



Academy News



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to say that we have now reached the end of the summer term, and with it the end of session 2022-23.

I am also delighted to say that, by any measure, this has been a 'big' year, and a successful year for the Eastbank School community. On the 'business' front, the HMI inspection and report still in many ways define the school year, as well they should. This positive experience and outcome will continue to inform our improvement priorities over the next few years. Our school will continue to go from strength to strength! In May we had the month of SQA exams and I'm delighted to report that, once again, our young people conducted themselves impeccably and faced the challenges head-on. No surprises but always wonderful to see! In June we had the start of the new timetable and just last week the P7 pupils from our associated primary schools came for a two-day visit, which went incredibly well. We look forward to them joining us as our new S1 in August.

Over the last week or so we have had the pleasure of our BGE Awards Ceremony, our S6 Graduation, and our Senior Prom. All of these were magnificent events which are a really enjoyable part of being a Head Teacher. It was great to be able to meet with and enjoy the company of parents at the former two events.

This week is Activities Week, with a variety of trips taking place to London, Blackpool and Blair Drummond Safari Park, amongst other places. We also have our Activities Day on Thursday, with all young people engaged in a variety of fun, school-based activities. I trust the young people will enjoy these experiences immensely, and I am grateful to all staff for going 'above and beyond' to provide these for our pupils.

As always, a number of staff are leaving Eastbank Academy this week. In particular I must mention Ms De Rosa, Mrs Vipond, and Mrs Graham who are retiring after many, many years of service. Our colleagues leave with our very best wishes, and they will be sorely missed. We wish them a happy and fulfilling retirement!

I'd like to thank all staff, pupils, parents, and carers for your hard work and support throughout session 22/23. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday with, I hope, some more sunny weather. I look forward to picking up where we left off for session 23/24!

Take care,

Jonathan Graham

School Term Dates

June 2023:

School closes at 1.00pm on
Friday 23 June

August:

Monday 14 August
(In-Service Day)
Tuesday 15 August
(In-Service Day)
Wednesday 16 August
(Return date for pupils)

September:

Friday 22 September and
Monday 25 September
(September weekend
holiday)



Hello
Summer

Eastbank Academy Makes the News

We were delighted to see the good work of the school make the local press recently. On 17 May the story about our very positive HMI report was published on the Glasgow Times website, with it making the print edition the following day.

As mentioned in the spring newsletter, we were extremely happy with the report on our school and it is great to see the positive news being spread across the whole of Glasgow and beyond. This is exactly what our pupils, staff and parents deserve! The full Glasgow Times report can be found [here](#). Well done once again Eastbank!

GlasgowTimes

EXCLUSIVE

Glasgow headteacher delighted by 'strong' school inspection report

17th May

INSTAGRAM

SCHOOLS

EDUCATION

GLASGOW

SHETTLESTON



Jonathan Graham, headteacher, with pupils at Eastbank Academy (Image: Glasgow City Council)



Exclusive by Ann Fotheringham

Senior features writer

[@FotheringhamHT](#)

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DELIGHTED staff at Eastbank Academy in Shettleston have welcomed a positive report from school inspectors.

Headteacher Jonathan Graham said: "Be in no doubt: this is a strong report. I am delighted with it and believe that it captures the school well."

The **Education** Scotland team praised the "highly effective leadership of the headteacher and the positive impact of the school values" and added: "These are promoting increased aspiration, a shared sense of purpose and an ethos based on respect and responsibility."

The team noted that: "Staff have worked skilfully to create an environment where young people feel safe, cared for and nurtured.

"Senior leaders' and staff's focus on promoting positive relationships is supporting this well. This is demonstrated clearly by the positive interactions of young people with their peers, and also with staff."

BGE Awards Ceremony

It was wonderful to welcome parents and carers to our Broad General Education Awards Ceremony on Thursday 8 June. Thank you to all staff who attended. I'd like to mention a special thanks to the music department and all other members of staff for their contributions in helping the event run smoothly.

The ceremony also provided an opportunity for our BGE pupils to demonstrate the musical talent within our school. All three performances were excellent. The senior pupils who provided us with an abundance of home baking also did a grand job. I'm sure everyone who attended would agree it was a successful evening and the sense of achievement was enjoyed by everyone.



Well done!

Interdisciplinary Project

S2 pupils were involved in solving climate change through a cross curricular interdisciplinary project. Some were developing informed opinions through testing vegan recipes, others were upcycling old clothes while others were pitching ideas for a sustainable Euro 2028 football competition in Scotland. We welcomed our distinguished guest Mr Graeme Kelly Director of Clyde FC for the presentations.



Linguistics Event

A Linguistics event was organised for Seniors in English S4 in Modern Languages. The Talk on Linguistics was presented by Piotr Wegorowski. He is a lecturer in English Language and Linguistics and gave a sample lecture designed for S4, S5 and S6 students studying Higher English or any modern language as well as those interested in studying English Language at university.

The session was an interactive session, where students were introduced to some aspects of the study of language, particularly linguistic variation, which relates to how different words and sounds are used, and how words can be put together in a sentence in different ways. They also used a resource called Speak for Yersel, a resource developed at the University of Glasgow, where they specialise in linguistics of English and Scots. This helped them to not only reflect about their own language use but also to understand what we can learn about language.



Glasgow Caledonian University Connect Programme

The school have recently forged a new partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University.

They offer a programme - named CONNECT - which will look at the educational aspirations of our young people beyond school and guide them in the right pathway.

The Connect Programme on 9 June almost 70 S6 pupils took part in the Induction Session.

Future CONNECT events:

A UCAS Workshop will be held on 30 August 2023 1.45pm - 3.15pm -for senior pupils who intend applying for University this year.

- S5 pupils will be involved in a session looking at future pathways and destinations. Date to be confirmed.
- Senior pupils will have the opportunity to sign up to online tutoring session which will be subject specific.
- Parents and carers will be invited to online evening sessions to assist their understanding of the UCAS application process
- GCU staff will arrange to come along to Parents' Evenings and Careers Events



AG Barr Visit

As part of the Maximise May programme, AG Barr visited the Business Education department and pupils took part in a competition to create a new drink for the company. There were some fantastic ideas and pupils were very creative. Each group had to present their new product to AG Barr.



Duke of Edinburgh

This year we had 15 of our S3 pupils successfully complete the Bronze Level Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award consisted of pupils developing a chosen skill and physical aspect over a 6-month period and taking part in volunteering opportunities. Pupils also participated in a practice and qualifying 2 day/1-night camping experience. All DofE instructors commented on how excellent pupils were with their effort and application throughout the course and further commented on how each individual was a "credit to the school."



WELL DONE!



Girls' Football Team

Well done to our Girls' Football teams that competed in the S1-S4 Toryglen Summer Finals. Both teams that competed on the day played very well and were a credit to the school. Pictured are the S1 team that made it to the Quarter finals.

Sports Day Finals

On Tuesday 30th May and Thursday 1st June, the PE department held their annual sports day finals for S1-S3. Pupils had been working hard in class for 6 weeks prior to this practising each event and then having their times and scores recorded. The top 10 pupils for each event then qualified to take part in finals day.

Luckily on both days the sun was shining, and the pupils had a great time competing against each other. Points were awarded for each of the events with an overall champion crowned at the end of the day.



1st year boy: **Jack Gillon**
1st year girl: **Kimberly Meikleham**
2nd year boy: **Harvey Meikleham**
2nd year girl: **Maddison O'Hara**
3rd year boy: **Cody McCann**
3rd year girl: **Allexis Faulds**



The top scores for each event will be displayed on the athletics notice board in the PE department for pupils to look at and have a target to aim for next year!

Maximise May

Some S4 pupils participated in the Maximise May programme during the SQA exam diet. The programme was a mixture of skills for learning life and work, outdoor learning and supporting the local community. Pupils enjoyed developing skills of resilience and teamwork and were a credit to themselves and the school. Some of the activities were: Flip-out, trip to a police helipad, CV writing, milkshake making and loads more.



Trades House Award

Technical departments across Glasgow present their best work to be judged in the annual competition. This work is judged by the Deacons of the Trades House who represent the 14 incorporated Trades.

Nikita Bhandari won 1st place for her N5 Practical D&M Model

Neve Keating placed 2nd for her Higher D&M folio

Sophie Cartwright was commended for her Higher D&M folio

Jack Ferguson and Emma Pinder were commended for their N5 D&M Models

Brian Dowds received commendation in N5 Practical Woodwork



S1 Bannockburn Trip

In May, 40 of our S1 Social Subjects pupils were rewarded for excellent tracking reports with a visit to the Bannockburn Heritage Centre in Stirling. They had a fantastic day out and had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the award-winning Battle of Bannockburn experience and witness a digitally re-created version of the battle. They also attended a replica weapons handling experience and took part in outdoor learning activities to develop their knowledge of this crucial battle. All pupils were a credit to the school and the staff at the Heritage Centre commented on how well behaved our Eastbank pupils were. A great day had by all!



S3 Biology

S3 pupils were investigating a lamb's 'pluck' (trachea, lungs, heart and liver) in Biology. Some even tried out their surgical skills and stitched the heart back together after dissection. They were so excited!



String Players

50 Primary 7 Pupils enjoyed a concert given by our String Players on Wednesday 14th June at their Primary Induction Day. The P7 pupils all play violin, viola or cello with "The Baby Strings" project in their Primary Schools and we are looking forward to welcoming them to Eastbank School Orchestra in August.

Music

Pupils from our BGE went on a trip to The City Halls to perform with other Young People from Glasgow schools for The Brass and Woodwind Play Days. A good time was had by all.



DYW News



Richardson & Starling

Last week, two of our pupils were successful in securing Apprenticeships via an in-school recruitment campaign that we organised from March to May. This process involved pupils submitting CVs, an initial interview in school and a second interview on site at Richardson & Starling. After the second interview the successful pupils were then offered a Plastering and Joinery Apprenticeship. Thanks to Katie Campbell our SDS Careers Adviser for introducing us to a contact at Richardson & Starling. This is hopefully the start of a great partnership with this business for the future!

SmartSTEMs in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University

Around 30 new S4 pupils participated in this full day Engineering Festival at Glasgow Caledonian University on 13 June. Pupils found out some interesting information about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and the types of careers in this sector.

Maximise May

During May our S4 pupils visited Ernst & Young offices in George Square and pupils learned what was expected of them at interviews. Hopefully this can be used in real life scenarios in the near future with interviews for College, University or for employment! Thanks to James Dundas from the EY Foundation for hosting this session.



Cabinet Office

3 volunteers from the Cabinet Office in Glasgow came into school to discuss what careers in the civil service look like and give some information about their career journey. From this the pupils then created a TikTok to try and make the Civil Service appeal to a younger audience.



CCG Off Site Manufacturing

S3 Design & Manufacturing pupils visited CCG OSM in late April to have a tour of the site and find out how they produce housing off site in a factory in Cambuslang. Thanks to Claire and Teresa for helping to make this possible.



University Taster Week

The following pupils attended a University Taster Week at Glasgow University 5-9 June 2023:



Chantell Aiguedoueau
Nikita Bhandari
Sahra Choudar
Sophie Jenkins
Cyndi Martins Montu
David Morrison
Cameron O'Donnell
Octavian Oltean
Wiktorja Szter



The following took part in a **University Experience Week** at Glasgow University 12-16 June 2023:

Lara Bain
Jay-R Brown
Stephen Hughes
Zander Stewart

These weeks were a mixture of online sessions with days on the University Campus itself, with an Open Day thrown in too!

Reach Programme

Dora Kiraly and Amy Leitch have been participating in the REACH Widening Participation Programme throughout the school session which culminated in the Campus Week at Glasgow University from 19-23 June.



Routes for All Programme

After successful completion of the Routes for All College Programme in school during the session, 20 pupils from S5 (new S6) were invited along to a Campus day at Glasgow Caledonian University on 20 June to experience what it is like to be a student for the day.

Strathclyde Chemical Ambassador Programme 2023

A group of five S3 pupils took part in this Sustainability Bioplastic Challenge: - Ailsa Beaton, Jack Kastek, Evan McLelland, Elizabeth Abbey-Okuns and Jessica Lin.

The aims of the project were to explore the properties of polymers, how the chemical properties can change through cross-linking and the use of plasticisers. Investigations and experiments were undertaken to create different bioplastic products using seaweed, potato starch and milk.

The pupils visited The University of Strathclyde Chemical Engineering Department for 3 visits in May for hands-on activities, learning about Sustainability, Careers and project work. Grace Amadi a Chemical PhD student was mentoring in these activities.

Seaweed is being used to make plastics like wrappers on magazines and future development may see it being used in food wrappers. It is compostable which means it will biodegrade in 3 weeks in a compost bin.

Potato starch plastic is being used at present in pharmaceutical bags in Boots. Look out for more uses.

The 5 pupils gave a very polished and knowledgeable presentation to a S3 chemistry class on their findings.

The 5 Chemical Ambassadors then helped the class make plastic from milk. See pictures.

Thanks to The University Strathclyde for the opportunity to experience Chemical Engineering within their facilities. Thanks to PhD student mentor Grace Amadi for her support and encouragement. We wish her luck on finishing her PhD in chemistry for studying flaws in hydrogen batteries membranes!



Senior Phase College Applications

It's been a very busy session with Senior Phase College applications. S5/6 pupils have the opportunity to study a course at college as part of their school timetable – what an opportunity!

Over 50 S5/6 pupils were successful in obtaining a place on one of the Senior Phase College courses. Subjects include Accountancy, Bakery, Childcare, Child Health & Social Care, Computer Games Development, Construction, Criminology, Graphic Design, Hospitality, ESOL, International Events & Enterprise, Musical Theatre, Psychology, TV Set Design, and Uniformed & Emergency Services - what a selection!

We also have 3 pupils taking on a Foundation Apprenticeship – Keelie Boyle progressing into her 2nd year of Healthcare and Darceyrose McNeill and Becca Martin starting a 1-year FA in Financial Services and Children & Young People respectively. What a challenge!

Several campus visits were arranged as far flung as Cardonald and Anniesland, with others closer to home at City of Glasgow college in town. This was to allow pupils to complete the journey by train where College is situated out with the local area. No-one got lost! What a relief!

We wish them all well in this new venture and hope they enjoy the experience of being a part-time college student next session.



School Library

In June, we received a funded workshop from the Scottish Poetry Library for a Poetry Unwrapped session (led by the brilliant Julie McNeill). A group of our S1 students went on to produce a brilliant poem - well done to them. And there is a prize draw at the end of term for returning your library books. By the time the newsletter is published, I am sure the winners of the prize draw will have munched through all of their prizes! Thank you to all students and staff who have used the library this term, and I look forward to seeing everyone next year when I will have some brilliant new books (and a few surprises) for you to enjoy. For some great reading over summer, remember there is the Libby app on your iPad which gets you access to thousands of brilliant books and audiobooks too.!



NPA Digital Media

On Fri 24 March NPA Digital Media Class (Lyndsay, Rebecca, Charley and Aaron) attended screening of 'Shorts' at the Glasgow Film Theatre. This was their first ever visit to the GFT.

For the most part, the class watched animated movies programme called 'We Will Not Act Accordingly' and were very inspired by the visit, screening and the Q&A with filmmakers.



Retirement News

Eastbank Academy wishes Mrs Vipond and Ms de Rosa both a very happy retirement. Mrs Vipond has taught Art & Design in the school for 25 years and Ms de Rosa Drama and Pastoral Care for 26 years. They will both be missed by colleagues and pupils. Stay in touch!



HAPPY
Retirement!

Retirement News

After 34 years at Eastbank Academy, our Faculty Head of Pupil Support, Anne Graham is retiring. She joined Eastbank as a Biology teacher in 1989. Within her role, she has worked passionately supporting children with additional needs and her contributions to the school and students have been worth their weight in gold. She will be greatly missed, especially by her Support for Learning team. Happy Retirement Mrs Graham!



Graduation

On Tuesday 13 June, the class of 2023 met formally for the final time to graduate from Eastbank Academy. Mr Graham awarded certificates of achievement to pupils. It was a very positive and uplifting occasion and we were delighted to see so many parents/carers in attendance. A big thank you to the Art department for making the mortarboards.



Prom 2023

What a fantastic night was had by all at the scenic Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld! Our end of session extravaganza was attended by over 150 staff and pupils and we were treated by performances from the amazing Sticks and Kicks and even had a visit from the Ghostbusters in Ecto 1. After a fantastic meal we danced the night away and finished our event with a super charged rendition of Loch Lomond.

Our thanks go to the staff at the Westerwood for making us so welcome and to Mrs Gormley in the school office for organising the event.

A special thanks also goes to the McNab family for organising the extra entertainment!



BGE Reward Trips

We have had a number of trips throughout the last week of term, including Blair Drummond Safari Park, Blackpool and London. The sun was shining and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves!



Activities Day

On Thursday 22 June, we hosted an activities day for all pupils in the school. Pupils could choose from a variety of activities such as playing board games, nail painting, ice cream drink making etc.

