SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2019-20

Last week we held our elections for our School Captains for Session 2019-20. Those elected would follow in the footsteps of Clara Simpson and Toby Petersen, both of whom had been outstanding Captains and role models for all of our young people.

We had 13 candidates, each one of them worthy of holding this position in their own right, each one of them already excellent examples of modern young men and women. It was a privilege to hear from Parisa, Sophia, Thomas, Eilidh, Cameron, Olivia, William, Andrew, Ben, Lauren, Ewan, Dean and Jodie. They all spoke eloquently and passionately about our school, our young people and about our community. After counting well over 1000 votes, we announced our new Captains. It is a pleasure to welcome William Grantham and Jodie Thorpe, our new School Captains for 2019-20. Well done to everyone.

SCHOOL DUX AND PROXIME ACCESSIT 2019-20

Our Annual Awards Ceremony took place on Tuesday of last week in Uddingston Old Parish Church. We celebrated the successes of over 400 of our young people from S1 to our S6. This is the biggest event in the School Calendar—it is when we, as a community, come together, S1-S6 to revisit the outstanding achievements of our young people in all parts of their school life. As well as being entertained by our Young Musician winners and BGT semi-finalist, Emily, Kyle, Sophie, Jodie and Kerr, our young people spoke about what they had achieved this year and what the highlights for them had been. Mrs McLeod in PE was the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution Award, and our final 2 awards were for our Dux and our Proxime Accessit. Both young men have excelled throughout school, and it was a pleasure to recognise their incredible achievements on the night. Our School Dux 2019-20 is Andrew Halyburton, and our Proxime Accessit is Jack Moffat. Well done to all of our performers, speakers and award winners on the night.
We were delighted to recently present our partner charity, St Andrew’s Hospice with a cheque for £3500 raised by our wonderful young people who climbed Tinto Hill. We are delighted to continue to work alongside this terrific locally based organisation which is so close to so many of us. All 230 S1 who made the trip and climbed Tinto have made a difference and we are always very happy to help such a terrific local cause.

**S6 LEAVERS BALL**

Our S6 danced the night away in The Radstone Hotel as a wonderful way to celebrate their 6 years at school. They looked amazing and over 400 parents and carers came down to the school to wave them off. We had an evening of good food, fine music and more memories with our 110 S6 who came with us. It was capped off by a wonderful speech from Clara and Toby in their last act as School Captains, and a big thanks go to Rhona Lambie and Ms Tainsh for the yearbook, which was presented to everyone on the evening, and to Mrs Jenkins and her terrific Leaver’s Ball committee who organised the night. Good luck everyone and let us know how you are getting on. Remember us fondly.
Mr Thompson took his Shinty team on their now Annual trip to Ireland to play against a number of Hurling teams in a cross–celtic sports extravaganza (or so he tells me).

Yet again, our young people were made very welcome in the Capital and by the teams they played, and the feedback from everyone is that they have made real friendships and lasting memories.

Shinty has grown hugely over the last few years in the school, and I would like to thank Mr Thompson for this—this is his passion and it has filtered down to the young people—watch them on BBC Alba later in the Summer. Shinty is coming home (to Uddingston!)

Boh Cucina on the Main Street were our sponsors and judges in our first Masterchef competition, held by our Health and Food Technology Department. Congratulations to Emma, our first winner and our thanks to Boh Cucina for all of their advice, support and for judging the competition. Look out for more from Health and Food Technology next year as they continue to grow and grow—barista training for seniors coming soon!

Through our Masterclass programme, S3 have the opportunity to participate in the national YPI programme. This is a programme where young people research a charitable foundation, look at how it is structured, what it does, and how money makes it to the frontline. They then chose a charity they wish to support, and create a presentation around this. They have then to present it to a pane of external and internal judges following the national guidelines, and a winner is chosen. Well done to Chris’ House who have received our cheque for £3000 and to our team who chose them and promoted them.
At this time of the year we help Uddingston Pride and Brighter Bothwell as part of our Community engagement programme with their Annual litterpick. It is always great to meet our local residents and for them to share their passion for our town with our own young people—lots of smiles all round—thanks everyone!

Our S6 are recently back from Ghana where we support a local school through a charitable foundation—African Adventures. The young people have raised funds all year for this trip, and when in Ghana are involved in the school building and teaching programme. The sense of adventure is huge before they leave, but the return is so much better—every single one of them has said that this experience is life changing. That is what it is about—it will make you a better version of yourself—well done everyone!

Earlier in the term, our skiers hit the slopes in Austria along with 3 other schools. Yes, it was cold. Yes, it was cold. Yes, it was—well you can guess the rest. It didn’t seem to stop them though as they had a brilliant time. My thanks to all of the staff involved in making this another terrific opportunity for our young people.
STAFFING
This year Mr Fazzi PT PS left at Christmas for his long overdue retirement, and this week, Mr Archibald DHT finishes with us. He has been a real talisman for our young people—challenging them, supporting them and championing them. We will all miss his larger than like personality, and wish him all the best in his retirement. Mr Anderson will move to become the DHT for Pupil Support, and Mrs McTiernan takes over as DHT for S1/2.

Starting officially in August are; we have Ms Harkin in Business Education, Ms Rooney in PE and Mrs Adams in Home Economics. From outwith we will be joined by Ms Mosayebi from Duncaneig in Biology; Ms Watt from Bearsden in English; Ms McAllister from Woodfarm and Ms Hall from Killwinning in Modern Languages. We have also appointed our Faculty Head of PE and Home Economics, and she is Mrs Murray from Smithcroft. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Jones and Ms Stirling who have acted up in both Home Economics and PE this year for all of their dedication, enthusiasm and passion for our young people. Mrs Connelly was acting PT of SfL this year, and I wish to pass on my thanks to her as she passes the mantle to Mrs McDermott for next session.

A wee special thanks to Mr Annetts in PE before he heads off to China, and to Mrs Bailey in Science before she heads back home to Yorkshire - you have all been the difference to young people. This is what I ask of the staff - not to make a difference, but to be the difference, and Stuart and Jane have done exactly this.

Incidentally Mr Annetts—2 Cup finals this year and 2 runners-up medals—your successor has a simple task ahead it seems...........

ACTIVITY DAY
My thanks to our team who took young people to Alton Towers, Blackpool and Blair Drummond amongst other places as part of the School Activity Day. There is a lot of planning ahead of any trip, and this year we have visited places as far afield as Ghana, Belgium, Austria, Madrid as well as closer to home such as London. Next year we go back to Belgium, Ghana and Madrid as well as beginning our planning for New York. We always do our best to support our families, and if a trip is proving to expensive, please do not hesitate to speak with your young persons’ Pupil Support Teacher.

PARENT COUNCIL
Our Parent Council meet monthly in the school to discuss any issues that arise both here and more widely concerning schooling. This year we have looked at the School Uniform, the Cost of the School Day, School trips, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, the RISE and RISE+ programmes, as well as the Curriculum review—in particular pace and challenge in lower school. Our Annual Survey - see the website—was scrutinised by them and improvement plans agreed with the. They sat in on interview and assessment panels for the appointments of classroom teachers and promoted staff. They liaise with our local community and elected officials. They represent you, our carers and guardians. If you would wish to become part of our group, please drop me a line at the school and I will get you on our emailing list.

DIARY DATES
28th June—school closes 1pm
6th August—SQA exam certificates delivered
7th August—appointments open for Mr Wilson (DHT Senior School for options)
15th August—pupils return to school
Remember—there are 7 inset days next year, and May Day has changed. They are now as follows;
Inset on 13th / 14th August; 18th/19th November; 7th and 12th February and 7th May, with May Day being Friday 8th May to commemorate VE Day.
SUMMER QUIZ

Try this out on a rainy day during the break.

South Africa has three official capitals (executive, judicial and legislative), what are they?
What is the capital city of Montenegro?
What is the capital city of North Macedonia?
What is the largest city in the world by area?
What does a city in Britain need to have to become a city?

At a party, everyone shook hands with everybody else. There were 66 handshakes. How many people were at the party?

It's dark. You have ten grey socks and ten blue socks you want to put into pairs. All socks are exactly the same except for their colour. How many socks would you need to take with you to ensure you had at least a pair?

My grandson is about as many days as my daughter in weeks, and my grandson is as many months as I am in years. My grandson, my daughter and I together are 120 years. Can you tell me my age in years?

A merchant can place 8 large boxes or 10 small boxes into a carton for shipping. In one shipment, he sent a total of 96 boxes. If there are more large boxes than small boxes, how many cartons did he ship?

London have hosted the Summer Olympic Games three times, can you name the years?

British Summer Time begins and ends on the last Sundays of which months? (two answers)

Exposure to sunlight is one of the best ways for the human body to get which vitamin?

Which British seaside attraction is 158m tall?

What rollercoaster is the biggest and fastest in Britain?

Where in the world would you expect to find a car with the vehicle registration code ‘V’?

How many sides has a heptadecagon?

The letters of the word ‘allergy’ can be rearranged to form three other seven-letter words. Can you find all three of them?

What is the name of the fourth book in the ‘Harry Potter’ series?

Which metal has the chemical symbol Pb?

Lemurs are native to which island?

Which London Underground line has the most stations?

Who is the most capped Scottish women’s football player of all time?

What is the name of the oldest football team in the world?

How tall is Mr Archibald in centimetres—oh—that doesn’t matter since he has retired now!

Good luck and enjoy the break, and happy retirement Stewart!