CHRISTMAS BREAK

On behalf of the staff and the Parent Council of the Grammar I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that you get some well deserved rest over the festive period, and get to spend some time with those closest to you. Our young people performed at the Annual Christmas Concert, sent shoeboxes of gifts to Eastern Europe, danced to our ceilidh band and joined in with our Chaplaincy team as we celebrate Christmas. Our staff sent 50 boxes of gifts to our Social work colleagues for distribution, and also made up 15 Christmas hampers for distribution in our own community. My thanks to everyone involved. We all have very high expectations of 2020. Every year we set ourselves New Year resolutions, and by the middle of January we have broken them. I have decided against setting any resolutions, instead having a simple wish list from Santa—that all of our young people have a great break, that they come back refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead, and that next time a big tractor comes flying down the hill, it misses our office! Thank you for all of your support for ourselves and of course, for your youngster this year, and we look forward to seeing everyone after the break.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS

Congratulations to Mrs Maxwell, our youngsters, and her team who helped fill and wrap 44 shoeboxes for the Blythwood Charity Appeal. This is an annual appeal we support which sends gifts at Christmas to needy young people across Eastern Europe. It is always important to remember those who don’t have as much as we do. My thanks also to our staff who through Mrs Rough have collected and donated hundreds of children’s gifts for distribution via Social Work across Lanarkshire, ensuring that, for some at least, there is some cheer at Christmas.
Congratulations to Ross Wilson and Cameron Bilsland, who were runners-up in the finals of the Scullion Law debating competition held in SLC Headquarters. Both young men and their team leader, Mr McMenemy were very well prepared for the event and performed admirably in the finals, losing out narrowly to St Andrew’s and St Brides. We are very proud of both young men who have really bright future’s ahead of them. Well done. A special mention as well to Mr McMenemy, whose teams are almost ever presents in these very prestigious finals.

EILIDH DOYLE VISIT

Our VIT and PE Department were delighted to welcome Ms Eilidh Doyle, Olympic and Commonwealth medallist to the school as she set out to find out about how young people with access issues can participate in sport. It was a real privilege to have the chance to speak with he, and for our young people to hear about her story and give their own stories. We look forward to seeing how she helps take forward participation in sport across the country. Thank you for your time Ms Doyle.

WELL DONE

Congratulations to our very own Louise Porter, Scottish Cup Under 13 winner, and to our very own Mr Stringer who won the Sports Scotland Technical Official of the Year as well as Scottish Athletics Volunteer of the Year —Toot!

If your youngster as excelled outwith school— please let us know so that we can celebrate their successes with them.
SHINTY
Well done to Mr Thompson and his Shinty teams and Shinty Ambassadors. Although only on the go for the past few years, this sport has risen to become one of the most popular in the school. So much so in fact, that we have a partnership with Naomh Olaf in Ireland, who we visit and who visit us to met and play against, and recently our teams were the winners of the inaugural Gary Innes Award for Shinty School of the Year—outstanding everyone!

SCHOOL TRIPS
Mr MacGregor took about 50 young people to Manchester to watch Pep’s City team take on Shaktar in the Champions League. The game itself had a bit of a wait to burst into life, but the atmosphere in the Stadium was electric and we certainly generated some interest! Well done to all of our outstanding youngsters and to our staff who were brilliant.

Our Modern Languages team also visited Madrid as part of our cultural exchange visits—we visited our partner school—follow them on twitter (a good way to brush up on your Spanish). From working in a school, to seeing the sites, sampling various tapas and bonding as a team, our young people had a terrific time. My thanks again to Ms Russell and Ms Tainsh and their team for organising this.
We hosted our Annual Christmas Fair on the evening of the 26th November. Once again we had stalls selling various Christmas presents and produce, from hand-made chocolates, to cards, jewellery to perfumes. Ms McGuigan and her team of prefects do an amazing job, and the Café UG71 crew and Ms Murray were in danger of selling out! This is a great opportunity for our young people to work alongside people in our community and to showcase their abilities to organise and to lead—well done to everyone involved and thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a success.

Uddingston Glamour was in full swing—they have had an amazing year—truly—well done and thanks. From their numerous community evenings in school to taking part in Scarecrow Festivals, visiting our local primaries, our young men and women in the salon have done an amazing job and it is great to see such growth in this area. School is about more than sitting in a class—it is about preparing young people for life outside school, and with the salon, construction, hospitality industries, employability awards, café UG71, Foundation apprenticeships, GradU8, extended work-based learning placements as part of our choice structures for young people, we are committed to doing our best for everyone in our school. There is no wrong path. Every learners’ journey is unique.

S2 CURRICULAR EVENING

Mrs McTiernan has been giving the rest of us a right showing up since she took on her post of DHT in August. Not only has she introduced the S1 curriculum evening in Tannochside, she brought in an S2 event. This was a very well attended event in which she spoke with parents and carers about what the S2 curriculum is, the purpose of it, and the journey young people make towards thinking about subjects next year. She roped in a variety of staff and parents and carers took part in workshops across the school. Feedback has been very positive and we will put these events in the calendar for next year—we will look at timing of the events as well—luckily it did not clash with any Wednesday Champions League commitments which could have affected turnout—although, to be honest—which team in Scotland is making it that far! Thanks again everyone for a terrific evening. Congratulations also to Scott Mustard, the winner of our signed Scotland strip which was raffled on the evening for charity.
STAFFING

As we move into 2020, we have a number of staffing updates;
Ms Houston in English was successful in gaining a post in North Lanarkshire;
Ms Tainsh in Modern Languages got married and begins her career break from January;
We are awaiting news on Mrs Jenkin’s impending Big Bump update;
MS McDermott was appointed to the post of Principal Teacher of Support for Learning after interview;
Mr Paterson faculty Head of social subjects and RMPS moves to a part-time timetable as he winds down to retirement;
Mr Campbell—currently PT Lewis will take over as Faculty Head of Social Subjects and RMPS working alongside Mr Paterson until he retires;
We have submitted vacancies for Maths, English, PE and Technical and we hope these are advertised early in the New Year.

FUTURE CHEF

Well done to Jake McDonald who has battled all the way to the Scottish finals of the future Chef competition. Jake, our very own Masterchef, has been really busy creating new dishes, perfecting his skills and basically feeding the SLT who are his ‘road-testers’ - I have to say, some of the things he has made have been tremendous—his vegan sausage rolls taste better than the real thing! Good luck Jake—do your best—your best will win!
Also—well done to Mrs Adams who as fallen in love with this competition and has set her heart on entering our young people every year!

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

As you know every year we have a number of charitable events where we raise money for causes both local and national. Our most recent non-uniform day at the end of November was to support research into ending Type 1 diabetes. We were delighted to hear about this from one of our parents and to support @JDRFUK who help lead this fight.

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

I wish to thank everyone for all of the support you give me, my staff and our young people. 2019 has been a terrific year for our young people—they have visited foreign climes, raised tens of thousands for charities, performed superbly in their SQA examinations, gone to University, college, apprenticeships and employment in greater numbers than ever before and all whilst maintaining a real community spirit. It is a pleasure to be the Headteacher of this school. The young people of Uddingston can change the world—look at those who came before us—Bill Millin who piped the troops onshore during D Day— we are a small school, but with a big message.

DIARY DATES

20th December—school closes at 2.30pm
6th January 2020 -school reopens
8th January—Senior prelims begin—timetables have been issued
8th January—Parent Council meeting 7-9pm
21st January—S1 Parents Evening
UDDINGSTON GRAMMAR DECEMBER 2019

SCENES FROM THIS MONTH

Virtute Crescam—growing in excellence since 1864