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2017



Whitburn Academy

WHITBURN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER - Spring 2017

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S1 Computing Science class working on Sound and Video Project





Apr
2017

FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our spring newsletter; my first as Head Teacher.

Firstly, as the end of my first term approaches I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff and pupils, all of whom have made me feel so welcome. I am delighted to have been appointed as Head Teacher and I'm very much looking forward to working with all in the school community; pupils, staff, parents and carers, to ensure all of our learners enjoy the best possible learning experience during their time at school.

It has been a very busy and successful term and the contents of this newsletter give a snapshot of some of our achievements as well as an insight in to the hard work and dedication of both our staff and pupils over this last term.

Following on from their prelims in January / February our senior phase pupils have been working extremely hard to prepare for their forthcoming exams. This has meant focussing on unit assessments, assignments, folios, preparing for speaking tests and more. However, the end is now in sight. Hopefully by the end of this week all pupils will meet their deadlines, submissions will be made and pupils, and their teachers alike, can breathe a sigh of relief. Well, for a day or two at least, before focussing on that very final leg - preparing for their written exams in early May. To support our pupils as they make their final preparations we have an extensive Easter School programme running over the two week spring break. It is imperative that, in order to access help and support, pupils sign up for as many classes as possible. It is also important to note that many staff have given up their holiday to run revision classes and so, if a pupil signs up for a class, it is imperative that they attend.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the S6 Charities Committee who have raised well over £3300 this year. As well as supporting local charities West Lothian Foodbank and Jak's Den, they have also made significant donations to Children in Need, Unicef and Macmillan Cancer Care, as well as raising enough funds to purchase a defibrillator for the school and make a further contribution to a second defibrillator to be placed in the community. Well done to all involved.

Finally, I would like to thank all staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment in supporting all of our young people over this last term.

Happy Easter.

Tracey Loudon

Head Teacher,
Whitburn Academy



West Lothian
Council



YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative is an innovative way to financially support local, grassroots charities while engaging young people in a hands-on active citizenship experience.

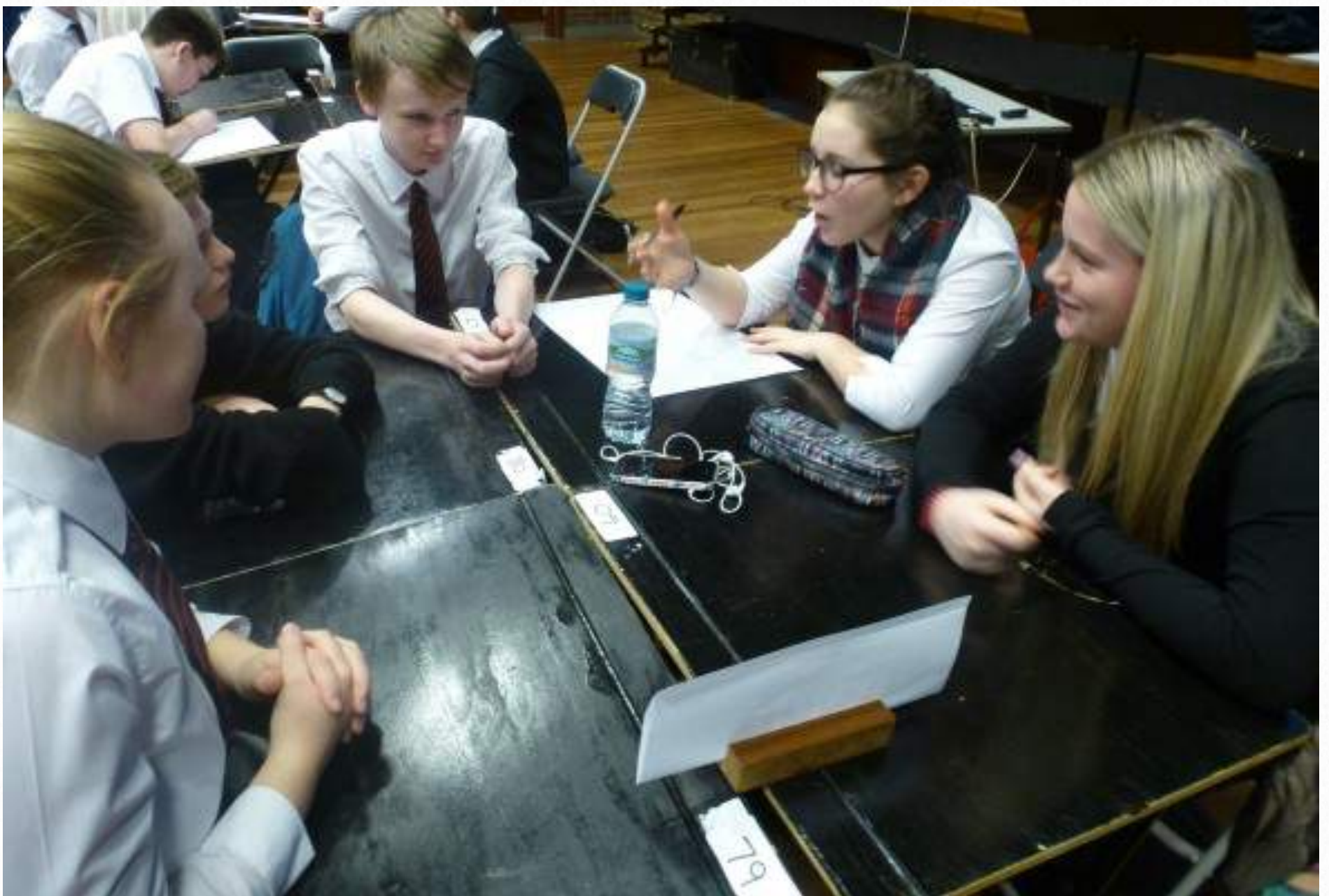
The school has been given the opportunity to take part in this exciting initiative.

On 5th January, all pupils from S3 took part in a launch event.

The pupils will undertake a 12 week programme within their English class, where they will research their then create a presentation about their chosen charity.

A shortlist of around 6 presentations will progress to the final, which will take place on Wednesday 29th March at 6pm. Tickets for the event are available from the School Office and cost £1.

The charity which, the winning presentation at the final is promoting, will receive £3000!!!





HANDBALL WINNERS!

On Thursday 26th January, our handball team made up of 7 S3 Boys won the S3/S4 West Lothian Schools Handball West regional qualifiers.

The team were up against some tough competition yet managed to win all three of their games against St Kent's Linlithgow and Armadale. This means they have qualified to the Regional finals on Thurs 16th February at Deans CHS.

More importantly, the boys showed great sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the whole competition, following the referee's decisions and praising their teammate's when they played well.

It was a really positive experience for them and they were an absolute credit to the school!

We look forward to them representing us in the finals in a few weeks time!

Well done boys!

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On Friday 27th January, eleven S3 pupils attended West Lothian Council's event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day at Howden Park Centre. 27th January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

However, the day is also to remember the subsequent Genocides which have taken place since the Holocaust in Cambodia, Rwanda,

Bosnia and Darfur. This year's theme was 'How can life go on?' and the event included readings about those affected by the Holocaust, the screening of a feature film on a survivor's story and contributions from West Lothian secondary school pupils as they shared their experience of visiting Auschwitz.

The ceremony came to a close with a prayer and pupils were asked to lay a pebble at a memorial tree which is a Jewish tradition to symbolise remembrance.



BUSINESS BRUNCH



On 30th January, seven S3 pupils attended the SCILT Business Brunch in Edinburgh. The event was held to allow pupils to hear from a wide range of dynamic business leaders who view languages as a key skill in today's globalised world.

The pupils had the opportunity to speak with representatives from a variety of businesses and ask questions to discover more about the range of careers and employment opportunities available within each of the sectors present.

This was followed by two interesting presentations allowing the pupils to hear at first hand the important role that languages play in the business community.

TEENAGE CANCER TRUST VISIT

Teenage Cancer Trust were in school during week beginning 6th February to deliver a cancer awareness talk to all S2, S5 and S6 students. This is a valuable talk which gives information, advice and tips about cancer and keeping healthy.

The students were engrossed by the talk and will be given an information leaflet in PSE with lots of appropriate links to answer any of their questions.

This is something we have organised as a school for the past few years as part of our delivery of Health and Wellbeing across the school and it is something we hope to continue to provide in years to come.



Many thanks to Jayne Easton from Teenage Cancer Trust, who delivered the talk.

SI GIRLS BASKETBALL

Our S1 netballers took up the challenge of competing in WL's Schools Sporting Partnership's Girls Basketball Competition on Wednesday 22nd February.



The team played against some tough opposition, including St Kents, Linlithgow, West Calder and Broxburn.

The girls were unlucky in their games but it was an excellent opportunity for the girls to develop their basic ball skills and team work in a different sport. The team are looking forward to their staff v student netball match on Monday 6th March!

Follow our Twitter for more updates on the PE dept - @WhitburnPE

DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE

On 27th February, our S4 pupils took part in a Democracy Challenge.

The aim of the Democracy Challenge is to help young people understand how politics and decision-making impacts on their lives, highlighting the importance of being registered to vote so they can be able to choose to take part in elections.



The pupils enjoyed taking part in the challenge which aimed to help them understand more about the democratic process and how it affects their lives.

Recently, the voting age for the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Local Council Elections was reduced from 18 to 16, meaning a large percentage of the S4 year group will be eligible to vote for the first time in the Local

Council Elections, which are being held on Thursday 4th May.

Registering to vote is easy, all you need to do is register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. If any pupil doesn't have their National Number (NINO), just give the name of your school in the 'Why can't you provide a NINO' box.

The closing date to register for these elections is Monday 17th April 2017.

For more information, visit www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk

The Democracy Challenge was delivered by West Lothian Council's Community Learning and Development Youth Services in partnership with the Electoral Registration Office.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Whitburn Academy asked CLD Youth services to assist pupils in Stress management. This input was requested for S4, S5 and S6 pupils.

The session covers what is stress, how does it affect us and how we manage and cope in real life situations. Out of the 337 pupils who took part in the input most said that it was beneficial and that they learned new ways to cope with stress and that they enjoyed the

engagement during the presentation with practical examples.

The pupils were also given a leaflet to refer to when needed for themselves or when they identify stress in others they have the knowledge to support the individual. A copy of this leaflet can be downloaded from the [SQA Exams page](#) on the School Website.



This input covered health and wellbeing codes and followed our national youth work outcomes; 1. Young people are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future and 5.

Young people consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control. Young people took part in a baseline survey mapping their development within the input and offered post it notes with comments on what you have learned today and what you have enjoyed about the presentation.

The full report can be obtained from CLD Youth Services Schools Practitioners Group team.

POP UP CAFE



On Friday 3rd March, a group of S4 pupils planned, delivered and evaluated a Pop-Up Cafe as part of their Level 5 West Lothian Employability Award. They have been working towards this award every Friday morning during session 2016/17. The course is being delivered in partnership with The Larder catering school.

The pupils made and sold a number of items including stovies, nachos and smoothies. This was the second Pop up Cafe event that the pupils have held during the year and have built on the success of the initial venture held just before Christmas.

Staff and pupils enjoyed the fantastic food and drink made by the group and sold on the day, raising £95.

Well Done to all the Pupils and Staff involved.

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

On Saturday 4th March, Erin and Summer



competed in the Scottish Schools Athletics Association's Annual Cross Country event. Held at Deans Community High School, the girls braved a very foggy and muddy

course. Out of a field of 147 girls in their age category, the girls finished 34th and 72nd place respectively - which is really impressive considering they both took a tumble in the mud whilst navigating the course. An excellent achievement and well done girls for representing our school in such a prestigious event in the Scottish Schools Athletics calendar!

Keep up to date with Whitburn Academy's PE department by following us on Twitter - @WhitburnPE

SI SOUND AND VIDEO PROJECTS

Our SI Computing Science pupils have been working extremely hard since January, creating videos as part of the Sound and Video unit of their course.

Pupils in each of the 9 SI classes were split into groups of between 2 and 5 pupils and each group was allocated a story. The choices were: Room on the Broom, A Squash and a Squeeze, The Gruffalo's Child, The Gruffalo and



Superworm.

Each group then prepared a script for their allocated story and allocated parts to each pupil. Once they had done this, each group went to the Media Room where Mr Hawthorn, the IT/AV Technician recorded each group reading their script on the Radio Station equipment.

The pupils then edited the sound file using Audacity, taking out any mistakes and adding in Sound effects.

Once the sound file was complete, the pupils used Serif Movie-plus to create their video.

The pupils inserted graphics into their video, with some also adding in some animations and then lined them up with the relevant part of the story. They then added in their end credits, giving them a finished video.



More photographs of the pupils working on their projects can be found in our [Image Gallery](#)

WAR MEMORIAL BANNER RESEARCH

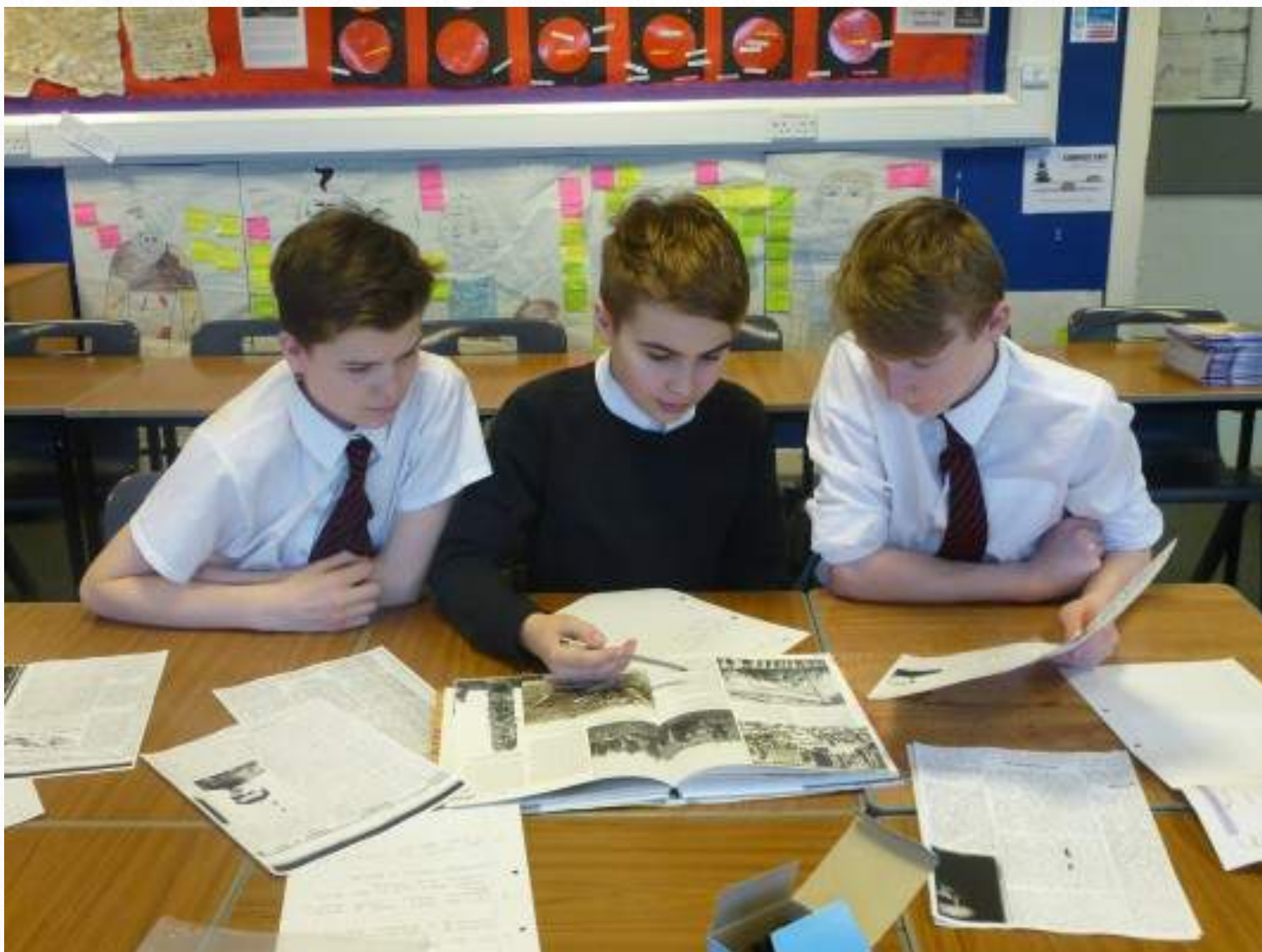
Four S3 pupils, Daniel, Kyle, Ben and Connor, are currently carrying out research for the Whitburn War Memorial project.

The pupils are gathering evidence from 1917 to provide an insight into how the local community and country was impacted by World War One during this year.

Once completed, the information gathered will be incorporated into banners, which will be created for display at Whitburn's War Memorial.

The project has been ongoing since 2014, with banners created to commemorate the centenary of the events taking place on each year of World War One.

The 1917 banners will hopefully be created and displayed within the next few months and will remain on display until early 2018.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On 8th March, Whitburn Academy celebrated International Women's Day.

Staff throughout the school chose a woman (either famous or personal) who had inspired them and created an A4 poster with very brief biography and photograph of the woman they

chose along with the reasons why they chose them.

Pupils then answered some quiz questions, which were based on the posters around the school during Tutor, the following week.

The image attached to this story shows just a small number of the women picked by staff to appear on their posters.

Inspirational Women



George Sand

George Sand (1804-1876), was a French novelist who scandalized the public when she began to wear male clothing. This enabled her to move around Paris freely, giving her access to venues that banned women. She was a political entrepreneur who founded her own newspaper. She wrote many novels in favour of women's equality.

"There is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved"

(Chosen by Mrs Barr)



Margo MacDonald

Margo MacDonald (1943-2014) Teacher, Broadcaster, Politician (at Westminster from 1973-1974 and Holyrood from 1999 - 2014)

"Women are the sustaining force of any society - they think of the children and the next generation's chances!"

"If you have to rely on yourself, you try harder and when you try harder, you feel bigger!"

(Chosen by Mr McNeil)



Anita Roddick

Dame Anita Roddick (1942-2007) British businesswoman, human rights activist and environmental campaigner.

Founder of 'Body Shop' in 1976, the first Global Cosmetics firm not to test on animals and to source direct from growers (long before Fairtrade existed)

"If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito!"

(Chosen by Miss Justice)



Delia Derbyshire

In 1964, Delia Derbyshire (1937-2002) approached Decca records and was told that the company DID NOT employ women in their recording studios. She went to join the BBC where she completed her most famous work - the Doctor Who theme tune.

She was acknowledged by the Guardian newspaper as being 'the unsung heroine of British electronic music'

(Chosen by Mr Robertson)

STAFF V PUPILS NETBALL

Monday 6th March saw our newly formed netball team take on a brand new challenge in an epic Staff V Pupil netball match! There was some exceptional teamwork and determination shown by the students, who did well to compete against some top performance athletes including Miss Haggart, Miss Fowler, Ms McGurk, Ms Hannah, Miss Laing & Mr Stevenson.

An unfortunate injury from Miss Fowler and a few key player changes on the student team at half time saw them dominate in the second half,

resulting in the student team taking the win against the staff with a final score of 7-4.

A big thanks to the netball team and the staff who played and supported us from the sideline, for making the game such a success. Much fun was had by all and I'm sure the staff team will be back in action before the end of the year for an almighty comeback/rematch - so watch this space!

Also, a special shout out goes to Nicole Cowan from West Lothian Wildcats netball club who took time out of her busy schedule to umpire the game.



Interested in netball? Come join the netball club with Miss Laing every week after school on Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm!

Keep up to date with Whitburn Academy's PE department by following us on Twitter - @WhitburnPE

SI AND S2 RUGBY

On 9th March, the S1 and S2 rugby teams played 10 a-side matches against St Kents. They then finished off with a 15v15 game with the teams combined, using the full pitch.

This was the first time that the boys had of playing full pitch and they did extremely well.



Conner was chosen as S1 player of the day, whilst Michael was chosen as the S2 player of the day..

Well Done to all the boys of both teams who took part.

CASH BACK 7'S

On 17th March, our under 13's 7 a side football team took part in the Cash Back 7 a side football tournament that took place at St Augustine High School in Edinburgh. The boys did well to adapt to the wet and windy conditions and played some nice on the deck football.



Unfortunately, in the first game the opposition scored a last second winner, meaning we lost 3-2, the second game resulted in a 2-1 defeat. However the boys rallied well, putting in an excellent performance in the last game and earning a well deserved 5-0 victory.

Well Done to the 10 boys who made up the squad.

BBC MICROBIT



The BBC Micro bit is a 4 x 5 cm microcomputer which can be programmed to perform a number of different functions: from displaying messages on a small built in LED screen to working as a thermometer, a compass or even making and playing tunes!

The school received a large number of Microbits from the BBC last year and in the last few weeks, some pupils from our S1 and S2 Computing Science classes have been programming them.

The pupils have been trying out a number of different experiments with their microbits and have created some interesting projects.

SPRING CONCERT SERIES

A number of pupils represented the school in the Spring Concert Series over the weekend of 11th-12th March. The event consisted of a number of musical concerts over the weekend, showcasing the wide range of talent within West Lothian and the many regional ensembles that pupils can be a part of.

Within the 16 ensembles that took part, we had pupils in 7 of them- the most we've ever had! It was great to watch some of the concerts and our pupils were fantastic!



The following pupils took part:

Junior String Orchestra: Adam, Margaret-Anne, Tori, Mia and Kelan.

Junior Concert Band: Josh, Zack and Liam.

Little Big Band: Lee.

Concert Band: Stephanie, Reece and Matthew.

String Sinfonia: Mia.

Wind Ensemble: Scott.

Brass Band: Scott, Ryan and John.

Well Done to all the pupils involved! Our photograph shows some of the pupils who were involved.

STEM CAREERS HIVE



On 2nd March a group of S2/S3 pupils attended the STEM Careers Hive in Edinburgh. This event showed pupils the vast range of exciting and often unknown opportunities available to those who study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects.

The pupils took the opportunity to speak with representatives from a variety of businesses and ask questions to discover more about the range of careers and employment opportunities available.

The pupils enjoyed taking part in different activities from hacking computers, building an industrial plant with VR Systems to keyhole surgery.

MITSUBISHI PUMP IT UP CHALLENGE

On Thursday 16th March, 2 Engineers came into the school to introduce our S2 pupils to the Pump it Up! Challenge.

The aim for the pupils is to develop and design a use for a heat pump with the exception of a household heating or fridge. As a team they need to produce a short presentation (Pitch) and present it to a panel of judges. Afterwards the judges may ask the team questions about their design.



Pump it Up!



The Chamber
WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The teams are encouraged to be creative, imaginative, innovative, enthusiastic, confident and knowledgeable about your design.

The school final takes place on Friday 21st April and the regional final takes place on Monday 5th June.

SPORTS LEADERS

The Whitburn Academy Sports Leaders have had a busy term delivering activities to primary 5 and 6 pupils in our 7 cluster primary schools.

The 22 Sports Leaders have received specialist training in Handball and Hockey from Scottish Handball and Scottish Hockey respectively and used their newly acquired skills to coach these sports in the schools prior to the respective festivals. At the festivals the sports leaders undertook a variety

of leadership roles including Officiating and Score Keeping.

After the Primary 5 Handball festival a teacher from St John the Baptist Primary school commented that the



festival was well organised and great fun as a direct result of their leadership roles. She also added that the *“Atmosphere was excellent and all of the Whitburn Academy sports leaders were professional, supportive and polite - a credit to their school”*.

Well done to all Sports Leaders.

VINE TRUST FUNDRAISING

Vine Trust School Visit to Peru

Santa runs, cake sales, raffles, Community service, cakes sales, Whitburn Christmas Fayre, school tuck-shop, car boot sale*, and did I mention cake sales already? All of these and more have been used by our S4 to S6 pupils to raise money to take 20 pupils and two staff to Peru in the summer holidays of 2018. These pupils also are committed to raising their own fund raising activities through personal sponsorships.

The staff who are involved have been extremely impressed with the imagination and drive of all our pupils in personal and general fundraising activities and hopefully with this level of commitment we should be able to raise the £2000 required for each person. We are not sure if it will be Arequipa or Lima in Peru, but we do know it will involve assisting in hands-on community projects and at children's homes.

The Vine Trust who run this school expedition mention that they support pupils to “become active global citizens by enabling them to enact and empower significant change in vulnerable communities” (www.vinetrust.org/volunteers/school-expeditions) . Judging by the qualities of

our present expedition pupils, we can expect that they will make a significant change whatever part of Peru they go to in over a year's time!

In the meantime if you know of a pupil who is seeking sponsors to raise money, or even if you are passing a cake-stall to raise general funds – please do consider to support our pupils in this once-in-a-lifetime community adventure.

*We have a car-boot sale, Saturday (am) 6th May at the School car-park (more details to follow).

Our photograph shows the Vine Trust Group raising funds at the Santa Fun Run in Livingston during December 2016.



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT

Unicef works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.



Whitburn Academy

Article 4: You have the right to have your rights made a reality by the Government.

Article 16: You have the right to a private life. For instance, you can keep a diary that other people are not allowed to see.

Article 28: You have the right to education.

Article 19: You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.

Article 31: You have the right to play and relax by doing things like sport and drama.

Article 12: You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.

unicef

1.5 million children in the UK go to a Rights Respecting School and more than 4,000 schools up and down the country are working towards the award, using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as our guide. Schools work on a journey to become fully Rights Respecting. The Award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond.

Whitburn Academy have achieved the Recognition of Commitment Award and are getting ready to be assessed for the Level 1 Award which will take the form of a whole school assessment day involving pupils, staff and members of the local community.

As part of the journey towards Level 1 we have created a school charter which all stakeholders of the school have been invited to contribute towards.

SI NETBALL GROUP WIN

On 24th March, our SI Netball team took part in the West Lothian School Sports Netball Tournament. Some excellent passing moves by the Girls saw them win their 4 games and top their group in the round robin competition: 8-0, 5-2, 6-0 and 7-4!



Lucy was picked as the Coach's player of the day.

Well Done to all the girls who took part in the competition.

WHITBURN ACADEMY'S ARCADE MACHINE

Two years ago, Whitburn Academy's Computing Science and Design Manufacturing and Graphics (DMG) departments embarked on an exciting joint project - to build an Arcade Machine!

To begin with, we had no idea of how to build one or even where to start, however after many hours and days of research, we made up our initial design and a list of all the parts we would need. The first priority was to find a spare PC and monitor to run the games and build the cabinet around. Fortunately the IT

Technicians had a spare PC that they set up for us to use.

Some of the pupils who had taken the Computer Games Development course with Mr Currie and Mrs Woods had already created some games as part of the course. Mr Hawthorn (IT/AV Technician) and some pupils that he had in on Work Experience, worked out how to wire up the controllers and buttons and connected them to the PC. They built a test housing for the controls out of Lego to allow them to be tested. They then worked on finding out how to make the games work with the controllers.

Once we could play the games using the controllers, we made a menu system using the Visual Basic programming language to allow the game player to choose which game they wanted to play. However we quickly found that the only way that we could get the games to launch was to use a mouse to click on a button on screen. After further research and a lot of trial and error, we discovered a way to create a menu system that could be operated from the arcade machine controls using Gamemaker (the program we used to make the games). Once all this was done, the next task was to put the PC into the casing for the arcade machine.

At the same time as the computing side of the arcade machine was taking place, another

group of pupils were helping Mrs Brown in DMG to research and design the cabinet.

They made prototypes from paper so they could get a feel for the dimensions and ergonomics of the cabinet.

Once the measurements were finalised (and with the help of Mrs Brown and Mr Wood(DMG Technician)), the pupils cut the wood, MDF plastic and vinyl that was going to be used to put it all together.

During the activity days prior to the 2016 Summer Holiday, the cabinet was carefully assembled, the PC and monitor were installed and the casing was painted by a group of pupils, with help from Mrs Brown, Mr Currie, Mr Hawthorn and Mr Wood.





Once painted the machine was finished with stickers designed by the pupils and a laser cut sign showing the teamwork between Computing Science and DMG.

The final thing to do was for the pupils (and staff) to vigorously test the finished arcade machine (and beat the high scores set by members of the Senior Leadership Team!)

The arcade machine has made 2 outings to date, at both the P7 and S1 open evenings and has proved very popular with visitors to the school!

When we first started, it was hard to imagine how the project would evolve and we are very pleased with the final results! It goes to prove that anything is possible when you put your mind to it.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the project over the past 2 years.

Mrs Brown, Mr Currie, Mr Hawthorn, Mr Wood and Mrs Woods.

More photographs showing the construction of the arcade, machine through to the completed machine can be found in the Arcade Machine [Image Gallery](#) on the School Website.

WHITBURN ACADEMY FUNDRAISING



Throughout the year, the charity committee which consists of 30 pupils from S1, S5 and S6 has been working hard to organise events such as bake sales, coffee mornings and a bingo night to raise money for a range of charities. This year we decided to support Jak's Den, Children in Need, UNICEF, Macmillan and West Lothian Foodbank with a grand total of £3394.80 raised between ourselves, the S4 and S5 Personal



Development Classes, Non Uniform Days and Help Week activities.

To celebrate the money raised throughout the year, we invited a representative from each of these charities to come along to the school to collect their cheque as well as some teachers and pupils who helped to raise money by playing in the Christmas concert or organising events in their PD classes. We have also been



fundraising to buy a defibrillator for the school and now have enough to go forward with our plans so hopefully you will see it around in the next few months!





Being a part of the Whitburn Academy Charity Committee has been an exciting and very rewarding experience so we urge pupils from all year groups to come along on a Tuesday lunch time in Miss Richmond's room to get involved in some of the fun events we are planning for next year.

The Charity Committee

YPI FINAL

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an innovative way to financially support local, grassroots charities while engaging young people in a hands-on active citizenship experience.

On 5th January, all S3 pupils took part in a launch event that was the start of a 12 week project, that took place within their English class. During this time, the pupils worked in



small groups, researching their chosen charity and creating a presentation. Some of the groups visited their chosen charity to find out first-hand what they do and what any money donated to them would buy.

Semi Finals took place during week beginning 20th March, where one group from each class was chosen to take part in the final.

The final took place on 29th March and it was a super evening with all the young people involved doing themselves proud. Well done!



Four Groups presented on the night.

- Group 1 chose Tippethill Hospital, which is located a mile away from the school.
- Group 2 chose Macmillan Cancer Support
- Group 3 chose S.M.I.L.E Counselling service from Bathgate
- Group 4 chose Jak's Den, who support young people with cancer and other illnesses

The winning group was Raegann, Rachel, Jennifer, Jenna and Kirstie from Team S.M.I.L.E. £3000 has now been donated to their chosen charity.

Many thanks to all who attended and supported the programme and evening.

More photographs from the YPI final can be found on our [Image Gallery](#).



EASTER DOOR CHALLENGE

Over the last week of term, Tutor classes across the school have been decorating their classroom doors for Easter.

Pupils from all year groups along with their Tutor Teachers have been working hard to try and create the best design.

The classes were competing to win an Easter Basket full of goodies and as you can imagine, the competition was hotly contested!

On 30th March, Miss Loudon and Miss Totten went round the school looking at the displays, whilst Mr Hawthorn (IT/AV Technician) took photographs of all the displays before a winner was chosen.



It was a very difficult task picking the winning design, however we did finally pick a winner! Well Done to Miss Maher and the pupils of IW2 for their eggcellent design!

Please visit our [Image Gallery](#) to see some photographs of the decorated doors.

EASTER SCHOOL 2017

Easter School

Monday 3rd April - Friday 7th April

Monday 10th - Thursday 13th April.



Easter School 2017 is being held from 3rd April until 13th April for National 5 and Higher pupils.

The standard times are 10am – noon and 1pm – 3pm. All classes follow these times unless stated otherwise.

Monday 3rd April

Physics Higher: Mr Bulloch

Physics National 5: Mr Steven

Modern Studies National 5/Higher: Mr McNeill

Biology National 5: 10am – noon Mr Begarnie

Biology Higher: 1pm – 3pm Mr Begarnie

Tuesday 4th April

English National 5: Mr McIntosh / Miss Reid

English Higher: Mr Williams / Mrs Gilchrist

PE National 5: Mr Stevenson

Wednesday 5th April

Maths Higher: Miss McGrath / Mrs Stewart

Maths National 5: Mr Scobie / Mrs Rennie

Sociology Higher: Ms Carson

Thursday 6th April

Music National 5: 10am – 12.30pm Miss Murray

Music Higher: 1pm – 3.30pm Miss Murray

PE National 5: Mr Stevenson

PE Higher: Mr McPherson

Maths National 5/Higher: Miss McGrath

Modern Studies National 5/Higher: Mr McNeill

Friday 7th April

History National 5: Miss Mark

History Higher: Miss Steel

HFT Higher: Ms McGurk

Chemistry National 5/Higher: Mr McDermott

Maths National 5/Higher: Mrs Rennie

Monday 10th April

Chemistry Higher: Mr McDermott

Chemistry National 5: Miss Maher

RMPS National 5: Mrs Kelly

English National 5: Mrs Gilchrist

Tuesday 11th April

Graphics National 5/Higher: Miss Miller

Design and Manufacture National 5: Mrs Brown

Media National 5: Miss Sword

Wednesday 12th April

Media Higher: Miss Sword

Art and Design National 5 / Higher: Miss MacKay

Chemistry National 5 / Higher: Mr McDermott

Maths National 5 / Higher: Mr Scobie

Physics National 5: Morning Only Mr Bulloch

Thursday 13th April

Art and Design National 5: Miss Rodger

Photography Higher: Mr Robertson

Pupils must sign in and out of the building at the reception desk at the main entrance. The fire regulations are the same as during the normal school day and you should not re-enter the building until the all clear signal is given.

A copy of this timetable and booklet is available to download from the downloads section of the [SQA Exams](#) page on the school website.

SPRING CLEAN 2017

Whitburn Academy joined forces with Whitdale Primary to help remove litter in Whitburn, last Thursday afternoon (30 March). Thanks to West Lothian's Spring Clean campaign, the pupils were provided with litter-pickers, bags and high-viz bibs by the Environmental Wardens, so that they could make a big difference (as well as a presence!) in collecting litter in the nooks and crannies surrounding West Main Street. Together, this efficient task-group collected three bagfuls of litter in 30 minutes, before returning to school – all in a day's work, for these community spirited pupils!



REGISTER TO VOTE

Did you know that if you are aged 16 or over, you can vote in the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Local Council Elections. However before you can vote, you need to be registered. It is easy to register to vote, all

you have to do is visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and follow the instructions. If you do not have your National Insurance Number (NINO), just give the name of your school in the 'Why can't you provide a NINO' box.

The Scottish Local Council Elections will be held on Thursday 4th May 2017. Closing day to register for these elections is Monday 17th April 2017.

For more information, visit www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk

COMPASS CAFE

The Compass Cafe is a place to come and meet friends, have lunch, chat, do some fun things and discuss faith and life. We also try to organise occasional outings and trips. Compass Cafe is run by the School Chaplaincy team. We meet in room 213 every Tuesday. We would love to see you there.



VINE TRUST EASYFUNDRAISING PAGE

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Whitburn Academy's Vine Trust trip to Peru in 2018?



There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitburnacademyperu/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Vine Trust Peru 2017 - Whitburn Academy will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

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 practise 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 and an Information booklet for Parents can be found on our SQA Exams page of the School Website.



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

JOB AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

WEST LOTHIAN FOODBANK

Would you like to help feed some hungry people who live in West Lothian? Whitburn Academy is now a collection point for the Food Bank which is based in Whitburn. Food Banks rely on the support of local communities. If you would like to contribute to the collections basket you can find it in the House Base. The box will be taken to the Food Bank every Friday afternoon.



Thank you in advance

For more information on the West Lothian Food Bank, please visit <http://westlothian.foodbank.org.uk/>

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Whitburn Academy will be on Holiday from 12.20pm on Friday 31st March until Monday 17th April. Easter School for National 5 and

Higher Pupils will be running during the Holidays.

Details can be found on page 26 of the Newsletter. We will reopen on Tuesday 18th April for Pupils and Staff.

The Head Teacher, Staff and Pupils of Whitburn Academy wish you all a fun, safe and relaxing Easter Holiday,

