

Name of pupil _____ Class _____

Smithycroft Secondary Parents' Newsletter Issue 6

Smithycroft Awards Ceremony

On Tuesday 11th June we held our annual Awards Ceremony and celebrated many of the wonderful achievements of our young people. There were awards for the best in a subject as well as ones for progress, attitude and effort. There were a number of special prizes too and these included the following; Parents Council Award to Nikol Krugielka and Ryan Russell; Junior Citizenship to Dani Boyd and Senior Citizen to Conor McGregor; Gartcraig community award to Robbie Bryant; Liz Walker Work Experience award to Caitlin Cotter; Stephen Ferguson Award to Rebecca Stride; Trades House award to Ryan McEwan and Jasmin Duff; outstanding Academic Achievement to Christopher Thomson.

Our Guest Speaker at the ceremony was Mr Derek McGill, the Governor of Barlinnie Prison. We were also joined on the platform by the Head of Inclusion for Glasgow, Mr John Butcher, the Area Manager for Education in the North East, Mrs Margaret MacKinlay, our Education Quality Improvement Officer, Mr Jim Doyle, former head of Music, Mrs Eileen Hunter, Chair of the Parent Council, Mrs Elizabeth Haynes, and Councillor Elaine McDougall. It was a fantastic evening and many thanks to all the parents and carers who came along to share in their young people's success.

Super Smithy Sounds

On Thursday 13th June we had our second wonderful night of the week with our summer music concert. The talent showcased on the night was of such a high standard and it was a really uplifting end to the summer term. We had a First year choir and a very special five piece Senior choir; a rock band and guitar band; lots of small group vocal performances ranging from Katy Perry to Alicia Keys; our fabulous orchestra and more. A huge thanks to our instructors, all the staff and pupils who helped organise the event and our Music department of Miss Stevenson, Mr Gallagher and particularly our Head of Faculty, Mrs Milton.

Key Dates

Tuesday 25th June	M and Ds Attendance trip
Wednesday 26th June	End of term 1.00pm
Monday 12th	1.30-2.30 Blazer collection 2.30—3.20 Sales/ fittings
Wednesday 14th August	Start of new session 8.50am

Happy Retirement

At the end of this session Mr Highet in our Maths department will be retiring. Mr Highet has been at Smithycroft for 27 years and has made a tremendous contribution to the development of our young people. He will be greatly missed but we wish him all the very best in his well earned retirement.

Chemistry at Work

On Tuesday 11th June, 12 of our S1 pupils were selected to take part in a "Chemistry at Work" morning at the University of Glasgow. Pupils carried out a variety of interesting experiments and were successful in their "Mission Impossible" Investigations. They also had the opportunity to meet some stimulating chemistry role models who discussed their varied careers. The morning finished with an exciting lecture and demonstration with lots of flashes and bangs.

Athletics Success

At the Glasgow Schools Athletics Championships we had particularly notable success for two of our young people. Andrew Prentice won a gold medal in the S3 Boys Javelin and Jo Corrigan a bronze medal in the S3 girls Javelin. Well done to both pupils!

Raising Aspirations

Over the last couple of weeks, many of our Senior pupils have been participating in activities outwith school. Our potential university pupils were involved in a "Professor's Challenge with Glasgow Caledonian University. This involved them competing with other schools from across Glasgow to present an idea for a project to a panel of judges. Smithycroft pupils did us proud and came second in their heat, only narrowly missing out to another school.

This week, a group of our S5 pupils who are aspiring to go to University, are participating in a week long "Summer Project" This project, which takes place at Glasgow Caledonian University, is offering pupils from only 11 schools in Glasgow, the opportunity to experience both the academic and social worlds of university. Ten academic areas within the University have developed tailored programmes of activities for the pupils to select. Pupils will also be offered a range of recreational activities including sport, dance and creative opportunities.

Glasgow Science Festival 2013 @ Alliance Française

As part of the Glasgow Science Festival 2013, the Alliance Française hosted a bilingual French/English exhibition entitled "L'eau au coeur de la science" -water at the heart of science. This project aimed to highlight the dynamic partnership between the twinned cities of Glasgow and Marseille. Lots of our S3 pupils went along

to the event -

"We learned about how water can be useful in our daily lives and how it plays a large part in natural disasters such as floods and droughts. The presenter was a French scientist from Glasgow's twin city, Marseille. He hosted an interactive quiz in French and English based on what we had learned. Overall, it was a really interesting experience."

The Modern Languages department have been very busy lately. A group of S3 pupils visited Le Bistro Beaumartin, a French restaurant in the city centre.

"We enjoyed a three course lunch – some of us dared to try frogs' legs and snails which we found quite tasty! The waiters who served us were very friendly and happy to help us with anything we needed. It was almost as if we were in Paris rather than Glasgow! All of us really enjoyed our meal and our time at the restaurant. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience more about French culture."

Comenius Project

Student Exchange Programme

Smithycroft recently welcomed a group of 28 students, aged 12 to 14, and three teachers from The European School of Munich. The German group arrived in Glasgow on 4th June and all pupils stayed with families of Smithycroft pupils for 10 days. During the visit Smithycroft pupils, staff and our German partners took part in various educational, vocational and cultural visits in and around Glasgow, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Oban and Mull.

During the visit friendships were strengthened and all the young people involved had an informative, exciting and enjoyable 10 days together. So much so that on the day that the German group departed there were lots of tears and sad goodbyes!

However, the partnership will continue and the pupils in both schools will work collaboratively, over the next few months, on activities based around employability and entrepreneurship. A group of Smithycroft pupils will visit their German friends in Munich for another 10 day adventure next year, probably in June. They too will stay with host families and therefore get the opportunity to experience what it is like to be part of a German family.

We would like to thank everyone in the school community, especially the host families, who took the German students into their hearts, treated them with great kindness, cared for them and made them feel part of the family. This project would not be as successful without your support.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for their support over the past session. It has been an extremely busy year and we are very proud of the many achievements of our young people. Your encouragement is vital to our continued success and we really value your contribution.

Mrs Jean Miller

Headteacher