



St Margaret's Academy

Snippets

28th September 2018

Message from the Headteacher

The first parent council of this session was held last Monday evening. We had a fantastic attendance with over 25 parents coming along to find out more about the school and how the voice of parents can support future school evaluation and improvement. If you couldn't make it along on the evening then all documents, presentations and minutes will be available by the end of next week via our school website under the community tab or parent icon on the main page.

The subject spotlight this week is focused on Maths and we are delighted with how our pupils performed in this years exam. There was a significant improvement in performance at National 5 level, particularly in S4, and the Higher results remained strong for the 2nd year running. One of the reasons for this improvement was the success of the study support programme. There was a large number of pupils who attended the sessions on a weekly basis last year and it is hoped that this level of attendance will continue. The principal teachers will be in touch with you via groupcall to alert you to any sessions that are running in the school.

The S1 parents evening is on this Thursday from 5-7pm in the school. You should have received information regarding arrangements for the evening and booking appointments. If you have not received this can you please get in touch with the school office on 01506 497104 ASAP.

Finally, we had the annual Macmillan coffee morning take place on Thursday. The event was a huge success and for the first time every pupil was invited to attend. The quality of the baking was fit for 'bake-off' and in particular the allergy friendly options including vegan brownies and gluten-free muffins. Thanks to Mrs Casey (Head of RE) and her team and the S6 pupils for organising the event and raising over £600 to support a charity which many of you will be aware has a team based at St John's hospital.

- Mr G McDowall

European languages week

It was European Day of Languages on Wednesday 26th of September and our Modern Languages Department has ran different language activities all week.

These ranged from European and language quizzes done during Smart Time and some of our Junior classes, poster competitions on the importance of learning Modern Languages, sampling French or/and Spanish food to cultural research. Some of our Senior students learning languages also visited our S1 classes and delivered lessons in French or Spanish.

Finally, a slogan / catchy phrase competition on 'why learn languages' has been opened to all pupils of our school and entries posted all week into a box in the ML Area. The winner will win two cinema tickets. The name of the winner will be revealed next week. Watch this space!

Mrs C McDougall (Languages teacher)



Subject spotlight - Mathematics

The teachers of the St. Margaret's Academy Maths Department would like to congratulate all our students for their efforts in the academic session 2017 - 18. The high level of aspiration and efficacy that was displayed has led to a set of results that has delighted the department.

In S4 the N5 classes achieved our highest number of passes ever. The percentage of our cohort that passed (46%) is above the national average (35%). A culture of success pervaded these classes throughout the year and this was reflected in the final results. The N4 students also showed a high level of application and were able to tackle some N5 topics to aid their future success in S5.

In S5/6 the N5 students again attained a record number of passes. This qualification is often crucial to gain entry to to university, college and apprenticeship programmes. In Higher our determination to give as many pupils a chance as possible, again led to our percentage cohort passing (21%) being above our average. This helped large numbers to attain a qualification that is a must for highly regarded careers in STEM. In S6 there were 6 students that gained the Advanced Higher Mathematics qualification that will be invaluable to help with their university courses.

Going forward we will continue to promote high aspirations and a culture of success. We are committed to providing a Maths education for all that simultaneously maximises all students attainment and promotes positive attitudes about Mathematics.

Mr P Conway (Principal Teacher of Numeracy & Maths)

10 tips to get in control with your child's screen time

The internet matters organisation have published the following tips to help you to manage your child's screen time... More advice available at www.internetmatters.org

1. Set a good example with your own device use
2. Have discussions about the risks that they may face based on their online activities
3. Put in place a family agreement and agree an appropriate length of time they can use their device
4. Help them build critical thinking to understand that some features on platforms are design to keep you watching or playing
5. Encourage them to switch off auto-play on platform to remove the temptation to binge on programmes
6. Use tech tools and parental control to manage the time they spend online and the apps they use
7. Get the whole family to unplug and create 'screen free' zones at home
8. Together find apps, site and games that will help children explore their passions and make screen time active
9. For younger children find ways to combine touch screen use with creative and active play
10. Encourage children to self-regulate the time they spend online and the activity they do to ensure they are having a positive impact on their wellbeing

West Lothian Leisure October holiday programme

The October holiday programme is now available from West Lothian Leisure and can be accessed via our school website or directly at

<https://www.westlothianleisure.com/media/2407/oct-hol-prog-2018-booklet-21-08-18.pdf>

