ISSUE
03
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2019

# Marr Matters

**Motivation | Ambition | Respect | Responsibility**

## Head Teacher Surgeries

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.

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

## Belleisle Conservatory Art Competition

Two of our talented pupils took part in the Belleisle Conservatory Art Competition this month. We are delighted to announce that Olivia McManus took home overall winner with Mia Gallacher taking second place in her category. Well done to both students.

## Head Teacher's Message

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome to the summer edition of our school newlsetter, which I hope provides a flavour of the many activities that happen within and out with school. It's been a busy few months with SQA exams, primary transition, S1 Health and Wellbeing day, sports days and everyone moving up year groups. Our seniors worked incredibly hard in the lead up to and during study leave and I'm sure they will be rewarded on results day in August. In recent weeks, we launched two additional vocational courses – Cycle Maintenance and Rural Skills – that aim to provide valuable hands-on learning experiences beyond the classroom and support our young people not only to achieve additional qualifications, but also to develop essential employability skills to equip them for the future. Our School Show 'Grease' was a huge success and sell-out crowds every night were full of praise for the cast and crew who put on an outstanding production. At Marr College we work hard to ensure that our students not only achieve academically, but also benefit from rich wider experiences to develop skills that will support them in the future.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and have a great summer from everyone at Marr College.

G Docherty
Head Teacher

## Mental Health Ambassadors

Marr College hosted a second mental wellbeing strategy meeting involving young people, staff, parents and partners across the Prestwick and Troon localities. Groups worked together to develop action plans to support young people through early intervention pathways, professional learning and promoting mental wellbeing. Discussions also involved parent and community events to promote and support wellbeing. The group, including our S6 Mental Health Champions, will meet again before the summer term to finalise the strategy and plan an Autumn launch event.

## Breakfast Club - Comic Relief

On Friday 15th March members of the S1-3 breakfast club, supported by various staff members, completed a sponsored stair climb reaching the summit of Ben Nevis twice! Pupils raised over £100 for Red Nose Day providing funds for vital work in the U.K and worldwide. The breakfast club now takes place on both Wednesdays and Fridays where pupils can take part in sports activities from 8am followed by breakfast.

## 'Grease' School Show Success

The cast of this year's school show 'Grease' worked hard during after school and weekend rehearsals to put on yet another fantastic Marr production! All three nights were a sell out and audience members were full of praise for the cast and crew who put on a fantastic performance. Well done to everyone involved and to Miss Gunn, Miss Walker and Mr Sinclair for organising.

## South Ayrshire Fair Trade Conference

Mr Mills and his team of volunteers organised the South Ayrshire Fair Trade Conference which was hosted in Marr College on Thursday 21st March. Visiting pupils from a range of South Ayrshire schools enjoyed learning more about Fair Trade, taking part in presentations and discussions and making their very own smoothie using the bike powered blender!

We were also delighted to receive two bags of Fair Trade Rugby balls courtesy of the Fair Trade team and BALA Sports.

## Maths Week

Maths week took place during March, with some special celebrations on π Day, 14th March. Problem solving and team activities were co-ordinated for all the year groups throughout the week.

The Maths department also held a special online competition through our web based program Mathletics.

Competition throughout the week was fierce between pupils and staff alike. A great time was had by all. Congratulations to the competition winners:

1st: Andrew Pattison

2nd: Ava Godden

3rd: Travis Baillie

## Marr's Dragon Final

S1 Business students took part in the final of this year's Marr's Dragons. The finalists pitched their ethical business ideas to the judges…in the end 'Bubbles' were the winning team – well done to: Sophie Reid, Sara McIntyre and Aiden Stevenson

Thanks to our maginificent judges: Aiden McIntyre (GE Aviation), Suzanne Maxton (Roman Catholic Diocese of Galloway) and David Christian (West Coast Accelerator).

## Weekly Litter Picks

Weekly litter picks continue to take place in the school grounds and the local community.

Well done to Sara McIntyre (1P) who won the litter pick prize of a £10 Amazon gift card.

## #DigiInventors Challenge Winners!

Our S2 Business students took part in the #DigiInventorsChallenge - a competition run in association with the Digital Health & Care Institute (the "DHI") and Olympic medallist Andy Murray! Students worked in teams to create an innovative digital idea that aims to improve either the physical or mental wellbeing of the young people of Scotland.

The top 4 teams from across Scotland were chosen to attend the 'Bootcamp Final' and we were delighted that 2 of those teams were from Marr College – a fantastic achievement!

The successful teams were 'Virtual Health Project X' from 2p8 (Daniel, Luke, Adam, Suilven, Brogan and Katie) and 'Shake it up' from 2p6 (Caitlin, Grace, Olivia and Mikayla).

For more information see: @MarrBusiness and @DigiInventors

Students worked with a variety of different mentors including Tedx Glasgow, SwarmOnline, Aberlour Child Care and Trust, Glasgow Warriors, Microsoft, the Scottish Institute for Enterprise, Glasgow School of Art and the DHI. Each student participating received a signed tennis ball and card from Andy Murray!

**Winners!**

**We are delighted to announce that 'Shake it up' were announced as the overall national winners!**

The team are delighted to have won and now have the opportunity to develop a prototype of their app. They have won £2,000 for the school and individual prizes - yet to be announced (last year these were a Surface Pro each).

## Social Enterprise

S3 Social Enterprise students have formed 3 different businesses – one selling milkshakes and hot chocolate, one selling wrist bands for the different Marr houses and a third that supplies S1 students with the ingredients needed for their HE lessons in fully compostable tubs.

House wrist bands are on sale (£1) on Fridays at interval and smoothies and hot chocolates are available - from the Creation Station - on Fridays at lunch. All profits will be donated to a charity of the student's choosing at the end of the year.

## Troon Community Council

During May and June, S3 Captains and Prefects Ellie Cook, Rosie Rossi, Amy Nixon Jake Murray joined Mr Docherty at the Troon Community Council meeting and provided information on the current goings on at Marr. The group were confident and ably answered questions from those in attendance. The group also attended the June meeting in place of the senior School Captains.

## Sir Tom Hunter Challenge Finalists

S3 students in the Business Department took part in the South Ayrshire Sir Tom Hunter Challenge Finals and were one of two lucky teams from South Ayrshire to make it through to the overall final in June. The winning team 'Argon Healthcare' competed in the final at the West Coast Accelerator, presenting their business idea, market research and website to a panel of judges including: Sir Tom Hunter, Willie Mackie (Mackie Consulting), Evelyn Macdonald (Scottish Edge) and David Christian (West Coast Accelerator). The group confidently answered follow up questions and enjoyed hearing from Sir Tom Hunter and the truly inspiring guest speaker Jamie Andrews. The team came 4th overall, securing a cheque for £1,000. Congratulations to the team!

## Student Digital Champions - Microsoft Live Event

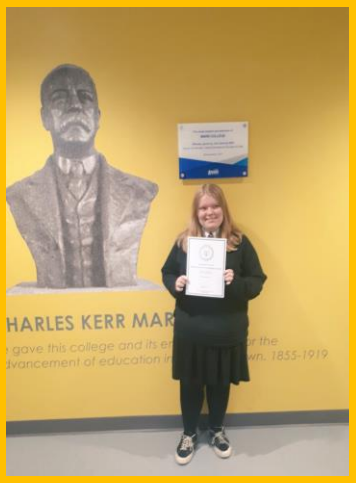
A group of 10 S3 Administration students attended a Microsoft Live event held at Strathclyde University in March. The students learned about cloud based technology, digital skills in the workplace, inclusive learning tools available on Office 365 software and also heard from 3 Microsoft Apprentices.

The students will become Marr's first Student Digital Champions with the aim of developing the ICT skills of students, staff and the wider community.

## Digi Entrepreneurs - Swarmonline Visit

Our #DigiInventor Challenge winners visited the Swarmonline Glasgow office in June. Alongside Miss Wyllie they met with Eva Luckhiram and Simon Mone to take part in a bootcamp on app development. They worked through user types, user journeys, design features and began work on a prototype for their app. They were even treated to a tour of The Hub and a free lunch. We look forward to seeing the prototype app!

## iDEA Duke of York Awards



Our S2 and S3 students have been working towards their Bronze Award for the Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (known as iDEA). iDEA is the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh Award (the 'digital DoE') and on completion of each level students receive a certificate signed by the Duke of York along with a Buckingham Palace compliments slip.

We currently have 7 students who have achieved their Bronze Award – Leanne (S3), Olivia (S3), Eilidh (S3), Kirsty (S3), Carla (S2), Olivia (S2) and Andrew (S2). We even have our very first Marr College Silver Award holder: Kirsty McConnell (S3). Well done!

# Sporting Achievements

## World Baton Twirling International Cup

Congratulations and good luck to Jake who has qualified to represent Scotland at the World Baton Twirling International Cup. He will travel to France in August to compete against National Champions from across the Globe! Jake's family will mostly have to fund the trip, so follow @pe_marr to keep up to date with any fundrasing events that will support his trip to France.

## Scotland Squad

Congratulations and well done to Kyle (S6) and Ryan (S6 Leaver) who were both capped for the Scotland U19s Rugby League Squad in April.

### S3/4 Boys and Girls Volleyball

Congratulations to both the S3/4 Boys and Girls Volleyball teams' who were crowned Scottish Champions in March! A special mention to Caitlin Anderson who coaches the team, nights and lunchtimes every week.

### S3/4 Boys Handball – Scottish Cup

Well done to the S3/4 Boys Handball Team who were runners-up in the Scottish Cup at Ravenscraig.

Thanks to coach Chris Kerr who dedicates his time to preparing the team to perform as well as they do.

### Senior Football Team

The senior football team have produced some fantastic diplays of skill and determination in both the Ayrshire Cup and Ayrshire League. Forthcoming games include a league decider against Prestwick, and an Ayrshire Cup Quarter Final against Largs Academy at Marr Astro (Date and Time TBC). Follow @pe_marr for details of fixtures for you to come along and support the team.

### Senior Handball

The Senior Handball team participated in the Scottish Cup at Ravenscraig earlier in the term where they were narrowly beaten 8-7 in the third place play-off against Kelvinside Academy.

### Futsal

Following a successful Marr College futsal tournament, S1/2 and S4 teams represented the school at the South Ayrshire School's Futsal Tournament held at Girvan Academy. The S1/2 team were unfortunate in a number of their fixtures not to win and finished the tournament in a respectable 3rd place.

After some strong opening performances the S4 futsal team narrowly lost out on the 1st vs 2nd play-off, eventually finishing the tournament in 3rd place.

### S1 Football

The S1 football team have progressed to the semi-final of the Ayrshire Cup after a dramatic penalty shootout win (9-8) vs Kyle Academy, following a 1-1 draw. The team now face Belmont Academy at home in the semi-final.

Thanks to all staff, coaches and volunteers who work hard to provide a wide range of opportunities for our young people.

## Swimming Successes

Massive congratulations to Lucy Grieve who at the Scottish National Age Group Championships 2019 achieved:

- Scottish Champion (15 yrs) 100m and 50m Butterfly, 50m Freestyle, 50m Back Stroke.

- Silver (15yrs) 200m Butterfly, 100m Freestyle.

- Youth Squad Times in 100m Freestyle and 100m Butterfly.

Her next goal is to medal at the British Age Groups Championships in July 2019. Follow live streams of Lucy @scottishswimming.

## Para-Sport Athlete

Well done to Callum McConnell who made his debut performance at the Scottish Para-sport Festival at Ravenscraig Sports Centre in March. Callum competed in boccia, tennis, basketball, table tennis and badminton. Special mention to Mr Drinnan who supports Callum in his sporting pursuits.

## National Men's Volleyball Team

Congratulations to Harry Murray (S5) who has been selected for the National Men's Volleyball Team. At the time of first selection Harry was 16 years old, which makes him one of the youngest players ever to be selected for the Mens Team. We all look forward to supporting and following his progress with the squad across Europe in the summer.

## Flip Fest Artistic Gymnastics

Marr Gymnastics Squad (Adam MacArthur 1L, Sara McIntyre 1P, Chloe Brown 1L and Talise Murphy 1W2) performed two partner artistic displays at Flip Fest, held at Tarbolton PS in March. The squad practise most lunchtimes, both on artistic floor and apparatus, under the guidance of Mrs Maxwell.

## Duke of Edinburgh

During the month of May, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions have taken place for S3 pupils. The groups were in great spirits when leaving school and were lucky with the weather. In June, Silver DofE participants successfully completed their expeditions in Arran.

Thanks to our DofE Coordinator Mrs Maxwell school staff and local volunteers who accompanied the groups.

## Cross Country

Well done to Jordan and Jamie who performed superbly at the Scottish Schools Athletics Cross Country Championships in March. Notable placings for both, competing against the best in the country.

## Reading Dog

A group of S1 and S2 pupils have taken part in a successful reading intervention this session with our visiting Therapet Robbie. Each week pupils had a 20 minute session to read to Robbie providing a comfortable environment to build confidence when reading. All pupils involved built positive relationships with Robbie and his owner Marilyn and we are extremely grateful for their time. We hope to replicate the programme in future school sessions.

## Accounting Students – Student Investor Challenge

Our S3-6 Accounting students took part in the Student Investor Challenge. This is an international competition run by the London Institute of Banking and Finance which involves students working in teams to invest £100,000 of virtual money on the stock exchange. Unfortunately, we did not make it through to the final to compete for the top prize of a trip to New York!

However, we did have several teams make it in to the top 25% of competitors with over 5,000 teams competing – well done! The top teams received a prize and a certificate. All 48 students who participated will receive a certificate from the London Institute of Banking and Finance in the coming weeks.

## Laguages Film Making Workshop

Three S6 Modern Languages students, Emily, Amy and Galen attended an all-day film making workshop, where they turned their shortlisted storyboards into a real film. They had the opportunity to work with media professionals to produce and edit their films on iPads. The team were winners of the Creative Content Award for Our World 2019. Congratulations to the team!

## P7 Welcome Evening and TransitionsVisits

A successful P7 Welcome Evening for parents and carers was held on Tuesday 12th March. The evening involved a presentation delivered by senior staff and S5/S6 students followed by tours of the school and department workshops. We have since welcomed the P7s back to Marr during both the Enhanced Tranisition Visits, STEM and languages day and the P7 Bump Up days in June. We hope that all P7s involved enjoyed their visits to the school and are looking forward to joining us in August.

## Ashfield Music Festival

S3 Physics pupils competed to win a fictional contract to host a music festival. They had to present their final pitches to the judges. Many thanks to the STEM Ambassadors who took the pupils right out of their comfort zone.

## S3 Tree of Knowledge

Thank you to Cameron Gibson from Tree of Knowledge who presented three sessions on Growth Mindset to our S3 students – great preparation for starting S4!

*"I enjoyed it and thought it was eye-opening. It makes me want to change how I do things and be more confident to push myself. "*

See: @MarrPhysics for more pictures.

## AFO Summer Concert

The Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra Summer Concert took place on Saturday 22nd June in Ayr Town Hall. Well done to members of the AFO from Marr College Bethan Hendry, Islay Livingsone, Mia Gallacher, Caitlin Croll, Grace Livingstone, Catriona Miller and Lucy Woods who all performed superbly.

During the concert, Morven Easton and Shaun Morgan's winning entries into the Peaceful Towns Art Competition were on display and are now being packed up to be taken with the AFO on their tour of Japan. The group leave on Sunday 30th June and both pieces of artwork will be displayed at the Hiroshima Peace Museum.

S4 students Islay, Bethan and Mia are really excited about the tour and visiting Mount Fuji. We look forward to hearing about the trip in our return to school in Agust.

# Barbarian Conference Winners

It gives us great pleasure to say that Marr College have become the first back to back Whole School Barbarian Conference winners with our teams securing the title for the second season running. An assembly was held for our Rugby teams which was attended by coaches Callum Harris and Ewan Bulger, representatives from the Scottish Rugby Union and both Kevin Quinn and Stephen Cotter from Marr Rugby. Rugby at Marr College continues to go from strength to strength with over 150 pupils from S1-S6 representing Marr this year.

Our younger players, especially our first years, will take inspiration from what can be achieved through Marr Rugby and aspire to be part of our School of Rugby family.

# Young Enterprise

Our Young Enterprise team, Essence of Troon, have had a busy term! They took part in the Young Enterprise Ayrshire Finals in Kilmarnock, they performed well - managing to win the award for Best Trade Stand. Congratulations to the winning team from St Mathews who will be competing in the Scottish Finals, representing Ayrshire.

The group also participated in a team building trip to Glasgow where pupils had to work together to 'escape the room' within the hour. Well done to the team on their success this year and thank you to all of the members of staff and parents who supported the group and bought their products.

## Paris in the Snow!

A group of S2 and S3 students had the fantastic opportunity to experience the Magic of Disney (in the snow) while learning about how Maths and Business Education contribute to the running and success of the well known Disney Brand.

Students spent time in the theme park, including a Wild West show – while also managing a day visit to Paris city centre to view the many famous landmarks. The students were an asset to the school and had a great time on their trip.

## DYW Projects

Pupils from each of the new Rural Skills and Cycle Maintenance groups worked with a Graphic Designer this month to create and design their brand. 'Marr Grows' and 'Spokes Bike Maintenance' will be officially lauched in September.

## New S6 Induction

Our new S6 students took part in an induction day where they heard from our Mental Health Ambassadors and took part in team buidling activities at Walker Hall.

## Cash Back for Communities Event

Our school nail bar business, 'Style and File', attended a Cash Back for Communities Event this term. They fed back about their experience so far and met with the Secretary for Justice Humza Yousaf.

## S6 Leavers

It has been a busy last term for our S6 leavers! Our departing S6 students, wearing their colourful hoodies, received their Marr College certificates and collected copies of their yearbook. They also attended prom at Brig O'Doon in Ayr which was the perfect way to say farewell to our 'Class of 2019'. Well done to everyone involved in organising the event, a fantastic night was had by all. We wish all our S6 leavers the very best for the future!

## Captains and Vice Captains

We are delighted to introduce our new School Captaincy team for 2019-20:

**Captains: Olivia Burnham and Calum Inglis**
**Vice Captains: Rosie Tudor and Logan Cotter.**

The application process included a written application, a presentation and a panel interview – in total there were 24 applicants showing the significant leadership potentital of our new S6 students. Congratulations to our new School Captaincy team – we look forward to working with you in the coming year!

## School Captaincy Team 2019-20

## Save the date…

School closes at 1pm on Friday 28th June
Return to school, Tuesday 20th August
UCAS Information Evening, Monday 26th August 6.30 – 8pm
Senior Awards Ceremony, Wednesday 28th August
Parent Council Meeting, Wednesday 4th September