

The

Autumn Issue 2017

Whitehill

Wire

The latest news and events from Whitehill Secondary School



## Head Teacher Message

Welcome to our Autumn/Winter newsletter for session 2017-18 and thank you to Miss Livingstone for gathering and collating our success stories and for the creation of the format and design. We have had a very positive start to this session and are delighted with successful examination results in August 2017. The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more Highers at the end of S5 tripled last session. This is the highest percentage recorded in the last six years. We are very proud of all our senior phase pupils who achieved qualifications as we have made improvements across all measured attainment benchmarks. The first few months of the session have been extremely busy, our National courses are well underway and pupils are feeling motivated by last session's success and challenged to perform at the highest level possible in these qualifications. As you will see from this newsletter, our pupils and staff have much to celebrate in terms of academic and wider achievement. Our pupils continue to embrace opportunities to develop as individuals while engaging with our five core values – Commitment, Ambition, Respect, Equity and Respect. Well done to all our pupils – Whitehill School Community is very proud of you. I would like to wish all of you a relaxing and enjoyable festive period and look forward to welcoming our young people back, in full school uniform, in January 2018.



Many Thanks

Pauline Swan

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support to ensure your sons and daughters aspire to achieve and attain as highly as possible. We are delighted with the standard of our school uniform at the start of the session and would ask that you continue to support us to ensure this is maintained throughout the session. A reminder of our requirement is below. Please support us with these high standards.

The following items are appropriate:

- School blazer
- School tie
- Black skirt of appropriate length
- Black school trousers (denims and leggings are not acceptable)
- Black or White headscarf
- Black footwear

No outdoor jackets are to be worn inside the school building, only blazers or school jumpers.

**Thank you for your support.**



Follow us on Twitter @whitehillsec

Check out our website [www.whitehill-sec.glasgow.sch.uk](http://www.whitehill-sec.glasgow.sch.uk)

## Parent Council

Whitehill Parent Council is a group of parents supporting the school community. We have 4 evening meetings a year with the Head Teacher to discuss the school's development and ways to help the school and pupils, including fundraising.

We are hoping to hold a family quiz night this year. If you would be willing to help out for a few hours to organise this with staff and pupils, all help would be welcome.

We have recently launched a Twitter account Whitehill Parents, @whitehillpc

if you are interested in coming along to a meeting or wish to help with fundraising, please follow us and send a direct message or contact us via the school.

Gillian Hunt (Parent Council Chair)

## Former Pupils

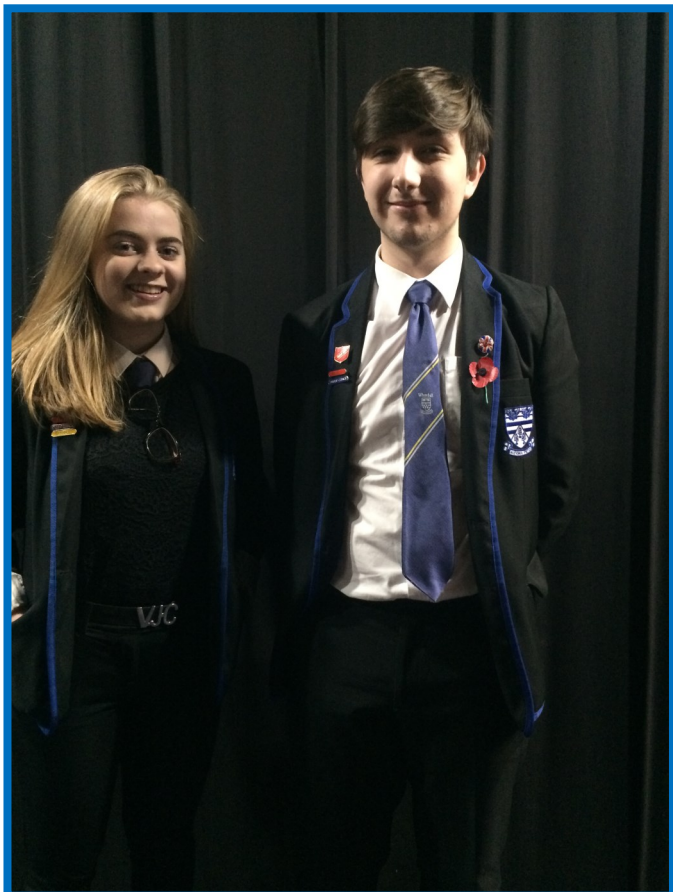
Whitehill Secondary is supported by a Former Pupil Sports Trust. Every year they provide financial support for a variety of sporting initiatives across the school community. Our annual sports day at the prestigious Emirates arena is one of the many opportunities our young people engage in as a direct result of their financial support. The brand new school mini bus was purchased by the Former Pupil Sports Trust in May 2017. The bus is an invaluable resource which facilitates many extra-curricular opportunities and other learning beyond the classroom experiences for our pupils.

We feel very privileged to be supported by such a generous organisation who undoubtedly improve experiences and outcomes for the young people in our school community.



## Head Girl & Boy

# Pupil Improvement Plan



As part of our role as Head Girl and Boy we have had to write up the new pupil improvement plan. The main aim of this is to focus on the specific needs of the pupils and make sure that all aspects of these targets are met to a high standard. At the end of the school year we should have improved as a network overall. This year we are continuing with most of the same aims as last year as we believe that there is still work to be done when it comes to these factors. This includes raising attainment, improving pupil behaviour and increasing attendance at supported study. We have devised up different ways to advertise these things around the school and put our plan into action. The plan will also be given to senior management so that they can also help make sure all the targets are achieved.

## Prefects

The new prefect rota has been made and will be given out shortly. Andrew (the schools secretary) has made sure that all prefects are involved in this. Some of the roles will include supervising the junior years at interval and lunch breaks, attending meetings every two weeks to report back on any issues they have come across and overall maintain standards and expectations within the school.



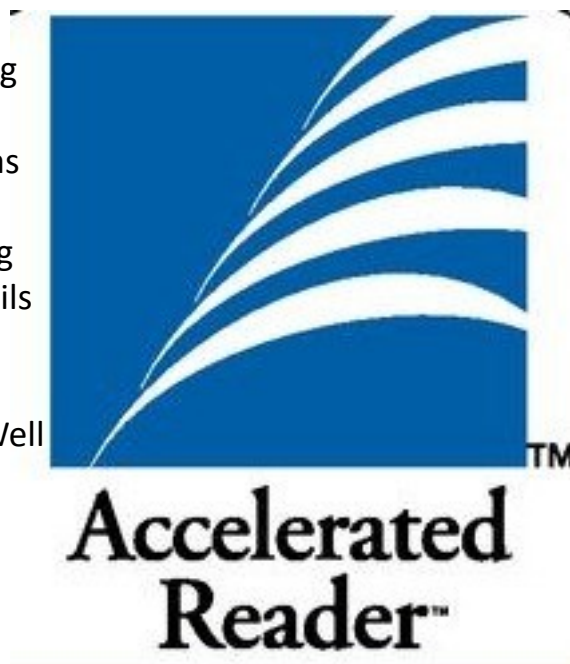
# Blairvadach

This year is the first year Whitehill Secondary has provided the opportunity of a residential study weekend to Blairvadach. 32

pupils were chosen to take part in this residential weekend away which involved a variety of activities including; Kayaking, Climbing, Ropes Course, Mountain Biking and Cave Exploring. During our time at Blairvadach we also took part in a number of activities in order to enhance our study skills and learn how to deal better with stressful situations.



Accelerated Reader is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice while promoting reading for pleasure. This programme has now been running successfully in Whitehill since August. Pupils in S1 - S3 have been frequently taking quizzes on books they have read. The following pupils managed to score 100% in recent quizzes: Nikoletta Reiter, Louis Nolan, John Telfer, Bradley Mackie, Rebecca Rowan, Cara Norval and Natasha Collins. Well done!





# HISTORY TOUR JUNE 2018

We are excited to propose a school tour to Europe (to include France and Belgium) to enhance learning experiences within the school and support our curriculum plans for History pupils in remembering those who died in the Great War. The trip will run from 17<sup>th</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> June and will include participation in the Last Post ceremony in Ypres, visits to a number of WW1 sites in Belgium and France, day trips to Paris and Bruges and a visit to

# SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT TRIP

Higher, N5 and N4 Modern Studies pupils had the opportunity to visit the Scottish Parliament in February and were able to see First Minister's Question Time as well as have a look around the parliament and learn about the work done there. Many thanks must go to Patrick Harvie MSP who arranged the tickets for us!





# CPR Training

The Social Subjects faculty have been working with the British Heart Foundation for a number of years now to try to meet their aim of creating a nation of lifesavers. In the UK there are over 30,000 cardiac arrests per year and the survival rate doubles if someone is on hand to carry out CPR. All of our S3 pupils have now received CPR training and have earned their certificate. Well done!



# Donald Dewar Debate



Whitehill were proud to enter a team for the prestigious Donald Dewar Debating competition for the very first time this year. Our team gave a very promising first showing, beating both Kelvinside Academy and the Glasgow Gaelic School in the first round but were unfortunately pipped in round 2 by an experienced team from Holy Cross High School in Hamilton. Connor and Jordan were both praised by the judges for their strong arguments and passionate delivery and we look forward to going even further in the competition next year.

# John Muir Award



All S1 pupils had for the first time an opportunity to take part in the John Muir award in Geography this year and we were very pleased to see so many take up the challenge! The young people had to discover, explore, conserve and share a local wild space – we used Alexandra Parade Park. Pupils used their map skills to explore, took part in a tree survey to conserve and then shared their experiences with their year group. Next time we'll order up some sunshine for our trips to the park, we promise!







# Show Racism The Red Card

Whitehill has been working hard to promote responsible citizenship through the Show Racism the Red Card and Sense over Sectarianism programmes. Last year, our S2 year group spent a day off timetable learning about the negative impact racist attitudes and beliefs can have on society, and in response created the mural seen above. This year, we have worked with Sense over Sectarianism and local artist, Scott Lang to have an even bigger impact. Scott has worked in conjunction with pupils to create a unique artwork which is shortly to be installed on the side of the school garage. It is hoped that the message will spread not just to our pupils but also to the wider community and will demonstrate our commitment to respect

# Inspiring Purpose

Huge congratulations to Huda Jwijati in S3 who was a National Finalist in the Inspiring Purpose project. Her poster design was one of the best from the school and was recognised nationally as being an excellent example of good work. Well done, Huda!





# France Ski Trip



For the third year in a row, Alpe D'Huez has been the venue for our popular ski trip. The week-long trip in February gave 20 pupils the opportunity to have a week of intensive lessons with some of the best ski instructors in the world in one of Europe's top resorts, resulting in a huge increase in confidence, skill and ability. A fun-filled rota of evening activities such as bum-boarding, laser-tag and movie night ensured that pupils were kept entertained. Thanks to funding from Whitehill's Sports Trust and in conjunction with our feeder primaries we were also able to offer dry slope lessons at Bellahouston and Bearsden as well as a trip to Soar Braehead meaning that skills picked up were retained and improved upon. Can't wait to go back in 2018!

# Duke of Edinburgh Award

Whitehill's Duke of Edinburgh programme continues to be a popular extra-curricular opportunity for Senior Phase Pupils, with pupils working towards Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. The award is internationally recognised as building resilience, commitment, self-reliance and team working skills and we always have more applicants than we can take. This year we have combined the programme with the NNAS bronze and silver navigation awards, resulting in an additional qualification and raised attainment for our young people. Please support and encourage any participants you know as the award demands a personal commitment beyond the classroom to take part in their volunteering, physical and skill sections. Our programme includes two full expeditions per year as well as a navigation session – Looking forward to getting out on the hills again when expedition season starts!





# New York 2017



START SPREADING THE NEWS... Whitehill's first adventure to the United States was a huge success at the end of the summer term, with 40 pupils S2 – 6 plus 7 staff making their mark in New York City. It was a jam-packed 5 days, with all the major sights on the to-do list. The Empire State, Statue of Liberty, 'School of Rock' on Broadway, the 9-11 memorial, One World Trade Centre, Rockefeller Centre, New York Public Library, yoga / gymnastics in Central Park, the Museum of Natural History, bowling, an evening cruise along the Hudson, lots and lots of walking and of course some much needed retail therapy kept staff and pupils entertained and tired out. Many thanks must go to Mrs McDowall for all her hard work in organising the trip. All the young people were a credit to the school and we look forward to our return one day!

# Malawi 2019

Our third educational expedition to Malawi will take place in June 2019 and aims to teach life skills and expand minds outside the classroom. The 2 week travel itinerary will foster team spirit and leadership skills and will raise the profile of the school and benefit pupils in a variety of ways, continuing our link with Nyambadwe Lions Primary school in Blantyre. Students will face a series of mental and physical challenges, taking them outside their comfort zones and teaching them how to overcome adversity, cope with new environments and become more aware of both their strengths and weakness. Our trip will develop pupils' knowledge, skills and attributes for learning, life and work. Fundraisers will be starting soon so watch this space and dig deep in those pockets!





## Whitehill Secondary School awarded Gold Status by Sport Scotland



2017-2019

After celebrating a fantastic year of Sport with many of you in 2016/17 at our very own WAFTAs award ceremony (Whitehill Awards for Tremendous Achievement) we decided to collate the evidence from our achievements and apply for a “Sport Scotland school sports award”.

We are delighted to announce that following an extensive external assessment carried out by an independent panel of experts, Whitehill Secondary School was officially recognised on the 19<sup>th</sup> September with a prestigious GOLD National Award for innovation and achievement in delivering Physical Education and extra-curricular sport.

Continued...

# Physical Education

We would like to thank the P.E. department and Gerry Best (Active Schools Co-ordinator) for all of their hard work last year and for the time and effort that went into the application process. The P.E. department would also like to thank our fantastic pupils for their active engagement in Sport, members of staff from across the school who give up time to run clubs, trips and wider achievement opportunities, external coaches and clubs, our Learning Community Primary Schools who work closely with our Sports Leaders and of course all of the supportive parents and family members who gave us some amazing feedback which was included in the final application.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive of Sport Scotland, said: "Congratulations to all the staff and pupils at Whitehill Secondary School - they should be extremely proud of this fantastic achievement. Not only have they put physical education and sport at the heart of their school and local community, but they have managed to do so in a way that encourages all pupils to engage in physical activity whilst having fun at the same time.

The Sport Scotland Gold School Sport Award was presented in a celebratory assembly to staff, pupils and special guests at the school on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017 by Dawn McAuley from Sport Scotland.

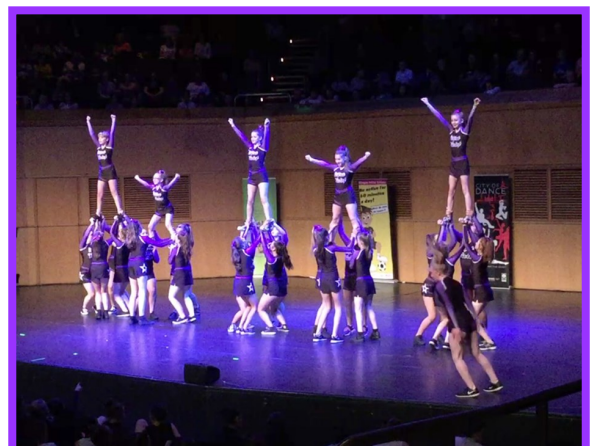




# Physical Education



The cheerleaders have had undeniable success last season competing in 3 major championships across the country and placing 1st place in all of these events. The girls performed in front of over 2000 people at the Royal Concert Hall in June and were awarded 1st Place in the Secondary Open Category. In February they travelled to Falkirk and competed in the Scottish Schools Cheerleading Championship. Being the only school to qualify from Glasgow the girls represented our city and our school with respect and excellent sportsmanship. They were awarded 1st place and named the Scottish Schools Cheerleading Champions 2017, beating 12 other schools across Scotland. Ms Drummond is so proud of what the team achieved this season and has extremely high hopes for this year ahead! Well done girls!





## Young Ambassadors



We would like to congratulate and introduce our Young Ambassadors for 2017/18: Kai Wylie, Amy Williams, Zara Connell, Morgan May, Ruby Mulligan and Gwen Wolda. These pupils have shown outstanding commitment to the department in the classroom and outwith. These young people are working closely alongside the PE Department and our active schools co-ordinator to help promote a healthy, active lifestyle to young people in the school.



## Girls Football Team

This year has been a fantastic start for the girls football team. We have had many attend football training on a Monday after school and 10 young people compete in the S1-4 Girls Glasgow Schools League at Toryglen. After their first 6 matches the girls are currently sitting joint 1<sup>st</sup> in the league due to outstanding teamwork, skills and resilience. There was some outstanding goals from Maggie Adekunle, Demi McGuire and Leigh Holland. Last year our S1-4 Girls football team came 4<sup>th</sup> in the Glasgow Secondary League. It was a great achievement, however this year the girls are going for 1<sup>st</sup>!





## Boys Football Team

S1 Boys Toryglen - the S1 boys have had a lot of fun at Toryglen and they have been up against some difficult competition. However, starting the team from scratch and building them up by having a training session on Thursday afterschool really helps. The improvement made between two games has been immense but we could still do with more footballers so come along to training and that is the first step to making the team. Man of the match award so far goes to Mohammed Abomustafa, Kevin Meango, Harrison Nicol and most improved player has been awarded to Thomas Armstrong.

## Inter-House

The 2017/18 Inter House competition is well under way. The now annual battle between Clyde and Kelvin houses started this term with S1-3 Tug of War and Football. Thanks to our Young Ambassadors and senior pupils who have helped to organise and referee competitions so far.

The results are as follows

	Tug of War	Football
S1 Girls	Kelvin	Kelvin
S1 Boys	Kelvin	Kelvin
S2 Girls	Kelvin	Kelvin
S2 Boys	Clyde	Draw
S3 Girls	Kelvin	Kelvin
S3 Boys	Kelvin	Kelvin

As well as all of the sporting competitions and the Whitehill bake off, new events have been added to the programme this year including a science spelling bee, a lip sync battle and a maths challenge. The next house meeting will be held after the October week's holiday where House Captains should continue to organise and motivate the best team for the job.

## Clyde Vs Kelvin



## Netball

This year we have entered three netball teams into the Glasgow School's netball leagues. Congratulations to the S1 netball team who played exceptionally well to win their first match 16 – 6 at home against St Thomas Aquinas. The S2 team lost to Shawlands Academy at home after an excellent performance with strong teamwork and a really positive attitude displayed by all. Any girls interested in getting involved in netball please see Ms Campbell



## Rowing

Following on from a successful taster session in rowing last year at the Clydesdale rowing club some of our pupils were invited back to a meet and greet session with

Dame Katherine Grainger (Great Britain's most decorated female Olympian). Thanks to our Active School Co-ordinator Gerry Best for arranging this, the pupils and Mr Knox thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



## Drama Ambassadors

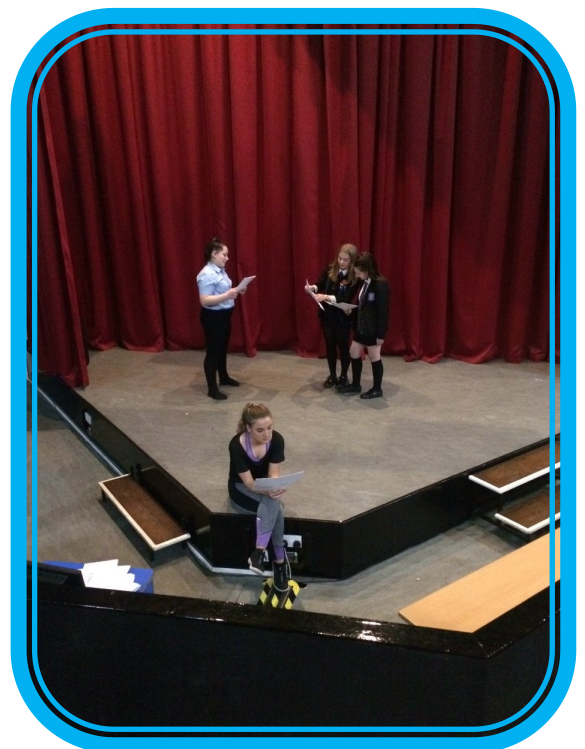
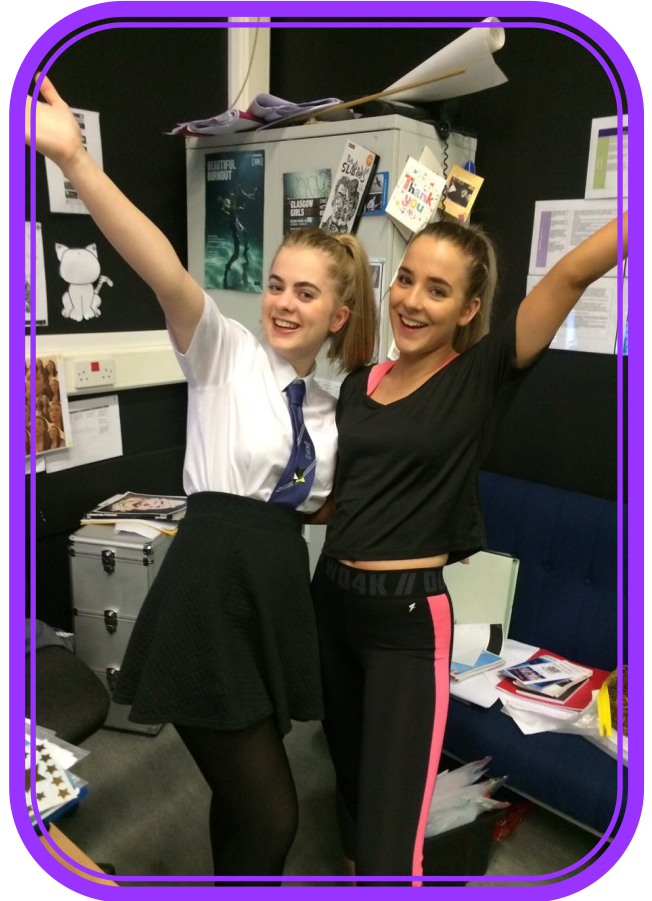
Antonia and Amy decided that they would start a Drama club for anyone in S1-S3. The agreed time was that they would volunteer their skills for 1 hour a week.

The girls thought that it would enhance the learning of other pupils and they could pass on their skills that they themselves have acquired to younger pupils.

The skills that Antonia and Amy wanted to develop were organisational skills by setting up the club, marketing skills by advertising the club and events, creativity skills, by directing the pupils, and leadership skills by encouraging the participants of the club to create their own dramas and develop their performance skills.

Antonia and Amy have surpassed what they initially aimed to do and have not only developed and applied all of the skills we initially agreed upon but have made a great success of the club with the numbers of participants growing every week. The club members are delighted with the opportunity to express themselves with this extra-curricular club and are grateful that Antonia and Amy have passed on their knowledge and experience to them.

Well done to both of you!





## Drama

# BGE Drama Club



The BGE Drama club decided that they wanted a symbol of their dedication to drama, something to show that they belonged to the club and agreed that they would all wear a badge.

Here are some of the members showing off their badges!

If you would like to join the club please feel free to come along from 3.30pm to 4.30 pm on Tuesdays. The club is open for S1-S3!

## CarnEvil!



S3 devised their annual Halloween tour of terror with the theme 'CarnEvil'. The promenade theatre tour took place around the theatre, drama studio, dressing rooms and music corridor. The tour took seventy S1 and S2 pupils on a terrifying journey around the 'CarnEvil' where they encountered some frightening character creations. The pupils designed costume, make-up, sound, set, lighting and props for the event and did a fantastic job providing a horrific experience for all participants. Well done to Amy Roxburgh, John Kearney, Sydney Gladstone, Amy Hannah, Zoe Glackin, Niamh McMullen, Kirsty 'Brien, Madison Langford and Emma Robertson!

## Art



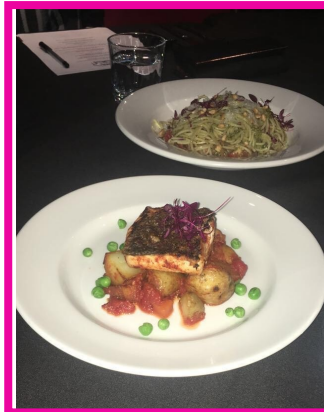
***S5 pupil, Damilola Ganzallo, is one of six winners of a recent competition run by the Glasgow School of Art. Damilola took part in this competition through participation in a 10-week S5 Portfolio Course. As a competition winner Damilola's work has been printed in the latest GSA prospectus which was launched on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at the Glasgow School of Art's undergraduate open day. Damilola's work is featured on page 11 of the prospectus.***

***Well done Damilola!***



# Culinary Excellence 2017

This year we are delighted to be partnered with Arta Restaurant, Merchant City. Pupils at the moment are honing their skills developing a 3 course meal for 40 invited guests including parents and partners of Whitehill Secondary. The culmination of their effort will be demonstrated in their final event on the 30th November. Good luck team!



# Maths Week Scotland

The inaugural Maths Week Scotland took place from 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September.

S1-3 Pupils took part in a number of challenges including a "Maths Wi Nae Borders" competition as well as national competitions on Manga High.

Tutor time was dedicated to a focus on problem solving and teamwork. The very first Tutor time numeracy challenge was split into two sections – one for BGE and the other for SP.

Both challenges were thought-provoking and involved a great deal of thought. The winners were as follows

BGE – Cameron Hill 2.2

SP – Afia Kazmi 5.1

Staff – Mr Oliver



## IET Stem Challenge Day



The victorious pupils were Mohammed Abomustafa, Lewis Aird, Logan Cassidy, Ayush Kulkarni, Kaelyn Loch and Hazel Mair.



Well Done to the six S1 pupils who WON the IET Stem Challenge Day hosted at St Roch's Secondary on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

They competed against five other schools to design an attraction for Thorpe Park. They used teamwork, creativity and engineering brilliance in a close competition to beat the other schools by 2 points.

The team won a trophy, a £10 Amazon voucher each and the chance to be selected to go to Thorpe Park to have their design created in the park for 2019.



# Media

Mr Cawley's Senior Phase Media class attended the Into Cinema Film Festival showing of *Star Wars: Rogue One*. A good time was had by all, even the girls who had never seen a Star Wars film before. Next up in the Into Cinema events calendar is the S1 trip to see *Kong: Skull Island* at Glasgow Fort Vue.



## Supported Study

Monday 3.30-4.30pm	Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm	Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm	Thursday 3.30-4.30pm	Friday 3.30-4.30pm
<b>Admin Nat 5</b> Mrs Irvin	<b>Art Nat 5</b> Miss Dorran	<b>Art Higher/ AH</b> Miss Dorran	<b>Biology Nat 5</b> Miss Mallalieu	<b>Art Higher/ AH</b> Miss Dorran
<b>Biology Nat 5</b> Miss Sloss	<b>Chemistry Higher</b> Mrs McElroy	<b>Business Nat 5</b> Miss Donaldson	<b>Chemistry Nat 5</b> Mrs Rikabi/ Mrs McElroy	<b>Geography</b> Mr Robertson
<b>Cake &amp; Hospitality</b> Mr Fleming & Mrs Wright	<b>CompScience Nat 5</b> Mrs Bhopal	<b>History AH</b> Mrs Connor	<b>Des Manuf Nat 5</b> Mr Bouchier	<b>Hum Biology Higher</b> Mrs West
<b>Drama Nat 5</b> Miss Livingstone	<b>English Nat 5</b> Miss Gal- lagher	<b>RMPS Higher</b> Mrs McDowall	<b>Drama Higher</b> Miss Livingstone	<b>RMPS AH</b> Mrs McDowall
<b>English Nat 5</b> Mr Finbow	<b>Geography</b> Mr Robertson	<b>STUDY ROOM</b> Mr Robertson	<b>Geography</b> Mr Robertson	<b>ESOL</b> Nat 5/ Higher Mrs Doherty
<b>English Higher</b> Miss Healy	<b>Health &amp; Food Technol- ogy</b> Mr Fleming		<b>Health &amp; Food Techn Nat 5</b> Mrs Wright	
<b>Modern Studies Nat 5</b> Mrs Doherty	<b>History Higher</b> Mrs Connor		<b>History Nat 5</b> Mrs McDowall	
<b>Modern Studies Higher</b> Mr Traynor	<b>Maths Nat 5/Higher</b> Mr Drummond/ Miss McVicar		<b>MathsNat5/Higher</b> Mr Drummond/ Miss McVicar	
<b>Music</b> Mrs Hendry	<b>UCAS</b> Misses DillonMadigan		<b>Sociology Nat 5</b> Mr Traynor	
<b>Physics Nat 5</b> Mr Tobin			<b>Sociology Higher</b> Mr Traynor	
<b>Physics Higher</b> Mr Tobin			<b>Study Room 201</b> Mr Robertson	
<b>Study Room 201</b> Mr Robertson				



# Extra Curricular Timetable

After School 3-30pm – 4-30pm					
	Lunchtime	Games Hall	Gym	Outside	Music and Drama
<b>Mon</b>	S1 Football Mr Knox (MUGA)  Acc. Reading Mrs Bhopal  Arts and Crafts (233)	Tennis Mr Knox	Cheerleading Miss Drummond All stars	PEEK Football All years  Girls Football Ms Campbell	Senior Music Practice Mrs Hendry  Film Club Mrs Forte (LT)
<b>Tues</b>	Board Games	S3-6 Netball Ms Campbell	Martial Arts Alex McGregor (Coach)	S2 Football Mr Bouchier  TORYGLEN FOOTBALL	Ceilidh Band Practice Mrs Hendry  S1-3 Drama Club Ms Livingstone
<b>Wed</b>	Arts and Crafts	Boxing Michael Roberts	Cheerleading Kai and Amy Superstars	Tennis PEEK	
<b>Thurs</b>	Film Club Mrs Forte (LT)  Acc. Reading Mrs Bhopal	S1-2 Netball Ms Campbell	Seniors Zumba, Boogie Bounce & Clubbercise	S1 Football Mr Knox	S1-3 Band Practice
	Christian Union 125  Table Tennis Ms Campbell	Basketball Ms Campbell	Dance		