



Since the start of term, we have been focusing on attendance and late coming and I am pleased to report improvements in both areas. We will continue to maintain our focus in this current term.

Recently I had the pleasure of welcoming parents and carers to our annual Senior Prizegiving Ceremony and celebration of Success Assemblies have taken place for all year groups. All School Captains, House Captains and our new Values Ambassadors have been appointed and are eagerly embarking on their leadership journey in S6.

Students

- Almost £3000 was raised during the recent sponsored walk and with gift aid donations this will continue to rise. The funds will benefit Ayrshire Cancer Support and the fantastic work they do across our local community. Many thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who contributed
- Well done to all our young people who accessed home learning activities during recent school closure days
- The National 5 Prelim timetable has been completed and will be shared with students and parents/carers in the coming days
- Our new S6 Young Enterprise team – Tidal Jewels – are now established and will be producing and selling a range of hand-crafted sea glass items
- Dux Medal Boards and Prizegiving Trophies have been updated to reflect recipients from session 2022-23
- S4-S6 Tracking reports are currently being completed by staff and will be issued before the October break. S1-S3 Tracking reports will be issued before the end of October.
- After a very positive start in terms of uniform, there has been a slight decline in recent weeks. A small number of students are continuing to attend in sportswear and I would appreciate the support of parents to discourage this
- An extra-curricular fayre is being planned for late October and will be led by a range of students.
- 'Community Clean Up' litter picks are underway again
- S3 and S4 Humanutopia workshops were cancelled due to the recent strikes and have been rescheduled for late January 2024

Staff

- Our school roll was confirmed at 1127, which is an increase of 65 students this year. A large number of placing requests continue to be received for S1 and across other year groups. More recent staff changes include:
 - Miss Campbell is now PT Developing the Young Workforce
 - Mrs Stevenson takes on the role of PT Qualifications and Skills
 - Mrs MacKenzie will take up a full-time permanent Business/Commuting post
 - Appointment of additional temporary teachers in Geography, Physics and Maths, who will take up their posts on 23rd October
 - We have 5 Newly Qualified Teachers this session in Maths, Design and Technology, Home Economics, Physical Education and Art & Design
- All staff participated in professional learning on Retrieval Practice and will continue this work on the October in-service day
- This year all schools will migrate to corporate Teams for all documents. The use of Teams has become an integral part of our work in the last few years, though significant time is being given to moving all current school documents on to the new platform

Parent, Partner and Community Engagement

- A Business Brunch is being planned to reconnect with local employers and partners
- The HE team are currently planning a monthly Community Café, led by our Barista groups
- The recent S4 'Welcome to the Senior Phase' evening was very successful and all presentations and resources can be found on our website
- On Thursday 7th September we hosted a 60th Reunion of former students, including the grandson of Dr Murison, Marr College's first Headteacher
- We were honoured and grateful to learn that the family of George Murray, former PT Music who passed away in March 2023, are donating a trophy in his name to the Music department

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- The Improvement Plan for session 2023-24 can be found on our school website and we welcome any support from parents and partners to contribute to our improvement priorities
- A copy of the annual Standards and Quality report can also be found on our website and provides progress information on school improvement

Upcoming Events / Key Dates

- Thursday 5th October – S4-S6 Tracking Reports Issued
- Tuesday 10th October – S4 Parents' Evening 5-7pm
- Friday 13th October – Dress Down Day (£1 towards the STAR Centre). October break commences
- Monday 23rd October – In-service Day
- Tuesday 24th October – Students return
- Thursday 26th October – S1/S6 Halloween Disco
- Friday 27th October – S1-S3 Tracking Reports Issued

G Docherty

29/09/2023