

# Holy Rood

REVIEW

Summer  
Edition  
2017



Welcome to the Summer 2017 edition of the Holy Rood Review

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Inside you'll find reports and updates from our faculties and news of past and future events. 2017 has seen continued success for our school community in our study, creative ventures, business outreach, sport and wider community involvement.

## Sports Day 2017





# Head Teacher's Welcome

*Welcome to Holy Rood's Summer Newsletter. As ever, you will find this edition packed with articles about life in and around Holy Rood.*

At the time of writing this newsletter we have just said goodbye to our S6 pupils, the class of 2017, who enjoyed their Prom on Friday 9th June, at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Edinburgh; it was an excellent occasion. Our seniors were very well respected by staff and many attended the prom to show our former pupils how much they will be missed. We also had a lovely Leavers' Mass, organised by the RE Faculty and Mr Campbell (S5/6 Year Head), which was a very dignified and reflective service. It was wonderful that so many parents were able to share it with their children and the school wishes all the leavers every success in the next stage of their lives.

Highlights of the last few weeks include our annual Health and Wellbeing Week (including the very successful Sports' Day), the Maths 'Hall of Fame' Assembly and our Senior and Junior Awards Ceremonies. These events continue to show and celebrate the best about our pupils as they showcase their fantastic learning experiences.

Holy Rood pupils continue to pick up awards and achievements, that shine a bright light on the school. A few recent examples of outstanding pupil achievements include: two Paolozzi Art Awards, almost 30 pupils achieved the Caritas Award, over 50 pupils achieving the SQA Leadership Award, 15 pupils achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Award, an S5 pupil has been accepted to attend Scottish Space School over the summer holidays, two pupils gained a placement to study at the prestigious Nuffield Foundation and we continue to have a cohort of pupils who graduate from Career Ready. This is only a few examples, but there are many more, some of which you will read later in the newsletter.

During session 16/17, with funding from the Scottish Government's Scottish Attainment Challenge, we introduced a number of new initiatives to improve Parental Engagement and raise attainment in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. These new initiatives included: **Twilight Family Engagement Workshops, Mentor Programme, a newly created Family Engagement Room and SUMDOG to develop the numeracy skills of our pupils and parents.** This extra funding has been very welcome

and has allowed us to provide additional resources in school which will be used to build on our successes. As always we can only achieve these successes with the backing and the strong partnership working of parents/carers, school and, of course, our pupils. I therefore thank all of Holy Rood's community for its support in helping our young people to be all they can be.

Over the final two weeks of the session, we still have a lot going on, including the primary seven Three Day Visit and our annual S2 Disaster Relief Challenge.

Holy Rood has also played host to a number of visitors from a variety of countries and backgrounds, including, teachers from Iceland & China, who were looking at systems and practice in our educational system. The school also hosted a group of International Education Advisers to the Scottish Government which met parents, pupils and teachers to discuss changes in education with The Depute First Minister, John Swinney.

Holy Rood's tradition of fundraising continues and this session we raised £4000 for our pupils' chosen Lenten charity, the Teenage Cancer Fund.

Our Head Teacher, Lorraine Legrix, is making good progress in her recovery during sick leave and will return at the start of our new session. She offers her best wishes to all.

## Standards

In keeping with the established custom of highlighting the need to maintain our high standards, I include this regular reminder: The school is dependent upon the support of parents in working with us to promote and maintain high standards of application to study/homework, behaviour, attendance, punctuality and dress code from our pupils. Holy Rood is a school to be proud of and we want our public image to reflect the values that staff and parents promote. We have very few occasions when the work ethic/behaviour/dress of pupils falls short of our high standards, as the majority of our pupils have a very positive response to the standards set and expected by all of the Holy Rood community. School uniform is an area that can provide

a particular challenge and so I am making a special appeal to parents in this newsletter to work with the school so that we reach those high standards in uniform that we achieve in so many other ways. Please continue to work with us to ensure all pupils wear the correct version of school uniform (e.g. "school" skirts/trousers – as opposed to fashion versions). It is also important to remind our pupils to conduct themselves in a proper manner as they travel to and from school. Your ongoing support is very much needed and appreciated.

## Safety

In the interests of safety, the Police request that pupils are not dropped off by car within or just outside of the school grounds – this is also important to ensure a clear run for the school buses and to prevent drivers parked in the school car park from getting blocked in.

## Pupil Out-of School Achievements

Many of our pupils achieve in lots of ways that are not connected to school. If your child achieves something to celebrate, please let the school know and it will feature in our weekly school newsletter.

*M. Connelly, Acting Head Teacher.*

## Staffing Changes

### We say goodbye to

Miss Georgia Tracey, teacher of Modern Languages is retiring after 12 years' service to the school and Mr John Smith, teacher of Chemistry is also retiring after 10 years' service to the school. We thank them both for their hard work and commitment over the years.

Mrs Evonne O'Doherty Year Head is going to Howdenhall Unit as Depute Head Teacher after 17 years' excellent service at Holy Rood.

Mrs Rachel Jones	Modern Studies
Ms Rebecca Muir	Biology
Mr Thomas Macdonald	English
Mrs Maria Kalaitzidou	Modern Studies
Mr Jamie Graham	PE
Ms Marzena Niedziolka	Science
Mr Campbell Foggo	PE
Ms Claire Koita	Pupil Support Assistant

### Welcome to new staff in August

Mr Scott Ballantine	Drama
Miss Rachel Murphy	Modern Studies
Miss Sarah Johnstone	History
Mrs Leila McCardle	Italian
Miss Robyn Wade	Art
Miss Eilidh Foster	PE
Mr Christopher Fyvie	English
Miss Bethany Robb	English
Miss Lindsay Clark	Targeted Support
Mr Stephen Dixon	Chemistry
Mr Scott Henderson	PE
Miss Sylwia Klos-Latianara	PE
Mr Stephen Boakye	Maths
Mr Daniel Graves	PE
Miss Claire Ewart	Biology
Miss Lauren Miller	Active Sports
	Co-ordinator

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This year has seen the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award to the S3 curriculum. 10 pupils from S3 have taken part in this challenging yet rewarding experience. The award requires pupils to complete a number of sections, namely Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Expedition. The Pupils have given up their own time to be involved in volunteering projects, improved their performance in a chosen sport, and spent time practising skills such as music and arts.

Meanwhile during class time they have been preparing for outdoor expeditions. This has involved training in first aid, route planning, camping skills and navigation. The group completed its final, assessed, expedition on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd June. All those who took part passed and were commended by the external assessor – a huge well done to all! Our new S3 Duke of Edinburgh classes have now started and it is great to see that we have almost 30 pupils taking part.



## Developing Young Workforce Overview

The Independent Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, chaired by Sir Ian Wood, published "Education Working for All" in June 2014. In Holy Rood we have made good progress in meeting some of the key recommendations set out in the report, particularly around the areas of Employability Skills, Career Education and Partnership Working. Each Faculty has produced a Skills map to showcase the skills which pupils are developing within the subject and where a link can be made to careers.

We're making use of the challenge questions within 'How Good Is Our School 4' to inform our thinking and ensure Skills are emphasised throughout learning and teaching. We have an established framework which is successful in enabling pupils to access relevant careers information via PSE lessons, My World of Work and Skills Development Scotland. In addition, each Faculty displays appealing noticeboards outlining where the subject may lead them to in later life. Pupils in S2 through to S6 have received inspirational presentations on employability skills from some experienced corporate individuals representing large-scale organisations. A DYW focus week has been implemented focusing on Skill Development and A Learners Pathway to Success for pupils in S1-3, in addition to an interdisciplinary STEM workshop. Our cluster primary schools benefit from planned events such as our P7 "Think Ahead" day that involved various representatives from some of the city's major employers coming into school and putting on workshops for primary pupils to engage with.

## Careers Fair 2017

In February this year, we held our inaugural Careers Fair in school for pupils in S3-6 as well as parents/carers. The event was an outstanding success and incorporated a presentation for parents/carers which provided information on learner journeys and option choices in the Senior School. 35 different organisations were represented and the planning and very positive engagement of our pupils with our education, public sector and business partners created a vibrant atmosphere. Pupils found out about employment opportunities from industry experts and learned about further post-school study opportunities from representatives from colleges/universities. Parents reported that it was an invaluable opportunity to help their children make positive career choices and the organisations represented were very impressed by our pupils (all 450 of them!) and the way in which they engaged. By all accounts, a huge success! Councillor Maureen Childs accepted our invitation to attend and her comments were full of praise for the event and how our pupils took full advantage of the information made available to them.



**Further information about all our initiatives in Developing the Young Workforce are available on our school website.**

# STEM

## Intro

It has been an exciting year with many Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities taking place. Before Christmas we had a visit from the SmallPiece Trust, which completed a design and manufacturing challenge with S3. We have continued this term with many more opportunities as detailed below.



## Careers Hive

Once again our S3 year group was lucky enough to experience the Careers Hive at the National Museum of Scotland. This engaging event, organised by the Edinburgh Science Festival, gave pupils the chance to meet and interact with professionals working in the STEM field. Pupils had talks from a variety of speakers who talked about their career pathways, be it degree, apprenticeship or entrepreneurial. They also completed workshops and had the chance to explore the huge

variety of displays and activities on offer. Feedback from the event was hugely positive and the pupils felt that it had given them a much better understanding of the career opportunities open to them in STEM. The school hopes to return with next year's S3.



## Speedy STEM

In March S1 enjoyed a Speedy STEM event. This was funded by Fife College who were able to bring in a variety of workshops and activities designed to test the pupils' problem solving and team working skills. Among these activities were turbine efficiency, tower building and remote control cars. The pupils had a great time attempting the different challenges and were thoroughly engaged. We are looking forward to welcoming Fife College back in the early part of next year.

## Zombie Science

Pupils from S3, S5 and S6 enjoyed these light hearted

tutorials from the Zombie Science Team. The Lectures approached the topics of genetics and immunology from the engaging angle of dealing with a zombie outbreak - the storyline was fanciful but the science was real.

S3 groups covered DNA, genes, and genomes, disease outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics. While the S5 and S6 classes also covered prevention and treatment options. This was a great addition to our normal curriculum and we would like to thank the University of Glasgow and Wellcome Trust for making it possible.



## Aeronautics talk

On 8th June we were delighted to have Captain Keith Sivell come to speak to our senior Physics and Maths students. Keith is a pilot for Flybe and was keen to visit our pupils to talk to them about the Science behind flight. He was thoroughly engaging and also gave the pupils an insight into his career pathway and the importance of Physics and Maths. We extend our thanks to Keith for coming in and also for presenting awards at the Senior Awards Ceremony.

# Science Faculty

## Pupil Achievements

### Biology Olympiad

This year, for the first time ever, two of our Higher pupils (Christy Biju and Laura Spence, S5) entered the Royal Society of Biology 'Biology Olympiad' competition. This consisted of two, one hour long, exam papers which were designed to 'challenge and stimulate students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents'. In offering a wider syllabus than Higher, it allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded and publicly recognised by the award of certificates. Both girls did Holy Rood RC High School proud with Christy being awarded a 'Highly Commended' - this is AMAZING as it's a UK-wide competition. We hope that this will encourage more of our young people to have a go in the years to come.

### Nuffield placements

Maheen Imran and Laura Spence were both successful in their application for the highly prestigious Nuffield Foundation placements. Nuffield Research Placements give students the opportunity to work alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians for 4 - 6 weeks over the summer holidays. Congratulations! We wish you all the very best!

## Extra-curricular activities



### Science Club

Once again another very successful year for our Science Club with our S6 pupils delivering fun and educational lunchtime activities for our S1 and S2 budding scientists. Pupils were treated to a diverse range of activities such as making sparklers, imploding cans, balloon rockets and even growing and nurturing edible plants as part of our Food for Life Scotland/ Eco Group cooperation.

A huge thank you to our S6 for your expertise, organisation and excellent leadership. Regular participants were issued with certificates and we hope to see some of you again next year!

### Eco Group

The Eco Group has now had their second batch of Bin it to Win it winners. This initiative has been key to keeping the issue at the forefront of everyone's mind. Winners of £10 Vue cinema voucher for the Easter term were: Maleekah Mohammed, Hiba Shamaz, Ty McKenzie, Jacob Pachacz and Kiera Jackson. Congratulations to all our winners!

Soon the Eco Group will be launching its S1 litter picking programme. After the summer holidays each class within S1 will be involved in a school grounds clear up. This has been extremely well received in the past and we are sure that the next school year will be no exception.

### Zoology Club

During this school year, Holy Rood RC High School has had the exciting addition of a Zoology Club. The Zoology Club gives pupils from all year groups the opportunity to enjoy learning about animals, develop skills in animal husbandry, and make new, like-minded friends. The Zoology Club has been very successful and regular members have been awarded certificates of participation (with some members obtaining extra merit for contributions that go that little bit further). This year the Zoology Club has investigated living organisms with microscopes, enjoyed some of the David Attenborough series and cared for various animals, including our very popular



Axolotl called Wooper (see photo below). In the coming year, the Zoology Club plans to expand their animal collection further- watch this space for details!

## Excursions

### Five Sisters Zoo 2016/ 2017

S3 Biology Students were treated to a fantastic day out at Five Sisters Zoo in West Calder. The visit encompassed a talk on biodiversity and potential careers in animal care, time to look at the animals and an animal handling session. It was such a popular trip that we are looking forward to taking our new S3 in 2017.

### Advanced Higher Biology



Advanced Higher Biology pupils went to Edinburgh Zoo for a day to learn about animal behaviour. They enjoyed a fascinating lecture on primate evolution and learned how to measure and record primate behaviour. They had the opportunity to test a hypothesis of their own which really enhanced their understanding of this part of the course.

Advanced Higher Biology pupils also had an amazing hands-on day at Edinburgh University Easter Bush Veterinary Centre. They had the opportunity to use complex equipment and learn new laboratory skills



which are used to help vets make diagnoses. They also had the chance to work as animal pathologists as they investigated fresh sheep livers and hearts for some common parasites.

### Alton Towers 2017

Plans are already well underway for the Physics Department's 18th Annual Field Trip to Alton Towers which is scheduled for Friday 22nd September. When they return to school in August, pupils studying National 4 and 5 Physics courses will be preparing for this visit to one of the UK's top theme parks by studying the physics of roller coasters.

In addition to revising topics such as speed and acceleration, S4 students will be learning about kinetic and potential energy in preparation for the written tasks that need to be completed upon arrival at Alton Towers. The reward is free time on the rides such as Oblivion and the new "Galactica" coaster which uses the latest VR technology.

# Mathematics Faculty

## Mathematics 2017 a prime year!!

As I write this, looking at the wonderful blue sky (end of May), 2016/7 seems to have flown by and we are reaching for another well deserved Summer holiday. It has been a busy year with many positive changes to the Mathematics Faculty. Here are just some of them.

### Active Resources

Mathematics should be fun, engaging and most importantly useful. This year we have purchased new active resources. Pupils have enjoyed using these and will continue to make even more use of them in the coming years. Resources included:

- Flip-It Cards - with topics ranging from times tables to improper fractions
- Show-me Boards - ensure everyone is engaged and the teacher is also able to see at a glance pupils' understanding
- Geometry Building Kits - one use is to help pupils visualise Pythagoras 3 dimensions
- Probability Class Pack - spinners, dice and playing cards to introduce the concept of change and probability
- Time Class Pack - time management with sand timers and stop watches to track how long a certain activity takes
- Money – money bags game, coins and notes so pupils can be confident handling money.

### Professor McBride's Visit

On 8th December the Mathematics Faculty had the pleasure of inviting Professor McBride, OBE to the school to deliver a number of engaging and active sessions. He was the Head of Mathematics at the University of Strathclyde, was awarded his OBE for services to children's education and has been a leading light in



the promotion of Mathematics as a career in not only Scotland but the world. There will be few Mathematics Faculties in Scotland which have a graduate who has studied under Prof McBride. This was an honour for the Faculty to host his visit. 270 pupils had the opportunity to attend – over one quarter of the school.

As he says, "Mathematics is a modern language needed for the modern world. Too many people just give up - you need to persevere, be resilient and be determined."

His visit encompassed the thoughts of the day and certainly hit a chord with a great number of pupils.

Feedback from the pupils has been super - 'I'm buzzing' said a number and 'wow - I didn't know a Maths guy could be like that' and from a senior pupil - 'He makes being a geek cool for an old guy'.

Professor McBride commented, 'I enjoyed my visit to the school . . . You had organised things superbly and this was a key ingredient in the success'

### *Holy Rood Mathematics Hall of Fame*

In CfE there is a requirement to look at historical figures in Mathematics. This has usually led to S1/2 pupils creating posters of Pythagoras, Euclid etc. But this year at Holy Rood we have considered live Mathematicians working in Scottish Universities. Each group of students has selected their nomination to a Mathematics Hall of Fame and has worked with Mathematics Departments in six Scottish Universities to identify a Mathematician who has inspired them in their line of research. Along the way we have uncovered mathematical research in polar bears, cancer, orcas, mosquitos and lots more beside. The pupils nominated six candidates for the inaugural induction on 12/6/17 - more information is on our twitter feed @mathsholyrood.

The nominations were:

Professor Justin Lynd - Aberdeen University

Dr Johnathon Gair - Edinburgh University

Dr Michael Gormley - Heriott Watt

Ms Linnea Franssen - St Andrews University

Dr John McKenzie - Strathclyde University

Professor Tara Brendle - Glasgow University

Ms Linnea Franssen was nominated by our new S2 as our inaugural inductee for her work on mathematical modelling on cancer research. She will visit the school in September as part of Scottish Maths Week to accept the award and speak to our S2 and senior pupils.

### *Improved attainment*

We wait, along with learners and parents, (with a little bit of bated breath) for the beginning of August and exam result publication! Good luck everyone.

National 5 numeracy results are already known with 47% of S4 pupils attaining this qualification in 2017 – up from 17% in 2016 and 2015. Well done to S4!!

### *Easter School*

34 Higher and Advanced Higher students attended two days and the students, from their feedback, enjoyed the days. Easter School "Allowed me to identify the topics that I need to work on" and it was "Good to experience new revision methods".

### *SumDog – Edinburgh Pilot*

Sumdog's unique learning engine gets to know each student, leading them through the curriculum, and reports their progress to their teachers. Holy Rood was one of

only four secondary schools in Edinburgh to have full free access to Sumdog for all our S1 to S3 pupils from January to June 2017. Pupils enjoyed competing against others in their class, pupils from across the school as well as internationally. Sumdog has been used in the maths class room and as an additional tool for homework and studying.

### *So what's next for 2018?*

The Mathematics Department are off to Rome in June 2018 for a slice of la dolce vita! 40 pupils will visit the Roman sites, the Mathematical Museum of Rome, the Spanish steps, the Trevi Fountain and much more – it will be fun. (Personally the only reason I am going is to sample every single flavour of ice-cream known to humankind!)

### *New Departmental Website*

This will be ready for end of August 2017 and will feature numerous resources for S1 to S6 including course notes, homework and revision material. It will also point learners in the right direction for examination preparation.

### *Challenges*

Puzzles and problem solving will feature in the Department's Challenge Board. There will be monthly prizes and maybe even one or two competitions specifically for parents.

### *And finally...*

On your behalf I would like to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication this year in supporting your young people in their learning. For the staff, pupils and all parents/carers please enjoy the holidays, remaining safe and I look forward to seeing you return in August!!



# Numeracy

## Pi Day

The 14th March is every Mathematicians favourite day of the year! The world renowned number has its very own special day in the calendar, 14th March. This year the Mathematics Department celebrated the day in style. We held competitions for 1st to 6th years with varying levels of difficulty dependent on the year group. There was also a staff competition. They were challenging to say the least! Congratulations to our winners: **S1/2- Sarah Redwood S3/4- Priyanka Bhandari S5/6- Rachel Keating. Staff Winner: Mrs. Cockburn and the Expressive Arts team**

Our Pi Day competitions coincided with our Lenten Charity fundraising. Every entry to our Pi day competition required a small donation. The S6 Advanced Higher pupils along with Mr Edwards had pies for all the staff (who had to make a contribution for a hot or cold pie!). The pupils had an opportunity to pie Mr. Edwards. It was an eventful day overall and the pupils raised £300 for our Lenten Charity, Teenage Cancer Trust.

### *Enterprising Maths*

Our annual trip to Enterprising Maths in the Lothian's took place on the 29th September. Four pupils from S3 and S4, Niamh O'Neill-Berest, Katie Newall, Olivia Campanile and Sam Nettleship took part in the competition held in Meadowbank Stadium along with Miss O'Donoghue. The pupils' skills were tested to the max with the theme of this year's competition being The Mathematics of Flight. Their paper aeroplane making skills were put to the test and they faced some gruelling questions throughout the day. The day always ends on a high note finishing with the long awaited relay race. The team came 10th overall. They represented the school with enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed the day. The best bit being, of course, the relay race!

### *UKMT Challenges*

The UKMT Challenges kick-started early this year with Holy Rood entering the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge for the very first time. The competition took place on 14th November at Old College, University of Edinburgh. Two Advanced Higher pupils, Rosa Bell and Juliette Martin and two Higher pupils, Jinsun Thayil and Nikhitha Anto, attended the competition with Mr. Edwards, their trusty supporter. This involved

answering lots of challenging questions and working together as a team. The pupils were a credit to the school and enjoyed the afternoon immensely. The coffee and cake afterwards went down a treat.

We also participated in the UKMT Senior Challenge and Intermediate Challenge for the first time this year. Joel Reid (S6) received a Bronze Award in the Senior Challenge and Francis Igoe (S3) received a Bronze Award in the Intermediate Challenge.

The Junior Challenge was very successful this year at Holy Rood. 180 pupils participated in this competition across S1 and S2. We received 5 Silver Awards and 17 Bronze Awards in total. This was a fantastic achievement for all of our S1/2 who participated. Vipul Kumar in S1 was flying high after receiving both a Silver Award and an award for being 'Best in the School'. Well done to all pupils involved!

#### Silver Awards:

S1: Vipul Kumar

S2: Christin Roy, Daniella Crolla, Chris Airey, Kathleen McBride

#### Bronze Awards:

S1: Grace Munro

S2: Lauren Ross, hermaine Zhao, Aidan Hassan, Ben Valentine, Cameron Mather, Haidar Amjad, Lydia McConnell, Aarron Golden, Becky Newall, Alvaro Casado Varela, Calum Fielding, Hannan Naveed, Matt Pacitti, Jack Leslie, Gemma O'Neill, Nicolai Nielson



#### Scottish Attainment Challenge

There have been a considerable number of nights since November for the Attainment Challenge at Holy Rood which has helped to help bring both parents and pupils together to enjoy and use Numeracy. Both parents and pupils enjoyed a range of activities both outside and inside the school. Our activities included running around the school for time, distance and speed problems, treasure hunts, working with iPads, dominos, making shapes and the list goes on.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed staying after school every Wednesday evening and working with their parents on different activities throughout the school. The pupils have blossomed since the beginning of the year when they first began attending these evenings and it is wonderful for them to see Numeracy and Mathematics in a different light. They were engaged and excited in completing activities with their parents.

## SEAL

Within S1, we have set up two SEAL (Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning) classes in order to support pupils within numeracy. The pupils are integrated within the Maths department in order to promote inclusion and boost the confidence of pupils.

SEAL focuses on five key strands: Number Word Sequences, Numerals, Number Structures, Addition and Subtraction and Multiplication and Division. The programme uses a variety of Math recovery techniques in order to remove any gaps in a pupil's learning and provide a strong foundation for numeracy skills to be built on.

Pupils have enjoyed the SEAL Programme this year with some pupils stating "the class has made me feel more confident about my Maths" and "Now I always try a question instead of just giving up!". SEAL classes will continue in S2.

#### So what is next for 2018 in Numeracy?

The challenge for the whole school will be "Jaguar Maths in Motion". Using a series of mathematical calculations and computer software, we hope to be able to generate entries into our own virtual school Grand Prix and even maybe enter the World Championship.

More exciting opportunities will be available with our Numeracy Parents' Nights – we will let you know through our twitter account.

**Everyone likes a good book – watch out for puzzle books galore coming soon!**

# RE and Chaplaincy Faculty

#### Curriculum For Excellence

Next year will see the continuation of the introduction of This Is Our Faith to the RE curriculum. The Senior Phase has now received approval from the Vatican and our new S5 curriculum will continue to be developed. S6 This is Our Faith will be introduced this year.



#### Caritas Award

Caritas is a national award, which invites S6 students to understand and live the word Caritas (God's love in action).

It involves theological reflection that is the study of God through scripture, and then linking this to everyday life so that a faith is lived and not just believed.

To live out their faith, students are invited to complete at least 20 hours of service to the school community and a Faith community. This normally means one of the local parish RC churches, however the Award is an inter faith and ecumenical one and so we have had students from the Protestant Christian Churches, Hindu Tradition and the Islamic Tradition.

This year there were 24 successful students who achieved this award. All of whom showed a high degree of commitment to their understanding of a lived Faith by taking part in liturgical ministries, teaching ministries, youth work, helping out at soup kitchens, decorating and other such opportunities to live their faith for the service of others. Congratulations to them all.



#### Lent Outreach

The generosity and compassion amongst our school community has been evident again this year as the whole school chose to Fundraise for Teenage Cancer Trust. A very worthy local charity which creatively helps teenagers and young children come to terms with bereavement issues. We raised £4000 which has been gratefully appreciated by the charity.

### Lent/Easter Prayer service.

This year we celebrated Easter with all the students in the School. We prayed about the Passion of Jesus's death then reflected on the Joy and surprise of his resurrection

### Leavers' Mass

To mark the end of their school career, our S6 pupils along with their parents and carers will come together for their final school Mass on 8.6.17. Fr Anthony Caruana from St John Vianney and St Gregory's Parish will gather their school experience and offer it in the celebration of Mass concluding with a blessing and commissioning for their future.

### Retreats.

This year we provided the opportunity to allow several year groups to experience a retreat, which is a reflective time thinking about what we believe and who we are becoming. In June of Last year, the new S6 were taken to the Gillis centre for this experience. In December S4 were offered the opportunity of this experience by the retreat team coming into the school.

Lastly, we offered S2 a Pentecost Retreat which allowed all of S2 to look at their gifts and talents and how they choose to use these for the good of others.

We are very grateful to the Diocesan Retreat team for the support they offered us in providing these opportunities.



# Expressive Arts Faculty



40 Expressive Arts pupils will take part in the Herald Young Critics (HYC) programme again this year, organised by The Edinburgh International Festival, with the chosen performance being the opera; La Bohème, which will be performed at the Festival Theatre on Friday 25 August. A workshop will be provided in school to help the pupils understand the content of this opera before attending the performance. Pupils will then be invited to write a critique of La Bohème, with the winning review being published in the National Newspapers. We wish all our pupils the best of luck.

area over a set period of time, in this case one day. Holy Rood student Spencer Johnston designed this years poster.



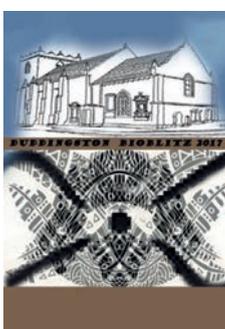
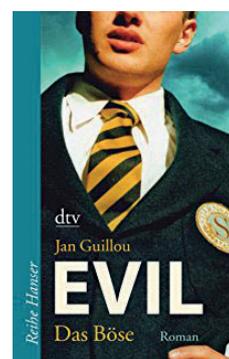
### Film As Art, Art on Film: Myself

Wednesday 26 April marked the opening of "Film as Art, Art on Film" at the Scottish National Gallery. Into Film Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland have been working together to offer young people the opportunity to create and exhibit digital art. Our young artists/filmmakers produced a series of 2D works that culminate in final or developmental film pieces. Each artist has approached the subject in a unique way showing a variety of styles and approaches to the theme of MYSELF.

pupils are glad to be at Holy Rood!

### Paolozzi Art Prize

The Paolozzi Prize for Art is an annual Council Competition for S4-6 pupils. The Award Ceremony is an inclusive event, enjoyed by pupils, parents/carers and staff alike, it took place in the National Gallery on the Mound on Wednesday 7th June. Olga Pypno and Rosa Bell were both successful winners this year. You can see all the work on our school website.



### Duddingston Bioblitz

Duddingston Bioblitz will take place on the 17th June 2017 in and around the Duddingston area. The idea of a bioblitz is to collect information about the wildlife living in one

### S3 Drama Trip

On Wednesday 31 May 2017 S3 Drama pupils went to see the performance 'Evil' by Jan Guillou at The Lyra Theatre. The production was centred on bullied Erik. As Erik tries to stand up for himself, he learned to find his own strength and discovered the importance of friendship, and more importantly, resilience. Our

# Origami for Hiroshima

During Tutor Time S1-S4 have been making brightly coloured origami paper cranes for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. These cranes involve the Japanese tradition of paper folding and, in Japan, the crane is a symbol of peace. This connection between paper cranes and peace can be traced back to a young girl named Sadako Sasaki, who died of leukaemia ten years after the atomic bombing. Mrs. Stewart and Ms. Withers have both visited the Peace Memorial Park in Japan and wanted to get Holy Rood pupils involved in making these special cranes with the hope that they will be displayed in the memorial park. We are now threading together the last few cranes and we anticipate that they will be sent to Hiroshima shortly.



# Design, Engineering & Technology Faculty

## News from DET

It has been another busy year within Design, Engineering and Technology. Miss Grant joined the DET Department from Mintlaw Academy after the Easter Holidays. Miss Grant is looking forward to her first full year at Holy Rood.

We have taken part in various activities and curricular visits, including visiting Sky Academy, the construction challenge and off road biking with RUTS. This year DET worked with Barclay's life skills which consisted of some preparation for interviews, including practicing answering different questions.



S5 Pupils have undertaken the City and Guilds qualification for entry level bike maintenance. This was achieved as part of the current S5 Engineering course.

The senior Graphic Communication classes visited Sky Academy to develop their communication skills through the challenge of creating a news broadcast during the visit.

## Construction Challenge

In October ten pupils from S2 represented Holy Rood in the City of Edinburgh Construction Skills challenge competition. Although team Holy Rood did not qualify for the finals, they came 2nd in the heat. Challenges included a paving challenge and constructing a roof truss. Pupils received certificates from Mr Mitchell.



S4 Pupils successfully completed the RUTS skills for work course which culminated in an off road experience with various motorbikes.

## Peace Tree

St John's Primary school asked the DET department to help them create a peace tree for a project they were completing. Senior pupils helped Miss McNamee to create the tree.

## Crib for nativity scene

Kian Hunter an S4 pupil within the DET department designed and manufactured a crib for the nativity scene within Holy Rood. This was used in the oratory for the nativity program for school.



S3 enjoyed a visit from Edinburgh College students who were teaching the pupils about elements of design in a real life context. From this two pupils, Sam Nettleship and Luke Davies, were awarded a one week placement to work with the college and its partners, including high profile companies such as Rock Star Games.

# Modern Languages Faculty



## Petit Déjeuner Français

In April, to enhance our pupils' cultural knowledge of France and to develop their language skills, 200 S2 French pupils were treated to a Petit Déjeuner Français in the Assembly Hall. Pupils were given an opportunity to sample a variety of authentic French breakfast foods including croissants, pains au chocolat and pains aux raisins. French bread, butter and jams were also provided and Nutella was a firm favourite! Modern Languages staff would like to congratulate the pupils on their speaking skills ...and their table manners. Well done, parents!

## Senior Immersion Day

At the end of January, our S5/6 students of French and Italian participated in our annual Immersion Day

at Duddingston Golf Club. The aim of the day was to help pupils prepare for their final Performance Talk assessment. They worked hard on a variety of language activities, ably assisted by our faculty staff and our Foreign Language Assistant, Alexandre. We were all very impressed by their efforts. Bravo, tout le monde! Bravo a tutti!

## Italy pops in to the classroom!



In the spirit of CfE, S3 pupils were hosts to a group of "Signorine" from Northern Italy in a live exchange of interviews concerning lifestyles and culture in our two countries. Our Italian guests were noticeably charmed by our pupils' candid questions during what amounted to a friendly chat show. Both Italians and Scots exchanged opinions and views on their home cities. Needless to say there was much banter in the

second part of the interviews when Italians were quizzed on their general knowledge on our capital city and Scotland. Much to our Italian guests' amusement, we may just have convinced them that "oor" beloved haggis does indeed roam freely in the Scottish Highlands for all to catch!

## Business Language Champions – ML Link with Sheraton Hotel

In April, 16 S4 students spent an afternoon at the



Sheraton Hotel in Edinburgh's city centre, finding out lots of information about opportunities within the hospitality industry. We were warmly welcomed and looked after by Gavin ... who certainly provided us with plenty of food for thought. A key focus for the afternoon was how useful it is to be able to speak another language. We heard from a Polish gentleman who started work within the company 5 years ago at a basic level, who has now progressed through the ranks to become Senior Concierge, a very important job with a great deal of contact with the public – pupils learned that his ability to communicate in more than one language certainly stood him in good stead! Our students asked very pertinent questions, and came away with a much clearer idea about the world of work and how they can build on what they learn in class to their benefit.

*Bon Appétit! Buon Appetito!*



At the end of May, 24 S5 and S6 Modern Languages pupils and departmental staff dined 'all'italiano' at the

Vittoria Restaurant on Leith Walk. Students and staff enjoyed authentic Italian pizza, pasta and ice cream in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and it was a fitting way to say 'au revoir' and 'arrivederci' to pupils and our Foreign Language Assistant after a hard year's work!

*BUONISSIMO!*



In February, all S1 Italian pupils were invited to participate in our biennial food-tasting event. They were able to try a variety of Italian cold meats, hams and cheeses, as well as a selection of vegetables and bread, dipped in olive oil, pesto and balsamic vinegar. It also gave them the opportunity to practise their language skills and gave them an insight into Italian culture. We are very grateful yet again for the contribution made by Tony Crolla from the Vittoria Group who very generously prepared and provided most of the provisions for the event. Consequently, our 200 pupils had a thoroughly enjoyable experience and all agreed it was 'delizioso'!

*P6 Cluster Visits*

S1 pupils visited former Primary schools in May and June to share their learning experiences in Modern Languages at Holy Rood in S1 with Cluster Primary pupils in P6. Pupils had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through presenting to P6 pupils and assisting ML staff to lead interactive games.

*Languages Work!*

At the end of February, we were delighted to host representatives from Business and Industry for a third year at Holy Rood. Representatives from Iberdrola, Chivas Brothers, Rolls Royce and SCILT ran workshops for our S2 pupils. The aim was to show pupils that being able to speak and understand a foreign language is an important asset as they prepare to enter the world of work and further education.

The speakers from each company were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and level of participation from our pupils.



## Social Subjects Faculty

Modern Studies department involved S4-6 students in the 'Ready to Vote' campaign, which encouraged 16-18 year olds to exercise their right to vote in the local council elections. The S4 students, pictured, escorted a group of representatives from the electoral commission round the school to increase voter registration and were interviewed by STV news. The event increased the students' political literacy, allowing them to become more active and responsible citizens.



## Skills Development: S4 Alternative Timetable

During the last week of SQA exam time some of our S4 learners took part in an alternative timetable with a focus on developing skills to support their transition into S5.



Pupils took part in a range of different activities and worked with a variety of partners. Skillforce worked with the pupils on team building activities and communication skills whilst our Careers Adviser Karla Hart helped pupils with their CVs to support the next steps. Meanwhile, staff in the English Faculty helped pupils focus on their preparations for the senior phase in English. Next came a full day of activities in DET which included pupils making speakers and learning basic bike ability skills. Perhaps the highlight of the week came in HFFT when these pupils made an afternoon tea for staff and pupils. Beautifully decorated and very tasty sweet and savoury options were definitely a big hit with all! Trips throughout the week included the Museum of Scotland and Mountain Biking or Edinburgh Zoo. Hard work, perseverance and team work made the week a great success – well done S4!

# Dance

We have had another very successful year of Dance in the PE department this year. Over 25 pupils have achieved a qualification in Dance; NPA Level 4, National 5 and Higher. Our pupils have had the opportunity to study professional dance pieces both within class time and at the theatre. A group of pupils attended a performance of Ghost Dances by the Rambert Dance Company, at The Festival Theatre. We have also had opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents at whole school events, such as The Christmas Concert and the YPI Final. Our successes extend to the extra-curricular dance group who were very successful at the Active Schools Dance Extravaganza this year, reaching the final where they performed at The Churchill Theatre. The group have their second competition of the year at Broughton High School on Wednesday 7th June, as part of the Edinburgh Schools Dance Competition. Another great opportunity our pupils have is the dance trip to London during the last week of term. The pupils are getting the chance to attend two workshops at Pineapple Dance Studios and see two West End Musicals as part of their experience. As we come to the end of such a great year we are looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our pupils on Thursday 15th June, in our Holy Rood RC High School Dance Showcase 2017.



## Cricket Academy

The Cricket Academy has, yet again, had an extremely successful year. Increasing participation within the curriculum has seen S1, S2 and S3 team numbers go from strength to strength. Additionally, the after school club has seen many boys and girls enjoying their cricket during the summer term.

A special mention to the S3 Cricket team who came through regional qualifiers to reach the National Final 'Big Bash' to be held in Perth later this month. This achievement puts them in the top 8 state schools in the country. All these achievements would not be possible without the help of Colin Mills, our Cricket Scotland coach, thanks again to him.



## Girls Basketball

Our S1-3 girls' basketball team recently had its first competitive game against Drummond High School. It was a convincing win for the girls, 46 – 26. Well done to all the girls for their hard work and dedication to training, and to Miss Thomson for giving up her time to coach the team!

## Rugby Club

Numbers are still increasing steadily at Mr Graham's Monday after school rugby club. Well done to all of the boys that have been playing for the combined Portobello/Leith/Holy Rood team on Saturday mornings. Their individual and team performances do the school proud. Also, a special mention to Gerrard Odusanya who is currently taking part in the first stage of regional selection within the Edinburgh area.

## S1 Boys and Girls Football Teams

After bag packing over the festive period, our S1 boys and girls football strips have finally arrived! Both teams love their new kit and have since had the opportunity

to wear it in matches against other schools. Well done to all of the pupils and staff that attended the bag packing event.

## Athletics Club

After the recent success of our Sports Day, there has been a steady growth in pupils attending our Athletics Club, which runs every Thursday after school with Mr Henderson. We are hopeful that pupils will be able to represent Holy Rood High School at upcoming Athletics Championship Events.

## Race for Life

This year, four members of the English department – along with Mrs Liggins from Social Subjects – have been training hard to take part in the Race for Life on the 25th of June. Mrs Morrison, Ms Moore, Mrs Philp and Ms Withers, with Mrs Liggins, have been running before school on Mondays and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to prepare for the 5k and 10k events. In total, they have run approximately 9km a week for the past 30 weeks – 270km in total. That's both numeracy and health and wellbeing in action!

To donate use the following link: [goo.gl/qyXRKt](http://goo.gl/qyXRKt)



There is a general belief that reading books is no longer a pastime indulged in by school pupils. Here in Holy Rood, under the auspices of our librarian Ms. McCabe, this is clearly not the case. This photo was taken during the early sessions of the Attainment Challenge literacy meetings here in the Library after school. Mr Munro may be leading the session but it is clear that Paige Measom, Mariem Ndiaye, Kieran McKenzie and Konrad Safian are equally absorbed...and their parents too!

Speak to Ms McCabe to find out just which book was keeping them all so enthralled and speak to her too if you want to attend the Book Festival this year in August: there are still spaces left!

# SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE



## What is the Scottish Attainment Challenge?

We have been given money from the Scottish Government to help pupils improve in literacy, numeracy and health and well-being. With this money we have run a series of after school events for targeted pupils and parents. Our aim has been for these evenings to be fun, relaxed and informal.



## Our Evening Events

We began with a launch in the school library on the 22nd November. Each family was given a goody bag with books, pens, dominoes, recipe cards and alarm clocks. In our first block of the Attainment Challenge we had four evening sessions where pupils and parents/carers rotated round three activities – one in literacy, numeracy and either a cooking or sport activity.

Our 2nd block of events in February/March focused on literacy and numeracy. The aim was to help families work together on developing these skills. Some younger siblings came along and were able to join in too. Visitors from the local libraries also came into talk about their services.

In order to encourage pupils and parents/carers to attend regularly we created a loyalty card and for each



evening attended they collected a stamp. Pupils and parents/carers who collected five or more stamps are going on a trip bowling soon!



We are currently in our final block of the evening sessions for this year. We have been playing table tennis, badminton and using the fitness suite in PE. We have been food tasting in a literacy class and getting soaked and throwing javelins in numeracy. A cooking evening and a celebration barbecue are also planned for the end of term.



## Pupils' Views

*'I enjoyed playing scrabble and eating cake!'*

*'I enjoyed meeting new people.'*

*'I enjoyed doing stuff with my dad.'*

*'I enjoyed everything!'*

*'They helped my reading skills.'*

## Parent/Carers' Views

*'We enjoyed everything that took place.'*

*'Doing things with my son.'*

*'Learning something myself.'*



## Contact

## How to get in touch with the School

If you are concerned about your child or just wish some information, please contact your child's Year Head or any member of the Senior Leadership Team. You may phone, write or e-mail. Whilst you are very welcome to visit the school, please arrange an appointment in advance to avoid disappointment, as staff commitments may mean they are unavailable to meet with you.

Call: 0131 661 5871

E-mail:

[webmaster@holyrood.edin.sch.uk](mailto:webmaster@holyrood.edin.sch.uk)

Website:

[www.holyrood.edin.sch.uk](http://www.holyrood.edin.sch.uk)

## Attendance Call Phone Number

Telephone: 0131 661 3247

(Please phone this number when reporting your child's absence)

## TERM 2017/18

2017

- Monday 14 August - Staff resume
- Tuesday 15 August - Staff only
- Wednesday 16 August - Pupils resume
- Monday 18 September - Autumn Holiday
- Tuesday 19 September - All resume
- Friday 13 October - Mid-term
- Monday 23 October - Staff resume
- Tuesday 24 October - Pupils resume
- Friday 22 December - Term ends

2018

- Monday 8 January - Staff resume
- Tuesday 9 January - Pupils resume
- Friday 9 February - Mid-term
- Monday 19 February - All resume
- Thursday 29 March - Term ends

The Easter break incorporates the following two holidays:

- Friday 30 March - Good Friday
- Monday 2 April - Easter Monday
- Tuesday 17 April - All resume
- Monday 7 May - May Day Holiday
- Tuesday 8 May - Staff resume
- Wednesday 9 May - Pupils resume
- Monday 21 May - Victoria Day
- Tuesday 22 May - All resume
- Friday 29 June - Term ends