

The Whitehill Wire

The latest news and events from Whitehill Secondary School



Pauline Swan
Head Teacher

I am delighted to introduce Whitehill Secondary School's 2016 Spring/Summer Newsletter. The staff in the school are wholly committed to maximising the learning potential and improving the life chances of all young people in the school.

We are committed to the effective delivery of the school curriculum and providing opportunities for the development of essential skills for life, learning and work. We work collaboratively with parents and pupils to promote an active and healthy lifestyle for everyone in our school community.

This newsletter provides details of our curriculum, our wide range of extra-curricular activities, examples of pupil work and regular updates on events which are taking place within the school.

I am sure that you will enjoy reading about the achievements of our pupils. We are extremely proud of them!

Many Thanks,

Pauline Swan

A massive thank you to our Head Boy Christopher Tough and Head Girl Anna Morgan for their invaluable contribution to the school this year. They have provided leadership to pupils, promoting the school ethos and have been role models. Throughout the year Anna and Chris have helped with many activities within the school, from organising the prefect timetable to helping out with parent evenings. As well as this we are proud to have had them represent our school at Glasgow Cathedral, visiting the local primary schools and speaking at school assemblies.

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Check out our website www.whitehill-sec.glasgow.sch.uk



SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are pleased to announce that after consultation with pupils, parents and staff, we have agreed on the re-launch of the school uniform. As a school we feel that our uniform dress code reinforces our overall drive for excellence and contributes to our school ethos. As of August all pupils are expected to wear the following items:

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

Thank you for your support.

Whitehill Secondary Leavers

Farewell to all the senior phase pupils who are leaving Whitehill to embark on a new journey. You have all worked really hard and shown real dedication and commitment in your school career.

Good Luck!



Ultra Violet Cheer Squad



Ultra Violet Cheer Team recently competed in the Inter-house Cheerleading Competition in Falkirk. The competition was a huge success with over 13 teams competing from all over Scotland. The girls did a fantastic job on the night and had Ms Drummond, Ms Dillon, Ms Campbell and Ms Livingston all there to support and cheer them on. The team consists of girls from S1 all the way through to S5 and they are constantly pushing themselves to learn harder stunts and routines.

Sports Leaders

What a year it has been for our Sports Leaders, Dance Leaders and Young Ambassador teams. Throughout the year they have thoroughly enjoyed delivering sessions for primary pupils from Golfhill, Haghill and Alexandra Parade. Leaders have attended training days, volunteered at local events, run primary transition events, promoted and helped with extra-curricular clubs/matches and gained coaching qualifications. We are particularly proud of our Young Ambassadors who worked alongside Gerry Best (our fantastic Active Schools Coordinator) to set up their very own community club after school on a Wednesday for pupils from all of our local primary schools. This club has proved extremely popular with the primary pupils and it has been great to see the excellent relationships that have been formed between the primary and senior pupils. A fantastic achievement which has helped to build upon the success of our Sports Leadership Academy.



Strictly Come Dancing



On Wednesday the 23rd of March Whitehill hosted our first ever Strictly Come Dancing. We were delighted to host an event of this kind and overwhelmed by the support that we have had from everyone. Our competitors had rehearsed for weeks but there could only be one winning pair:
3rd place – Miss Drummond and Angus
2nd place Ms McDowall and Chris
1st place Miss Dillon and Antal!
Congratulations Miss Dillon and Antal our winners of Strictly Come Dancing 2016!
Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Thank you for your support and hope you enjoyed the show!
Follow us on twitter for more events and check the website for updates.

Health and Well-Being Summit

Well done to Taylor McGrath, Heather Browniski, Samuel Hutchison and Fraser Tucker, who represented the school by performing a drama at the 2016 Health and Well-being Summit as a means of exploring and sharing the findings of the Glasgow Health and Well-being survey.



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GCU Cali Club



In February, our S1 pupils spent a day at Glasgow Caledonian University participating in the 'S1 Project'. As a GCU Cali Club school, Whitehill aims to build aspirations, dispel stereotypes, and increase confidence of our young people, especially at times of transition. This Project promotes the links between university, student life and wider school opportunities.

S1 worked with student mentors and were introduced to the social side of university. Our young people were given the opportunity to participate in a 'Speed Dating' activity, where they were introduced to their Mentor for the day. They also toured the campus, were introduced to the clubs and societies already at GCU, by participating in a 'Fresher's Fare' and finally had to create a new club for the GCU campus. Working in teams and using excellent co-operation and communication skills led to some fantastic ideas such as the 'Dog Fitness Society', 'Dance-ketball' and 'Ace-Racing' club. Pupils were then asked to present their ideas to a panel of judges and two winners were chosen. It was a fantastic day and all S1 should be given credit for their participation and excellent ideas.

Ski Trip

Also in February we ran our very first Ski trip abroad to Alpe d'Huez in France. A team of 24 S2/S3 pupils made the trip to the French ski resort to experience world leading ski instruction, fantastic skiing conditions and a taste for the sport. Pupils were given 4 hours of instruction per day and made significant improvements over the weeklong trip. Pupils were also given the opportunity to have some free time, explore the town and try lots of new activities such as Laser Tag, Ice Skating and Bum boarding. The trip was such a success that it will be running again in 2017. To aid the transition for our new S1, we have invited all current P7 pupils who will be attending Whitehill Secondary in August to join the trip so they can also experience the enjoyment of a skiing, make new friends and learn lots of new skills in the process.



Glasgow Schools Takeover



On 24th March 2016 Springboard Scotland and the Glasgow City Council Culinary Excellence Programme worked to bring two Glasgow Schools together. The schools were given the opportunity to take part in a 'Hotel Takeover' with the Village Hotel Glasgow. Twelve pupils from Whitehill Secondary School and Lochend Secondary School were chosen to take part in this exciting initiative. The pupils worked in activities across four departments (front of house, kitchen, housekeeping and spa/gym) and then worked with the Events Team to set up an event hosted by the hotel. They experienced a real working environment in the process, as they assisted in serving dinner, after which they themselves dined in the Village Hotel restaurant.

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Jamie Stevens, General Manager, Village Hotel Club Glasgow said, "The future of the hospitality industry starts at grassroots level and it's important for young people to appreciate that it offers a career choice with huge potential for training, development and progression.

Football Team



Well done to our S3 boys' team who have achieved some fantastic results this year! In their league section the team were victorious in their matches against Eastbank, St Roch's and Bishopbriggs in their league section. The boys played some outstanding football and have raised the standards of play at Whitehill. All the players participated in great games but the Player of the Year was Jamie Dodsworth. Well done Jamie!

Duke of Edinburgh



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme has gone from strength to strength over its short history within Whitehill Secondary. In November we were very proud to see 1 Silver and 6 Bronze participants pick up their certificates at the city-wide Award Ceremony at the Royal Concert Hall, but this year we hope to have our biggest haul yet as 13 Bronze and 9 Silver participants are on track to complete their awards.

This year's Silver group have successfully completed their qualifying expedition under very testing weather conditions, including heavy snow, but the Bronze group should hopefully find the weather more accommodating at the end of June when they complete their walk at Loch Ard.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is not all about hiking, however. Participants must also complete a volunteering, skill and physical section in their own time, which is why the award is so well respected with employers, colleges and universities.

Good luck to all our participants!

Micro Tyco

Our S2 pupils recently participated in the Micro Tyco challenge. This is a month long challenge that enables participants to practise and learn fundamental business principles in a safe, 'micro' environment. Micro-Tyco inspires an entrepreneurial environment that fosters creative thinking, resourcefulness and team work as well as helping pupils to develop financial



literacy, communication, leadership, project management and networking skills. The pupils had one month to turn £1 into as much capital as possible. Our pupils raised over £700 which is invested by WildHearts in micro-loans for poor entrepreneurs in the developing world. All pupils received a personalised certificate for their effort.

Well done everyone!

Malawi



And they are off! On the 3rd of June 2016 Sixteen pupils set off for Malawi. This trip involves delivering PE to the pupils of Nyambadwe Lions Primary School and renovating and redecorating four classrooms within the school. Pupils have continued to develop as Sports Leaders and Whitehill Secondary School as a Sports Leaders Academy has directly helped them develop the skills required to maximise the impact of their upcoming project. We shall hear more about this epic journey in the next edition!

Whitehill parent council meets every term on a Monday evening. If you would like to contribute to the life and work of the school by joining the parent council please contact gillianhunt@yahoo.co.uk or linda.mccallum@investecwin.co.uk

Also please check the website for the date of the Parent council quiz where everyone is welcome!

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