



# Academy News



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, and the end of another busy but rewarding term, I am filled with a deep sense of awe, not to mention exhaustion, as I think of all that has been accomplished. Christmas is a time for celebration and reflection, and this latest edition of Academy News will aid this reflection, providing a helpful catalogue of many of the ways in which the school community has come together through activities both in and out-with the classroom.

No newsletter at this time of year can fail to acknowledge the prelim diet, which has just ended. As always, our Senior Phase pupils did themselves proud and conducted themselves impeccably throughout, showing the expected high levels of ambition and responsibility. I trust the academic performances will be equally as strong! Pupils will begin receiving their marks shortly, and these will be formally communicated to parents and carers on via the next reports on 17 January, with parents' meetings to follow at the end of that month. In addition, in these opening words I never fail to mention tracking reports: you should have received the second report in either November or December, depending on your child's year group.

Beyond these academic matters, within this newsletter you will read about our Talent Show, our Christmas Concert, the Santa Dash, the Dance-a-thon, Duke of Edinburgh, our Foodbank appeal, and so much more. These stories provide just a flavour of the many ways in which we, as a community, let our light shine, and keep the school busy and a buzzing place. Through these activities and events, we have seen our students excel academically and grow in character, displaying our school values. It has been a pleasure to observe their enthusiasm and the positive relationships they have formed with one another, and with staff, who as usual have gone above and beyond to create a dynamic learning environment where every pupil can thrive.

As we head into the Christmas break, I thank you for all your support throughout 2024, and hope that you to get time to relax and enjoy the festive season with your families. I look forward to welcoming your children back in January, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that 2025 will offer.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Jonathan Graham

## School Term Key Dates

### **December:**

*Schools close at 2.30pm on  
Friday 20 December*

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

### **January:**

*Schools return on Monday  
6 January 2025*

### **February:**

*Monday 17 and Tuesday 18  
February  
(Mid term break)*

*Wednesday 19  
(In-service day)*



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

### King's Trust Achieve Club

King's Trust Achieve Club began a series of collaborative projects with Shettleston Growing Project. We all visited the site and the young people have begun building their skills through constructing Bird-Boxes before tackling a big project in the New Year.



### Foodbank Donations

Many thanks to the generosity of staff and pupils with our donations of food for the local foodbank. The S3 King's Trust have been kept busy collecting and organising our donations. Staff at the foodbank have sent the following message:

*"Thank you so much for the wonderful effort from Eastbank staff and pupils – your support means so much to us!"*



### Panto Trip

Twenty of our S1s and S2s went to see Peter Pan at The King's Theatre. It was a great experience and pupils were delighted to get a shout out from the cast members. Members of the public commented on how respectful and polite pupils were when getting the train to and from the theatre - lovely to see our school values in action!



### Higher English Theatre Trip

A group of S5 and S6 pupils visited Edinburgh in November to see a live performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. The pupils are studying this play as part of their Higher English course and seeing it performed live enhanced their understanding of the play and will help them write about it in their SQA exam in May. Pupils were impressed with the staging of the play, which included a revolving set, and the quality of the performances, with one pupil claiming 'it's the best acting I've ever seen'.



## Eastbank Dance-a-thon

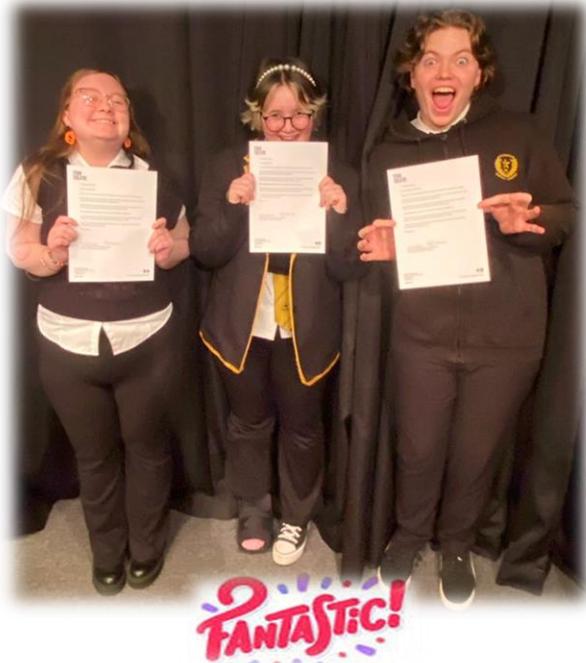
A huge well done to Miss McCracken's dance leaders and dancers for raising an amazing £2291.68 at their first ever dance-a-thon. A great effort from all who took part. Well done!



# Congratulations!

## Tron Theatre Programme

Congratulations to 3 Higher Drama pupils Sophie Jenkins, Oskar Waring and Zoe McNaught for securing a place in the Tron Takeover programme at the Tron Theatre in Glasgow. The pupils have had the opportunity to work with the Panto team including the director, the actors and the designers. We are so proud of you for achieving your place and hope that you thoroughly enjoyed your experience!



## Girls Football

The S1 and U15 girls' teams have been doing Eastbank proud in the Scottish Cup and recent friendlies. The S1 team beat Castlehead 3-1 in some very cold conditions with Sophia scoring a hat trick. The U15 girls beat Trinity in a penalty shoot-out after a 3-3 draw with Brooke saving a penalty to win us the tie. Well done to all involved.



## Eddie Miller Prize

Congratulations to Melanie who received her award for the Eddie Miller Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Music. Huge thanks to the Eddie Miller foundation for their ongoing support for our students.



# AMAZING!

## Santa Dash

Some of our S6 pupils and staff completed the Santa Dash raising almost £2200 for the Beatson, with an additional £500 from Gift Aid contributions. What an amazing total! Well done!



## Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to all involved in the Duke of Edinburgh awards. A successful evening celebrating the achievements of our young people.



# Great achievement!

## Thank you to St Joseph's & St Joachim's

Eastbank Academy are very grateful for the ongoing support offered to our families from St Joseph's and St Joachim's Foodbank. This kindness of heart has allowed us to support over 20 families at these difficult times. A very sincere warmth of gratitude is expressed from our school community. Thank you to all!



Thank you

## Talent Show

Magnificent talent on display at Eastbank in our annual Talent Show in aid of Children in Need. A big well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to the winner - Cooper Mitchell!



***Eastbank Academy has talent!***

## Christmas Concert

Congratulations Eastbank Academy on a magnificent Christmas concert on Wednesday 18 December. We had around 120 young people performing on stage and a full house in the audience. We enjoyed a varied programme of Christmas music, solos and ensembles. Well done to all.



You should be very proud.



## Manchester City Trip

Some of our pupils travelled to Manchester to watch the Man City game. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were well behaved.



## Heritage Heroes

S3 History achieved their Heritage Hero awards this term following on from their delivery of self-made lessons on Black History Month to the S1 RME classes. All learners who participated did so with confidence, responsibility and maturity. There are certainly some future teachers in the making here!

Archaeology Scotland commented on how impressed they were to see young people as leaders of learning and stated that they would love to see more examples of this. Eastbank Academy leading the way again!



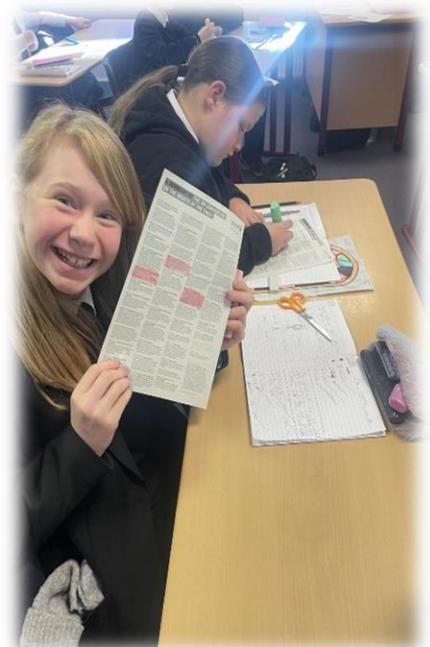
## Poppy Scotland Trip

The S2 Poppy Scotland trip took place in November. Learners were respectful and responsible when visiting the Lady Haig Factory in Edinburgh. They were a credit to the school and really embraced this 'Time for Reflection' opportunity.



## Human Rights Day

1S RME celebrated Human Rights Day by learning about the UNCRC and evaluated the importance of the articles. They are leading the way on our Rights Respecting Schools journey towards Gold!



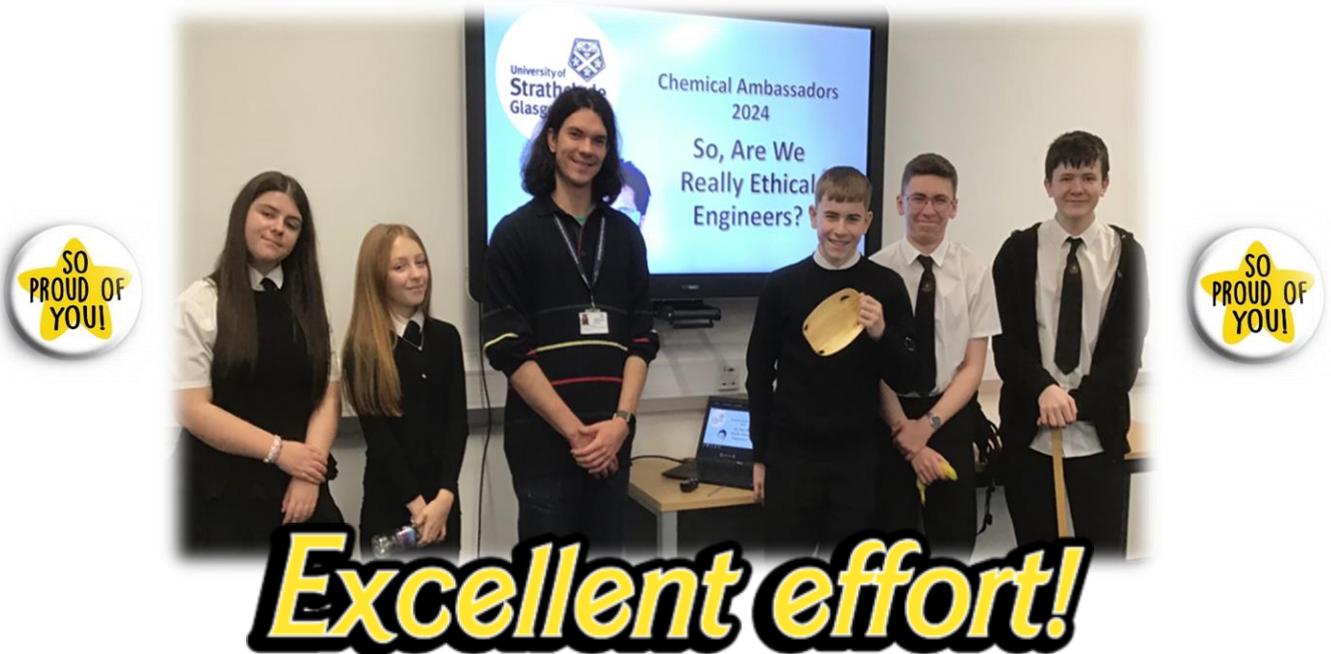
**Great work!**

## Chemical Ambassadors 2024

Jack Gillon, Lucy Keating, Luke Duggan, Lennon Farley, Millie Woodburn in S3 pupils took part in The University of Strathclyde's project "So, Are We Really Ethical Engineers? The pupils attended a Masterclass at the University which involved the opportunity to see around the Chemical Engineering Department; take part in practical and work with mentors to research and prepare a presentation on the role of Chemical Engineers in the ethics of the Fashion Industry.

The group's presentation was well researched and presented with confidence. As a result, Eastbank Academy won the first prize of £200 of Amazon vouchers. Congratulations to all and thanks goes to: - The University of Strathclyde for providing the opportunity to see possible careers in Engineering and the mentors, Nicola Voiculesa and Ubong Ekanem for their time and guidance during the project.

The project was thought provoking and raised many issues regarding ethical issues in the Fashion Industry. You may wish to visit the online "Fashion Transparency Index" which reveals some shocking and surprising facts about your favourite Brands and Retail Outlets.



## Graeme Armstrong Visit

We were delighted to work with Graeme Armstrong who delivered a magnificent session for our S3 pupils. It was interesting, fascinating, entertaining and inspiring. We look forward to working with Graeme again!



## Gymfest

S2 pupils performed exceptionally well at Gymfest. Well done to all who took part!



# Well done!

## Christmas Cards

Cards that have been created by our S1 to be sent to residents and staff at two of our local care homes. A huge thank you to the English department and Art department for facilitating our annual Christmas Cards to Care Homes initiative with all of their S1 classes.



## Dogs Trust – S2 Values Ambassadors

Our S2 Values Ambassadors visited the Dogs Trust in Mount Vernon supporting the local community through providing donations of dog treats and toys to the trust. S2 Value Ambassadors started with a kindness walk down to the Dogs Trust reflecting on the school values and how these can be incorporated into our daily lives.



## Primary Seven Information Evening

The P7 information evening took place on Wednesday 13 November. The format of the information evening was a 30-minute presentation followed by a tour of the school. It was then finished with refreshments in the concourse area to answer any additional questions.



### Christmas Jumper Day

We had our annual Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13 December. Staff and pupils were encouraged to bring in an item for the foodbank.



### S1 Christmas Dance

The S1 Christmas Dance took place on 19 December. Pupils danced to the Macarena, took photos in our Christmas Photobooth and had their face painted in a Christmas theme. Thank you to our organisers as well as all the senior pupils who volunteered to take part.



### Christmas Door Competition

Staff at Eastbank Academy decorated their classroom/office doors with a Christmas theme. The S2 Values Ambassadors voted for their favourite doors and even came up with the ideas for the prizes.



**1<sup>st</sup> place – Miss Wilson**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> place – Miss Turner**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Miss Wright**



**2<sup>nd</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**



***Have a Happy Christmas everyone!***