

OCT
2016



Whitburn

Academy

WHITBURN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2016

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Head Boy/ Head Girl and Deputes for 2016/17



FROM THE ACTING HEADTEACHER...

Oct
2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the new session 2016-17. My name is Vicky Porteous and I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to undertake the role as Acting Head Teacher of Whitburn Academy until a permanent successor to Iain Adair has been appointed.

As I write I have just completed my third week at the Academy. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here to date. The young people and staff in the school, whom are a credit to Iain's Headship and leadership, have been so welcoming and friendly and I extend my thanks to them all.

I have been particularly impressed with the high standard of uniform at the Academy. This reflects the commitment of both parents and staff and is evidence of what can be achieved with effective home and school partnership working.

The examination results at the Academy have been a cause for celebration for the fourth year in a row. They have once again exceeded the targets set by West Lothian Council and are proof of the continuing hard work from the young people and the support given to them from staff and yourselves as parents and carers. This session we will continue to strive to support every pupil to achieve their potential and endeavour to maintain and perhaps improve on the academic success of the past few years.

To achieve these goals pupils and staff have to maintain high levels of expectations and effort. This term is particularly important; the work and assessments undertaken at this stage form the foundations for the courses being studied. Progress needs to be made now to ensure success later. At least one review of progress will have taken place for all pupils by December. Praise meetings will occur for young people on track with their learning and targets for improvement will be shared with pupils as required. It is important that pupils respond positively to these targets. Parents and carers can support their child with their learning by discussing these targets with them.

Whitburn Academy is a vibrant school and the determination to succeed is evident from the wide variety of activities and events that young people engage in. In this Newsletter you will read about the trip to Tanzania, the sporting achievements of the pupils, the coffee morning and cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Trust, the Great Whitburn Academy Bake Off and the Naked Classroom teaching to mention just a few items. We have held our Pupil Council elections and I personally was delighted to be involved in the selection process for the senior pupil positions. Well done to all pupils and staff involved in these and other exciting opportunities. Keep up the good work!

Please enjoy reading our October Newsletter. I would like to give special thanks to Mr Hawthorn for all of the hard work he has put into this edition of the Newsletter and for continuing to ensure that our school website is always kept right up to date.

I wish you all a wonderful Autumn.

Kindest Regards

Vicky Porteous
Acting Head Teacher, Whitburn Academy



West Lothian
Council



TANZANIA 2016 TRIP REPORT

On 20th June, a group of 7 S5 and S6 pupils (Cameron Wilson, Cameron Betts, Chloe Harris, Amanda Henderson, Lucy Higgins and Robert Jewell –Smith) and Mrs Rhind (head of Social Subjects faculty) travelled along with pupils from Jedburgh Grammar school to spend two weeks in Tanzania on a Vine Trust building project.

Here is Mrs Rhind's account of the trip:

After a long flight from Edinburgh Airport, we finally arrived at Mount Kilimanjaro Airport.

For the next 12 days, we were to be based in Moshi, northern Tanzania and spent most of that time working on two sites building homes

for vulnerable families. It was hard work digging foundations as well as carrying stones, sand bricks and water to the 'fundi' (builders).

We worked with local volunteers, villagers and members of their families. For the first few days the paths were very muddy making our job harder. By the twelfth day both houses had taken shape but will not be completed for another couple of months .

In addition to the construction work the pupils visited local schools and orphanages where they enjoyed playing games, singing and dancing and organising activities. We each took an additional suitcase with us which we filled with toys, clothes, books educational materials and toiletries which had been donated by teachers and staff from Whitburn Academy. Some of



these donations were given to the orphanages and we also provided the families with gifts for their new homes.

The pupils managed to pick up some Swahili words, learned some Swahili songs and enthusiastically embraced the Tanzanian culture.

At the end of our trip we left the Moshi area and headed south for a 2 day safari trip. We went to the Tarangire National Park and came really close up to elephants and giraffes. On the second day we went to the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, where we saw lions and a rare black rhino.

It took two years to raise funds for this trip which could not have taken place without the support of the Whitburn Community who generously donated raffle prizes, sponsored students and supported our fund raising activities .

Amanda Henderson, one of the pupils on the trip said she thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

“The Tanzania trip was a great success, as not only did I have an amazing experience but I also got the opportunity to change a family’s life for the better.

“Meeting the children from the orphanages was also a great way to spend our time in Tanzania as

they were all lovely children who never stopped smiling.

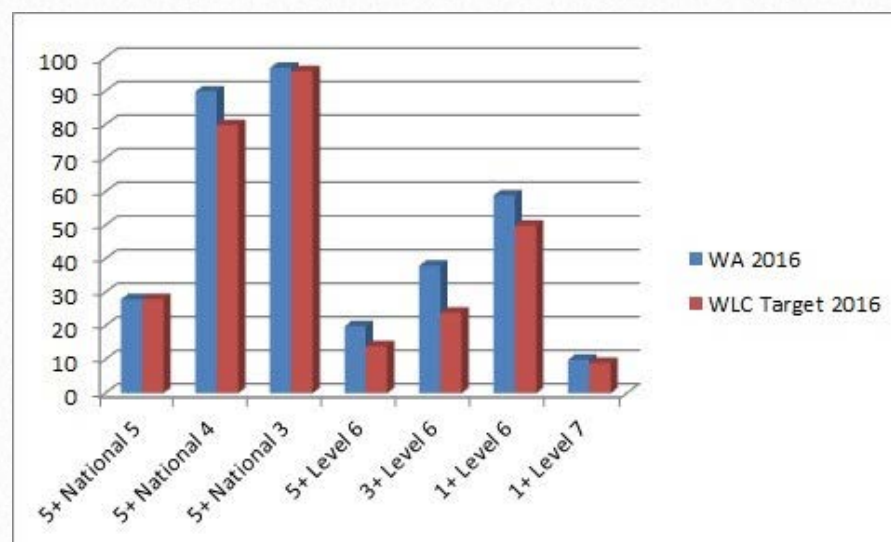
“Being able to donate a couple of suitcases to each orphanage we visited was such a privilege as the children would appreciate the gifts more than we would.

“I would highly recommend this experience to anyone who gets the opportunity to do it as it is so rewarding and will give you a whole new perspective of life and the way people live.”

We hope to offer another Vine Trust trip in two years’ time for our current S4 and S5 pupils. More details to follow in the near future.

To view more photographs from our visit to Tanzania, please visit our [Image Gallery](#)

EXCELLENT EXAM RESULTS



Whitburn Academy are pleased to announce that due to the phenomenal efforts of our S4, S5 and S6 pupils, not just in the SQA exam

period in May, but throughout Session 2015/16, we have achieved some of our best ever exam results in the 49 year history of our school!

For the third year running, our pupils have met or exceeded the targets set by West Lothian Council (before any appeals have been made) and continue to raise the bar.

The Results are as follows (pre – appeal)

5 or more National 5 awards : 28% (West Lothian Target: 28%)

5 or more National 4 awards : 90% (West Lothian Target: 80%)

5 or more National 3 awards : 97% (West Lothian Target: 96%)

5 or more Level 6 awards : 20% (West Lothian Target: 14%)

3 or more Level 6 awards : 38% (West Lothian Target: 24%)

1 or more Level 6 award : 59% (West Lothian Target: 50%)

1 or more Level 7 award : 10% (West Lothian Target: 9%)

Congratulations to our Pupils on achieving these excellent results and to all our Staff for the hard work, effort and dedication they have put into teaching our Young People.

UNICEF VISITOR

On 25th August, Mrs Whyte's S2 Social Studies class had a visit from Sam Whyte of UNICEF.



The class have been learning about human rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the visit from Sam provided a valuable insight into both topics.

She was able to share information on her work with UNICEF and links with Government policy makers with a focus on asylum seekers and refugees. She has also visited The Jungle in Calais so was able to give first hand information on this too.

Thanks to Sam for giving up some of her holiday time here in Scotland to share valuable information on these important issues. I am sure the pupils will have gained a deeper understanding of the topics covered in class.

SCANNERS FILM PREMIERE

Back in April 2015, a group of pupils from Whitburn Academy took part in the film, 'Scanners'.

'Scanners', directed by former pupil, Richard Ramchurn, uses Brain-Computer interaction technology to control what the audience see and the final outcome of the film.

Using specially designed headsets, up to three people can have control of what scenes are shown, effects and sound depending on a number of factors, including how many times they blink or even their levels of concentration.

'Scanners' had its debut screening at a film Festival in Liverpool in July and is currently being shown by Richard at many venues and festivals across the country.

On 29th August, Richard visited the school to show the finished film to the pupils who were involved in filming. The pupils were excited to see the end result.

As the Brain-Computer interaction technology was being used, no two groups saw the film in the same way for example, each group saw scenes take place in a different order, they saw some different scenes that didn't appear for other groups, different background music in some parts and some scenes had different lighting and colour effects.

Thank you to Richard for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us.



YOUNG DRIVER CONFERENCE



On 31st August, 62 S6 pupils attended the Young Driver Conference at Howden Park Centre. Students were given the opportunity to watch a play regarding road safety.

They heard from speakers including Police Scotland, Paramedics and the mother of a young man killed on West Lothian roads. The second part of the morning was practical demonstrations by the police, fire brigade and ambulance service.

All students enjoyed the event and found it very thought provoking.

Photographs from the event can be found in our [Image Gallery](#)

UK SCHOOL GAMES



Well Done to S6 pupil, Ross Neally, who took part in the UK school games, which were held at Loughborough University in England from 1st - 4th September. Ross swam in the 100 metre breaststroke and 100m breaststroke races for the South and East of Scotland team, managing to complete his swim in 1 minute, 9.7 seconds.

Ross said of this experience that, *"It was a fantastic experience, it was a bit like the Olympics with all the competitors staying on campus near to the venue. It was great to be able to go along and watch the other sports taking place as well."*

Ross continued, "It was good to be able to work with and pick up some valuable advice and tips from the professionals, not just from swimming but also from other sports."

BOYS RUGBY 'COME AND TRY' AFTERNOON

On Friday 2nd September, 9 of our S1 boys attended a Rugby 'Come and Try' afternoon organised by the West Lothian Schools Sport Partnership at Linlithgow Rugby Club. All the Boys had a great time and would encourage others to take up Rugby as a sport.



For any pupils who are interested in playing rugby, Whitburn Academy offers Rugby as an Extra Curricular Activity. It takes place from 3.30pm until 4.30pm on Tuesday afternoons on the playing fields. See Mr McPherson for more information if you would like to get involved.

SI-S3 RUGBY 'COME AND TRY'



On Friday 2nd September, 8 of our S1-S3 Girls Rugby team attended a 'Come and Try' afternoon organised by the West Lothian Schools Sport Partnership at Linlithgow Rugby Club. All the Girls had a great time and would encourage others to take up Rugby as a sport. For any pupils who are interested in playing rugby, Whitburn Academy offers Rugby as an Extra Curricular Activity. It takes place from 3.30pm until 4.30pm on Tuesday afternoons on the playing fields. See Mr McPherson for more information if you would like to get involved.

ROUTE CLIMBING CHAMPION

Congratulations to Hannah, one of our new S1 pupils, who took part in the National Route Climbing Championships at the Climbing Centre in Ratho, Edinburgh on 3rd September. We are very proud to announce that Hannah became Scottish Climbing



Champion for Route Climbing at Youth 'D' (10 - 11 year olds) level. Well Done Hannah!

Hannah has been Route Climbing for only 3 years and she would recommend it as a hobby to anyone.

SI-S3 HANDBALL 'COME AND TRY'

On Wednesday 14th September, 9 girls in SI-S3 took part in the Handball 'Come and Try' event at Bathgate Academy. The girls had a fantastic time and the staff were very impressed with the effort and attitude shown.



SCHOOL SPORT SILVER AWARD

Congratulations to all the Pupils and Staff connected to the PE department, who have earned the sportscotland Silver School Sport Award for session 2016-17.



2016-2017

The sportscotland School Sport Award is a national, Lottery funded initiative designed to

encourage schools to continuously improve physical education (PE) and school sport opportunities. The sportscotland School Sport Award:

- Encourages schools to self reflect and continuously improve
- Puts young people at the forefront of the decision making and
- planning of PE and sport in their school
- Helps schools to increase young people's opportunities and
- engagement in PE & school sport
- Helps schools to put PE & school sport at the heart of their
- planning, practice and ethos
- Recognises and celebrates successful PE & school sport models

PUPIL COUNCIL ELECTIONS



On 15th September, the pupils of Whitburn Academy voted in the Pupil Council Elections.

The Pupil council is split into 2 groups, the Junior Council for pupils in S1-S3 and the Senior Council for pupils in S4-S6. Both Councils meet on a regular basis to discuss any issues raised by their peers and to get feedback on comments raised at previous meetings.

Voting was held in the Assembly Hall before school, during breaktime, during lunchtime and after school. Pupils were given voting cards, which were used to check that they were able to vote, then they then filled in their ballot papers in real voting booths and posted their votes in real ballot boxes. The voting booths and ballot boxes are the same ones used in the General and Scottish Parliament elections.

Turnout for the election was 48 % and per year group was as follows:

- S1: 60%
- S2: 34%
- S5: 48%
- S6: 52%

CLASS TEACHERS

Dylan and Jamie, 2 pupils from Mrs Whyte's S3 Geography class were set a challenge by Mrs Whyte: to teach their class for 1 period! The topic they had to teach was 'drought'. Both pupils accepted the challenge and spent time after school preparing their lesson. They then delivered their prepared lesson to the class on Thursday 15th September.



Both pupils were excellent, they were very confident and it was really obvious that they had put in a lot of preparation into their lesson. Both boys said that they didn't realise just how much work went into preparing and delivering a lesson.

Mr Adair visited their class on Friday 16th September to hand out his final ever Whitburn Academy Rector's award, our picture shows one of the boys receiving his Rector's award from Mr Adair.

GOODBYE MR ADAIR

On 16th September, Whitburn Academy said goodbye to Mr Adair, who after 9 years as Rector of Whitburn Academy is leaving to take up a new job as the Headteacher at Inverkeithing High School on 19th September.



The Pupils and Staff of Whitburn Academy wish Mr Adair all the best at his new school.

PUPIL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS



Following the Pupil Council Elections, the following pupils have been elected to the Junior and Senior Pupil Councils:

Junior Pupil Council

S1: John Strachan, Lachlan Kenney, Erin Cruickshank, Dawn Farrer

S2: Josh Roy, Lewis Galloway, Alyssa Hilditch, Kayley Sutherland

S3: Ewan Shaw, Melissa McMullan, Mia Lewington

Senior Pupil Council

S4: Leona McKenzie, Megan Watt, Scott Gilchrist

S5: Samira Mir, Bethany McCormack, Gregor Phillips, Callum Nichols

S6: Amy Oakes, Katelyn McIvor, Regan Sneddon, John Walker

Congratulations to all 22 pupils on their election.

S4 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP



S4 Geography pupils recently went on an excursion to Edinburgh to collect data on residential areas and the Central Business

District (CBD) of a city. They completed numerous fieldwork techniques to gather the data and this will then be analysed back in the classroom. Pupils will now undertake similar studies in Whitburn and will use the results of these to decide their Assignment titles in the coming weeks.

Pupils developed various skills through doing these activities e.g. their communication skills through asking questionnaires, teamwork in ensuring tasks were completed by deadlines etc. The pupils efforts were rewarded with a short visit to McDonald's to share experiences and make plans for the next part of the experience including an analysis of changes in Lothian Road. A visit to McDonald's would not be complete without the odd burger, McFlurry and milkshake of course. A fun day was had by all. Now back to the classroom for the hard work to begin as pupils plan their Assignments.

S4 GEOGRAPHY INFORMATION COLLECTION

On 21st September, S4 Geography pupils were collecting information in Whitburn town centre. They monitored traffic, litter, noise, pedestrians and completed questionnaires to assist them in choosing a title for their Assignments. Thanks to the kindness shown by local people, the pupils were able to



complete the questionnaires quickly and found it a much easier experience than in Edinburgh last week.

SI/S2 RUGBY COMPETITION

On 23rd September, our S1/2 boys rugby squad attended their first SRU Tier 4 competition against a variety of opposition in Edinburgh.

Teams in attendance were Craigmount / Forrester High Schools

combined, Newbattle High School and Dalkeith High School. This was a big test for our boys against different teams that they hadn't played before and in a completely new environment. Whitburn started off slowly with a large defeat to Dalkeith due to numerous missed tackles and a slight apprehensiveness to go forward. In the 2nd game against Newbattle it was much closer and they were only narrowly defeated but the performance was much better and the support and running angles had dramatically improved. In the 3rd game we played the way we had finished off last season with some strong running and solid tackling, eventually winning 5 tries to 3.

A very good first outing in the Tier 4 competitions.

The S1 players player was Lachlan and the S2's was Josh, well played.



SKY SKILLS ACADEMY



During September, the Maths Department had the fantastic opportunity of taking two groups of pupils, one from S2 and the other from S3, to visit the Sky Academy Skills Studio in Livingston.

Sky Skills studios is a unique learning experience that takes schools behind the scenes at Sky. It gave pupils a chance to work with a team of experts and cutting edge technology to create their very own news



report as well as gaining insight into careers in the media industry.

The pupils all had a fantastic time at the Sky Skills academy and would like to thank Sky for the opportunity to visit.



More photographs from both visits can be found in our [Image Gallery](#) on the School Website.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT TRIP

On 27th September, a group of pupils from the National 5 and Higher Modern Studies classes, visited the Scottish Parliament. The group were given a guided tour round the Parliament buildings and found out how about different parliaments across the world, how the Scottish Parliament works, its purpose and who is in charge.



The pupils then spent some time watching part of a live debate and the daily 'Time for Reflection' section of the day from the viewing gallery of the debating chamber.

The pupils found the both the tour and debate fascinating and feel that the trip has definitely given them a good insight as to how decisions made by Parliament are formed.

VICTORY FOR UNDER 13 AND 15 TEAMS



On 29th September, the Under 13's football team played their first game of the season against Bathgate Academy. The game, played away at Bathgate,

ended with a fantastic 6-2 victory for Whitburn thanks to doubles from Josh C and Ryan with Josh D and Mackenzie also adding to the total.

At the same time, the Under 15 team were playing at Home, also against Bathgate and secured a fantastic 5-0 victory with a double from Josh as well as a goal each from Jamie, Elliot and Ben.

Well done to all the boys from both teams on your fantastic wins!

ENGAGE IN SCIENCE

On 28th September, A group of S2 pupils attended the Engage in Science workshop run by Napier University. The aim of the the workshop was to improve engagement in Science.

The Workshop involved the pupils undertaking a forensic investigation into the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport.

A thoroughly interesting and exciting experience was had by all the pupils involved and made the group think about future careers in Science.

More photographs from the workshop can be found in our [Image Gallery](#) on the School Website.



NAKED TEACHING DAY

On Friday 30th September, pupils and staff took part in 'Naked Teaching Day'. Don't worry, they weren't actually naked! They were taking part in a campaign to raise awareness of children around the world who are attending schools in slums or refugee camps.

The goal of the day was to imagine what it would be like to teach stripped bare of any resources.

For Naked Teaching Day, teachers were asked to put their supplies back in the cupboard, switch off the interactive whiteboard and rely on teaching without worksheets or textbooks.

The day was organised by the UK charity World Wide Education Project, which supports education in developing countries and disaster zones through services such as exporting redundant educational furniture and equipment from the UK for reuse abroad.

The charity suggested some five-minute resource-free teaching strategies, including:

- In pairs, pupils sit facing each other and try to score points based on tennis by coming up with words or ideas on a particular topic. Hesitation or repetition means the opponent gets the points.
- Ask pupils to each choose a fact or word about their topic and then move around repeating the fact to their classmates – each pair of classmates must find a way to link what they have said.

Our photograph shows an SI class participating in Naked Teaching Day.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



On Friday 30th September, Whitburn Academy held a staff coffee morning and pupil bake sale. The event, held during the morning break, raised the fantastic total of £158.30 for MacMillan Cancer Support.

A big Thank You to all the Pupils and Staff who helped us raise this excellent amount of money for a worthwhile cause.

HEAD BOY/ HEAD GIRL ANNOUNCED

Following interviews with the Senior Leadership Team, Whitburn Academy are proud to announce the appointment of our Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy/Girls for Session 2016-17.



The appointments are as follows:

Head Boy: Ross Neally

Head Girl: Taylor Heggie

Deputy Head Boy: Christopher McLaughlin

Deputy Head Girls: Olivia Gilmour and Amy Oakes

Congratulations to all 5 pupils on their appointments and everyone at Whitburn Academy wishes them well in their new roles.

HIGHER BIOLOGY PCR WORKSHOP

The day long active workshop at Napier University allowed students to get hands-on experience of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Pupils used modern laboratory techniques, including DNA extraction, PCR,

restriction enzyme digestion and gel electrophoresis.

The pupils all said that they had an excellent experience and loved being in a modern lab situation as well as having a much greater understanding of the PCR process. A great experience all round!



More Photographs from the trip can be found in our [Image Gallery](#) on the School Website,

CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

On Wednesday 5th October, Miss Laing, Miss Buchanan and student teacher Miss Grant took 30 keen young athletes from across all year groups represented our school in the annual West Lothian Schools Cross Country event.

Overall, the event was a huge success, with Summer and Erin taking home Gold and Silver

respectively in the SI Girls event! Rebecca (SI Girls) and Steven (SI Boys) also managed to finish in the top 10 of their respective age categories.

Congratulations to all who took part, it was a delight to see such an even and wide spread of girls and boys taking part in one of the highlights of the SSP calendar. For more photos of the event and all other PE-related news, follow us on Twitter - @whitburnPE.



AMBITION HAIRDRESSING COURSE

Since August, 11 pupils have been involved in a Hairdressing Course.

The course, held in Whitburn Academy's own Hairdressing Salon, is being delivered by the Ambition Centre for Training. Pupils who

successfully complete the course will achieve a N5 Hairdressing Award.



Our photograph shows the pupils hard at work in the Salon on 6th October.

THE GREAT WHITBURN ACADEMY BAKE OFF

Over the last couple of weeks, the Home Economics Department have been holding their own version of the Bake Off, 'The Great Whitburn Academy Bake Off!'



The first round took place on the 29th September with 6 S4 girls and Mr Scobie taking

part in a technical challenge. This challenge involved all the bakers using the same recipe and they were judged on the taste, texture and appearance of their bake. The Star Baker for round 1 was Rebecca, with Mr Scobie finishing a close second and Aleisha finishing in 3rd place.

Round two was held on 5th October and was the signature challenge where bakers provided one of their own tried and tested recipes. Cakes made in this round included Banana Loaves, chocolate chip cookies, fairy cakes and chocolate sponges. The Star Baker for round 2 was Shania with Rebecca finishing in second place and Mr Scobie in 3rd place.

Round 3 will be held on 12th October and will be the Show Stopper bake!

More news from the competition will feature in the Winter Newsletter.

Photographs from the competition can be found in our [Image Gallery](#) on the School Website.



THE LARDER

Since August, a group of 9 pupils have been involved in 'The Larder' course. The course is designed to increase self-esteem and confidence, aspiration, self-reliance,



communication skills and enhance employability through building relationships with employers and further education providers in the hospitality sector.

All students completing the course will be awarded the WL employability award at SCQF at minimum level 5. It is also anticipated that each young person will complete an introduction to practical cooking which will prepare them for the Professional Cookery level 4 at West Lothian College. Finally each student will have the opportunity to gain certification in REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene.

Our photograph shows the pupils and the course leaders with the Loaded Potatoes, Macaroni Cheese and Chocolate pizzas that they made on 7th October.



PUPIL COUNCIL MEETINGS



The newly elected Pupil Councils have begun meeting and will decide on their plan of action for the coming year. Members are excited to engaging with the Leadership Teams and other bodies in the school to make a positive difference to Whitburn Academy.

Gregor Phillips, S5, has been chosen by members to be the President of the Senior Pupil Council and will chair future meetings with the support of S6 pupil, Katelyn McIvor. Dawn Farrer, S1, was chosen to be President of the Junior Pupil Council after a close contest and will be supported by S2 pupil Alyssa Hilditch.

Congratulations to all members elected to the Pupil Council.

ECO COMMITTEE

The Eco Club meet every Tuesday lunch-time to improve levels of curricular involvement

within the Eco Garden; to encourage cycling to school and to reducing waste through increased mixed recycling.



We are also looking for "Eco Helpers" to maintain an ever growing Eco Garden. If you are retired or have some spare-time to help in the Eco Garden it would be great hear from you.

Mr Begarnie
(Eco Co-ordinator)

P7 PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING

Whitburn Academy's annual Open Evening for the Parents/Guardians of pupils in Primary 7 attending Primary Schools within our catchment area takes place on Wednesday 26th

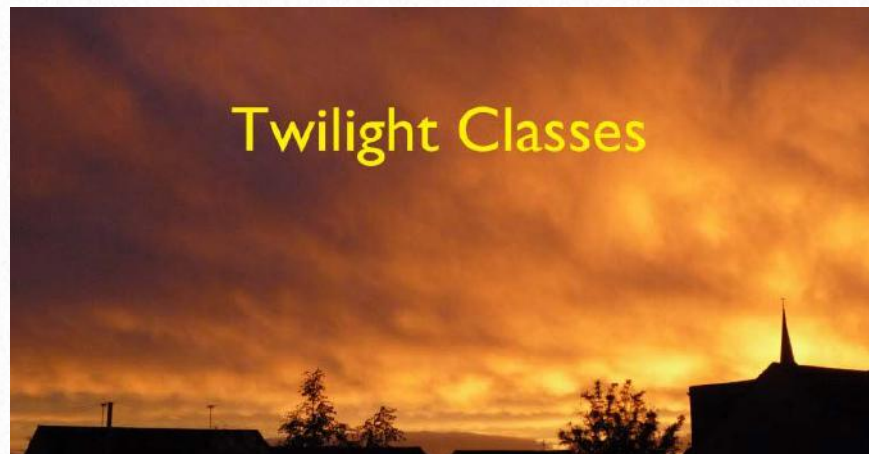
October from 6pm - 7.30pm. The Open Evening gives Parents/Guardians and children the chance to see some of the excellent learning opportunities and curricular activities that our school offers.

The evening will start with the chance to look at some stalls set up by various extra curricular groups in the Foyer (as well as tea and coffee). Then, following a brief introduction from Mrs Porteous, the Acting Headteacher at Whitburn Academy in the Assembly hall, our visitors will be split into groups and taken on a brief tour around the school by S6 Pupils.



The tour will take in various departments including Science, DMG, Art, PE, Home Economics, Music, English, Languages, Learning Support, Social Subjects, Maths and Computing.

TWILIGHT CLASSES



Twilight Classes start on Monday 26th September and run from 3.40 - 4.40pm. See the timetable below for details of when they take place who is leading them. A copy will also be available to download from the SQA Exams page of the website.

Monday

National 5/Higher Geography - Teacher: Mrs Whyte

National 5/Higher Photography/Art - Teacher: Mr Robertson

National 5 Maths - Teacher: Mr Thomson

National 5/Higher - Modern Studies: Teacher: Mr McNeill

Higher Sociology - Teacher: Mr McNeill

Tuesday

National 5/Higher Art/Photography - Teacher: Miss MacKay

Higher Biology: Teacher: Miss Jessiman

National 5 Computing - Teacher: Mrs Woods

Higher Admin - Teacher: Miss Richmond

Higher English- Teacher: Mrs Gilchrist/Miss Sword

Higher Physics - Teacher: Mr Bulloch

National 5 Biology - Teacher: Mr Rhodie

Wednesday

Higher Business Studies:Teacher - Miss Justice

Higher PE:Teacher - Mr McPherson

National 5 PE:Teacher - Mr Stevenson

National 5/Higher Art/Photography: Teacher - Miss Rodger

National 5 Maths:Teacher - Mrs Stewart

Higher Maths: Mrs Rennie

Learning Support Homework Club: Teacher - Miss Steel/Mrs Kelly

National 5 Chemistry:Teacher - Miss Maher

National 5 Physics:Teacher - Mrs Considine

Higher Chemistry:Teacher - Mr McDermott

Thursday

All Levels Music: Teacher - Mr McManus/Miss Murray

National 5 Computing:Teacher - Mrs Woods

National 5 English: Teacher - Miss Sword/Mr McIntosh

National 5/Higher Graphics: Teacher - Miss Miller

Library

Need to borrow a book? Just want some quiet space? Has your computer broken at home and you have an essay due tomorrow?

Come along to the library!

The library will be open till 4.30pm on a Thursday.

Homework Club

The homework club is on a Wednesday and open to all year groups. If interested please see Miss Steel or Mrs Kelly in Learning Support.

Twilight Buses

A bus home is provided for pupils who normally get a school bus home from school. If needed, make your teacher aware that you need a space on the bus when they take the register.

J O B A N D T R A I N I N G O P P O R T U N I T I E S



Each month, Skills Development Scotland release a list of all the Jobs and Training Opportunities available in the West Lothian area. A copy of their latest bulletin is available for download from the [Careers Adviser](#) page of the School Website.

W E S T L O T H I A N C O U N C I L ' S C A S U A L B A N K

West Lothian Council are looking for people interested in joining their pool of casual staff to cover posts at short notice in areas such as

catering, cleaning and school crossing guides throughout the West Lothian area.

If you are interested please apply via <http://myjobscotland.gov.uk>, You can access the internet to apply at your local library. If you require a paper application, please telephone 01506 777538. A variety of hours and locations at a rate of £7.97 per hour. Work done will be paid monthly in arrears into your bank account and training is provided.

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT IN CFE LINKS FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS



The SQA have compiled an information sheet with information for

employers about the new qualifications introduced over the last few years. They suggest that school leavers add the links listed below into their CV or job application forms, this should allow employers to consider applications in context and with understanding. The links could be cut and pasted into electronic applications (and paper copies could be included with paper applications.)

For information on the National Qualifications, and how they compare with each other and over time, please follow these web links to a summary table from SCQF or a short leaflet for employers from SQA

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/BD6794_CfE_Employers_guide.pdf

[http://www.scqf.org.uk/content/files/Old%20Vs%20New%20\(low%20res\)%20-%20Updated%20July%202013.pdf](http://www.scqf.org.uk/content/files/Old%20Vs%20New%20(low%20res)%20-%20Updated%20July%202013.pdf)

Looking for flexible hours and good rates of pay?

Want to work in West Lothian?

Serious about work?

Why not join West Lothian Council's Casual Bank?

West Lothian Council are looking for people interested in joining their pool of casual staff to cover posts at short notice in areas such as catering, cleaning and school crossing guides throughout the West Lothian area.

If you are interested please apply via myjobscotland.gov.uk
You can access the internet to apply at your local library.
If you require a paper application, please telephone 01506 777538.

A variety of hours and locations at a rate of £7.97 per hour.
Work done will be paid monthly in arrears into your bank account and training is provided.

What do staff say?

"Working on the Casual Bank has allowed me to supplement my income by covering staff shortages whenever I could."

"I started working on casual bank which enabled me to gain experience in the job and enabled me to apply for permanent post when one came up"

"I was made redundant from my previous job and joined West Lothian Council's Casual Bank covering hours within cleaning services. I'd recommend the Casual Bank to anyone serious about finding work within West Lothian."

LOVE WEST LOTHIAN

www.westlothian.gov.uk West Lothian Council

NHS CAREERS - PROMOTING ALL CAREERS IN NHS SCOTLAND



NHS Education for Scotland and Skills Development Scotland have developed the new website which promotes the hundreds of different careers on offer in the country. The Website is now live and can be found at: www.careers.nhs.scot

A short video clip promoting both the NHS Careers Portal and their Job Search Portal can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/159815133>

There are approximately 160,000 people employed by the NHS in Scotland and the message is that it's not just doctors and nurses who are needed to make sure people receive the best healthcare. 144 delegates are expected today at a Murrayfield conference called 'Explore the world of careers in

NHSScotland'. A wide range of professionals with an interest in developing the young workforce are attending to find out about the resources available and to learn how to support the recruitment and employment of young people.

The new website includes:

- job profiles for the wide range of careers available in NHS Scotland
- links to current NHS Scotland vacancies
- a special section for young people including information about Modern Apprenticeships available in NHS Scotland
- information relevant to potential, existing and returning NHS Scotland staff

A key feature of the site is the use of videos of existing NHSScotland staff who talk about how their job makes a difference to patients' lives including:

- Alex, an apprentice joiner in a Board;
- Rachel, a paediatric dietitian – she explains that her job gives her great satisfaction because she knows she makes a difference to the lives of children with cancer;
- Shaun, a respiratory physiologist, who says working for NHSScotland gives him 'opportunities to develop professionally'
- Jennifer, a laundry assistant, who feels her job is important as the hospital where she works cannot function without fresh laundry!

SCHOLAR REVISION AND GRADE IMPROVER



Scholar is a valuable – and free to use – resource which

will help you to consolidate your previous learning, offer you useful revision strategies and allow you to practice assessments.

Your teacher can use the Scholar reporting facility to tailor their future help to you.

Make the most of Scholar by using it as part of your mix of study / revision activities.

Even if you haven't been in the habit of using Scholar for your coursework so far, then make sure that you have a note of your user name and password. You will find Scholar helpful in your revision.

By using your own username (your SCN) and password you will gain access to many of the features in Scholar.

These include the Web pages, Revision planner, Interactive activities, Glossary, and recordings of revision webcasts (for maths, Computing and Modern Languages). Most Scholar courses have .pdf Study guides (electronic copies of the

website text) which you can obtain from your teacher.

You can access Scholar by clicking on the following link: <http://courses.scholar.hw.ac.uk/vle/scholar/> A guide to using Scholar can be found on our [SQA Exams](#) page of the School Website.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS



West Lothian Council have issued information on the Educational Benefits available to Parents and Carers, the way

the Council inform parents and carers of these benefits is changing.

School Clothing Grants & Free School Meals

A text message will be sent to all parents via Group Call making them aware of these benefits and advising them that as from 1st June forms will be sent home with pupils. West Lothian Council will no longer be posting renewal invitations to parents. A form will be handed out to each pupil. If there is more than one child from a family in the school, then the form will be given to the older child.

An electronic copy of the application form will be available at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrants> from 1st June.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

A text message to all parents will be sent via Group Call making them aware that from June forms will be available at the School Office for collection by Pupils. For the 2016/2017 academic year, students born between 1st March 1997 and 28th February 2001 will be able to apply provided their household income is under threshold.

An electronic version of the application form will be available from the Council website at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/ema> from 1st June.

Income thresholds

The eligibility criteria for all of these benefits has not changed, but the Scottish Government may have to address any issue associated with the new Universal Credit, so should the need arise, we may need to issue an update for parents.

Why are we making these changes?

The changes we are making are to alert all parents in support of our Anti-Poverty Strategy, and we would like to be assured that every parent is aware of these benefits.

If you require more details on Educational Benefits, please contact West Lothian Council for further information. Their website is www.westlothian.gov.uk

POKEMON GO, A PARENT'S GUIDE



Pokemon Go is the latest online craze and is extremely popular across the world as it uses "augmented reality" (a cross between real life and an online world).

It does have its advantages, however there are a few risks attached. The NSPCC have created an online guide for Parents with information about the game and how they can keep their children safe. The guide can be found at the following link <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/pokemon-go-parents-guide/>

THINKUKNOW WEBSITE



Thinkuknow is an excellent resource for parents/carers, giving advice and information on a broad range of online safety issues that your child may face as they grow. There is advice on how to deal with many topics from what to do if your child is being groomed online to bullying through social media. There is a range of helpful guides to different aspects of social media including how to set up privacy settings. You can find this information at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

IPAYIMPACT USERGUIDE FOR PARENTS

West Lothian Council have released a Parent's Guide for making online school payments using iPayimpact. The guide contains a detailed description on how to log in and how to use iPayimpact. It also gives details on what to do if you encounter the 'time out' bug in the program.

A copy of the guide can be downloaded from the 'downloads' section of the [Parents](#) page on the school website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October - December 2016

17.10.16 - 21.10.16: October Holiday
24.10.16: In Service Day
26.10.16: P7 Open Evening (6pm - 7.30pm)

1.11.16: S3 Tracking and Monitoring Interviews begin
2.11.16: S1 Additional Support Needs Information Night
16.11.16: Instrumental Music Services Parents Night
16.11.16: S4 Tracking and Monitoring Interviews begin
22.11.16: S4 Parents Night
24.11.16: S1 Information Evening (6-7pm)
28.11.16-2.12.16: Music Practical Prelims
30.11.16: S5/6 Tracking and Monitoring Interviews begin
6.12.16: S1 Tracking and Monitoring Interviews begin
7.12.16-9.12.16: Art Exhibition
7.12.16: S5/6 Parents Evening
16.12.16: Christmas Positive Rewards Trip
19.12.16: Christmas Concert
19.12.16 - 21.12.16 Charities Week
22.12.16 - 3.1.17 Christmas Holidays

OCTOBER HOLIDAY



Whitburn Academy will be on holiday from Monday 17th October until Friday 21st October. Monday 24th October will be an In Service

Day for Staff only, Pupils return on Tuesday 25th October. Have a great Holiday!

