



Eco Schools
Award 2004



Turnbull High School

St Mary's Road, Bishopbriggs Glasgow G64 2EF

Head Teacher Report

October 2024

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 will run for four weeks starting on Monday 4th November.
- Option Choice Programme / Timetable 2025-2026. Straw polls regarding pupil choice of subjects will take place with all year groups S2-S5 on Wednesday 20th 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 Ms Monisha Bhaumik, our new PT SfL, to our school community. Ms Bhaumik started with us on Monday 7th October and I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing her every happiness and success in her new post.
- Interviews for the position of PT Biology will take place in the next few weeks and we hope to have a new PT in post for the start of the new term in January.
- Ms Miller, teacher of design and technology, will begin her maternity leave in

November. Interviews for the maternity cover will take place in the next few weeks.

Spiritual

- Holy Mass continues to be celebrated every Tuesday period 4 by Father Alex.
- Our weekly morning prayer service continues to take place in our school Oratory every Wednesday led by Caritas pupils.
- Daily Rosary continues to take place each morning at 8.30am.
- 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 20th September. We were delighted to have this opportunity to come together as a community of faith and thank Father Alex 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.
- Twenty senior students have attended the Caritas commissioning event this session. We wish them well and keep them in our prayers as they embark on their Caritas journey.
- Three of our Caritas pupils, Lisa K, Abiya S and Holly M joined the National Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto on Sunday 1st September. Over 50 students from our RC Secondary schools volunteered their time and talent to assist with the success of this event. Father Grant thanked them for their enthusiasm, kindness and patience as they undertook their assigned tasks with pride and reverence. Numerous pilgrims to the Grotto commented on how joyful it was to see them involved in the ceremony and how well they all participated and carried out their duties.
- Twelve Caritas pupils attended a residential retreat on the 2nd and 3rd of September.
- To mark the month of the holy rosary, S2 students will take part in drama workshops delivered by AGAP (Archdiocese of Glasgow Arts Project) on 22nd & 23rd October.
- Pupils and staff will be attending the High School Mass in St Andrew's Cathedral on 28th October. This year Turnbull High School will have the privilege of providing the music liturgy for this Mass.
- Plans are underway for the celebration of our Patronal Feast Day on Thursday 21st November.

School Events

- Our Fresher's Fayre took place on 23rd August. BGE pupils took time to find out about the wide range of the clubs and activities on offer before making their final choices.
- Careers Event – we were delighted to welcome pupils, parents and providers into the school for our annual Careers Event on 28th August. The evening was a resounding success: attendance was excellent and the initial feedback from parents and providers was very positive.
- On 12th and 13th September Advanced Higher students took part in a 2 day event at Glasgow University. This included a Quantum Physics lecture, workshop and practical experiments. This was a very positive experience for the students giving them a real experience of life beyond school.
- On Friday 20th September, S4 Geography pupils visited Loch Lomond to undertake field work to gather information for the N4/5 AVU and Assignments.
- Scotland's Climate Action Week, (Mon 23-Thurs 26 September)
As part of this week, the Humanities Captains hosted events throughout the school in order to pursue positive climate goals in relation to Laudato Si. The daily challenges reflected our school value of Service and how our school community can work together to make a difference.
Monday – the focus was on recycling all cans within the appropriate bins. Do you know it can take between 80-100 years for a drinks can to decompose at landfill? The 6 new can bins around the canteen area proved very effective for recycling!
Tuesday - our climate action theme focused on paper. Teachers were asked to teach at least one lesson without using paper or handouts. Everyone was asked to reduce their daily paper use by asking 'does that really need printed?'. Lastly we were asked to make sure that any waste paper in classes was going into the paper recycling bins. Did you know in 2022 in Scotland paper and cardboard was the most recycled/reused category in Scottish households..... Can you be doing more at home?
Wednesday - Wednesdays challenge focused on energy. We were asked to turn the lights off in classrooms if not needed, turn the projector off when not teaching and to shut down and switch off the main projector switch at the end of the school day.
Thursday - our final theme was reducing single use plastic. With this in mind all pupils (and staff) were asked to bring reuseable water bottles to school. Period 1 teachers submitted the number of reusable bottles brought in to the Captains with points available for each house group to earn.
- To mark European Day of Languages our S1 cohort completed a treasure hunt on Wednesday 25th September.
- On Tuesday 1st October our first cohort of S1 pupils engaged in an educational trip run by the History department to Stirling Castle and Wallace monument.

- To reinforce key themes and skill development of the Higher and AH Geography courses, students visited Dalmarnock on the 9th October to conduct field work based on their case study.
- In preparation for the upcoming prelim diet, our S4 study skills event took place on Thursday 10th October. During this event, S5/6 subject champions delivered subject specific study skills to S4 pupils.
- A group of Modern Studies attended First Minister's Questions at the Scottish Parliament on the 10th October.
- All S3 Computing students will be taking part in the annual BIMA Digital Day on the 13th of November.

School/Individual Achievements

- Our annual Senior Awards Ceremony took place on Tuesday 8th 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 – Harrison Welsh
 Head Girl – Debby Gbemudu
 School Dux – Debby Gbemudu
 Turnbull Prize – Orla Bruce

- EDC Bands and Orchestras Auditions – congratulations to Orla B (flute) who was selected for senior orchestra and concert band and to Jonathan G (drum kit) who was selected for concert band.
- Kanishka B was selected to represent Scotland at the 2024 Chess Olympiad held in Budapest between 10th to 23rd September.
- On Thursday 19th September, a group of 20 students achieved a Rugby Activators Certificate as a part of their Sports Leaders course. Thanks to Mark Mooney (Rugby Development Officer) for delivering this training.
- Three DofE Bronze Groups have completed their training day and 2 day expedition, The Training Day covered the following requirements: equipment, proper packing, Trangia stoves, tent set up and basic navigation skills. For the expedition pupils navigated a linear/circular route, stopping halfway to camp in a wild spot or a recognised campsite.