



Head Teacher Report

October 2023

School Matters

- HMIE Inspection: We were delighted to welcome an inspection team from Education Scotland into our school community from 2nd October – 6th October. Over the course of the week the team visited classes, met with members of the SLT and held numerous focus groups with pupils, parents, staff and partners.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our inspection through the completion of questionnaires and participation in focus groups. We look forward to receiving the inspection report which should be published in approximately ten weeks.

- 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 will run for four weeks starting on Monday 30th October.
- Option Choice Programme / Timetable 2024-2025. Straw polls regarding pupil choice of subjects will take place with all year groups S2-S5 on Thursday 23rd 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.

Staff

- We are delighted to welcome Miss Claire Ramsay to the biology department. Ms Ramsay will provide maternity cover for Miss Hart.
- We are also delighted to announce that Miss Hart and her husband have been blessed with the arrival of a beautiful baby girl.

Spiritual

- SCHOOL MISSION 2023

We were delighted to welcome our Mission team to Turnbull High School from 4th to 9th October 2023. During the Mission, our school community learned more about the life of Carlo Acutis and his devotion to the holy Eucharist.

Studying the example of Blessed Carlo tied together many aspects of our recent journey as a community of faith engaged in learning. Carlo's **Faith** and **Love** shone through **Service** and his investment in the **Community** of those around him and those he reached online.

In our School Prayer of Consecration, we promised to deepen our devotion for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and to pray the Rosary. Carlo gave our young people an example of how a 15 year old boy can fully embrace these ideals and live them out in their lives.

During the Mission:

- Pupils learned about Blessed Carlo Acutis and the Eucharist in RE lessons.
- Our opening Mass took place Wednesday 4th October at 8.30 am
- Rosary took place before school on Thursday 5th October and Friday 6th October.
- All learners visited the exhibition on Blessed Carlo Acutis and the Eucharist in the Assembly Hall and prayers in the Oratory.
- The exhibition was opened at lunchtimes, for pupils and staff to drop in and our associated primaries and parents were invited to attend too.
- Our closing Mass took place at 2.30 pm on Monday 9th October.
- Holy Mass continues to take place in our school Oratory every Wednesday with Father Alex.
- 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 on 13th September. We were delighted to have this opportunity to come together as a community of faith and thank Father

Chido 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 which focussed on our school values of faith, love, community and service.
- Plans are underway for the celebration of our Patronal Feast Day on Monday 20th November.

School Events

- Our Fresher's Fayre took place on 25th August. BGE 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 – we were delighted to welcome pupils, parents and providers into the school for our annual Careers Event on 30th August. The evening was a resounding success: attendance was excellent and the initial feedback from parents and providers was very positive.
- The S4 Physics Trip to 'Flight Academy@Science Centre' took place on Thursday 14th September.
- S4 Geography pupils visited Loch Lomond on Wednesday 20th September. This field trip enables pupils to gather data for their N5 assignment, worth 20% of their final grade
- On the 26th of September a group of CREDO pupils attended the ACN Youth Rally.
- Mary's Meals Porridge day - Thursday 12th October. As part of our commitment to Mary's Meals we served porridge in the canteen at 50p a serving. Pupils were encouraged to come along and buy a nutritious bowl of porridge and reflect on the lives of the young people in our sponsored school. Many thanks to the canteen for supporting this initiative.
- A group of ten S6 pupils attended AAC Training at Douglas Academy on Wednesday 11th October 2023. These pupils were introduced to different types of alternative or augmentative communication and will take forward their AAC plan over the coming year.
- The Science department is planning to visit the Whitelee Windfarm during October/November. This links in with the energy topic being studied by S1 pupils.
- During October/November, a group of 16 pupils from S3/4/5 will be trained as Mental Health First Aid Ambassadors.

School/Individual Achievements

- Anna Hendry wins IOP award again – we were delighted to be informed that, having won an IOP award last year for her performance in National 5 Physics, Anna has scored the top mark in Scotland for the Higher Physics course and, as a result, has won an Institute of Physics Excellence in Physics Student Award.

Anna will be presented with the award at the Science and Parliament event on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. The prize is likely to be presented by a Scottish Government Minister or senior scientist.

- Our annual Senior Awards Ceremony took place on Thursday 12th 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 and special congratulations to our board winners:

Head Boy - Rémy Friel

Head Girl - Faith Olawuyi

School Dux - Anna Hendry

Turnbull Prize - Ruby Hannon

Junior Dux - Etienne Friel

- We Care Awards ceremony 2023 – 22nd September. Mrs Kerr was delighted to attend this ceremony in Edinburgh Academy to receive this prestigious award for Turnbull High School.

