

## **Parent Council update**

The final phase of the school refurbishment and construction is well in hand. The brand new PE facilities were opened to students before the October holiday and include 2 gyms, a games hall and a fitness suite with brand new equipment. All lets have recommenced for this facility.

Access to the school via the playing fields. Council officials will be meeting with Councillor McKay to discuss. Gate from playing fields open at 8am and close at 8.50am, Open at lunchtime then close at the end lunchtime, Open at the end of the school day then close after the last let has finished – if no lets in the PE block or school this should be locked after the students have left at the end of the school day. This will mean the gate will be closed all night and at weekends

Currently some building personnel in school to deal with snagging issues. RA is working with them but is no longer school liaison officer for the building. Landscaping will be taking place over the coming months.

The official opening by the Scottish Government will take place on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> November. Attendance will be by official invitation only and is being co-ordinated by South Ayrshire Council. Invitations will be issues in due course by South Ayrshire Council. SLT and Senior Students will be assisting with arrangements for the evening.

As part of the Scottish Government's new National Improvement Framework issued in January 2017 which is a strategy for closing the gap for more vulnerable learners, Marr's Pupil Equity Funding is creating close partnership with pupils, parents and other agencies to improve Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Examples include peer support for reading, work experience placements, mountain biking course and Breakfast Club. We are targeting S3 students this session and a variety of interventions related to the above are in progress to improve attendance and outcomes for young people. We will be able to report back on progress throughout the session to the Community Council.

Marr is currently reviewing our 'Behaviour for Learning' system within the school and will be rebranding it as 'Respect for Learning', which will be in line with requirements for Marr to achieve Silver status as a Rights Respecting School. We already have met the standard for Bronze and are working with our primaries who already have silver.

Marr is also working with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) in a pilot scheme building social and mental resilience. We have two CAMHS nurses who meet with referred students to address issues.

As part of our Developing Young Workforce programme – our barista coffee and smoothie project are moving forward and all equipment has now been bought. Last Friday there was a launch of the smoothie bar, which involved a lot of interest from students.

S6 Leadership group organised a highly successful enterprise activity related to European day of Languages for S1. Teachers at Marr had the opportunity to demonstrate their linguistic skills at a S1 assembly.

11<sup>th</sup> October a study skills evening for S4 offered parents and students some tips on skills related to studying for examinations. Thanks to the PC for attending.

The school production next year will take place from 6th-8th June. The production will be 'We Will Rock You'

The student council organised activities for 'Show Racism the Red Card' and all children wore red ribbons in support of this.

Charity work has included £300 raised from the Macmillan coffee morning and the YPI programme for dementia is in place.

S6 hosted a highly successful Halloween party for their S1 buddies on Thursday 26th October

On the October in-service Days, staff worked with colleagues from other schools in South Ayrshire on assessment and Moderation Activities in the Broad General Education as that is a priority for the council.

Prelims for N5 will begin on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December and will again take place in the Assembly Hall.

School Dances are scheduled as follows:

12<sup>th</sup> S1 and S2

13<sup>th</sup> S3 and S4

14<sup>th</sup> S5 and S6

All dances will be hosted in the Assembly Hall this year.

S3 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>, S1 Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. Neil McLean will be in touch regarding PC support at these events