



I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing festive period and best wishes to you all for the New Year. The focus in the coming weeks for many of our young people and parents/carers will be learning pathways and choices and we will continue to provide all the support and advice required to make these important decisions about future learning and studies.

Fundraising

There were a number of fundraising activities that took place throughout last term. In November we donated funds to the Poppy Appeal and also arranged activities for Children In Need, raising £900. More recently, a group of S5 students ran a bake sale and set up a Just Giving page for Save the Children's Gaza appeal, raising an amazing £1985. Since August, staff have been buying Barista Coffees every Friday afternoon and the proceeds were used to buy Christmas Parcels for The Night Before Christmas Campaign – this year we made a record 50 parcels, which were gifted to children in our local area before Christmas Eve. Finally, our Christmas Jumper Day raised a further £300 for Save the Children. So far this school year, we have raised almost £6500, which is fantastic given the current financial struggles facing families across the UK. Community is one of our school values and together we work hard to help and support not only pupils in school, but also people in our local area. Thank you to our young people and families who continue to generously support our chosen charities.

Students

- S5 and S6 students are undertaking their prelim exams, commencing 15th January
- Supported study continues to run during lunchtime and after school. The weekly Study Café runs on a Wednesday and Thursday after school in the Library
- Year group Assemblies took place at the start of the new term for all S1-S6 students. Students were reminded of our 'relentless routine' of ensuring they are in the right place at the right time
- The month of January sees a renewed focus on wearing school uniform, particularly school ties. The support of parents and carers in ensuring all students wear uniform is greatly appreciated. Ties can be purchased from the school office or borrowed from Guidance teachers

We were delighted and proud to be awarded the LGBT Charter at Silver Level after 18 months of strategic planning, training and implementing changes within policies and the curriculum. Marr College is the first South Ayrshire School to achieve the award and we look forward to receiving our certificate soon.

Staff

- Welcome to Miss Watt who replaces Miss Jones in Biology on a temporary basis
- All teaching staff will be working with Education Scotland during our upcoming professional learning twilight on further developing approaches to assessment and moderation in the Broad General Education (S1-S3)

School Improvement Plan

- Principal Teachers and the Senior Leadership Team worked collegiately to review progress with their Improvement Plans
- Miss Muir and Mr Higgins led training session for senior Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) and will deliver lessons to S1 this term
- Planning is underway for

Parent, Partner and Community Engagement

- S1 Parents' Evening took place on 29th November, with 80% of parents/carers attending. S2 Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday 17th January
- S2 Reports are being issued on Friday 12th January
- Parents of S4 pupils will receive a letter detailing prelim percentage results, followed by a report at the end of January
- Parent Council members supported our annual Christmas Concert held on 13th December
- A range of local business partners provided an opportunity for all S5 students gain interview experience

Upcoming events

- S5/S6 Prelims 15th – 26th January
- S2 Parents' Evening Wednesday 17th January
- S4 Reports Issued Thursday 1st February
- S3 Parents' Evening Tuesday 6th February
- Your Futures (SAC Careers Event) Wednesday 7th February
- School Holiday – Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th February
- Careers and Options Evening – Thursday 15th February

G Docherty

18/01/24