambassador Event

In the PE department we had 6 pupils attend the Glasgow City Council Young Ambassador event in the City Chambers where they took part in workshops and inspirational talks surrounding sport and school sport and how they can help to promote and encourage sport within Eastbank. Young ambassadors will be helping to lead and support our extra-curricular clubs within the department and also organising and supporting various events throughout the year to help motivate and inspire pupils to get involved in sport.



# Great Job

## Young Ambassadors' Conference

We had 2 senior pupils attend the Scottish Young Ambassadors' Conference held at Hampden Park who will be helping to lead the young ambassador programme for 22/23. This was a great day and opportunity to develop their ideas and work with other young people from secondary schools across the country on how to develop sport and participation within their schools. These events were extremely beneficial to the 8 pupils involved and their work will have a huge impact on promoting sport in Eastbank!



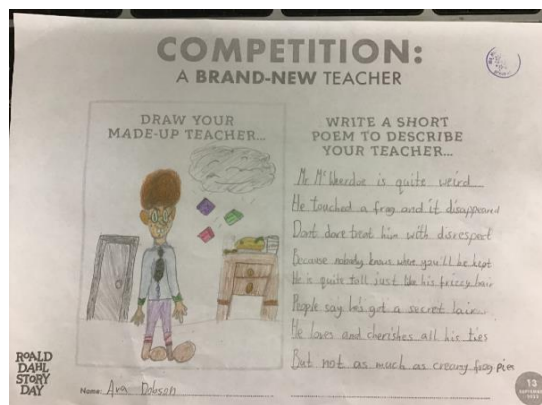
## Glasgow Counts Together

From 28<sup>th</sup> September, 7 S6 pupils have been taking part in the Glasgow Counts together programme, going down to Thorntree Primary to help pupils from primary 3 to 5 with their numeracy skills. This involves playing games with them such as Snakes and Ladders to increase their enjoyment with Mathematics, and then helping the students with maths equations such as adding, subtracting, times tables, dividing, and lots more. This makes them have a more positive mindset towards maths and feel more confident in their numeracy skills.



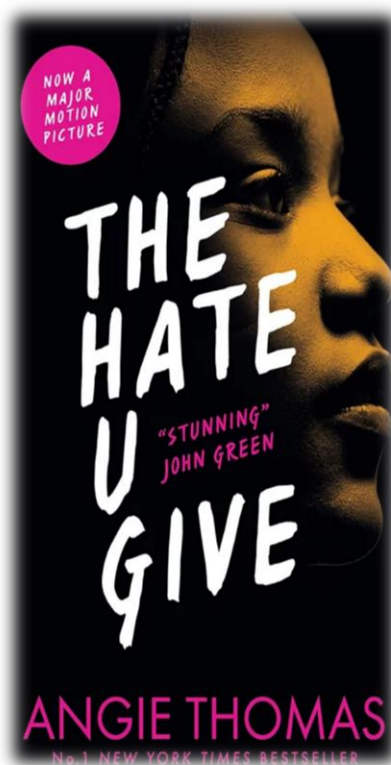
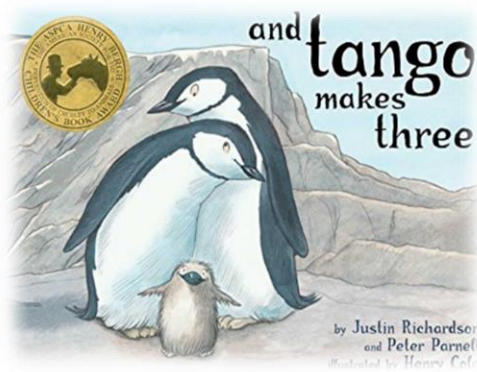
## Roald Dahl Story Day

S1 took part in the English Department's annual celebration of Roald Dahl's birthday, and this year the theme was Matilda! Learners got to listen to a West End cast member of *Matilda the Musical* read from the book, and then they took part in a competition to create a new teacher for Matilda, as well as writing a poem about their character. The winner of this department-wide competition was Ava Dobson from 1L2!



## Banned Books Week

S1 pupils took part in a series of lesson starters over the course of the week, learning about and discussing some books that have famously been banned in some parts of the world: *And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, a children's picture book that features an LGBTQ+ relationship; *Maus*, by Art Spiegelman, a graphic novel that details the real-life experience of a Holocaust survivor; and *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas, which details a young black girl's reaction to seeing her friend die in a police shooting.



## Toryglen Football League

Well done to all S1 boys and S1-S3 girls that have been participating in the Glasgow 7 a-side Toryglen Football League. All pupils have represented Eastbank tremendously and have shown a high level of effort and commitment in training and games.





## **Primary 7 Masterclass**

We are delighted to be able to restart a number of activities within our primary transition programme and on Tuesday 4 October we held the first of two primary seven masterclasses. This offered our young people an enjoyable experience within the academy and an opportunity to build their confidence for starting with us in August 2023.

The Masterclass programme promotes the health and well-being of our young people by encouraging positive relationships to be built with young people from other schools within our learning community. It was wonderful to see over 150 pupils attending the event and feedback has been very positive. We look forward to welcoming primary seven pupils back to Eastbank Academy for the second masterclass on Tuesday 8 November. We also have a primary seven information evening scheduled for 6.30pm on Wednesday 9 November, where we look forward to meeting many of our new parents/carers.



## **Visit from Dr Rachida Faïd**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September we had a visit from Dr Rachida Faïd, a visit proposed by Miss Akhtar, Head of Science. Dr Faïd is an educational and spiritual consultant and a youth camp director. She also speaks ten different languages and has a PhD in Linguistics.

Dr Faïd attended seven classes in the Modern Languages Department on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September which included S1-6 French and S5/6 Spanish. Dr Faïd talked to the children and young people about the importance of language learning and how languages had allowed her to travel and work all over the world. Two of the classes also went through relaxation and visualisation techniques to support their wellbeing and mental health.

Everyone enjoyed Dr Rachida's visit and we look forward to a return visit!



## School Christmas Fayre

We are excited to be hosting our school Christmas Fayre on Saturday 12 November from 10am-1pm. There will be over 40 stalls, tombolas, raffle prizes, Santa's Grotto and lots more.

We are currently looking for donations, if you are willing and able, of the following items:



- Bottles
- Tubs/bars of chocolate
- Boxes of biscuits
- Selection boxes
- Gift vouchers



Donations can be handed in to any member of the Business Education Department via your child or directly to the school office.

Thank you for your support and please share news of the Christmas Fayre with your friends, neighbours and family. We look forward to seeing you on the day!



12 November 2022  
10 am – 1 pm

**Eastbank Academy**  
**Christmas Fayre**

- Over 40 stalls
- Raffle
- Santa's Grotto
- Christmas Gifts
- Tombolas
- Free tea/coffee/cake

**Entry Fee**  
**Adults - £2   Children - £1   Infants – free**  
***Refreshments included in entry fee***

