



Academy News



Dear parents and carers,

A very warm welcome to the October 2024 edition of Academy News. It is nine weeks since we began academic session 2024-25. As always, the first term has been busy, with pupils settling in to their new year groups, getting to know new teachers, in some cases getting to grips with new subjects, and for our first-year pupils learning their way around a new school. All of this makes for a lively school, and I'm delighted to report that everyone has coped well with this.

We started the session very positively, with the tremendous news that our Senior Phase pupils had once again performed extremely well in their exams last summer, smashing all previous Eastbank records. We are incredibly proud of their achievements, and I was delighted to be able to congratulate many of them personally at our awards ceremony in September. You can find out more about both of these later in this newsletter.

Sticking with academic matters, S1 have had their first parents' meeting, and it was great to meet parents and carers and welcome them into our school. In addition, all year groups, with the exception of S3, have received their first tracking report of the session. S3 will receive theirs on Friday 25 October. These will be issued regularly throughout the year to keep you informed about your child's academic progress and prospects.

The term from October to Christmas is another nine-week stretch and will be fast and furious. Prelim exams begin on 2 December and there are six teaching weeks until these begin, so everyone will need to be working hard and stay 'on the ball'. Our supported study programme commences immediately after the holiday, and I strongly encourage all senior phase pupils to attend.

There have been a number of other more exciting (some might say more interesting) activities taking place across the school. We have had young people undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Expedition, S4 pupils visiting Whitelee Wind Farm as part of the National 5 Energy course, and senior photographers undertaking their field trip, amongst many other activities. In the term ahead, we look forward to visiting the V&A museum in October and, looking further ahead, a trip to France beckons for some in the summer.

I am grateful to all parents and carers for their ongoing support, and to staff for going to great lengths to provide brilliant service for our young people, and making Eastbank the wonderful school it is. I wish everyone a relaxing October holiday.

Warm wishes,
Jonathan Graham

School Term Dates

October

Friday 11 October
(In-service day)

Monday 14 October-Friday
18 October
(October week)

December

Schools close at 2.30pm on
Friday 20 December 2024

Monday 23 December-Friday
3 January 2025
(Christmas holidays)

Schools return on Monday 6
January 2025



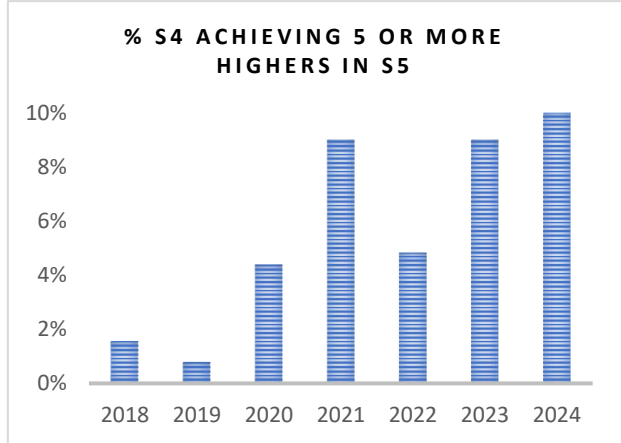
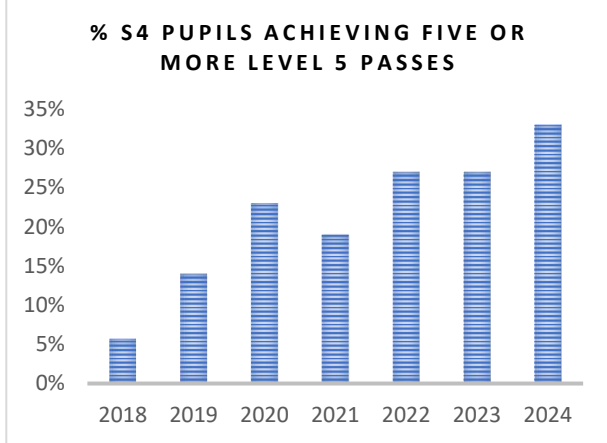
iPads

Please remember to bring
your fully charged iPad to
school.



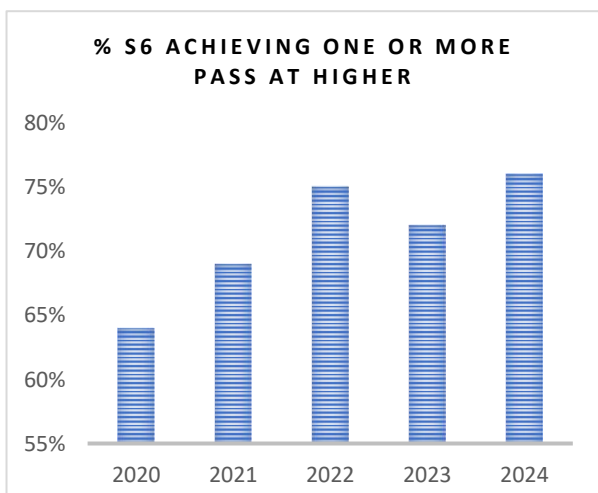
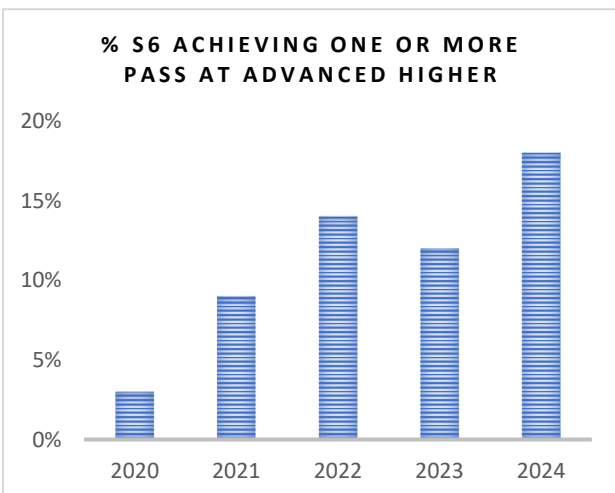
AMBITION: MORE OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS IN 2024!

Another year, another set of records broken. Yet again, we were thrilled with the performance of our S4, S5, and S6 pupils in their 2024 SQA exams with a superb set of overall and individual results. Our S4 pupils achieved excellent results at National 3, National 4, and National 5 level. An amazing 33% of our S4 pupils achieved five or more passes at National 5 which, by some considerable distance, is the best performance by Eastbank Academy in at least 20 years.



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 2024 we had 180 pupils in S4, 60 of whom achieved 5 or more passes at National 5 (33%), 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.

The S5 Higher results for 2024 have been the best in over 20 years. In 2019, only one S5 pupil achieved 5 passes at Higher (AABCC). In 2024, this has increased to 15 pupils - 10% of the (bigger) year group. Two pupils achieved 5 passes at grade A, and a further two achieved AAAAB. Similarly, at 1+ and 3+ Highers, 2024 has been the best year on record at Eastbank Academy. Similar positive patterns can be seen at other levels and in other year groups.



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. 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 very proud of our young people and extremely impressed with their achievements. Our new Senior Phase classes have made a magnificent 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 to all pupils on a successful year last session. Many thanks also to parents, carers and staff for supporting them throughout the year. This is what happens when pupils display ambition and take responsibility for their learning.

Senior Pupil Leadership Team

We are delighted to announce that our Senior Pupil Leadership Team this session will consist of Chloe Morrison Head Pupil, ably assisted by Deputies Jonah Brooks, Sophie Jenkins and Nieve Healy.



Congratulations

Well done!

A massive well done to our former pupils Alex, Neve, Robbie, Josh and Matthew for completing the Shine Walk and raising over £1,200 for charity.



Well done!

Achievement

A massive congratulations to S3 Maksym Nekrasov on achieving Bronze at the recent World Taekwondo Tournament in Riga. We are all very proud of you Maksym!



P7 Masterclasses

On Tuesday 8 October we were delighted to hold 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 2025.

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 22 October.



Senior Awards Ceremony

On Thursday, 12th September we had the pleasure of welcoming parents, carers, teachers, and members of our wider community to our Senior Awards Ceremony. We are immensely proud of our prize winners, who have shown resilience, determination, and a strong commitment to our school values. Their achievements in the recent SQA exams reflect their hard work, and they should take great pride in their success.

The ceremony also showcased the impressive musical talents of our senior pupils, with all three performances being outstanding. A special thanks goes to the staff and pupils who helped ensure the event ran smoothly, particularly the senior pupils who provided an abundance of delicious home baking.

It was undoubtedly a successful evening, and I'm sure everyone in attendance felt a shared sense of pride and accomplishment.



European Day of Languages

Congratulations to the following young people who were the winners of the Modern Languages European Day of Languages competition (and to the staff who had to show off their language skills!)



Blair F 1D1
Riley B 1D2
Jason E 1D2
David E 1T1
Genesis S 1B1
Dima A 1B1
Paige G 1S2
Tai C 1S2
Daniela M 1S2
Diya A 1S2
Nuo W 1S2
Sergio A 1L1
Dilon A 1L1
Adam V 1L1



Congratulations

Scottish Maths Week

A group of S5/6 H and AH Maths pupils attended a Strathclyde University Outreach Event where they learned about Network Theory and were given a tour of the University's Maths Campus. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and returned to school eager to share their experiences. In the department, pupils were given the opportunity to explore a range of activities related to Mathematics and its applications. Staff completed a daily Countdown Number Puzzle.



Friday



Target:

296

School Library

The term is whizzing by in the school library, with the new S1s proving themselves keen readers already. The library has gained a total of eight S1 Reading Leaders who are being trained in October. We also have three senior Reading Leaders from S2 who have asked to stay on and help in the library - Kaci McLean, Didi Okafor and Amber Galloway. Well done to our Reading Leaders team!

We are also having a double celebration in the Library this October. We are celebrating Black History Month and then Halloween at the end of the month. There will be a pupil led display for Halloween and it will be great to see their work. Meantime, have a look at all our books about Black History Month on display and please feel free to come and borrow any that may be of interest.



School Mini Bus

Our school mini bus received a bit of an overhaul during the September weekend when it was admitted to mini bus "hospital" for a lovely valet from a local company, restoring a wee shine to the old boy! Splendeat lux!

Before:



After:



Whitelee Wind Farm Trip

On 7th of October, our new N5 Skills for Work Energy class visited Whitelee Wind Farm for the very first time. Pupils participated in a workshop, where they got to test the efficiency of different shaped wind turbine blades. They were also taken on a guided tour through the farm, where they got to see the wind turbines up close. Pupils learned about the history of the farm, the cost and efficiency of the wind turbine and the environment of Whitelee.



Partnerships

Eastbank Academy are delighted to be working with our partners Glasgow Life for our S3 Engagement Programme. Some of our young people are pictured below with Ally and Anna from Glasgow Life before heading off to Barlanark Community Centre where the group are working towards their Community Award.



Poppy Scotland Competition

Poppy Scotland ran an additional competition last year alongside our main competition called "Share Your Poppy Learning" which asked schools to share pictures of any of their poppy learning with us via social media or emails. We had over 100 entries and narrowed them down to a shortlist selection for public vote. However, the judges selected our entry as their high school Judges' Choice winner. The panel liked the cross curricular and whole school approach to marking remembrance.



Well done!

Young Ambassadors

Our Young Ambassadors attended their first conference day and discussed ways in which they could promote sport within the school. So far, they have been doing an amazing job and have been promoting and taking clubs within the PE department. We currently have over 200 pupils per week attending the PE Clubs!

Well done to the YAs:

Nieve Healy

Allexis Faulds

Lucia White

Abbie O'Neil

Jessica Boardman

Hayley Foy

Hannah Wales

Taylor Graham

Freya Paxton

David Ralston

Mackenzie Ferrie

Rachel Gibb



Well done!

Powering Futures

Level 6 Powering Futures were joined by our corporate volunteer in October to support them with their challenge selection. Gordon Stewart, an engineering and sustainability consultant from

Arup, will be working with over 40 of our

Eastbank young people as they research and prepare presentations outlining their solutions to key sustainability challenges. We look forward to continuing this partnership into the next term!



Black History Month

S3 History have been researching Black History Month and are in the midst of creating lessons to teach younger years about the importance of this celebration. They will teach S1 their own self-made lessons and are relishing the opportunity to be leaders of learning. As if this was not enough, their efforts are also helping them work towards achieving the Detective level of the Heritage Hero Award. Well done S3!

Great work!



Focus West

40 of our S4 pupils attended Strathclyde University for the day on 18 September to take part in activities designed to help improve study techniques and to make pupils more aware of how university works, with a focus on student life, finance and creating a personalised Study Toolkit. A great day was had by all!



Focus on College and University Study
West of Scotland

University of Strathclyde

On Thursday 5th and Friday 6th September, almost 70 of our S6 pupils were given the opportunity to speak to Development Officers from University of Strathclyde who came in to school to hold impartial personalised 1:1 Higher Education guidance interviews with each pupil. These interviews were tailored specifically to meet each pupil's individual needs and give guidance on course choice, campus choice, and entry requirements.



Senior Phase College Courses

A great start to S5 and S6 for pupils who opted to take a college course as their Column E timetable choice this session.

More than 60 pupils have commenced their Senior Phase College courses at one of the above partner colleges, going into college on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and studying such topics as:

Accountancy	ESOL	Practical Electronics
Adventure Sports	Esports	Practical Cookery
Automotive	Graphic Design	Professional Theatre Prep
Building Design & Civil Engineering	International Events & Enterprise	Psychology
Child Health & Social Care	Legal Studies	Radio Broadcasting
Computer Games Development	Mental Health	Social Services, Children & Young People
Construction	Musical Theatre	Sound Production: Recording
Criminology	Nursing	Up in the Air and On the Ground (Cabin Crew)

What a wonderful opportunity for our young people to experience life as college students, with the added benefit of studying subjects out with the school curriculum, and giving themselves the option of going directly into a related full-time college course next session. What's not to like?

Routes for All Campus Visit

A great morning spent on our Focus West 'Routes for All' campus visit to Glasgow Caledonian University. What a start to the 'Routes for All' programme, currently running in school for some of our S6 Higher Ed. applicants.

