

ISSUE

02

December
2018

Marr Matters

Motivation | Ambition | Respect | Responsibility



This issue

Micro-Tyco

Fundraising

Developing our Young Workforce

Living on One

If you have any comments regarding our newsletter or any concerns about your child, please telephone or email the school office.

marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Head Teacher surgeries take place on the **second Monday of each month** from **4pm – 5.30pm**. Please call the school office to book an appointment time. Monthly HT reports can be found on the school website.

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear parent/carer,

Looking back over the last term I am amazed at the wide range of opportunities available to our young people, which they seize with enthusiasm and an eagerness to do well. This newsletter captures some of these activities and I hope you enjoy reading it. Our 'Creation Station' is going strong in its second year and you can read more about the project on page 4 of the newsletter. We are excited to be launching two additional skills courses in the New Year – Cycle Maintenance and Rural Skills – which will support young people to develop essential employability skills and increase their suite of qualifications.

In November we welcomed a team of Education staff from South Ayrshire Council to share in our learning. The team highlighted the strength of 'positive relationships across the school' which are no doubt enhanced

by our commitment to promoting wellbeing and treating everyone in our learning community with respect. We will take forward the areas for development outlined in my recent letter to you with a particular focus on sharing practice to improve learning and teaching.

It has been a busy few weeks for our University applicants and the staff and parents who support them. We wish each of them every success as they await news of offers. The majority of S4 pupils recently experienced their first prelim exam and are to be commended on their effort and conduct. The full prelim diet for January can be found on the school website and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2019 refreshed and ready for the challenge ahead.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.



Head Teacher



From pupils and staff at Marr College

Watercolour Wonderland

Well done to Mia (S3) who won the South Ayrshire Banner competition. Opting for a wintry scene in watercolour, Mia said "I brought in a selection of Christmas cards for inspiration and used some of the ideas and made them my own. I really wanted the image to be appealing to adults and children, that's why I used watercolours to paint Santa". Mia's design can be viewed at the Sandgate, Ayr throughout the festive season.



Wild Life FM

Well done to S6 pupils Aaron, Sarah, Rachel, Claire, Megan and William who worked with Belgian company CAMPO and other young people from South Ayrshire schools to create a staged live radio show at the Gaeity Theatre about being young in Scotland today.



Marr Radio

The team took a big step forward in realising their dream of running a Marr Radio station. Presenters Calum and Keir are 'looking to the future to leave a legacy for Marr College pupils'. The first live event was broadcast in the Dining Hall followed by a visit to BBC Scotland for some start-up tips. Follow the team on twitter @MarrRadio



Micro Tyco

Our S2 pupils took part in the Challenge throughout November and worked in teams to set up their own social enterprise and produce goods for sale both inside and outside of school. Some of the items produced this year include unicorn baubles, personalised glasses, Christmas cards, festive gift tags, personalised cups, hot chocolate cones, felt and wooden decorations, school comic books and wooden coasters. A special thanks to Design and Technology for helping students make decorations and also for creating the stand for soak the teacher! The S2 teams raised £677.64 for the WildHearts Foundation and were delighted to have been retweeted by Dr Mick Jackson, the founder of Micro Tyco, who shared pictures of some of the



Marr products on sale. For more information see @MarrBusiness or visit <http://wildheartsgroup.com/micro-tyco>



S3 Santa Letters

S3 Administration students have been working hard on a Christmas project in conjunction with Troon Primary. Children sent their letters to Santa and our S3's used their MS Word and MS Access skills to create

personalised letters in response. The letters were delivered along with a Christmas sticker from Santa!

Investor Challenge

Accounting students have been taking part in the Student Investor Challenge, run by the London Institute of Banking and Finance, investing £200,000 of virtual money on the stock market. The students have been using their numeracy and decision making skills to select companies to invest in. Follow their progress via <https://www.studentinvestor.org/portfolio-league.php?school=3576>

The S6 Young Enterprise Team have been selling their products at parents nights, Wintertainment and other local events. They still have some stock left and their festive melts and candles would make the perfect Christmas present. For more information please follow @EssenceOfTroon or email essenceoftroon@gmail.com with any questions.

Young Enterprise Update



Fundraising



Foodbank

Our annual Foodbank collection was organised this year by our S3 Junior captains and prefects. In a change from what we normally do, each personal support class was issued with an Advent calendar of items to collect, giving each individual pupil responsibility for a single item. Over 600 individual items will be delivered to South Ayrshire Foodbank's warehouse for distribution over the festive period. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

Battlefields Memories

Well done to S3 pupils Caitlin, Heather and Daniel who gave a presentation to Troon Community Council on their experiences during the Battlefields Trip. The audience were captivated by the emotional account of the Menin Gate ceremony and visits to war graves of unknown soldiers.

This term has seen a fantastic number of pupil-led charity events taking place across the school. Kicking off our fundraising drive was a non-uniform day with £583 raised to support voluntary work in Kenya followed by a bake sale which raised £244 for Cancer Research UK. Next up was Children in Need day on Friday 16th November. Our School Captains arranged an S6 Houses v Teachers Dodgeball Match, painted faces and sold

'We were a bit nervous before getting our heads shaved, but also excited as we knew it was for a good cause' Scott (S6)

lots of cakes to raise a total of £1124. A huge well done to our brave 'S6 Baldies' who raised a whopping £2786 for Ayrshire Cancer Support. Well done to Ms McCallum's S6 Leadership Group who filled 11 full back packs, 5 bags and 34 boxes for The Night Before Christmas campaign. Thank you everyone for their generous contributions to this hugely worthwhile cause. On Friday 14th December, we asked all pupils to wear a Christmas jumper in aid of Save

the Children. It was great to see lots of different festive designs on show! Well done to Mrs Cleland's Leadership class and S6 pupils who helped to collect donations. In total we raised £383.78 which was a huge increase from last year!



S6 Leadership Group presenting a cheque to delighted staff at the Cancer Research UK Troon branch



Youth Volunteers

Congratulations to Logan and Conner on completing the Police Scotland Youth Volunteer 12 week programme. The South Ayrshire Passing Out Parade took place at Wellington School and the team will now embark on a range of volunteering duties with Police Scotland.



Fundraising total so far.....

Thank you all for your generous support

£8197

School Trip Payment

Since its introduction to Marr College in December 2017, many parents/carers have used the iPayimpact system successfully to make online payments for school lunches and trips. This is now the payment method required for all our school trips and all parents/carers will be asked to pay this way. We would ask that you do not send cash or cheques to school to pay for deposits or any other instalment of school trips. If you have not already registered for the system, please do so using the unique identifier previously supplied to you in the original letter outlining the system. If you have mislaid this, please contact the school office for a duplicate. When making a payment for a trip, please take care to make the payment against the relevant trip – please do not make this payment in the school meals section if it's for a trip as this will result in a delay in refunding this to you. Should you go to make a payment and you cannot see the trip in question, it may be that it has not yet been set up on the system and will be put on shortly. If you have any difficulties with using the iPayimpact system, please contact the school office.



Well done to S4 students, Gregor and Kathryn who successfully competed against the other South Ayrshire schools to win the Victim Support Scotland National Schools Speaking Competition held in UWS in November. The topic was 'The Age of Criminal Responsibility' and all teams who entered were praised for their thoughtful and well prepared speeches.



Two senior debate teams were successful in progressing to the second round of the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament following an exciting and informative evening of debate against two teams from Wellington School. Erin, Alistair, Ailsa and Katy debated the motion: 'This house believes Google does more harm than good'. The judges on the evening commended all teams for their well-considered arguments and sophisticated use of research.

Marr's 'Creation Station' opened its doors again this month to parents and also visitors from Troon Rotary Club. The S3 and S4 groups, supported by school staff and Ayrshire College, are working towards gaining a City & Guilds in Barista Skills as well as a Customer Service award. Lewis (S3) said 'I'm enjoying learning new skills and am more confident speaking to others'. Rotary Youth Convenor, Mike Schirwing added 'Following last year's successful introduction of Barista Coffee training and the first coffee morning at Marr College, eleven Rotary Members were invited to participate in this year's project. The pupils were polite and

courteous and made us feel welcome. We had the choice of a wide variety of coffees ranging from Americano to Mocha!. It's great to see the pupils developing customer care skills alongside improving their maths and we wish them and future students all success in this venture'. Last month we welcomed a number of partners to our Business Breakfast, organised by Mr McNeil, PT DYW. There was lots of positive discussion about how the school and local business could support our young people through work placements, DYW Projects and the launch of a Business Mentor project.



Top: Troon Rotary Club enjoy a visit to the Creation Station. Left: Families seeing the group in action. Right: Mr McNeil updates partners on our DYW

Living On One

By Jenny Hope (S5)



'Living on one' is a challenge that has been going on at Marr College for a few years. The idea is that everything you consume for 5 days (except water) must be within a daily budget of £1. I decided to take part this year and a friend and I combined budgets so we had £10 for our week's food. After doing our shopping it seemed we had enough food, however as the week went on we began to realise that the type of food we had bought wasn't filling us up or giving us the nutrition we needed. By about the Wednesday

night I was sick of eating plain pasta and dry toast and felt like I had no energy to do anything. I started to think about how for many people it isn't a school challenge, it is a reality and that many people have to go through this week after week without the motivation that it will finish at the school bell on Friday. It would be nearly impossible to experience what living in extreme poverty would really be like. However, 'living on one' gave me a glimpse into the reality of the struggles that many people face on a day to day basis. I was able to see how challenging it must be to never have nutritious food and always be worrying about what you will eat and whether you will have enough. I think it was a very worthwhile

Raising Attainment Team



Our team of Development Principal Teachers Miss Elliot (Literacy), Mr Moncrieff (Senior Phase) and Mrs Stevenson (Numeracy) have been working together with pupils, staff and parents to support raising attainment and closing the equity gap. The team have introduced a number of projects including maths and literacy groups, reading programmes, outdoor learning, drop-in clubs, mentoring and pupil attainment trackers. Look out for our calendar of family learning events planned for the remainder of the session.

experience that helped me understand the situation better and raise money for charity.

Save the date...

January

Pupils return on Monday 7th at 8.45am
 Parent Council Meeting 7pm Wednesday 9th
 S4-S6 Prelims Wednesday 9th – Friday 25th
 S1 Parents' Evening Monday 14th

February

S2 Reports Issued Friday 1st
 Careers And Options Evening (new S3 –S6) Wednesday 6th
 School closes Friday 8th at 2.50pm
 Pupils return Wednesday 13th
 S4-S6 Reports issued Friday 15th
 S5/6 Parents' Evening Tuesday 19th

