



responsible citizens



Eco Group

The Knightswood Secondary Eco Committee is headed by Mr. Locke of the Geography department. Since its creation three years ago, the committee has been driven by one motive: "To enhance, improve and maintain the environment of the school and local area and to help pupils become effective contributors, responsible citizens and successful learners". It is this dedication that means our school is now a greener place.

As a result of the committee's hard work, the school has become more self-sufficient, by growing its own potatoes and herbs for the Food Technology department, and reducing the brightness of school computer monitors to save energy.

The committee's inspiring activity was recognised recently, with two of its members, Mark Magee and Lauren Ross, nominated for National Green Awards. And it doesn't end there- the committee is focusing its efforts on obtaining green flag status for Knightswood, lowering energy consumption and introducing Eco Education as part of the Soc Ed programme. Judging by their progress so far, it is clear that the eco committee has a bright future!

By Jennifer Beck (S6)



Danceathon

The 2011 Danceathon took place on Friday 18th November and, as always, has been a great success. Dancers from all year groups enthusiastically took part and raised money for the School Fund.

Many dressed in costume and despite the heat, danced as energetically at the end as they had at the start. We spoke to a couple of the dancers who took part and they both thought it had been "brilliant". Ceilidh Murray (S2) said; "The dancers were brilliant and if you didn't know a particular dance, they would help you out." When asked if it was hard work dancing for an hour and a half she agreed but also said it was "great fun." Another dancer Lucy Kelly (S2) said "I loved taking part. I was involved last year and couldn't wait to do it again this year."

Our thanks go to Ms. Rybarczyk (pictured below in the Honey Monster Costume) for her hard work in organising the event, her helpers on the day; and congratulations to all the dancers who have raised around £3000 this year.



successful learners • effective contributors • confident individuals • responsible citizens



Café Society



This term has seen the opening of Scholars' Café, in the school's canteen. This new cafe area provides a more cutting edge and relaxed alternative to the Fuelzone, catering to our young people's increasingly sophisticated tastes.

Scholars' Café gives our young people a less formal venue in which to unwind, discuss, and socialise, complete with comfortable couches, and coffee-bar style seating. The wide range of tasty, and healthy, food and drinks on offer also reflects this modern and urban 'vibe'. And it has been given a distinctly original KSS feel!

Over the October break, some of our own young talent including Stephanie Sweeney and Melania Cwynar (S3), Emma Murphy (S4), Lauren Stewart and Sophie Heron (S6) were specially selected by their art teachers, and invited to work with professional graffiti artists in designing the Scholars' logo, and decorating the walls of the café.

The result is a stunningly original, bright, and up-to-date social area for our young people, in which they can really feel a sense of pride and ownership, and expertly run and organised by Cordia.

"It was a great experience working with professional artists and adding our mark to the school" - Stephanie Sweeney



Letters from America

Charrise studied in the Musical Theatre course here at Knightswood last year. She won a prestigious scholarship to study at the AMDA in Los Angeles. Charrise writes.....

"I'm loving it, hard work though. We have already had assessments in every subject but I've been getting really high marks - so I'm chuffed. We have a musical theatre project and have to read 7 different musicals a week and write about them/choose songs from each musical to perform every week. That's from now until Christmas. My dance and movement teacher has had parts in 'Friends' and CSI New York'. My film studies teacher was in 'Titanic' and my singing teachers have been in multiple Broadway shows! Its great because all the teachers are in the business!"

Fellow student Lauren won a scholarship to study at the AMDA in New York. Lauren writes.....

"Getting on really well but I am shattered all the time. My days are from 8am until 5.30pm most days. The training is really good but I find I already know a lot of stuff we are doing at the moment. I am looking forward to getting some new information. Coming here has made me realise how good the training in MT at Knightswood really is. New York is a crazy city its just on the go 24/7."



NEWS

WINTER 2011



It has been a busy time for everyone in the school community. The 1st Years completed their Poppy Scotland inter-disciplinary project in November and produced some really excellent work. Our S2 pupils are working hard to ensure that they are in a good place when it comes to identifying possible subjects to study in S3, and those already in S3 are beginning to understand the importance of them giving of their best, both in class and in their home learning, to make sure they aren't disappointed by their SQA results in 2013! Our S4 and Senior Students should have already established a study programme and be asking for help from their teachers with any areas of coursework that they are unsure of. The S4 Prelim Exams have just started and next week the S5 and S6 students will get their progress reports, so they will know what they have to do to achieve their full potential in their Prelims at the beginning of February.

Autumn is traditionally a time of harvest. We hope that all of our young people sow wisely now so that they reap the reward in their final exams in 2012. This Newsletter tells you about some of the 'fruits of our labours' in the wider life of the school right now. It's important to remember that our young people are able to enjoy these wonderful learning opportunities as a direct result of the creativity, enthusiasm and hard work of our staff - and not only our teaching staff.

In October some of our young people absolutely shone as they performed in front of huge audiences. The Musical Theatre Group provided outstanding entertainment for guests of the Lady Provost at her Charity Lunch in the City Chambers. Later in the month, a group of young people in S1-S5 made use of our new sound system and lights and provided an excellent review of 'Grease' to an audience of almost 300 family and friends - everyone left with big smiles at the end of the evening! And it's almost Panto time - 20th and 21st December! Please get the dates in your diary and come along and support the young people and staff who work hard together and enrich the 'Knightswood experience'.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the many wonderful experiences our young people have enjoyed, and have grown through, over the past couple of months. Many of them have involved going out into the local community and further afield, and I am immensely proud of the very mature behaviour and positive approach they have displayed on all occasions. The consistent message from the staff who accompany them, and the event organisers, is that "they are a credit to the school". So well done and thank you to all our young people who are helping to lift the name of Knightswood Secondary high!

Talking of names.... don't worry, you don't have another Head Teacher, I just got married on 12th November and decided to be traditional! It was a very happy day and I wish all of you, and your family, a very Happy Christmas and Good Health, Happiness and Success in 2012.

Kay Arguall

Head Teacher