



DUMBARTON ACADEMY

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our young people who received their SQA qualifications over the summer and I am delighted that all the hard work and effort paid off. I would also like welcome all staff and pupils back after the summer break. In particular, I would also extend a very warm welcome to all our new parents who have taken the decision to send their children to Dumbarton Academy. Be assured that everything possible will be done to ensure your child and all of our young people not only enjoy school and achieve the very best they can in their time with us, but are also safe, well and happy.

Our school prides itself on the strong commitment to partnership with parents and the local community to ensure that the potential of all our youngsters is realised in full. This helps to create a purposeful sense of community and I would encourage all parents and carers to get in touch with myself or one of my colleagues if there are any issues that you would like to discuss further.

Also crucial in ensuring that our young people are successful learners are attendance and timekeeping. It is paramount that pupils attend all classes on time and come in full uniform prepared to learn. Every young person was issued with a Homework Diary at the start of the term. This should enable parents to monitor homework as well as teachers and encourage pupils to think positively about their learning. Once again, I would welcome your support in helping us to maintain our high standards and support our positive ethos for effective learning. We want all of our pupils to be committed and ambitious.

On a personal level, I would like to thank all of you for your support in my time as Acting Head Teacher at Dumbarton Academy I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I am very much looking forward to working with our new Head Teacher as we continue to strive for excellence making Dumbarton Academy the best place for our young people to learn and prepare for the world of work.

Best wishes for another successful year!

Murray W Hanvey

Acting Head Teacher

Expressive Arts

Art and Design

Niamh Wright, our S6 Advanced Higher pupil last year who secured an A pass has been accepted for Glasgow School of Art in Jewellery and Silversmithing.

The following pupils will all be involved in the Widening Participation Programme for Glasgow School of Art in 2019-20:- Miriam Glen, Holly Astbury, Alice McFadzean and Rena Bustamante.

Music

The music department will be organising a Cabaret event on the 9th October and will start at 7pm. All parents and families are very welcome to enjoy this musical extravaganza

Buddy Breakfast

On Friday 6th September the Higher Leadership team had organised a Buddy Breakfast where S1 and S6 pupils got to know each other by having breakfast, chatting and completing a Dumbarton Academy Quiz. The pupils got to enjoy sweet and savoury treats provided by the Home Economics Department Toast Club. Once their breakfast settled pupils moved into the assembly hall and Evans hall to carry out a couple of team building games. Overall this created a bond between the two year groups and lots of fun was had by all.



Modern Languages Ambassadors

We are delighted this year to have seven enthusiastic S6 pupils who have volunteered to take on the role of Modern Languages Ambassadors. Their willingness to take on this role demonstrates their enthusiasm for language learning and they will work not only with the department but also with our local primary schools to promote Modern Languages. The pupils will be involved in a number of different projects throughout the year, the first of which was to prepare and deliver European Day of Languages themed lessons to P7 pupils. The pupils worked hard to put together informative and enjoyable lessons. They have shown a high level of commitment to the role and have demonstrated leadership skills and creativity. The next project for our Language Ambassadors will be preparing and delivering a lesson related to the Mexican festival 'Día de los muertos' / 'Day of the Dead'.

This year's Modern Languages Ambassadors are Eloise Barr, Matthew Don, Jillian Dickson, Niamh McDiarmid, Elle McIlroy, Megan McIver and Cara MacKenzie.

Primary 7 Transition Event – European Day of Languages Quiz

European Day of Languages 2019 is on Thursday the 26th of September. To tie in with this event, the Modern Languages department are hosting a European Day of Languages Quiz on Wednesday 25th September for the Primary 7 pupils from our cluster primaries. The quiz involves several rounds featuring everything from sports, languages and music from across Europe! This year over 130 pupils from our primaries will compete in teams of 4 and the winners will receive language-themed prizes!

Modern Languages Inter-house European Day of Languages Quiz Competition

European Day of Languages 2019 is on Thursday the 26th of September. As part of our celebration, the Modern Languages department have once again put together a series of short, fun quiz slides that will appear on the Daily News during registration every day of the week beginning Monday the 23rd of September.

The purpose of the quiz is to test students' knowledge of the languages, cultures, geography and history of European countries and to highlight how knows and speaking a modern language will benefit them in the future.

The highest-scoring classes will receive House Points.



Technologies

S2 pupils have been working in teams to create a business idea for the Dragon's Den project. Last week pupils visited the Science department to experiment with novel materials. Each group will now look to use these materials and develop a business plan to pitch to the Dragon's in the hope of



achieving investment. We are all looking forward to hearing the different ideas our budding entrepreneurs produce.



S6 Young Enterprise group attended a very interactive and helpful event at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel (some of our pupils were even offered summer jobs)! The Young Enterprise group have started brainstorming and have already come up with a fantastic and chocolatey idea! The next team meeting will be dedicated to organising an event to fundraise and help start their business.

Mathematics Department News

Congratulations to our 2018/2019 Award winners Eloise, Rhea and Charlie who were rewarded at our recent Senior Awards evening for their accomplishments in Higher and National 5 Mathematics.



Maths Week Scotland is almost upon us. Starting on 01/10/19 S1 and S2 will be looking at Coding in Maths and look out for it in other subject areas too.

Please follow us on Twitter



@Maths_DA

Duke of Edinburgh



The pupils met every week after Christmas on a Wednesday to complete the training required for heading out on expeditions. This included map reading and navigation, first aid, camp craft such as putting up a tent and cooking on a Trangia as well as meal planning and also what to pack (or not to pack!) in their rucksack for the 2 day expedition.

They went out to Balloch park for a day to put all of these skills into practice and really showed off how well they could navigate as well as being able to refine their meal plan for the expeditions (lots of tomato pasta with hot dogs on the menu).

They completed a practice expedition in April in the Kilpatrick hills where they had the campsite all to themselves. They made full use of that, and the lovely weather, by having a campfire and the biggest game of hide and seek I have seen. Their final expedition was in Aberfoyle, and unfortunately the weather was not as good and the midges were out in force on the second day, but they all completed the expedition getting to the end without getting lost.

Everybody worked incredibly hard and as part of the award, they have been completing a physical, skill and volunteering which has included: dancing, swimming, learning sign language, cooking and creating a cookbook, learning to code, playing the piano, helping at various charity shops and helping at Crosslet House. Four Pupils have completed all sections of their award with everybody else making good progress to completing the other sections.

Mr McLean would like to remind those who are working on their DofE awards to upload their evidence as soon as possible, in order to gain the full award.

Science Department

S2 STEM Elective class Our S2 STEM Elective class have been working with Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust on conservation work within the local Gruggies burn. So far, we have learned about the fish in the burn and sampled the invertebrates to find out if the burn is healthy!



Upstream Battle As part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful project, two projects have been undertaken. Firstly, we have worked with a videographer to script and film a short piece which educates young people about the impact of dropping litter on marine life. This should be released nationally very shortly! Secondly, an S2 team competed in the Jacobs' Engineering Challenge final with "project orca". This was an engineering solution devised to remove plastic waste from Clyde.



Lab Skills Our new Skills for Work National 5 course "Lab Skills" is progressing well with Miss Dewar and Mr Mclean. So far, students have learned about the role of the school Science Technician and how to safely and accurately work with chemicals.

Zoology Club The zoology club have some new members: two axolotls named Oleg (no leg) and Hannibal – draw your own conclusions on this one! We have many new recruits to CARE for them.



English Department News

BGE: S1 and S2

Our first and second year English classes have been opening their minds and unearthing their vivid imaginations to create interesting, exciting short stories, full of vibrant characters and unexpected plot twists. From local heroes to fantasy figures from far off worlds, our young people in S1 and S2 have written some wonderful tales. These stories will form part of their end of year folio, which will be a collection of their best-extended writing pieces.

S3:

Our third year English classes are well on their way to learning the skills and gaining the knowledge that will enable them to progress to National 4 or National 5 in S4. Each class has been studying a piece of literature, honing their critical essay writing skills in preparation for the senior phase.

National 4:

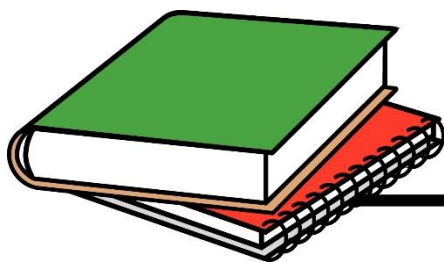
Our National 4 classes have been working tirelessly to complete their 'Added Value Unit', a key component in achieving the National 4 qualification, which will open the door to National 5.

National 5:

Our National 5 classes already have a focussed eye on the December prelim examinations. From 'Of Mice and Men' to 'The Pedestrian', each class is currently immersed in literature, learning about character, setting, turning points and theme. Our young people are also well on their way with their first draft persuasive essay which will form part of their SQA folio and accounts for 30% of their final grade.

Higher:

Our Higher classes have been transported back in time to the Jazz Age of 1920s America as they follow Jay Gatsby on the pursuit of his unattainable dream. Our Higher candidates are currently immersed in the worlds of New York, East & West Egg, and the Valley of Ashes, as they learn of the impossibility of The American Dream and the divide between 'Old Money' and 'New'. Such knowledge will be invaluable when Higher pupils write a Critical Essay on 'Gatsby' as part of the SQA exam.



English



Breakfast club

Breakfast club continues to be a roaring success, with about 80-100 pupils per day enjoying the free baked products in both home economics rooms. Free food donated from supermarkets continues to be uplifted by school staff, and this helps keep hunger from bay and gives young people a great start to the day. This also helps address food waste by educating youngsters that food can be less than perfect but still good to eat, and ensures Dumbarton Academy is using donated food to ensure no young person is having to learn on an empty stomach. Home Economics is also using the donated food in the department, incorporating into lessons where possible.

Mobile Phones

The number of young people who are being asked to take their phones to the office during the school day is increasing and I would ask for your help in dealing with this issues as disrupts teaching and learning and it leads to time being wasted in class. Where possible I would ask that our young people do not bring mobile phones to school, apart from the obvious issue of them being lost, damaged or potentially stolen they can also be a real distraction in class. Where there is a need for your child to have a mobile phone with them I would ask you to remind them of the school policy that phones should be turned off and in their school bag in class and only used at break and lunchtime. If a mobile phone is taken to the school office on three separate occasions we will ask for a parent or carer to come and collect it. I would greatly appreciate you support with this matter.

Upcoming Dates

27 September	Holiday
30 September	Holiday
4 October	S2/3 Tracking issued
4 October	Pupil Photographs (S1-S6)
8 October	S1 Surgery
9 October	Caberet
11 October	In-Service Day
24 October	Religious Observance Assemblies
13 November	S4/5/6 Tracking issued
20 & 25 November	S4/5/6 Parents' Evening
4 December	Interim Assessments Commence
19 December	Christmas Concert

