



## Head Teacher Report

### October 2022

#### School Matters

- S4-S6 Prelims will run throughout December. All students will be provided with a prelim timetable by the end of this month. A copy of the prelim timetable will also be available on the school website. Supported Study classes start on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.
- Option Choice Programme / Timetable 2023-2024. Straw polls regarding pupil choice of subjects will take place with all year groups S2-S5 on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Students in S2 have been given an initial free choice in the last two columns – this will ensure their BGE entitlement to a breadth of study across all curriculum areas whilst providing some element of choice. Students in S3-S5 are being given a free choice in the initial straw poll (English and Maths compulsory up to S4). The information gathered from the straw polls will be used to inform column structures and workforce planning.

A series of Parent Information Evenings will be taking place in the coming months. All pupils will be further supported in PSE and through 1-1 interviews with their PT Pupil Support, where requested. The SDS Advisers are also available for 1-1 interviews in relation to careers. These are available on request through the PT Pupil Support.

- As part of our quality assurance programme and school improvement planning, SMT and staff across all departments are engaging in learning visits throughout October. Pupil BLP ambassadors will also be leading pupil assemblies to discuss our current learning and teaching focus – SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.
- This session we will be consulting with all our stakeholders on the review of our school vision, values and aims. This is an important process that takes place every 5-6 years to ensure all members of our school community have a shared ownership and understanding of our mission as a Catholic school. The review of our vision statement is currently underway and we will focus on our school values during a

whole school consultation conference that will form part of our patronal feast day events.

- National Discussion on Education: The Scottish Government has launched a new national discussion on education, one which will give everyone the chance to have their voice heard. They are inviting everyone who has an interest in the future of our education system: children and young people, parents and carers, practitioners, and those in the wider Scottish community to pause, to reflect and to contribute to a future vision for Scottish education. The survey link below is one of the ways you can take part.

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/national-discussion-on-education/>

### **Staff**

- After 30 years of outstanding service to the community of Turnbull High School, Mr Gardiner Muirhead will be retiring from teaching in November. On behalf of all pupils, parents and staff, past and present, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Mr Muirhead for all that he has contributed to our school. We wish him a long and happy retirement.
- We are delighted to be welcoming Ms Ashleigh Keggans to our school community. Ms Keggans will take up the post of PT English on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- Ms Brown has resigned her maternity cover in the maths department to take up a permanent contract with GCC. We thank Ms Brown for her time with us and wish her well in her new post.

### **Spiritual**

- A weekly prayer service continues to take place in our school Oratory every Friday lunchtime with Canon Hill celebrating First Friday Mass each month.
- CREDO - This group takes place on Tuesday lunchtimes in RE department and includes all of our regular faith-in-action activities in the school. It is led by our S6 Caritas pupils and gives pupils an opportunity to plan and lead our spiritual and charitable events throughout the year.
- Our First Year Welcome Mass took place in Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. We were delighted to have this opportunity to come together as a community of faith and thank Father Monaghan for celebrating Holy Mass with our new S1 pupils and their parents and families.
- Our S1 pupils have also participated in our S1 retreat programme. Following on from receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, this retreat takes our young people through to a more mature discipleship informed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- A group of 21 pupils from our CREDO group attended the annual Aid to the Church in Need Rally on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

- A group of 16 CREDO pupils represented Turnbull High School at a Water Liturgy at the invitation of the Archdiocese of Glasgow. This special event was held at Carfin Grotto on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. The Relics of St Bernadette were also present and pupils had the opportunity to venerate.
- S2 pupils have participated in Rosary workshops offered by the Archdiocese Arts Project. Our young people learned about the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary in a practical way, with each pupil receiving a set of rosary beads at the end of the workshop to encourage them to pray the rosary at home or in school.
- Plans are underway for the celebration of our Patronal Feast Day on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

### **School Events**

- Our S1 Fresher's Fayre took place on 26<sup>th</sup> August. S1 pupils took time to find out about the wide range of the clubs and activities on offer before making their final choices – all pupils are expected to sign up for five lunchtime or after school activities.
- Careers Event 31<sup>st</sup> August –we were delighted to welcome pupils, parents and providers into the school for our first Careers Event since 2019. The evening was a resounding success: attendance was excellent and the initial feedback from parents and providers was very positive.
- S4 Geography pupils visited Loch Lomond on Wednesday 7th September as part of their National 5 course.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> September, S1 History students embarked on an educational visit to the Battle of Bannockburn site.
- The S2 Study Skills Day took place on Friday 16th September.
- A series of Live'n'Learn conferences have taken place for S1 (resilience/drive) and S4 (study skills).
- Our celebration of European Day of Languages kicked off on 28<sup>th</sup> September with our annual S1 treasure hunt and continued all week with all classes: S2 - European Quiz, S3 - European Language Passport, S4 - Guest speakers, S5 - French breakfast, S6 - Languages Escape Room
- Our AH Physics class spent two days at Glasgow University participating in workshops and lectures within the Engineering, Physics and computing departments.
- Geobus: We were delighted to welcome back the Geobus during October. Run by PHD students from St Andrew's University, the geobus staff delivered workshops to Higher, S2 and S3 pupils.
- Maths Week: Pupils from across all stages participated in a range of activities throughout maths week. Activities included: cryptography challenge, maths magic squares and participation in an inter-authority senior pupils maths conference.

- Café-Sci: an occasional lunchtime club exploring Science and STEM issues with invited experts: On Tuesday 4th October, we were delighted to have Dr Logan a university expert on Vision discuss the science behind optical illusions and explore the question “Why do our brains sometimes get confused by what we see?”
- A group of 30 senior students participated in a targeted work experience workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> October.
- An S3/S4 Spanish cinema trip took place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. The film study will form part of the S3 course media unit and be included in the S4 N5 speaking assessment.
- A group of approximately 20 pupils will be participating in their Duke of Edinburgh qualifier expedition from 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> October.
- Our young sports ambassadors are in the process of organising the annual Active Girls Day that will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Active Girls Day is an annual initiative that celebrates the amazing work going into girls' sport, the progress around girls' participation, and the incredible role models making it happen.
- The Science department is planning to take S1 to visit the Whitelee Windfarm across three different days during October/November.

### **School/Individual Achievements**

- Our annual Senior Awards Ceremony took place on Thursday 6th October. It was a fantastic evening during which the high levels of attainment and wide-ranging achievements of so many of our young people were recognised through the awarding of the usual certificates and prizes. Congratulations to all our award winners.
- Congratulations to our Head Boy (Kyle McLean) and Head Girl (Christina Hill) and our recently appointed school captains.
- Beatrix Kiehlmann (S6) has been recognised by British Cycling and invited onto their Junior Academy programme. Beatrix has been given what's called a 'guest rider', which means she is invited to train with the team, but as yet, not on the team for competition. We hope that one day, with her continued dedication, Beatrix will be selected to represent Great Britain at international competitions.
- Football: Scottish Cup Update (10/10)
  - The Under 15 girls are hoping to make their way to round two of the Scottish cup following a draw away to Ross High (Tranent, Edinburgh).
  - Senior Boys - Through to second round
  - Senior Girls - To be played
  - S4 Boys – TBC
  - S3 Boys - playing on 26/10
  - S2 Boys - Out - in the plate now

- S1 Boys -Through to the second round (Worth noting this was against Larbert, a sports performance school with a roll of 2050 pupils)
- We were delighted to receive notification on 12<sup>th</sup> October that we have been awarded the prestigious Digital Schools Award Scotland.

The Digital Schools Award Scotland is a 3-step programme to help schools assess progress and recognise excellence in the use of digital technology. This national awards scheme promotes, recognises and encourages a whole school approach to the use of digital technology in schools.

- In addition to the Digital Schools Award plaque that was sent with our DSA report, we were delighted to receive Digital Learner Certificates to present to our Digital Leaders in recognition of their hard work in helping the school achieve the Digital Schools Award.