



Forrester High School Christmas News Letter



Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter

In this newsletter, we have gathered stories from across the school to provide a flavour of some of the outstanding work being done by students and staff this term. This year, our newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Miss Burnett who died earlier in the year.

Heroes and Villains

Earlier this term our S1 students took part in a “heroes and villains” project. We were delighted to see some fantastic artwork and to read some excellent stories.



The project culminated in the production of a published book and a launch event supported by author, Mary Turner Thomson.

My WOW (World of Work) Ambassadors



After receiving training, our My World of Work Ambassadors (Melisa Nilesen, Eilidh McInnes, Charlotte Tait, Saakshi Thakur, Abbie Willis and Caitlin McLeod) have been supporting S1-S3 classes to engage with *My World of Work*, the careers information website, developed by Skills Development Scotland.

Mentors in Violence Prevention

Thirty two S6 students have now completed 8 weeks of training, to become *Mentors in Violence Prevention*. The training, led by Mrs Forbes and Francine Love, prepared our MVPs to deliver lessons to younger students on how to challenge bullying and homophobia.



YPI (Youth and Philanthropy Initiative)

“The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an active citizenship programme that raises awareness amongst young people about philanthropy and their local community. Each participating school, is responsible for directing a £3000 YPI Grant to a local charity through a unique programme of team work, research and competition.”



Our champions this year were Jack Swan, Zach Mutch, Dillon Walker and Jamie Thomson. The team won, despite some very strong opposition, securing £3000 for Broomhouse One Stop Shop.





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This was a huge success for the school and the charity. The boys are continuing to support their charity by collecting for the food bank here in school during the run-up to Christmas.

S4 work-experience

We received great feedback this year regarding our S4 students on work experience. Employers commented on the excellent engagement of our students who were a credit to Forrester.

Inspirational Talks by Former Students



On Friday 8 December, we invited 4 former students to talk to S3 and S4 about their experiences of moving from school into the world of work.

This was a really positive event and our former students, Keiran, Stephen, Taylar and Jamie, spoke very well and gave some great advice, delivering some very powerful messages.

The key messages were to stick in, not to give up and not to be too influenced by our peers.

S3 NPA Dance Class and Competition

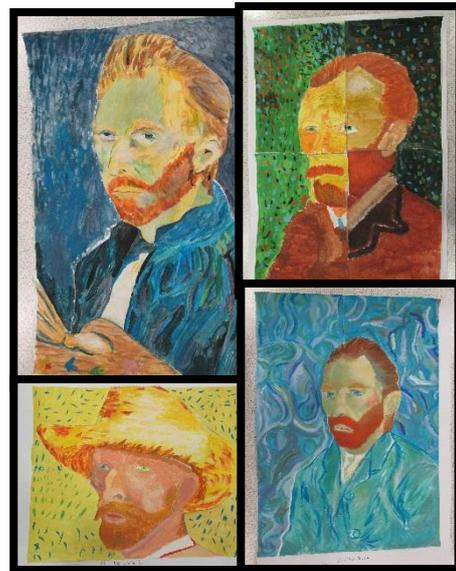
Congratulations to the S3 NPA dance class and Competition team who performed at *Best of the West* dance show.

Our senior dancers will perform a tribute to Miss Burnett at this year's Christmas concert.



Art and Design: Van Gogh Portraits

In S2 Art, students completed self-portraits, researched post impressionism, explored colour theory and colour mixing, before applying these skills to create group work paintings. They painted Van Gogh portraits in Van Gogh style. It was small group work where the teams had to assign roles and delegate responsibilities.



They had to problem solve, communicate and work together to achieve a successful final outcome. They made all the decisions in relation to the development of the piece. The work they produced is amazing. (Story by Miss Griffin)





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Mini Trials

Earlier this term, nine Forrester students participated in the annual mini-trials competition.

The students had to prepare both a prosecution and a defence case, providing lawyers, witnesses and victims. All the students put in an enormous amount of work and they were a credit to the school on the day. A number of the lawyers working with them commented on the preparation and confidence the Forrester team demonstrated.

Congratulations to the following students for the outstanding way they represented the school.

Marc Allan, Leah Morris, Ada Strus, Olivia Blair, Emma Howard, Lee Brondum, Karolina Zawislak, Juma Khan, Sarah Brown

The 'Wee Jaunt' Bike Ride

A team of staff and students took part in "The Wee Jaunt" bike ride in September.



Richard Cutt, Mia Redpath, Aaron Illingworth, Taylor Fairgrieve, Liam MacKay, Ms McIntosh, Ms Sutherland, Mr Gray and Mr Thomas completed a 10 mile ride and everyone did really well.

Next year the team intend to take part in *Pedal for Scotland*, a full 45 miles from Glasgow!

Active Breakfast and Cycle Champions

Earlier in the term, Ms McIntosh and the science team hosted an Active Breakfast for

students who took 'active transport' or cycled to school.

"Breakfast went down a treat with a healthy turn out and a lovely atmosphere! Our young people were so pleasant, cheerful and polite at the breakfast buffet and were very well behaved eating their breakfast."

Our Cycle Champions, Arron Illingworth, Cerise Gander, Katie Findlay and Nadia Lamb attended a Cycle Champions Conference in Stirling on 11th October. Our 4 Champions also met with our Cluster Head Teachers to share their ideas about how we can take cycling forward within the Forrester Cluster.

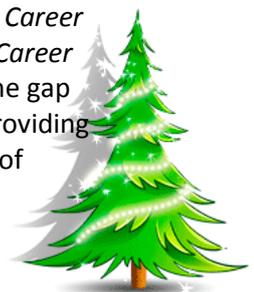
Scottish Widows Work-skills Event



In November, 25 senior students participated in the annual Scottish Widows Work-skills event. This event included a variety of activities, including interview skills, CV writing, fundraising and Dragons Den negotiations. Students also had the opportunity to hear about the importance of team-work and developed an understanding of working with people with different personality styles. The event concluded with a presentation about the apprenticeship opportunities which are offered by Scottish Widows and Lloyds Banking Group.

Career Ready

A group of S5 students took part in the *Career Ready* Launch event earlier this term. *Career Ready* is a programme which bridges the gap between school and employment by providing students with mentors from the world of





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work, a 4 week paid internship, and masterclasses.

Our students (Josh Smith, Sean Placido-Stewart, Jay Whitehead, Iman Javaid, Zuzanna Lebek, Frank McEwan, Lauren Lawson) were a real credit to the school and themselves, and committed fully to all aspects of the day.

Christmas Windows

Robyn Carter's art work was selected for this year's *Christmas Windows*. Her winning picture has now been printed onto large (2m) Perspex and put on display for everyone to enjoy at St Giles on the Royal Mile. Well done, Robyn! (Story by Natalie Griffin)



Edinburgh School Ensembles – 'Fanfare 2017' concert

Ciaran Davidson, Eilidh Carlisle and Agnia Naumova performed in the Edinburgh Schools Classical Guitar Ensemble and Edinburgh Schools Central Choir as part of the Instrumental Music Service 'Fanfare 2017' concert on Friday 24 November.

Edinburgh School Ensembles – 'Childline 2017' concert

Lewis Ferguson (S5) performed in the highly selective Edinburgh Schools Rock Ensemble as part of the Instrumental Music Service 'Childline 2017' concert on Friday 1 December.

Young Ambassadors

Two of our Youth Ambassadors, Arron Illingworth and Jamie Solway, represented the school on a residential weekend at Lagganlia in November.

Dress-up Day for Simpsons Special Care Babies (Charity Committee)

Many thanks to everyone who supported the S6 Charity Committee in raising funds for Simpsons Special Care Babies. We raised an amazing £460.



The Charity Committee also raised an incredible £600 through a 'dress-down' day earlier in the term. The committee used the proceeds to commission a memorial bench for Miss Burnett.

RUTS Boxing Training

This term, a group of S3 students have been working with a team from RUTS to develop their fitness, confidence and self-discipline through boxing training.



Some Individual Successes

Grace Mitchell 3T1 was selected to play in the u15 Scottish schools girls' football squad.

Congratulations to **Josh Mullen** who came 2nd in the Scottish Novices School Boys Section for Boxing.

Congratulations to **Sarah Brown** who performed as part of the Edinburgh Chamber Choir at this year's Children in Need concert live from Paisley Abbey. Sarah has also been chosen as Young Ambassador for Children & Young People's Commissioner of Scotland.

Paige McPhee and **Aaron Ross** attended an event in September at Edinburgh Young Carers where they met First Minister, Nicola





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Sturgeon. Paige was interviewed by STV regarding her caring role and spoke with Nicola Sturgeon. They both did a fantastic job and we are very proud of their efforts.

Congratulations to **Mia Donaldson** and her netball team who are through to the Scottish Cup Finals after winning their semi-final against Perth.

Congratulations to **Cerise Gander** who recently won the Kirsty Smith football league with Spartans U15s.

Congratulations to **Kieran Millar** on being selected for the Edinburgh Schools under 15 football team. Kieran is also now playing with St Johnstone.

Erasmus – European Quality Label

Our school has been congratulated by the British Council on being awarded the *European Quality Label* for the excellence Ms Stevenson’s eTwinning project, "OUR LIVES IN 20 YEARS". This means that the work of the school has been recognised at the highest European level.



As a result we have received a certificate which we are entitled to attach to the school website and to display in a prominent position in the school.

The project, led by Ms Stevenson, is also to be displayed in a special area on the European Portal at www.etwinning.net.

Senior Citizens’ Christmas Coffee Morning

Our outstanding S6 students organised and ran a very successful senior citizens coffee morning last week. This event has become a



wonderful Forrester High School tradition which is heading towards its 30th year.

Our S6 stepped up to the plate, quite literally, serving our guests and making sure they were kept thoroughly entertained. As well as a sing-song around the piano and ceilidh dancing, there were performances from musicians, our junior dancers and a whole lot more.

Our staff also got involved and our senior citizen community had a wonderful time. I have received many messages asking me to pass on thanks to staff and students.

E-praise – Christmas Movie Morning

E-praise points are awarded to students for their behaviour, effort and attitude in lessons. This year, Mrs MacPhie was delighted to take the highest scoring students from S1, 2 and 3 out for a *Christmas Movie Morning* at the Odeon Cinema at the Westside Plaza. Fifty of our top students enjoyed their own private screening of “Daddy’s Home 2”





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Anna's Garden

Students have been working to produce designs for a memorial garden dedicated to Anna Burnett. The garden will be built on the Art Balcony area and will provide a space to remember Miss Burnett, as well as an outdoor learning area for Art Students.

The centre piece of the garden will be a memorial bench, hand-crafted by local artist, Tommy Steele.



The winning designs are currently being carefully selected and we look forward to the garden taking shape in the New Year.

Christmas Concert 2017 Wednesday 20th December

As I write, we are looking forward to another highly successful Christmas Concert on Wednesday 20th December. The



concert will feature ensembles and soloists from Forrester High School and from our Cluster Primaries. I look forward to hearing our fantastic musicians and to meeting many of you on Wednesday night.

Christmas Cake Competition

Parents, students and staff are being given the chance to win a Christmas cake, created by Mrs Alexander.

Tickets (£1) will be on-sale in the Social Area and HE department this week – Monday to Wednesday. The winner will be drawn on Thursday.

All funds will go towards Miss Burnett's Memorial Garden.



And finally ...

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I should also remind you that term ends at 12:00 noon on Friday 22nd December and that the new term begins for all students on Tuesday January 9th.

Best wishes.

Stephen Rafferty

Head Teacher

