



# Academy News



Dear Parent/Carer,

When I wrote my welcome message for the Christmas edition of Academy News last December, none of us were aware of what we would subsequently face in January. The First Minister's announcements immediately before and during the Christmas holiday has meant that the entire term has involved either remote or blended learning. Whilst I acknowledge the health and safety need for such decisions, I have missed having our pupils in school in the normal manner, although it was great to see everyone return, albeit in a limited way, this month.

I have made a point of keeping families updated on a weekly basis, and hope you found these letters useful. I understand that remote learning placed huge pressures on young people, parents and carers, and teachers, and I very much recognise the difficult circumstances in which everyone has been working. I commend everyone for their ongoing efforts, and indeed resilience, in the face of such adversity!

Looking ahead, it would appear that all pupils will return to full time attendance from Tuesday 20 April. I look forward to that and hope we can have a positive and productive final term of session 2020-2021. For pupils in the senior phase there will be work to do to gather evidence of attainment for SQA qualifications. For those in the BGE, we will be working to get back into the routine of learning and teaching, and ensuring knowledge and skills are developed as required. This, after all, is what school is all about, and I'm excited about the prospect of us being able to support young people in the normal way.

In spite of not having experienced a 'typical' school day in 2021 thus far, there have still been a number of achievements and good news stories that we can share with you. I'm absolutely delighted about that, and I'm sure you'll find this edition of Academy News enjoyable and uplifting.

As always, I thank you for your support and hard work this term, and I wish everyone a restful and pleasant holiday.

Jonathan Graham

## School Term Key Dates

### **April 2021:**

School Closes at 2:30pm on Thursday  
1<sup>st</sup> April  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Good Friday)  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Monday)  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April (In-Service Day)  
Pupils Return Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April

### **May 2021:**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (May Holiday)  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May (In-Service Day)  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May (May  
Weekend)

### **June 2021:**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June (In-Service Day)  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June (In-Service Day)  
School Closes at 1:00pm on Thursday  
24<sup>th</sup> June



## Senior Phase Drama

In a world where mask wearing and distancing is compulsory, being a successful actor is challenging. Miss McKeating was delighted with how, on the return to school for practical work from the end of February, our Senior Phase Drama pupils rose to the challenge and have proven that even in the midst of a pandemic, they can still be successful actors and are on track to success in their National Qualifications!

When it comes to those final performance exams ... "break a leg"!



## Holocaust Memorial Day

S1 and S2 Social Subjects classes virtually commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day in January. Classes took part in a remote lesson about Holocaust Memorial Day and why it is important. They were then tasked with designing their own commemoration candle to fit this year's theme "Be the light in the darkness". Pupils put in lots of effort and produced some beautiful candle designs.



## LGBT Writing Competition

Eastbank pupils celebrated LGBT History Month by engaging in a writing competition. I am delighted to announce that our winner is **Brodie Collins** in S2 who submitted a piece on the fabulous Ru Paul! Her entry was published in Glasgow Schools Libraries' eMagazine 'Swatch'. Our runner up was **Brody Spence** in S3. Congratulations!



## LGBT Schools Charter

Eastbank Academy has started working towards the LGBT Schools Charter. It promises to be an exciting journey! Thanks to **Jacob Kennedy** in S5 and **Alex Ward** in S4 for being so enthusiastic and keen to support this programme from the outset. Thanks also to the 'Champion Group' of staff - Mr Dunsmore, Miss Looker, Miss McBride, Ms McKeating, Miss Peacock, Miss Wright, Miss Spalding, Mr Horn, Mrs Gormley and Miss Willis.



## **Bicycle Project**

Over the past month lots of S1, S2 and S3 pupils assisted in building 5 brand new bikes purchased by the school. Everyone did a great job and learned lots!

PC Ashley will be running bicycle maintenance classes and cycle skills workshops after the Easter Holidays. Any pupils interested should speak to her.



## **2021 Languages Ambassador**

Congratulations to **Maddison McGowan** in S1 who was recognised by Glasgow City Council as a 2021 Languages Ambassador. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work and commitment shown in class and throughout the lockdown period. We are all very proud of Maddison!

## **S2 STEM Project**

The following 6 pupils from S2 have joined forces to work on a STEM project set out by The Engineering Trust:

**Darin Krapman, Kaleb Dolan, Kyle Leonard, Greg McCue, Emma Pinder and Brian Dowds.**

They were given a choice of 3 projects - A Circular Economy, My School is an Island and Tomorrow's Tech Today.

They have chosen to work on a project under the heading Tomorrow's Tech Today, and they have come up with a brilliant idea which really impressed their mentor, who is Head of Digital Economy for Glasgow City Council. They even plan to record an advert for their design!

We can't wait to see the finished product!

