

Marr College
Parent Council and Community Council
Head Teacher Report
Wednesday 6th November 2019



We are delighted to welcome Mr Liam Baillie, Principal Teacher of Music, to Marr College. Mr Baillie took up his post on 28th October and will shortly appoint a 0.6 Music Teacher for the department.

On Friday 22nd November, Mr Stuart McNeill leaves his post of PT DYW to embark on a new role as head of Design and Technology at the Royal High School, Edinburgh. We send our best wishes to Mr McNeill in his new role. In the coming weeks, a new PT DYW will be appointed within the school.

Marr Skills Academy

On Friday 27th September we officially launched the Marr Skills Academy, an exciting new programme of vocational and skills based courses delivered in partnership with Ayrshire College, local employers and voluntary groups. We are extremely grateful to DYW Ayrshire and the Prince's Trust for providing extensive funding of £18000 to establish the projects. We are now offering, in school, the opportunity for young people to gain skills, experience and qualifications related to Nail Bar, Cycle Maintenance, Barista and Rural Skills. Further information will soon be available on our dedicated DYW website page.

WW100 Scotland Certificate of Merit

On Thursday 7th November, Deputy Lieutenant David Dickson will be presenting Marr College with a Certificate of Merit in recognition of our work in commemorating WW1 during the centenary year. Mr Docherty and our School Captains will represent Marr College at the Troon Remembrance Service on Sunday 10th November.

Captains/Prefects

- S3 Captains and Prefects have been appointed and have already undertaken a number of duties
- S6 Captains continue to attend monthly Troon Community Council meetings
- Two pupils from S3 and S4 will attend monthly Dundonald Community Council meetings. This will provide both our major Community Councils an opportunity to hear about life at Marr College and engage with young people on matters important to their communities
- S6 and S3 teams are working together to develop their annual Student Improvement Plan with a key focus on improving wellbeing across the school

Students

- A fantastic Young Singer of the Year competition was held on Thursday 10th October. All performances on the night were outstanding and the judges had a tough decision to name the top 3 acts. Well done to the Music Department and thank you to the many pupil and staff volunteers who helped to make the night a great success
- A successful fundraising day was held on Friday 4th October. Approximately £600 raised through non-uniform day was donated to the Butterfly Trust to support people living with Cystic Fibrosis and a further £160 for Marr Malawi through proceeds of a bake sale. Well done to the S6 Leadership who organised these events.
- Our annual S1-S6 Halloween Disco was held on Tuesday 29th October

- 10 pupils from S3-S6 attended the South Ayrshire Youth Forum Conference on Friday 1st November
- 87 S4 students completed a week of work experience within a wide range of local business and organisations. Our sincere thanks to all employers who support this programme. Pupils involved will now complete post-placement lessons towards accreditation of the SQA Work Placement unit.

School Improvement Plan

- Our annual School Improvement Visit took place on Wednesday 23rd October. Success and achievement was the key focus and visiting senior staff were in agreement with our improvement priorities for the session
- All staff participated in subject specific Assessment and Moderation activities during the recent October in-service day with a particular focus on 4th level. Our second staff twilight evening on Monday 28th October provided a further opportunity for staff to moderate BGE assessment and reporting using the new 4 stages of a level
- David Ross (SQA) attended a recent meeting of the Senior Leadership Team and Guidance Team to provide an overview of SCQF accredited courses. Through additional accredited opportunities, particularly in S6, we will ensure that our young people continue to develop much needed skills, knowledge and experience to successfully move on to positive post-school destinations
- Following recent training provided by Pivotal Education, staff agreed a number of key areas of focus in the coming weeks
 - Meet and Greet – consistent approach to meeting pupils outside of the classroom in preparation for each lesson
 - Lesson endings – ensuring all lessons end with an effective plenary and that young people are ready for their next lesson
 - The Marr 90 – lesson starter to ensure all pupils are ready for learning in a timely manner
 - Mobile Phone use – establishing clearly identified zones across the school for use and non-use of phones
 - School ties – a focus on ensuring all pupils wear their Marr College tie
- Show My Homework continues to grow in use and we are delighted at the initial response and positive feedback from pupils, staff and parents
- A wellbeing twilight professional learning evening has been planned for Wednesday 13th November and will involve all of our cluster primary colleagues joining Marr College staff for a range of workshops to enhance their skills in identifying and supporting wellbeing concerns

Upcoming events

- S1-S3 Tracking Reports Issued – Friday 8th November
- Rotary Young Musician of the Year – Thursday 14th November
- S1 Parents' Evening – Monday 18th November 5-7pm
- S4 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 3rd December 5-7pm
- Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 4th December 7pm

G Docherty

1/11/19