



Forrester High Summer News Letter

In this **Summer Newsletter** we have gathered some of the highlights of what has been a great year in the life of the school.

There have been many fantastic achievements, since this time last year when Forrester stole the show at the Kings Theatre with an outstanding performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Shakespeare Shake-down.

This year's Summer Newsletter is dedicated to Isobel Ramsay who retires today after 38 years of outstanding service in the music department at Forrester High School. Isobel has led Duke of Edinburgh here since 1992 and has supported hundreds of young people to complete their Bronze and Silver Awards.

School Ethos and Values

This session we have been working with students, parents and staff to develop and update our school vision, aims and values. A new values statement has been agreed.

Together we ...

Respect – Believe – Achieve

Celebrating Success

It has been great to celebrate, with students and families, all the achievements and successes of the year. Earlier in the month we held two very successful Celebration Evenings and this week, we enjoyed achievement assemblies for all students.



We have seen some incredible individual successes, such as Cerise Gander playing a central role in winning the league for Spartans football team, Brandon Douglas being selected to represent Scotland in the U15's boxing squad, Grace Mitchell being selected for the U15's Scotland women's football squad, Cameron Fraser representing Scotland

(again) in the U18 touch rugby squad and Logan Scott winning a host of medals in Karate.

Recent Individual Success

Congratulations to Alexander Thiboutot and rowing partner Olly (Senior Double Yole champions) and to Kieran Gilhooly (Senior Open Boys' champion) who will all represent Northern Area at the National regatta in London in September.



Congratulations also to Lauren Bevis who did amazingly, taking third place, last Saturday at the Royal Highland Show.



We have also seen many achievements through teams and class work. For example, our YPI winners who secured £3000 for and raised awareness of *Broomhouse One Stop Shop*. Also, who can forget the fabulous work by our S1 during the Heroes and Villains project earlier in the year.

Leadership

Our outgoing S6 trained to become Mentors in Violence Prevention and worked with younger students in classes and across the school. This year's young ambassadors were short-listed in three categories at the City-Wide award ceremony.



Forrester High Summer News Letter

A group of senior students trained in MyWOW (My World of Work) and supported younger students to access careers information.

Our S4 (new S5) were commended for the way they conducted themselves during work experience week in December.

Earlier in the year, it was great to see the fantastic Van Gogh Portraits designed by our old S2 (new S3) and we were proud to have a winning piece of artwork for the Christmas Windows.

We are also proud of the work the Art Department have been doing to support mental health awareness. This has culminated in the amazing stained glass feature at the front of the school.



There has been the Wee Jaunt Bike Ride, our Forrester students taking part in Edinburgh school ensembles, and a whole host of charity support work, such as supporting our new memorial garden for Miss Burnett, raising funds for Kira Noble (a student at Firrhill High School) Sport Relief, the Poppy Scotland appeal and Remembrance Sunday.

Recognition for the School

It has also been great to see the school gain national recognition through the Digital Schools award and international recognition through our E-twinning Erasmus project.

Trips and Excursions

There have been many opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom. These included a Christmas cinema trip,

teambuilding at Bonaly, an HE trip to the Royal Highland Show and many other subject related excursions.

Further afield, we have had the New York trip, the London Dance Trip to *Pineapple Studios*, a Football trip to Barcelona, and (just back) the London/Paris Art Trip.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme

Last week, 8 students successfully completed the expedition section for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Contributing to the Community

Earlier in the year, some of our students were recognised by the Scottish Government for their engagement with one of our local charities, Broomhouse Young Carers. Our outgoing S6 hosted an incredible Christmas Coffee Morning for our senior citizens. This is very much a Forrester High School tradition which is soon to enter its 30th year...no pressure on this year's S6.



Forrester High Summer News Letter

Celebrating Diversity

At Forrester we strive to develop an inclusive culture where everyone feels welcome and where difference is respected and celebrated. Led by our LGBTi allies group, our school came together in February to celebrate *Purple Friday*.

This year's dance show, in February, was a huge success with some breath-taking performances. It is no surprise that both nights were sold out.

At the start of May, we enjoyed a Leavers' Ceilidh with our outgoing S6 and their families. This was a first for the school and will hopefully become a tradition for years to come.

Our annual sports day was fiercely contested this year and eventually won by Burns House.

Here at Forrester there is an incredible amount of sporting talent. We have horse riders, bowlers, sailors, rugby players, karate champions, future football stars in both the men and women's game as well as boxing superstars in the making.

Our S1 and S3 football teams have been great ambassadors for the school this year and our dancers have shown outstanding dedication in developing their skills and running workshops for younger students.

A fantastic team of S1 students (Niamh, Emma, Sara, Katie, Chloe, Amber and Erin) reached the Scottish National Rocket Cars final at the end of May. Although they did not win first prize, they represented the school incredibly well and did much to enhance our reputation. We also had a team of S3 pupils who made it through to the final of the Marty the Robot Competition which was hosted here at Forrester. Although the team did not win overall, they did secure 2 extra Robots for the school.

Pupil Equity Funding

At the turn of the year, the appointment of Sarah Ross, as Pupil Support Officer, improved our ability to support young people and their families. Sarah is working hard to ensure that all our young people are ready and able to achieve their potential in school.

Through a partnership with *Magic Breakfast* Sarah has started a **Breakfast Club** which provides breakfast free every day for all students (who can get in to school before 8:20am).

This year we launched the **Forrester High School App** and an online **Parent Evening Booking System** to improve our communication with home. We are currently investigating "*Show My Homework*" an app designed to keep students and parents informed about homework.

This year we ran an Easter School to support senior students preparing for exams. It was great to see so many students attending with such focus.

Partnerships

We are developing a number of new Business Partnerships such as Lloyds Banking Group who are providing opportunities and challenging, *real life* contexts for our learners.



Senior students have also recently been put through their paces through *Building my Skills* mock interviews organised by our fantastic Pupil Support Team.



Forrester High Summer News Letter

Beads of Courage

Recently, a group of S3 pupils made 36 *Beads of Courage* bags in HE.

The *Wednesday Night Team* at *Radio Lollipop* presented these bags to the Oncology nursing staff at ward 2 of the Sick Children's Hospital. The nurses were overwhelmed, and really appreciated the support of our students and staff and their commitment to this project.



And finally ...

I would like to thank Isobel Ramsay for her incredible 38 years of service to the school. I know you will join me in wishing her a long, active and very happy retirement.

I would also like to thank parents, students and staff for all their support over the year. I hope everyone has a great summer and that the weather holds until our return (and beyond).

I should remind you that term ends at 12:00 noon on Friday 29th June. The new term begins for all students on Wednesday 15th August.

Best wishes.

Stephen Rafferty

Head Teacher

Young Ambassadors

Congratulations to our new team of sports ambassadors, Jack Swan, Kieran Millar, Mia Donaldson, Bethany Watters and Ben Smith.

Student Senior Team

Earlier this week our new *Student Senior Team* was elected by staff and students. Congratulations to Sarah Brown, Marc Allan, Callum Scott, Leah Aitken and Katie Finlay. I am looking forward to working closely with them and with the rest of our S6 who are an outstanding group of young people.

