

Staff Member Parent Council Report

October 2017

WEBSITE

The school calendar has now been fully entered on the website with much appreciation to Karina Serdtseva (S5) and Melissa Smith (S5) who took on the task of data entry this year. Parents/Carers are reminded that they can subscribe to the calendar (so that it displays alongside their personal calendar) by following knox.is/calendar-subscribe. It is intended that over the next couple of months that the calendar will be displayed more as an 'event calendar' which will be responsive, making this easier to read on a mobile device.

The promotion of knox.is/newsdesk and the Daily emails of updates on the website has proved successful with a remarkable increase in subscribers. This has been through promotion at school events, Head Teacher Updates and of course our dual-promotion via the Parent Council. GroupCall messages sent to publicise both the school and Parent Council email newsletters seem to have been particularly effective. We currently have 298 subscribers after starting with around 235 in August 2017.

Several other updates have taken place including: the most recent staff list and the SQA-Post Results Policy.

Staff have been asked to update the extra-curricular timetable and by the time of the meeting this should have been published on the website. Extra-Curricular Activities include anything done within the school community that is offered to our pupils in addition to timetabled teaching and learning eg revision classes or drop-in sessions, committees, clubs, or other activities.

Meadowpark have started to issue a regular newsletter on the learning and other events that are taking place within Meadowpark. Charli Prime writes this on a weekly basis.

COMMUNITY

Haddington Active Memories Group - "Reflections: Then and Now" on various topics - school, Haddington, hobbies etc. Meet at John Grey Centre. 5 S3/S4 pupils engaging with this short documentary filming and editing project - early days.

Meeting with Pear Tree Nursery and Market Court (Sheltered Housing) with a second intergenerational filming and promotional project with 4 S3 pupils. Nursery is visiting Sheltered Housing each Thursday and some weeks filming will take place. This type of project has taken place elsewhere with benefits to both the young people and the older people.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

As we have done the past 2 years, the Modern Languages department ran a few activities in the assembly hall for the European Day of Languages.

A Euro Quiz in the hall for S1s

A Euro Olympics for all the S3s enrolled in languages.

SCILT (Scottish Centre for Languages) and 2 language students from Heriot Watt also came to talk to our senior classes.

MUSIC TUITION

We had 34 S1 pupils applying for instrumental tuition this year which is more than in previous years.

NURTURE ROOM

The Nurture Room in SFL is now nearly up and running and will be starting up after the October break. Parents will get an invite to pop in one Friday afternoon

GREEN ANGELS

The next Green Angels Outdoor Nurture Group will start after half term and run for 7 weeks. This year we have targeted S1 and S2 girls and have signed up 9 new Angels. The project is delivered by The Green Team which is an independent charity that provides opportunities for young people who may benefit from extra support and nurturing at school. The Green Angels Programme will provide opportunities to engage in a series of conservation projects at various sites in East Lothian. Participants will learn about the environment through hands-on activities and develop self-confidence and team work skills. Each session includes a conservation task (supported by a local Ranger), and a range of environmental activities such as environmental art, fire lighting , outdoor cooking and environmental exploration. Each session ends with time for group reflection and a review of learning from the day's activities. All students will be working towards their John Muir Discovery Award. It also gives the girls an opportunity to support each other and build a positive and trusting relationship with school staff in a neutral environment.

The group we ran last year was a real success with a focus on building confidence and self-esteem, the Angels got so much from the project, their confidence soared, self-esteem boosted and resilience developed as well as establishing good friendships along the way! The Green Team's passion and enthusiasm for our natural world was so infectious that it became 'cool' to get outdoors and explore - true 'girl power'!

The Green Team have had to seek funding to deliver this year's group and we are very fortunate that they have selected Knox for the second year running to work in partnership with.

KNOX ACADEMY GREEN TEAM AND ECO-COMMITTEE

Green Team is up and running and we've had a good S1 turnout this year. We've been working on a video to submit to a competition.

The Eco-Committee has started up and it's mainly composed of senior students. We are going to set goals for what we want to achieve in the year in terms of making Knox more environmentally friendly. As part of the Eco-Schools process, we need to involve the wider community (and Parents!) where possible. This might be something as simple as putting up some eco-posters on public notice boards in Haddington or sourcing prizes from local businesses for us to run some kind of whole-school competition. Or it may be someone who already has experience promoting environmentalism and they might want to come in to give us advice or share their experiences.

PUPIL SUCCESS

A. Langlands has had an article he submitted to the Tom Hunter foundation published in an "E book" detailing how he would lead Scotland. It was recognised at S4 assembly by Mrs Rodger.