



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Summer Newsletter 2024

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A Message from the Headteacher

The break has arrived after a long and busy term! Our fingers are crossed that hard work has paid off for those awaiting exam results. Our incoming S1 pupils enjoyed their Induction Days supported by their S6 Buddies, sports days and the annual Awards Evening have been held, there have been trips out of school and our ears are still ringing from the sound of 'Greased Lightning' – but it is now time for some restful 'Summer Nights'.

For some staff it is not only the end of term but the end of an era. Mrs Willson from the English department is retiring after 24 years in the school and after an amazing 25 years in our school Office Mrs Henderson is also retiring. We are extremely grateful to them both for their long and excellent service to the school community over such a long time. Also leaving at the end of term are teachers Ms Morrison, Mr Dorrans and Mrs Thorburn, Learning Assistant Mrs MacKellar and Ms McGuire one of our Careers Officers who is going on maternity leave. We wish them all well in their new roles and adventures.

Last week we were delighted to welcome Bishop Frank Dougan, to the school to meet with staff and pupils. We wish him well in his new role leading the Diocese of Galloway and look forward to him returning next year as we celebrate 150 years of St. Joseph's College in Dumfries.

In the meantime, I wish you and your families well as the holiday begins. Hopefully we will see some summer sun soon!

Mrs. Jones

SQA Results

Sign up to MySQA by **5pm** on **Wednesday, 17 July** to receive your SQA exam results by text or email. Note, SQA certificate will still be sent by post.

www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41324.html

Information about the SQA Appeals Service 2024 can be found here:

www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html

This year, the envelope containing results will also include the 'Your Results' booklet, designed to help guide young people through the next steps. A digital copy of the booklet can be found here:

www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Your-Results-2024.pdf



Please see the last page of this newsletter for Key Dates for Session 2024/25

Primary 7 Transition Days



One hundred and forty-one Primary Seven pupils joined us on the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first of June for their transition days. Twenty-one different primary schools are represented in our new cohort, who will start at St Joseph's College after the holidays. This year, we had over forty Sixth Year pupils acting as guides, buddies, and helpers for the transition days. The Local Authority provided all Primary Seven pupils with free school lunches during the transition days, giving them a chance to sample our canteen food. Feedback from the days was very positive, and we look forward to welcoming the children in August.



Laudato Si Challenge



One of the S2 RE classes in the 2023/24 session embraced the Laudato Si challenge this year. They created videos and leaflets, and put their learning into action by becoming our Litter Picking Community Champions. Every month, pupils have been out litter picking around the school community, demonstrating their commitment to the Care of Creation Laudato Si goal.

If you want to learn more about Laudato Si, visit www.laudatosi.org/laudato-si/

Marist Leadership

On June 19, 2024, the Year 1 and Year 2 Marist Leaders undertook a memorial walk in honour of a former pupil of St. Joseph's College, John Aitken, who sadly passed away from blood cancer in 2014. Following John's death, his family established the JMA Trust. This year, the charity's theme is "1 in a Million." To mark 10 years since his passing, the Marist Leaders from St. Joseph's College and their fellow Marist Leaders at St. Mungo's Academy in Glasgow joined forces to walk 1 million steps together.

Pupils completed most of the miles independently in Dumfries and Glasgow. However, on what would have been John's birthday, the Marist Leaders from both schools came together to complete the final miles as one. The groups walked from Buchanan Street Bus Station to the University of Glasgow, where John graduated with a first-class honours degree in Maths and Statistics. Through this walk, pupils reflected on John's learning journey from St. Joseph's to his university days, embodying the Marist value of Family Spirit—an important principle for both Marcellin Champagnat and John.



Celebrating Our Marist Heritage

On June 6th, we celebrated St Marcellin Champagnat Day with a beautiful Mass. This special occasion included pupil and staff representatives from the other three Catholic secondary schools in the Diocese of Galloway, Fr Jim Hayes, Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Fr Gerald Donnelly, our Junior Vinnies, SCIAF Leaders, Marist Leaders, S6 students, and some of our very talented musicians.

S2 pupils were introduced to the story of Marcellin and his remarkable ability to turn life's challenges into an inclusive and rich international education system. S3 examined the power of stories to shape our lives, while S4 focused on Presence and Family Spirit. S5 explored the need for an international perspective and how our school values align with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Finally, S6 students began their Caritas Award journey by putting values into action.

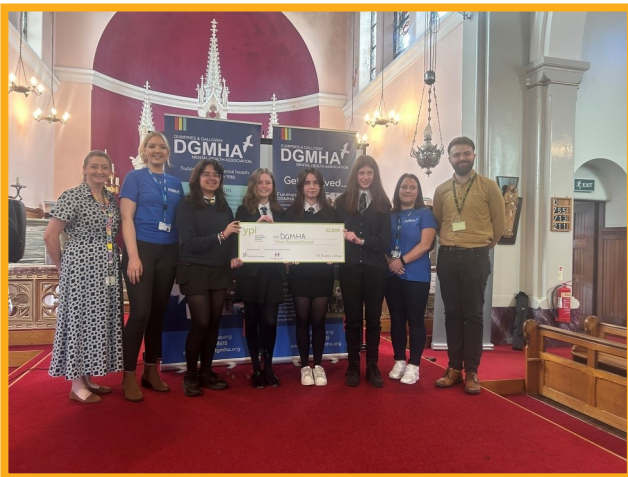


Caritas Award



Introduced in 2011 as part of the legacy of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the UK in September 2010, the Caritas Award encourages young people to use their faith learning as a foundation for further reflection, leading to actions that demonstrate their faith witness. At St. Joseph's College, S6 pupils have been supported in developing their gifts to witness to God's love ("Caritas") in our community. This year, a group of nine students attended the National Awards Ceremony at the SEC Armadillo in Glasgow, representing the thirty-seven St Joseph's College students who achieved their award through their dedication to supporting the school and the wider faith community of the school.

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative



This term has been a true celebration of learning for S3. Eight teams presented their final arguments to the S2 year group advocating for their chosen charities before the judges. This project has been very successful this year, with over forty-two different charities represented, raising awareness of social issues within our local communities and highlighting ways to tackle these problems. Our winning charity was the Dumfries and Galloway Mental Health Association (DGMHA), and the victorious team comprised Mya Ward, Emily Dobie, Zainab Naqvi, Sarah Pardoe and Alexandra Burns.



Since winning, the pupils have attended the opening of the new DGMHA premises and continue to collaborate with the charity on plans for making good use of the £3000 award. On the 12 of June, the group attended the National YPI Showcase in Perth. They were greatly inspired by the event and the positive work YPI and the Wood Foundation promote across Scotland. This project has been a great example of our school value, In the Way of Mary, which emphasises the importance of supporting each other.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This year, twenty of our S3 pupils have been working hard to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Award at the Bronze level, overseen and supported by our dedicated volunteer staff team. We are very proud of all their achievements.

As part of the award, pupils work hard to complete volunteering, physical, and skill sections. Once again, our pupils have impressed us with the breadth of activities they have been involved in this year. Physical activities ranged from team sports such as netball and football to individual activities like running, swimming, and cycling. Pupils have been enhancing their skills by learning about needlecraft, music, art, and first aid. Many of our pupils have also provided support to the school and local charities and organisations by volunteering their time through clubs like Brownies and Cubs, helping at events like Parkrun, and serving within our school to coordinate and organise the breakfast club. They truly are an amazing group of young people.

After many training sessions and some single-day walks, most of our pupils embarked on their qualifying expedition at the end of May in the Dalbeattie area. Each pupil faced and overcame their own challenges, whether physical, mental, or social, and all completed the expedition successfully. There were many great stories to tell and even a music video that went a little bit viral on Facebook.

Special mention must go to Emily Dobie, Manus Muniraju, Finlay Crooks, Shona-Mae Hassler, Islay Magee, and Nieve Houton, who managed to complete all the sections of their award, including the expedition, within ten months. They will receive their awards at the Award Celebration this year, along with many of our older pupils who have been finishing off various components of their Physical, Skill, and Volunteering sections.

We have also been enrolling next year's DofE participants, ready for their DofE journey. We look forward to another year of challenging limits and exciting adventures. Thanks, as always, go to our volunteer staff team and the many staff, parents, and organisations that offer opportunities for our young people and support them as they complete the award.



Show Jumping Success



Both Madelaine and Eleanor Archibald have been diligently working with their horses and ponies, competing regularly throughout Scotland and the UK.

Madelaine competes nationwide with British Show Jumping, frequently traveling to participate in senior National level events. She has already qualified for this year's Royal Highland Show and will be vying for qualification in national finals throughout the summer.

Eleanor has also been actively competing in junior British Show Jumping events across the UK. She has been participating in qualifiers for the Royal International at Hickstead, the Royal Highland Show, and recently earned her 'golden' ticket to the Horse of the Year Show in the Pony Show Jumper of the Year Final.

Congratulations Madelaine and Eleanor and very best wishes for the rest of the year.

Highland Show

The Home Economics department ran a very successful trip to the Highland Show. Our pupils enjoyed the range of Scottish foods available for them to taste and try free of charge! The pupils made and cooked delicious Lamb Burgers for lunch. It's fair to say that no one went hungry on the trip!



S3 MasterChef



Earlier this term, S3 pupils battled it out in the Masterchef final in Home Economics. The close-run final was judged by Mrs. Reilly and local chef Arran Seymour, owner of the soon-to-be-opened Dumfries restaurant Pan to Plate. All finalists produced delicious dishes for the judges, and after much deliberation, the 2024 Masterchef winners were announced. Alexandra Burns and Ella Burgess lifted the coveted trophy with their Cajun Chicken main course and Chocolate Fondants desert.

Football

Earlier this term, the Senior Football Team ended their season with an impressive 5-0 victory against Wallace Hall Academy, winning the JH Lorraine Cup. Well done to all players involved this season. The boys have represented the school, their families, and the community exceptionally well. It has been a fantastic year with memories that will last a lifetime.



Kickboxing

Recently, Lucas Astley of S6 excelled against international competition to win silver at the World Kickboxing Association World Championships in Ravenscraig .



Swimming

On the 5th of June 2024, our talented swimmers participated in the Scottish Schools Swimming Association "Team Championships" at the DG One leisure complex. Pupils from both the junior and senior schools competed fiercely against tough competition from schools across Scotland. Defending their home pool, our local swimmers rose to the challenge and were undeterred by the formidable task ahead.

The poolside was warm, and the competition between the relay teams was even hotter. However, as always, our swimmers brought their personal best to the event and succeeded in winning silver medals in all but one race. Although the swim season is over for this academic session, there are plenty of opportunities in the next academic year for our swimmers to showcase their talent and fierce competitiveness to the rest of Scotland.

Miss McCaughey would like to extend a special thanks to the swimmers for their hard work and dedication (and the very early rises for EVERY event). She is looking forward to another year of medal-winning with you all!



Lauren Dunlop, Eedih Laidlaw, Amber Hinton and Teyah Laidlaw



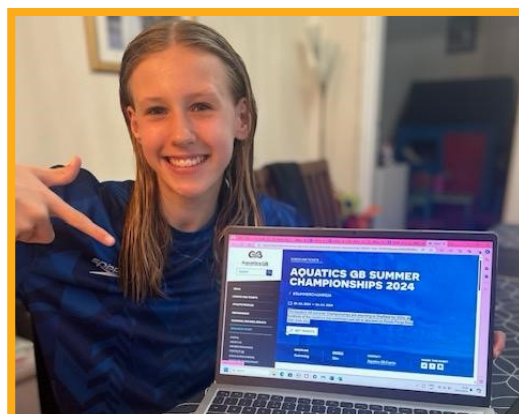
Ben Gray, Nathan Zaoral, Struan Henry and Yassin Hatab



Oliver Henderson, Ali Hatab, Rhys Edwards and Finlay Hiddleston



The smile says it all ! A very happy Amber Hinton of S2 has qualified for seven individual events at the summer British Swimming Championship . In addition she will swim with her Dumfries ASC team mates in the 4x 100m Freestyle relay. What a great achievement for Amber and the club. Good luck!



Netball

In May, thirty-three girls represented St Joseph's College at the regional netball festival. The festival saw a record participation of twenty-two teams from across the region. Congratulations to Nieve Houton, Lucy Scade, Autumn Hodgins, and Kianna Robison, who were voted players of the tournament. Despite the hot temperatures, a very high standard of netball was played throughout the day, and all four of our teams placed. The results are as follows:

- **A Team** – second in the Shield
- **B Team** – second in the Plate
- **C Team** – first in the Plate
- **D Team** – second in the Bowl

Well done to all our players!



A Team



B Team



C Team



D Team

Sports Day 2024

On Tuesday, 21 May, we held our annual sports day at The David Keswick Centre. Over two-hundred S1-3 pupils participated in the event. The weather was kind to us, providing favourable conditions for competition. Well done to all involved! The results were as follows:

S1 Boys Sports Champion: Moaz Elsagheir
2nd Overall (equal): Saul Crosbie, Reuben McCloskey

S1 Girls Sports Champion: Katie Ramsay
2nd Overall: Nada Samer-Ramadan
3rd Overall (equal): Eliza McCourtie, Kiana Robson, Alice Murphy

S2 Boys Sports Champion: Kieran Carson
2nd Overall: Harry Henderson
3rd Overall: Joe Burnie

S2 Girls Sports Champion: Macey Byers
2nd Overall: Autumn Hodgins
3rd Overall: Kyla Shortt

S3 Boys Sports Champion: Finlay Hiddleston
2nd Overall: Nathan Lyagoba
3rd Overall: Reuben Barr

S3 Girls Sports Champion: Islay Magee
2nd Overall: Dami Fashola
3rd Overall: Eilidh Ramsay

Regional Athletics Championships

Further to our own sports day, the Regional Athletics Championships were held on 11th June, also at The David Keswick Centre. We took a formidable squad of 50 athletes to this event. Notable performances included:

Moaz Elsagheir: 2nd 800m and 3rd 100m
Katie Ramsay: 3rd Long Jump
Nada Samer-Ramadan: 3rd 800m
Eliza McCourtie: Champion 400m
Macey Byers: 2nd 100m and 2nd 4x100m relay
Autumn Hodgins: 2nd 4x100m relay
Kyla Shortt: 2nd 4x100m relay
Olivia Ross: Champion High Jump and 2nd 4x100m relay
Amber Hinton: 2nd 800m
Ali Hatab: 3rd 800m
Ryan Ramsay: 3rd High Jump
Islay Magee: 2nd Long Jump, 3rd 400m and 4x100m relay
Dami Fashola: 3rd 100m and 4x100m relay
Eilidh Ramsay: 3rd 4x100m relay
Eleanor Archibald: 3rd 4x100m relay
Sarah McQuire: Champion 800m
Eve Crombie: Champion 400m and 3rd Long Jump
Samuel Lyagoba: 3rd 100m, 3rd High Jump, 3rd 100m and 3rd 4x100m relay
Todd Roach: 3rd 4x100m relay
Oliver Henderson: 3rd 4x100m relay
Euan Sharp: 3rd 4x100m relay



Eliza McCourtie — 100m



Kieran Carson, Harvey Little and James Wylie



Katie Ramsay. Kianna Robison and Alice Murphy



Ryan Ramsay— Long Jump



Grant Kerr, Connal Smith and Mustapha Hamou



Dami Fashola, Islay Magee and Madeline Vettors



Kyla Shortt, Macey Byers and Aurumn Hodgins



Jamie Brown, Moaz Elsagheir and Johnpaul Ugwu



Jackson Sloan, Koen Burton and Kieran Carson



Nada Samer Ramadan, Katie Ramsay and Ellie Jones

Online Climate Change Event

The 1.5 Max event connected schools from Scotland, Malawi, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Pupils shared information about their schools, local industries, political histories, and cultures. The objective was to discuss local issues related to Climate Change. Pupils in Malawi highlighted how climate change negatively impacts their education, with flooding, drought, poverty, and plastic waste disposal being significant issues.

Hearing directly from local people, teachers, and pupils provided deep insights. The groups shared design ideas and potential solutions to improve their environments. Links between schools have been established, and St Joseph's College Eco-Committee looks forward to revisiting these discussions in November.

At St Joseph's College, we are committed to improving our school grounds, promoting biodiversity conservation, and addressing litter and waste issues. We are grateful for the support of Mark Jardine from the People's Project, who has kindly loaned us litter-picking equipment. Net session pupils will continue to take action to improve our natural environment.

Ms. Benson – Climate Champion, St Joseph's College, Dumfries



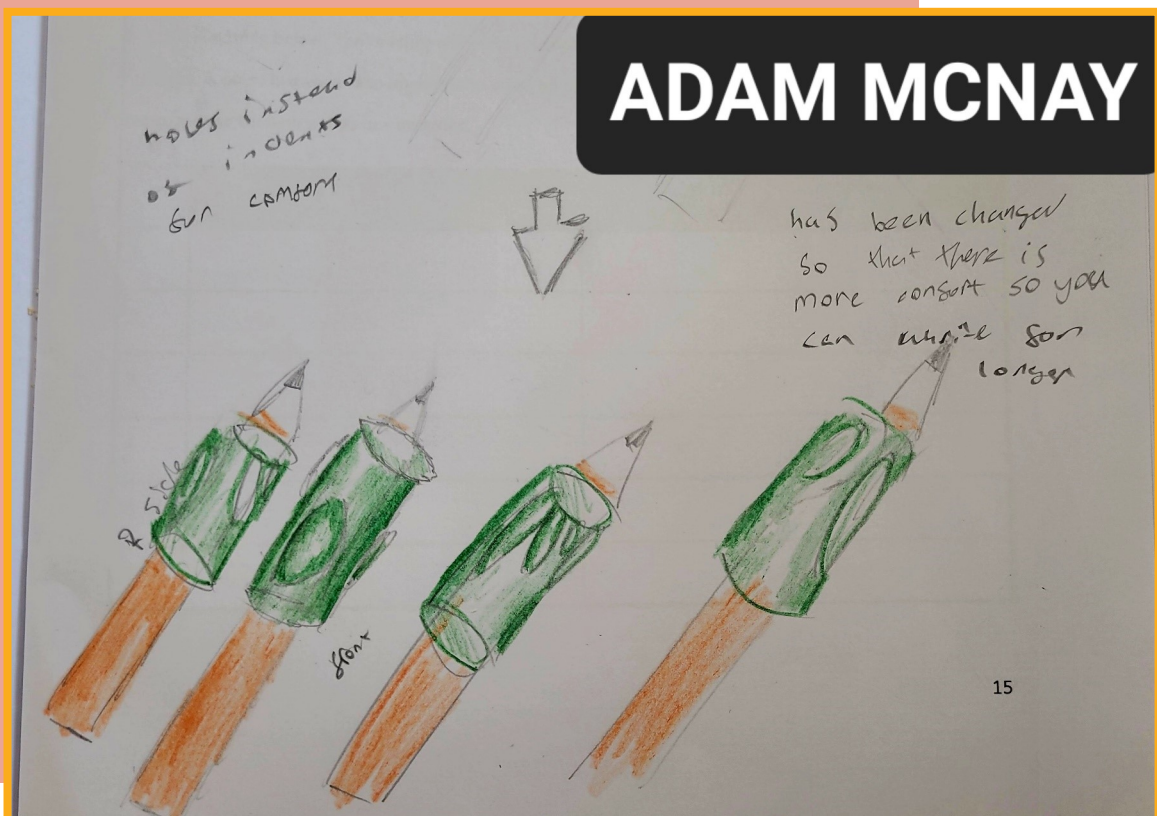
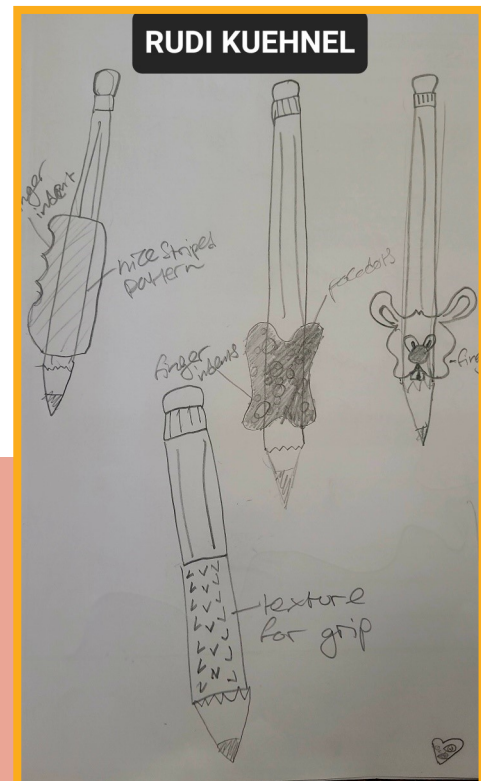
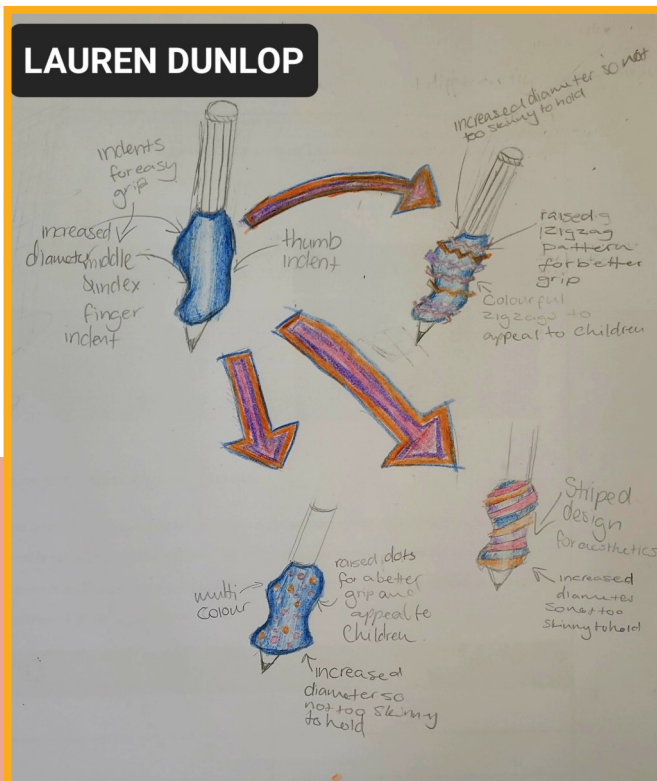
Pupils busy working on their presentation.

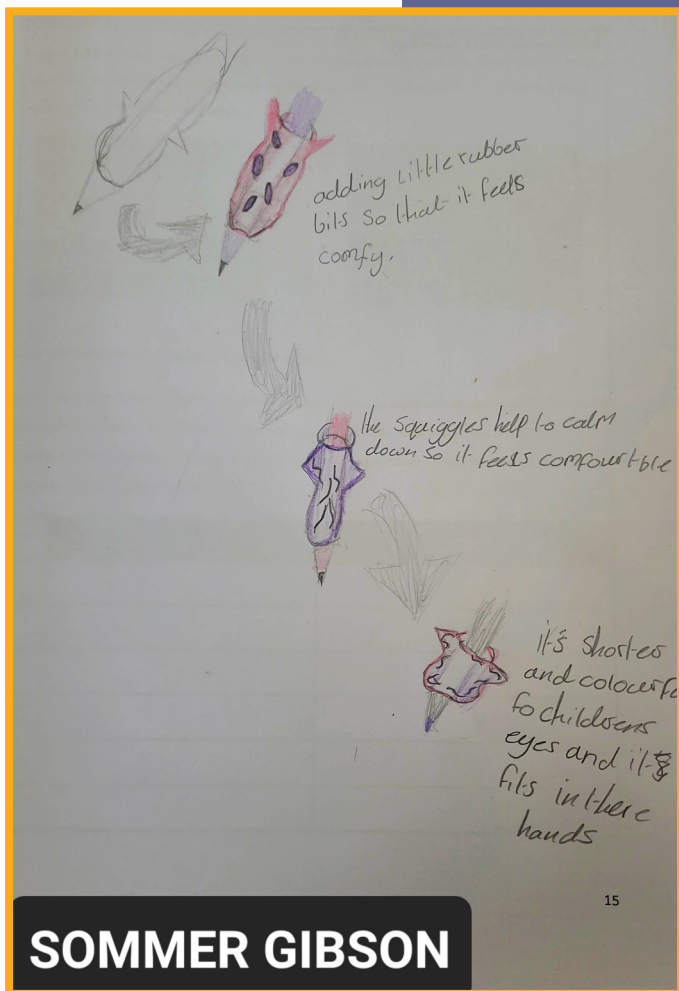
S3 Design & Manufacture

Mrs. Black's new S3 Design and Manufacture class has been developing their design skills. Recently, they explored the design factors 'ergonomics' and 'aesthetics' and how these influence product design.

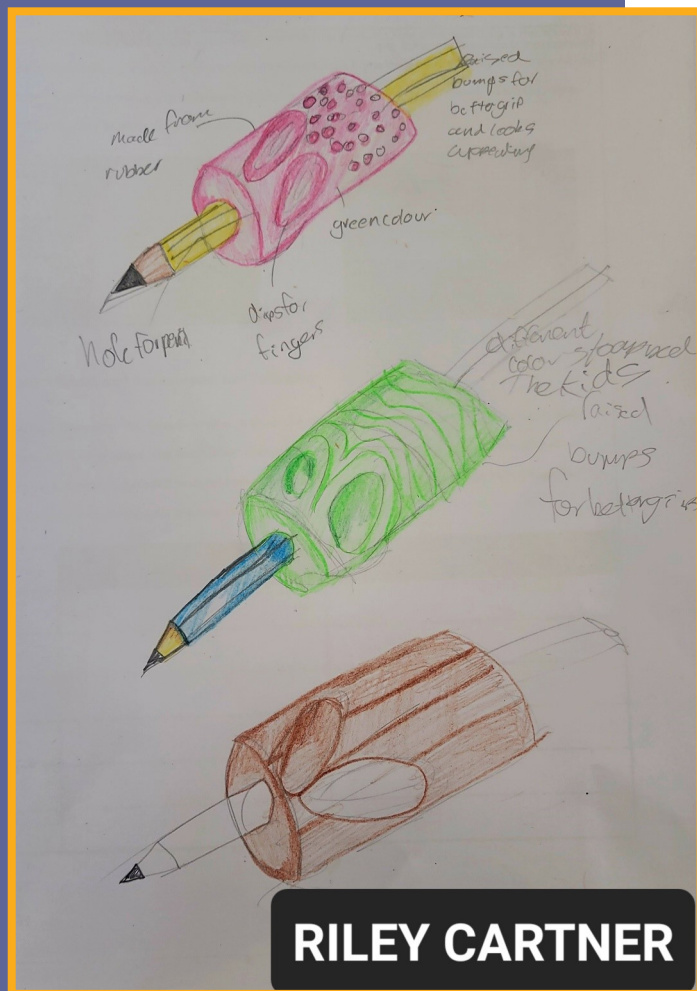
The class received a design brief to create a pencil grip for young children. Using modelling clay, they shaped various designs around a pencil to consider the ergonomic aspect of the grip. They then sketched their ideas, focusing on making the pencil grip appealing to children. Some of their creative work is shown in the accompanying photos.

Keep up the great work, S3!

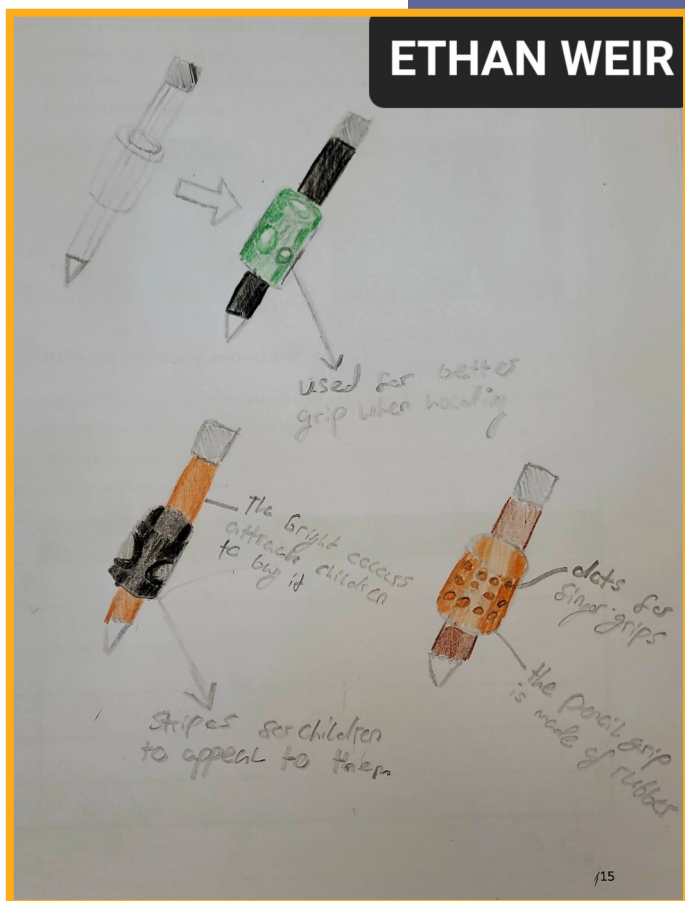




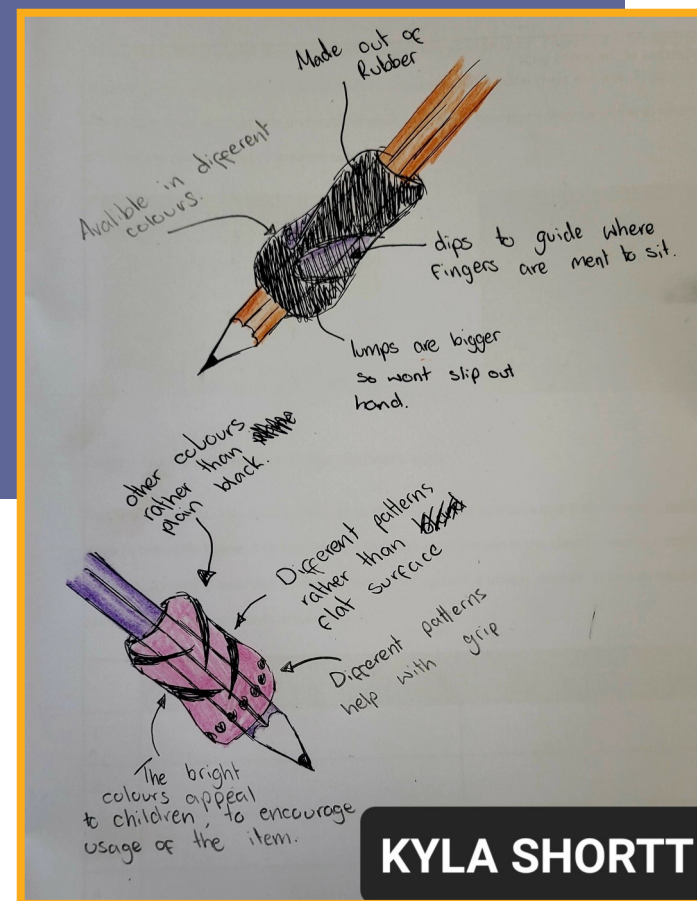
SOMMER GIBSON



RILEY CARTNER



ETHAN WEIR



KYLA SHORTT

S2 Mobile Phone Dock

S2 pupils in Technical recently completed the design and manufacture of a mobile phone dock. This new project for the year gave pupils experience working with both wood and plastic. They first completed a design folio before heading into the workshop to bring their chosen designs to life. As you can see from the photos, the pupils did an excellent job on their finished models. Well done, S2!





Scottish Engineering Leader's Award Success



Five pupils from St Joseph's College recently entered the 'If you were an engineer, what would you do?' competition, working with Mrs. Black to develop innovative solutions to design problems. Pupils also wrote letters to engineers, explaining why their designs should be made. Tens of thousands of pupils submitted entries, which went through two rounds of grading by engineers.

We are delighted to share that three of our pupils were chosen as winners! Congratulations to Leena Samer Ramadan, the S3 winner, for her 'MedBubble' design—a protective dressing for wounds during natural disasters or wars to prevent infection. Congratulations also to Isabella Ross, the S4 winner, for her 'Automatic Canopy' design—a canopy that senses sun or rain and opens automatically to provide shelter. Finally, congratulations to Ailise Hughes, the S5 winner, for her 'Remotely Controlled Windscreen'—a device that allows you to defrost your windscreen remotely using a phone app.

The winners were invited to an Awards Ceremony at Prestwick Airport, where they received a framed certificate, trophy, and badge. Beth Wright Hall and Farrah Hunter also entered the competition and achieved Distinction for their ideas. Beth designed an infrared therapy band to heal muscles, and Farrah designed an automatic cheese grater to prevent finger injuries while grating cheese. Each pupil's designs and letters were displayed in a gallery at Prestwick Airport for the public to view.

A huge well done to these pupils! We are incredibly proud of your achievements and hope you will enter the competition again next year. We aim to build on this success next year and encourage many more entries from St Joseph's College. Any pupils interested in entering the competition should see Mrs. Black.

Trading Standards Officers for a Week

Our new Advanced Higher Chemistry students took on the role of trading standards officers when they participated in the Royal Society of Chemistry 2024 Schools Analyst Competition. Working in teams, pupils analyzed various food samples including vitamin C tablets, imported highly coloured sweets, and baking powder. They tested their practical skills using titrations, thin layer chromatography, and gas collection methods. This challenge also provided an excellent opportunity for our new students to get to know their classmates.

The results have been submitted to the Royal Society of Chemistry for judging—fingers crossed for a regional winner!



European Lunar Symposium

The school was privileged to be invited to attend the European Lunar Symposium, which took place in Dumfries this June. Thirty of our S3 and S4 Physics pupils attended the event, which featured a variety of talks about space and lunar exploration, the space industry, and possible future career paths.

In addition to inspiring talks by professionals from the global space industry, pupils participated in several short workshops that explored the space industry and future activities on Earth's moon. Activities included examining 3D printing structures on the moon, addressing the challenges of growing plants on the moon, learning about the history of manned and unmanned spaceflight to the moon and beyond, and attending a session on the Japanese Miniature Lunar Rovers. Pupils had the opportunity to drive a model lunar rover and hold real meteorite fragments from around the solar system. The virtual reality spacewalk was also a real hit.

We hope that this and other similar events will broaden our pupils' horizons and illuminate potential future careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) industries.



Salters' Festivals of Chemistry



Eight S4 Chemistry students travelled to Glasgow to attend the Salters' Festival of Chemistry. The purpose of the day was to expose students to the exciting opportunities that the study of Chemistry can lead to and to provide some hands-on laboratory experience.

The students heard from John Cochrane, the keynote speaker, saw a few exciting demonstrations, and then spent time in the laboratory synthesising aspirin. Success was confirmed for the St. Joseph's College team when they returned after lunch to characterise their product using infrared spectroscopy and check the melting point.

It was a very interesting day where the students further developed their teamwork and practical skills in a university laboratory, and learned more about Chemistry-related career opportunities.

Strathclyde University Laboratory Trip

S5 and S6 Chemistry pupils enjoyed a fun-filled morning in the labs at Strathclyde University, where they carried out a series of exciting experiments. This was also a valuable opportunity for them to experience working in university facilities with access to advanced apparatus not normally available in school.

S5 pupils participated in the "Fun-Lab," where they made slime, a stalagmite, a foaming neutralisation tower, and some colourful inorganic compounds.

Our S6 pupils had the chance to run infrared and UV-Vis spectra on a sample of a vanadium compound they had prepared.

The day concluded with a visit to Kelvingrove Art Galleries & Museum. Our timing was perfect as we arrived just in time for the organ performance in the foyer!





Local Artists Presentation

Advanced Higher and National 5 students attended a presentation by three local artists: Bea Last, Emma Varley, and Alan Cameron. The artists shared stories about their career paths and emphasized the importance of creative skills in everyday life. Students learned about opportunities available through Upland, including a nine-week Portfolio course in the summer and visits to artists' studios during Spring Fling.

Thank you to Sahar El-Hady from Upland and Dawn Henderson from Gracefield Arts Centre for helping to organize this event.

More information about Upland can be found here www.weareupland.com/about/



After Henri Matisse

S2 pupils who participated in the Art Elective have been learning all about Henri Matisse. Matisse was a renowned French artist known for his vibrant use of colour and innovative techniques. He played a key role in the Fauvism movement, which emphasised bold, expressive colours over realistic representation. Well done to all our pupils on their fantastic work!



Lily Johnston



Sarah Peacock



Catherine Kwok

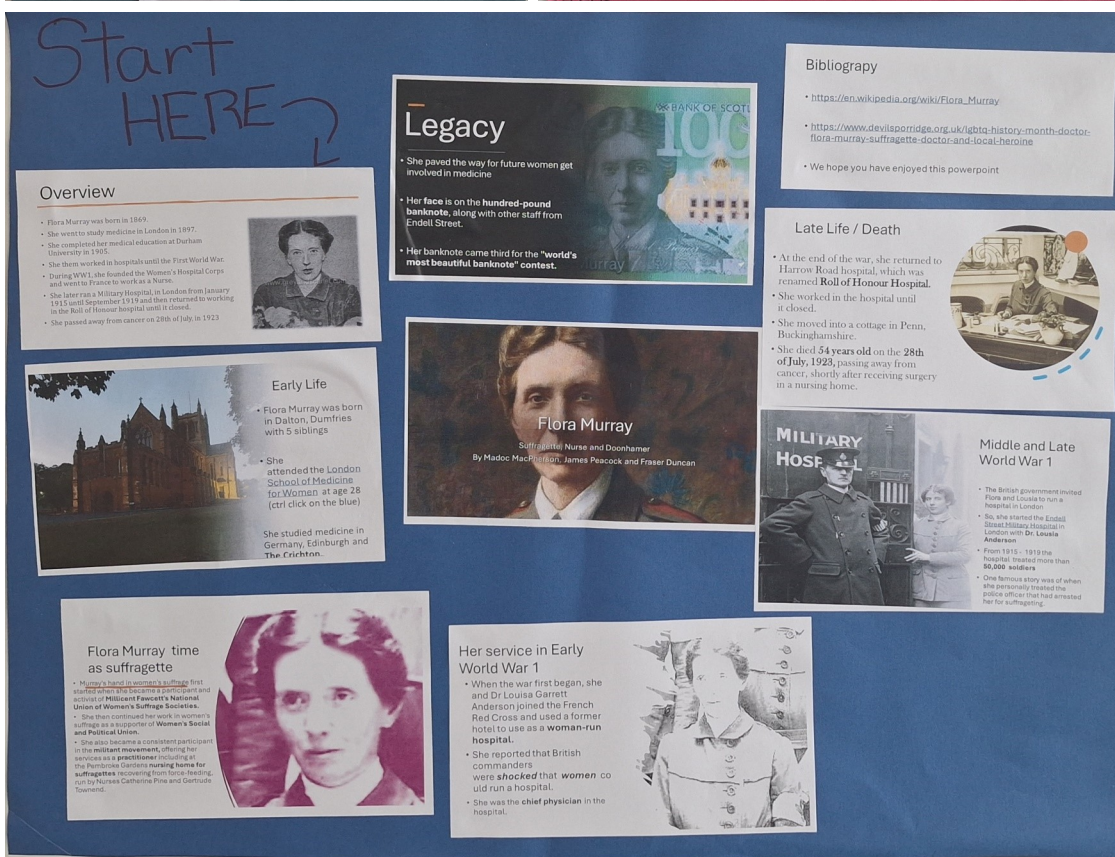
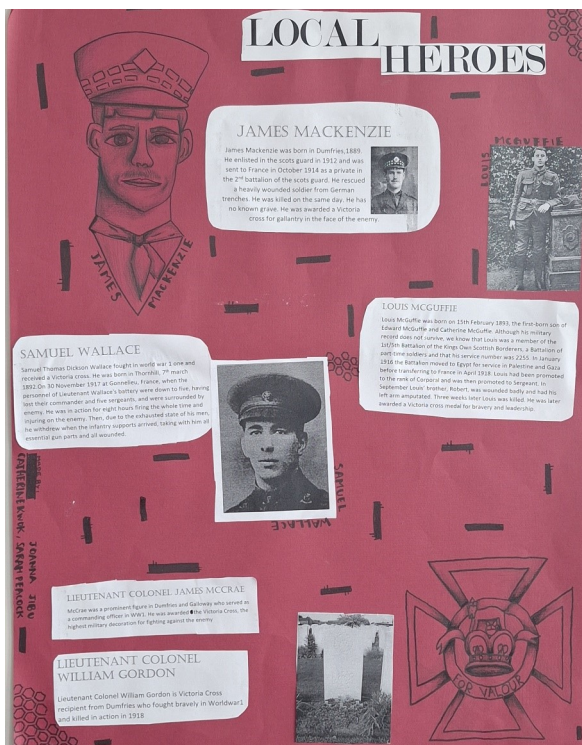
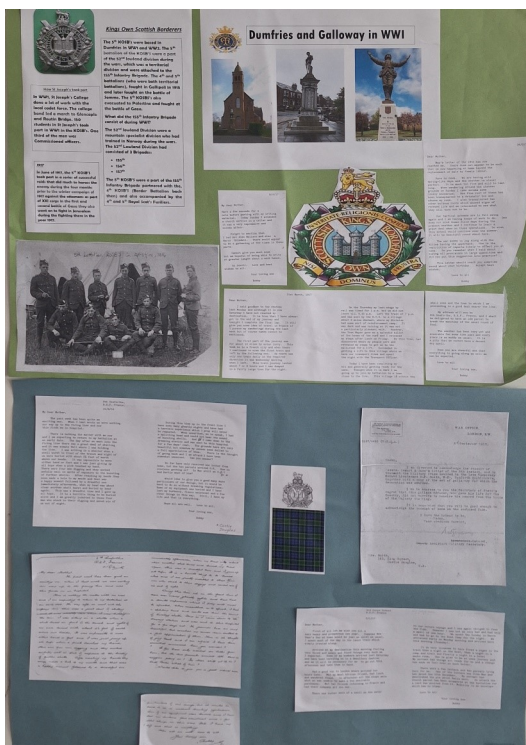


Darcy Hall

History Club

The History Club has been working on a project for the Malcolm Doolin Memorial Award for Local History Research. Pupils have been researching Dumfries and Galloway in World War One. One group focused on the life of Flora Murray, joint founder of the Women's Hospital Corps. Another group researched the King's Own Scottish Borderers and used letters from the war, and the final group researched Local Heroes.

Pupils have been developing their research skills using primary and secondary sources, with some even visiting Dumfries Museum and the Devil's Porridge Muniton Factory in their own time. Special thanks to all staff who supported the group with their projects. Mr. MacRae gave a presentation on his family's involvement in the war, and Mr. Barbour allowed the History Club to examine artefacts and letters written by his Great Uncle from Castle Douglas, who fought and died in the Great War.



National Theatre Connections

In June, S3 students James, Madoc, and Beth participated in the National Theatre Connections Festival in Greenock. The group from the Guild of Players performed the play Orchestra by Charlie Josephine, which follows a week in the life of the National Youth Woodwind Orchestra and explores the trials and tribulations of teenhood.



Youth Beatz

Congratulations to Owen Kennedy, Andrew Wallace, and Abby Young, who will be performing on stage at the Youth Beatz festival on June 30, 2024. Their band, Students Around, has worked very hard practising their instruments both in and out of class, achieving significant success and enjoying participating in many opportunities at St Joseph's College.

Nathan McBurnie, also a talented musician in the band, is unable to attend the festival due to other commitments. The band recorded a demo of one of their songs at the Rock Band club, which runs every Tuesday lunchtime in the music department. The event organizer was impressed with their recording and offered them a chance to perform on stage at the Youth Beatz festival. Their regular attendance at the Rock Band club allowed them to rehearse and apply for this incredible opportunity to perform in front of thousands of people.

DUMFRIES MUSIC COLLECTIVE PRESENTS...

YOUTH BEATZ 2024

SECOND STAGE

STUDENTS AROUND

The poster features three members of the band Students Around: a guitarist in a plaid shirt, a bassist in an orange Hokkaido sweatshirt, and a drummer in a white t-shirt. They are standing in front of a whiteboard with musical notes and posters for 'Les Misérables', 'hairspray', and 'Shrek the Musical'. The background is dark with green and orange splatters.

Logos at the bottom include: DE, Stage IT, DMC, OASIS YOUTH CENTRE ESTD. 1993, oasis Events Team, Youth (MC) (DJ), YOUTHWORK DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY, drugs+alcohol, youngstart, BO FUND, THE NATIONAL LOTTERY, AWARDS FOR ALL SCOTLAND, EventScotland, and Dumfries & Galloway.

National Youth Choir of Scotland



Molly, Mia, Mia, Lois, Choe, and James all sing regularly with the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS Dumfries). They put on a fantastic performance recently in collaboration with the Dumfries Male Voice Choir. Both young and old were in great voice!

Junior Young Musician Competition

Congratulations to all contestants who took part in the Junior Young Musician competition earlier in the term. Following the fantastic performances, Miss Fyfe and past pupil Mr Purdie announced Daniel Callaghan in S1 as the overall winner with Kayla Rayen in S3 as runner up. Brodie Jardine and Yassin Hatab, both of S1, achieved our Most Promising Musicians award.



School Show 2024





Grease: Pupils' Testimonials

Brodie S1 - Band

I've loved being part of Grease so much this year. At the start, I was scared I wouldn't know anyone and would be left out, but the seniors have made me feel very included, and I've had a great time playing with them. I also think I've really improved my playing from doing Grease and will definitely do the school show again.

Mollie S1 - Hair and Make-up Team

My experience in Grease this year on the make-up and hair team has been amazing, and I have really enjoyed it. I'm happy I've made new friends and been able to talk to new people. I think it was a really good thing for me to do, to be involved this year.

Lisa S4 - Stage Manager/Assistant to the Director

This is my second year being involved in the school show, and I have been given the most amazing opportunities to learn new skills. Being an assistant to the director means I have a role where I work with Miss Edmonds on all different aspects during the run-up to the show. I am always communicating with many different pupils and teachers, which is one of my favourite parts of the school show. This year, in my stage manager role alongside Mrs Purdie, I have been given the opportunity to run the show from backstage. This has given me a leadership role and helped me gain confidence. I would recommend taking part in the school show to anyone, as I really believe it has been a big part of improving my self-confidence!

Emily S3 - Costume Team

School Show has helped with my confidence and leadership skills. I helped with the Costume Team last year and again this year, but as a Costume Team Leader. I have enjoyed helping everyone and making sure everyone has what they need and that they feel comfortable and confident with what they're wearing. I have also enjoyed being with my friends in both the costume team and the cast. I will have these memories for years, and I can't wait for next year.

Liam S2 - Tech Team

It has been another good year being part of the Tech Team, doing sound and stepping in to help out with follow-spots. I enjoyed coming back for a second year and learning a new skill. I hope to be part of the team next year.

Joe S5 - Cast

Doing the school show has been a really big thing for me this year. From doing drama regularly when I was younger, then Covid hitting and never picking it back up again, it was a journey. In 2019, I was originally cast as Teen Angel in the production of Grease, but it came to a halt along with the rest of the world. I didn't want to do it this year because of what people might say about me doing it, but Miss Edmonds convinced me that it would be one of the best decisions I could make, and she was not wrong. I have no words for what this production has done for me. Being surrounded by the best group of people is something you can't take for granted, and I'm so privileged to be part of this big family. The production was amazing, and to be cast as one of the main characters along with the other T-Birds—the bond we have grown is one that's for a lifetime. So many laughs and so many headaches too, but I wouldn't have it any other way. The bottom line is, if it wasn't for Miss Edmonds constantly nagging me and never giving up on me, I can't imagine what I'd have missed out on. This one will really stick with me forever.



Awards Evening 2024



Alana Nosratzadeh, School Vice-Captain



Mr J Brown, Chief Education Officer, Dumfries & Galloway Council



Claire Renton, Parent Council Chair



Eve Crombie, Rose Brown and Kayleigh Mackay, SW U16
Erin Cuthbert League Winners with Queen of the South.



Some team members of the school U13 Gordon Cup
winners in front of some members of our U18 JH Lorraine
Trophy winning team.



Eilidh Topping, Lois Grierson, Rowan Terance and Beth
Wright Hall with the Cresswell Community Prize for Service
to the Community



Junior Winter Olympics Gold Medallists (Curling) Archie
Hyslop and Tia Laurie with the Cunningham Challenge Shield
for Excellence in Sport.



Fynn McGeorge, winner of the Matthew Dunn Memorial Award for Service to Charity. Pictured with Matthew's mum.



Amber Hinton, winner of the Brogan Cup, Girls 1500m Running.



Kieran Carson, S2 School Sports Champion.



Macey Byers, S2 School Sports Champion.



Moaz Elsagheir, S1 School Sports Champion.



Donald Whitelaw with the Michael Stokes Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to the West of Scotland Schools Concert Band.



Isaac Ishmael with the Dumfries Table Tennis Club U15 Champion trophy.



Eilidh Topping with the Dumfries & Galloway Junior District Confined Tennis trophy.

Session 2024/25 Key Dates

Tuesday 6 August	SQA results issued
Monday 19 August	Staff training day
Tuesday 20 August	Staff training day
Wednesday 21 August	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return
Wednesday 28 August	PFA Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 4 September	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 18 September	S5 Information Evening 6.30pm
Thursday 26 September	S4 Information Evening
Tuesday 1 October	Parent Council AGM 6.30pm
Monday 7 October	S1 Tracking Reports issued
Wednesday 9 October	S1 Welcome Evening 6.30p,
Friday 11 October	School closes at 3.15pm
Monday 28 October	School re-opens at 8.50am
Tuesday 5 November	S5/6 Tracking Reports issued
Monday 11 November	S4 Parents Evening 4—6pm
Wednesday 13 November	PFA Meeting at 6.30pm
Thursday 21 November	Christmas Market 6.30—9pm
Friday 22 November	S2 Tracking Reports issued
Wednesday 27 November	Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm
Tuesday 3 December	S5/6 Parents Evening 4—6pm
Wednesday 11 December	S3 Full Reports issued
Wednesday 11 December	Junior Ceilidh S1/2/3 7—9pm
Thursday 12 December	Senior Ceilidh S4/5/6 7—10pm
Tuesday 17 December	PFA Carol Service 6.30pm
Friday 20 December	School closes at 3.15pm
Monday 6 January	Staff training day
Tuesday 7 January	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return
Thursday 9 January	S1 Parents Evening 4—6pm
Monday 13 January	S4-S6 Prelims begin
Wednesday 22 January	Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm
Friday 24 January	S4-S6 Prelims end
Saturday 25 January	Ski Trip Departs (S5/S6)
Saturday 1 February	Ski Trip Returns
Wednesday 5 February	PFA Meeting 6.30pm
Monday 17 February	S4 Full Reports issued
Tuesday 18 February	S5/S6 Full Reports issued
Wednesday 19 February	Staff training day/Pupil Holiday
Thursday 20 February	Staff training day/Pupil Holiday
Friday 21 February	School closed—Mid-Term Holiday
Monday 24 February	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return
Wednesday 26 February	S2 Parents Evening 4—6pm
Thursday 13 March	S3 Parents Evening and Options Information Session 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday 19 March	St Joseph's Day Celebrations
Friday 28 March	School closes at 3.15 pm

Monday 14 April	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return
Wednesday 16 April	PFA Meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 17 April	School closes at 3.15 pm
Friday 18 April	School Holiday—Good Friday
Monday 21 April	School Holiday—Easter Monday
Friday 25 April	S2 Full Reports issued
Monday 5 May	School closed—May Day Holiday
Wednesday 14 May	S3 Tracking Reports issued
Wednesday 21 May	S1 Full Reports issued
Tuesday 24 June	Awards Evening
Thursday 3 July	School closes at 3.15pm
Tuesday 19 August	Staff training day
Wednesday 20 August	Staff training day
Thursday 21 August	School re-opens at 8.50am—Pupils return



We look forward to seeing pupils back at St Joseph's College on Wednesday 21 August 2024.