

STEWARTON ACADEMY

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2011

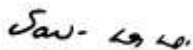
Dear Parent/Carer

Best wishes to you and your family and I hope that you have a peaceful, happy holiday and a successful New Year.

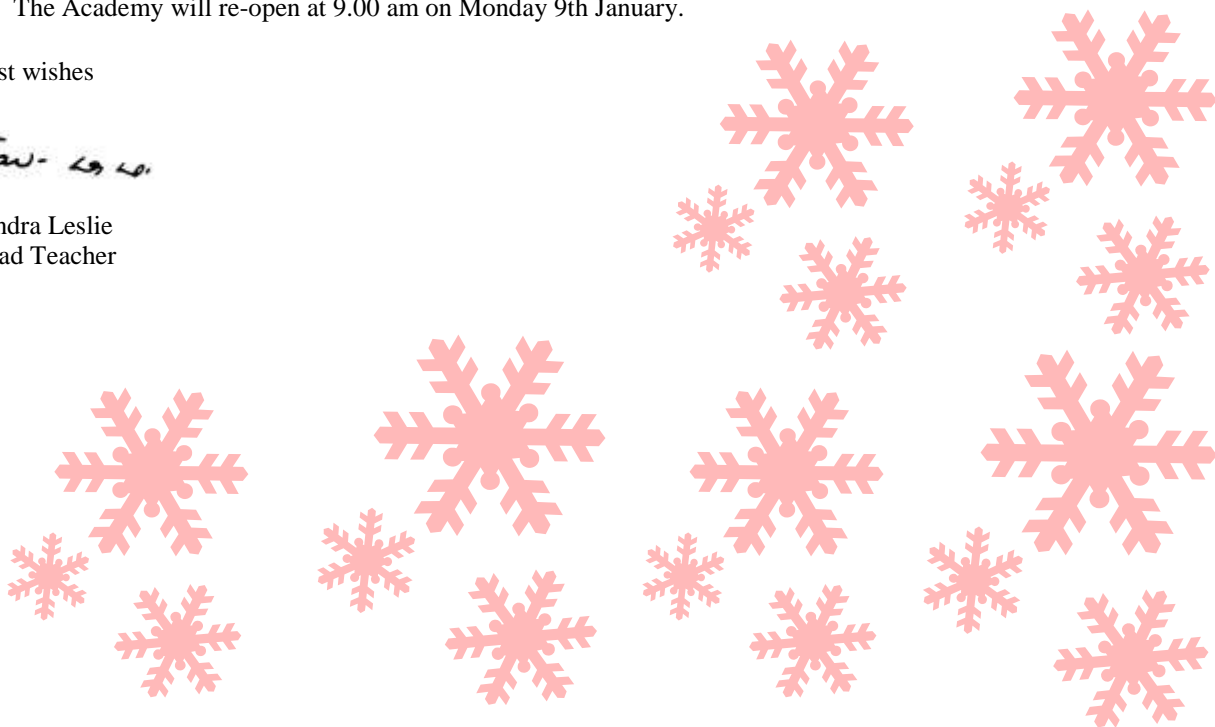
Christmas Closure

Stewarton Academy will close on Friday 23rd December at 2.30 pm. Buses will be scheduled to leave the school at this time. The Academy will re-open at 9.00 am on Monday 9th January.

Best wishes



Sandra Leslie
Head Teacher



Special points of interest:

- *NHS Awareness Day*
- *Willie Coffey MSP visit*
- *Hwa Chong International Exchange*
- *Pupil Senate*
- *SI Parents' Evening*
- *Visit to Glasgow's Hindu Temple*
- *Music & Performing Arts*
- *Volleyball*
- *Business Enterprise Skills Centre Project*
- *East Ayrshire enterprising Maths Competition*



NHS Awareness Day - 4 November 2011

7 pupils attended this event:

Beth Morton, Bethany Boyd, Sarah McGregor, Addie Devlin, Megan Fulton, Heather Murray and Sarah Watters.

The pupils consulted with professionals from a variety of vocations within NHS. Pupils also competed against other schools in the Authority and were successful in the NHS challenge. Pupils are pictured with the trophy below. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and found the event gave a valuable insight into potential careers in the NHS.



Visit to Stewarton Academy from Mr Willie Coffey MSP

On Tuesday 22nd November Mr Coffey held an open forum for Miss MacGlade's S3-S6 Modern Studies classes. Pupils' asked questions ranging from issues concerning 'Scottish Independence', 'Renewable Energy' and 'The Role of an MSP'. Pupils found the debate very informative as well as providing necessary information for their studies.

Hwa Chong International Exchange 16th to 28th November

Pupils from Hwa Chong Institute in Singapore visited Stewarton Academy in November as part of the annual Exchange Programme, this is the 5th time Stewarton Academy has hosted. 16 pupils from Hwa Chong took part in the visit. Apart from the time spend in Scotland they spent time in Stewarton Academy getting to know pupils and experiencing lessons, they helped develop a community project at the Dean Castle Country Park and spent time experiencing tourist attractions in Glasgow and Edinburgh.



Visit from Stewarton Academy and Hwa Chong Pupils to The Scottish Parliament

On Thursday 24th November Mr Willie Coffey invited staff (Mr Johnston, Mr Kyle, Genevieve Tan and Yasi Huo) and pupils from Stewarton Academy and Hwa Chong School in Singapore to The Scottish Parliament. Pupils were given the chance to ask questions to Mr Coffey in a committee room and then were given a tour of the Parliament. After the tour pupils visited Edinburgh castle.



PSE – Curriculum for Excellence

An online event on Choices for Life delivered a packed programme of entertainment and information to pupils in S1 – S5 on substance misuse issues and making positive lifestyle decisions.

Pupils watched PACE dramas 'Sophie's Story' and 'Scott's Story' which explored the issues around alcohol misuse and controlled drug misuse with music and messages from Pearl and the Puppets, The Wanted, GMD3 and Emeli Sandi.

An online panel discussed questions submitted by the pupils during the event.

The programme, which is funded by the Scottish Government has been developed by the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency in collaboration with a number of partners, and delivered third and fourth level substance misuse experiences and outcomes within health and wellbeing.

Pupil Senate

Academy's senior senators Alice Kerr and Peter Lunardi organised and chaired Stewarton Academy's first Senate. The focus for the day was 'Pupil Voice' and guest speakers: Mr G Short Executive Director (Education and Social Services) the local police and Mr Murray of Lochaven International Knitwear, Stewarton added words of wisdom and motivation to the S1 – S6 pupil council representatives attending the Senate.



The pupils discussed a number of issues on how to improve the school and community and feedback on the day will be presented to all pupils at year group assemblies. Senior management will consider and respond to the issues raised and a follow up senate will be held in March.





Preparation for interviews

Mock interviews

S6 pupils applying for university next year were invited to apply for a mock interview if they wished. Staff were invited to be members of a panel to interview prospective university students and the volunteer staff were divided into two panels. The panels met to discuss suitable questions from a range of resources and a format of the interview was agreed. Staff took it in turns to chair the interviews to contribute to the continuing personal development of staff.

During the interview pupils were asked a number of questions from the panel and they were also given the opportunity to ask any questions at the end of the interview. There was then a feedback session for the student and later a summary of the interview with suggestions for improvement collated and sent to the student.



Jordan Myles and Laura McDowall from S5 were given the responsibility of organising appointments and sending letters to the students. Jordan and Laura arranged accommodation for the interviews and prepared a reception area in the main foyer for the duration of the interview. Mr Rose is investigating the possibility of the S5 pupils achieving recognition for their work.

Panel

H Biddiscombe	B Smith
J McCrone	A Barbour
E Vallance	P Ferguson
D Gray	



Next steps

Feedback from the students was very positive and following the initial round of interviews a number of other students have asked for an interview. These will be scheduled as soon as possible.

S5/6 students applying for college courses will be invited to apply for an interview next term.

Students applying for jobs will be invited to apply for mock interviews through employability and steps to work courses and all S4 pupils will continue to get the opportunity to attend mock interviews with Sainsbury's training team.

S1 Parents' Evening

We look forward to welcoming Parents/Carers to our S1 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 25th January.



RE DEPT

Hindu Temple/St. Mungo's Museum:

Members of the S3 Standard Grade R.S. Class enjoyed the above visit at the end of October. At Glasgow's Hindu Temple, they received a talk about Hindu beliefs and practices, and explored a range of images of gods/goddesses. At St. Mungo's Museum, they participated in a workshop about sectarianism provided by museum educators, and gathered information about a range of beliefs from the Gallery of Religious Life.

Samye Ling Visit:

30 senior pupils took part in this 2 day visit in early December. They explored various aspects of Tibetan Buddhism, including meditation, life as a member of the community, the work of ROKPA (a charity whose work helps AIDS patients in southern Africa and provided education and health care for very poor people in Tibet and Nepal) and temple worship.

Fairtrade Group:

Members continue to work hard, running twice-weekly stalls and monthly sales to staff. In October, 4 group members gave a presentation about their work to Senior Pupils at Dunlop Primary School, and in November four members ran a stall at Dunlop Women's Guild Coffee Morning.

Lessons from Auschwitz Project:

Two senior pupils, Laurie Smith and Rachel Carroll, have completed 3 of the 4 parts of this project which has included a visit to Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. They are in the process of developing presentation for other pupils about the lessons they have learned in relation to racism and prejudice.

Fund-Raising:

1. Members of the Animal Rights Group raised £40 from a cafe sale which they organised themselves, in November.
2. Members of the S3 Standard Grade class, helped by a number of pupils in 2A and 2D, raised almost £400 for the Dalit Solidarity Network in London. This money will be used to support untouchables in India.
3. The School Amnesty International group raised about £180 by running our Amnesty Party for senior pupils in October. The group continues its campaigning work by participating in Amnesty Campaigns to help women in Afghanistan, to end storing (of capital offenders) in Iran, and to send Season's Greetings cards to a variety of prisoners of conscience and campaigning groups in different parts of the world.

School Show 2012

Congratulations to those who successfully auditioned and secured a part in the school show "Return to the Forbidden Planet". Rehearsals start in January with a lot of hard work to be done between March and June.

S FACTOR

Congratulations to those contestants who qualified for the S factor this year. We also welcome back last year's winners for a special performance and the debut of our staff band. It remains the fun finale to our term, we all look forward to. Well done everyone.



Music & Performing Arts

Train & Sustain

In November, a number of S3 – S6 pupils participated in a vocal masterclass with a singer and accompanist from the Royal Conservatoire Of Scotland. Time was spent looking at technique and performing skills, and stood the pupils in good stead for their forthcoming prelim exams.

Kilmarnock Rotary Young Musician Of The Year

David Jones and Beth Morton represented the school in this year's competition. The competition was tough, and although neither were awarded the top prize of the night, both performed to a very high standard with David in the instrumental category and Beth in the vocal category.

Maestro Music Concert

Last month, a number of pupils attended the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Maestro Music concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The concert focussed on the symphony and lots of musical concepts were highlighted, tying in with the Listening element of the Music course. Additionally, Rachel Beveridge (S6) played on stage with the orchestra in a special performance of the opening movement of Beethoven's 5th symphony.

Junior & Senior Band

Both bands have been away on residential weekends, preparing their festival programmes. The Senior Band participated in the National Concert Band Festival, and were awarded Gold in the regional heat while the Junior Band participated in the Scottish Concert Band Festival, and were also awarded Gold in the regional heat. Congratulations to both bands!

Christmas Concert

This year's concert takes place on Thursday 15th December at 7.00pm. Tickets are available from the school office. Come along and enjoy a festive evening of dance, drama and music.

Work Experience

All of our S4 pupils successfully completed a week of work experience in September. This year we have also been doing a number of flexible placements for S5/6 pupils. To date around 30 pupils have been involved in specific work placements to assist with applications for future careers. We are also very pleased that Sainsbury's have been coming into school and working with us to provide advice on applications, aptitude tests and mock interviews to some of our S4/5 pupils.

Thanks to all parents and employers for their support in these activities.

P.E. Dept.

Volleyball

S3 boys had a very successful national tournament in Grangemouth in November where they finished 2nd out of 25 teams from all over Scotland. They have also reached the semi finals of the Scottish cup which will be played after Christmas. The volleyball club is very healthy at the moment and with a number of tournaments in the pipeline more members are welcome from S1 and S2 - boys and girls!



P.E. Dept.

SWIMMING

Congratulations to all Stewarton Academy pupils who participated in the Ayrshire Schools swimming gala.

Results

GOLD 100M BREAST – Andrew McFadzean 1.13min

GOLD 200M BREAST – Andrew McFadzean 2.40min

SILVER 50M BACK – Catriona Harrison 51.74sec

BRONZE 50M FREE – Catriona Harrison 44.28sec

BRONZE 200M FREE – Alasdair McGhee 2.34min

BRONZE 100M FLY – Natasha Allen 1.17min

BASKETBALL

All Stewarton Academy basketball teams have had an excellent start to the season in all competitions. The boys are working very hard in training (even training before school) and the hard work and commitment is beginning to pay off.

Results

S1

Won 41 – 26 v's Auchenhavrie

Won 24 – 18 v's Greenwood

U-14 S2

Won 64 - 24 v's Hillhead

Won 66 – 33 v's St Maurice's

Lost 55 – 47 in overtime v's Stewarton 'A' U-15's

Won 41- 31 v's JHA

U-15 S3

Won 70 – 41 v's Kyle

Won 55 – 47 in overtime v's Stewarton 'B' U-14's

Open Boys Seniors

Won 93 – 65 v's Auchenhavrie

Won 74 – 59 v's Kirkcudbright

Won 100 – 17 v's Kilwinning

Won 100 – 20 v's Kilwinning

Won 90 – 51 v's Auchenhavrie

Lost 91 – 65 v's Marr

TENNIS

Well done to Charlie Baird, Jonny Douglas, David O'Halloran and Callum Reid who played in the Scottish Cup tie versus Marr College. The boys played very well in cold and wet conditions losing out in the end. There are 3 more games to be played in the new year versus Largs, Hamilton and Uddingston.

YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Our 3 young ambassadors Scott McGregor, Georgina Taylor and Frankie Reid recently attended the adiStars conference. This will help them to organise an inter-house basketball tournament for 1st years 18th Jan.

Senior sports leaders will also be involved in organising various events in the new year.



Business Enterprise Skills Centre Project

Developments are well under way with the BESC project now. Our pupils have been involved in many activities to encourage their creativity and enterprise skills. A few of these activities are highlighted below:

Congratulations to Sarah McHutchison and Katie McNulty who won the BESC logo competition in which they created a beautiful new emblem to encapsulate all the activities that we would be undertaking as a school in the project. This is currently with the sign-writing company who are considering the options for reproduction of their artwork.

A group of ten S6 pupils attended a seminar hosted by EA at which Sir Tom Hunter and Peter Hughes gave inspirational talks on how to succeed in life and in business. The pupils also participated in a couple of workshops in which their entrepreneurial and creative skills were put to the test to sell an item given to them on the day. They all had great fun and were a credit to the school.

Our own budding entrepreneurs are waiting to face the Dragon's Den in the school in the next couple of weeks as they strive to sell their business ideas in the hope of winning a place at the Ayrshire finals to be held in January 2012. The 11 companies will be pitching to the 'Dragons' to stand a chance of winning the £1000 prize for their business and an extra £4000 for the school

Two of our S3 pupils, Rebecca Leitch and Rachel Lynes took part in a Braehead Foods Cook School competition recently where they cooked two portions of a main meal for the panel of judges. Although not picked to go further in the competition, the girls worked hard in the run up to the day and were a real credit to the school in they way they performed. Well done to them both

Four classes pupils in the Art Department are currently working on a project to produce Artwork for inclusion in stone monoliths in the new Housing Development being built close to the school. This incentive is being run by Atrium Homes and will provide an opportunity for a lasting input to be made by the pupils of Stewarton Academy to the local community

Our Skills for Work team, under the careful supervision of Mrs Vallance, have been busy entertaining and providing for the staff by way of two excellent coffee mornings. At the latest one, they even provided some light entertainment by way of musical input by a couple of our talented youngsters.

Future developments to look forward to in January will be the completion of our BESC hub – a dedicated study and meeting area for our pupils, the start of building work to create our Music Studio, the official Launch of the whole project and the participation of a group of pupils at an E-commerce seminar, run by the Hunter Foundation to explore the world of the internet and how best it could be used to increase our future business opportunities as a school.

School Holidays 2012/13

Please note that an amendment has been made to the above holidays and a leaflet with the correct dates has been given to pupils. The correct dates have also been placed on the GLOW website and the Stewarton Academy blog.



S6 PSE - Stewart Ivory Foundation

All pupils in S6 have attended presentations from the Stewart Ivory Foundation. These are presentations about financial planning after leaving Stewarton Academy, and going onto Higher and Further education and employment. All pupils found this very helpful and will attend the final presentation in January.

STARS

All pupils in the school have been working extremely well towards achieving STARS awards in their classes. S1,2,3,4 pupils in the winning STARS classes will all receive a pizza party and DVD afternoon in December to celebrate their success. The pupil in S5/6 with the most STARS awards will have the option to receive £100 or driving lessons. Winning classes and pupils will be announced during December.

MATHS

By coming 1st in the East Ayrshire Enterprising Maths competition (organised by The Actuarial Profession), students from S3 and S4 qualified for the finals at Glasgow University. The four successful students were Katie Mackie, Fraser Wright, Calum Sharp and Jonathan Seamen.

Calum Sharp and Jonathan Seamen are also preparing for the annual Stock Market Challenge. Under Mr Watt's guidance, Stewarton will be represented in the Glasgow finals in 2012. Joining Calum and Jonathan are Niall MacQuarrie, Darren Barr and Andrew McFadzean.

Pupils from Stewarton have also entered the Scottish Maths challenge. There have been some excellent performances following round 1. Good luck for round 2.

Although they didn't travel to Glasgow University, S1, S2 and S3 pupils competed in The Four Nations Maths Challenge. This was an opportunity for them to go online and test their maths and numeracy skills against other schools in the UK. Andrew Nisbett was the top student from Stewarton. Next up is World Maths Day.

Finally, a reminder to all S5 and S6 candidates to make use of the many resources available, one of which is Scholar and this can be accessed at <http://scholar.hw.ac>

STEWARTON ACADEMY

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We're on the Web
www.stewartonacademy.co.uk

Please note the underlined link to Stewarton Blog.
The blog is a website which is almost instant and is updated regularly
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/STEWARTONACADEMYBLOG/>



Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
from
Stewarton Academy