The High School News

The High School
WESTER HAILES EDUCATION CENTRE

www.whec.edin.sch.uk
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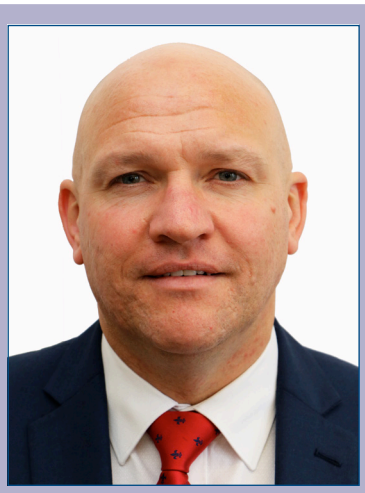

WHEC - Enabling all pupils to achieve successful outcomes regardless of ability and background.

A very warm welcome to all.

As Head Teacher it gives me great pleasure to share the wide range of experiences our pupils have been involved in, reflecting the rich and varied life of our school. I am very proud of our pupils' achievements in both of the award ceremonies that took place over the course of the term. Our talented and energetic staff continue to devote themselves to working with our pupils, encouraging them to attain and achieve and I was particularly impressed by the collective efforts of all in preparation for the SQA exams.

As always your views are very important to me and you can share these in a variety of ways - through our website, by text message or by contacting the school directly.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful.

David Young - Head Teacher

Senior Phase Awards Ceremony 2017

Our Senior Phase Awards Ceremony for S4, 5 and 6 pupils took place today Friday 31 March. Our Keynote speaker for the event was Ollie Clegg, Director of Evangelism at St Mungo's Church, Balerno and Livingston. Ollie has had a long association with Wester Hailes Education Centre and he gave a rousing and positive speech encouraging our young people to pursue their ambitions.

After the S4 awards were presented we were entertained by Winnie Thomas who sang Precious Child. The S5 awards were then presented and when completed we were treated to a short Drama piece performed by Dean Linton and Danielle Rosie.

The S6, Academic Excellence and Special Awards were then presented and this was followed by a short speech from our Head Teacher Mr Young who went on to challenge pupils to share his belief in education and achieve.

S3 Awards Ceremony 2017

Our third year Awards Ceremony took place today Friday 9th June. Pupils, parents and carers were warmly greeted by Mr Young, Head Teacher as we gathered to celebrate the successes of our third year pupils.

Pupils received awards for merit and effort in subjects, were congratulated on outstanding attendance as well as receiving academic excellence awards.

The ceremony concluded with a number of special awards being presented to pupils to celebrate creative writing, contributions to the community and for overcoming adversity. We are very grateful to our school partners for who sponsored this year's special awards.

Hunter Foundation Schools Competition

Five pupils submitted excellent entries to the Hunter Foundation Schools Competition to win an audience with former President Obama! All pupils had to do was complete a piece of writing explaining what they would change about Scotland. They covered a range of topics, from addressing homelessness, to mental health, to greater inclusion in schools. WHEC has a fine history of producing strong political figures, and we are proud of our pupils who put their entries forward for this competition. You can read the entries on our website: www.whec.edin.sch.uk/the-hunter-foundation-schools-competition/

Developing the Young Workforce Partnership Breakfast

On Thursday the 25 May we hosted our first Business Breakfast Event in the school. Pupils took part in a networking morning with a range of businesses, CEC partner agencies and school staff. In a variety of presentations and workshops, we shared our Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) vision and our aspirations for our young people. It was a highly successful event as new partnerships were created and existing positive relationships reinforced.

Debate Mate Finalists 2017

Our debaters joined from across Edinburgh and Glasgow to compete in the 2017 Debate Mate Cup Final at the Scottish Parliament.

After a guided tour of the debating chamber the team competed (and won) their first debate all about the Space Race. Further debates followed on music and culture.

Our debaters were congratulated by the organisers on the progress that they have made this year. They worked very well as a team and demonstrated a consistently positive attitude.

Well done all!

Learning about the battle tactics of 1314

After studying about the Scottish Wars of Independence in Social Studies, our first year pupils were recently able to go on a visit to the Bannockburn Centre.

They explored the battle tactics of 1314 and enjoyed the 3D experience and taking part in the computer game simulation.

Heriot Watt University SportInspired Event

Well done to our senior students Shannon Diack, Mitchell Campbell and Brad Scott who helped at the Heriot Watt University SportInspired event.

This event, which involved around 400 primary five children and 200 volunteer helpers was set up to encourage pupils to try out a variety of activities, some of which they will have never tried before.

Our 3 senior students were the only group leaders who were still at school as other volunteers came from businesses and banks across the city. They did a fantastic job motivating and entertaining the groups that they were leading for the day. They also received a special 'thank-you' at the end of the event for their lunch time entertainment, where Mitchell and Brad showcased their football skills to the entire crowd.

'Busta Rhyme'

Well done to our S1 poets Kyra Korfanty, William Brown and Aaron Marshall who feature in the 2017 'Busta Rhyme' Anthology published by Young Writers. All three will be published in the UK Voices version available in the library. Judges praised their creativity, technique and skill. Well done!

Evelyn Pennycook Prize

Last year we launched the Evelyn Pennycook Prize. Evelyn was a very popular member of the Community Education team and our school charity Wester Hailes Educational Enhancement Association - WHEEA have created a prize in her memory to continue her legacy of engaging with, and caring for, the students of Wester Hailes Education Centre.

This award is given to the students who demonstrate a dedication to our community. Many students in our school go above and beyond and this award recognises those who have demonstrated exceptional community spirit. This year the prizes go to Grace Aggrey Van Mark 6B1 and John Shaw 3B1.

Streetlaw

S3 modern studies pupils participated in Streetlaw, a legal Education programme organised by the Law Society of Scotland. Law students, Kerri McIver and Lorna Hewitt visited the school weekly to deliver classes about Scots law and the legal process. Our pupils, worked in teams to gain valuable knowledge about the law and legal process.

Scottish Youth Boxing Champion

Congratulations to Jamie Buchanan (5M1) who won the Scottish Youth Boxing Championship on Sunday 19th March. Jamie beat his older and more experienced opponent from Glasgow by unanimous decision.This is an outstanding achievement in Jamie's first year at the youth age group and a great step forward in his promising boxing career.

Health and Wellbeing Cluster Cup for Primaries 5's and 6's.

Monday 8 May saw Wester Hailes Education Centre working with their cluster Primary Schools: Sighthill, Canal View and Clovenstone in hosting the Health and Wellbeing Cluster Cup for Primaries 5's and 6's.

The Cluster Cup is geared to provide young people with a range of experiences across a variety of activities. All of the young people from each school participated in workshops including: Judo, Football, Basketball, Dance, American Football, Athletics and Hospitality/Nutrition.

It was an exciting and engaging day for all involved which highlighted the level of skill, dedication and resilience that the young people have and are willing to develop.

Feedback from the day was very positive from pupils, staff and coaches. Our 2017 Health and Wellbeing Cluster cup winners are [drum roll please]: Sighthill Primary School.

Keith Cook at Wester Hailes Education Centre

We were extremely lucky to have Keith Cook (Fencing Champion) working with our young people at Wester Hailes Education Centre as part of the Sky Sports Living For Sport programme. Young learners from all year groups participated in workshops with Keith to build and develop a variety of key skills including; teamwork, hunger to achieve, people skills, sport and life knowledge.

Ni hao

S2 students would like to say thank you to Mrs Gao, our Mandarin teacher who has been teaching us since first year. As well as learning Mandarin we have also been studying Chinese culture and recently we made Chinese lanterns. We hope Mrs Gao has enjoyed her time with us and we would like to wish her all the best and a safe return to her school in Bejing. Zaijian.

Junk Kouture Grand Final!

Congratulations to S4 students Dylan Elliot and Klaudia Mejza on their fantastic achievement in getting into the Junk Kouture Grand Final at their first attempt. We didn't come away with any prizes but Dylan did get personally congratulated by Louis Walsh himself (one of the judges) and the students had a wonderful experience. We are very proud of them doing so well and getting so far in the event.

School Session Dates 2017 / 2018

Term 1				
Wednesday	16	August	2017	- Pupils resume
Monday	18	September	2017	- Autumn Holiday
Friday	13	October	2017	- Mid Term - October Break
Tuesday	24	October	2017	- Pupils Resume
Friday	22	December	2017	- Term Ends
Term 2				
Tuesday	9	January	2018	- Pupils resume
Friday	9	February	2018	- Mid Term - February Break
Monday	19	February	2018	- All resume
Thursday	29	March	2018	- All break end of term
Term 3				
Tuesday	17	April	2018	- All resume
Monday	7	May	2018	- Public holiday
Tuesday	8	May	2018	- School closed for pupils
Wednesday	9	May	2018	- Pupils Resume
Monday	21	May	2018	- Public holiday
Friday	29	June	2018	- 12.00 End of term

Teen Titles

The 67th edition of Teen Titles is now available in the school library and English department. Six of our students submitted opinions and book recommendations and these have been published in this latest edition. The six students receive praise postcards, school house points and their own personal copy of CEC Teen Titles magazine. These students will also have the opportunity to attend the annual Teen Titles author reception/ party which takes place during the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August in Edinburgh Central Library's prestigious, domed Reference Room!

Final words

As the end of this school session approaches, planning is already underway for the one ahead and I will write to you early in the new session with an update on school performance, priorities for 17-18 and any staffing changes. I would like to thank you for your continued support over the past year and look forward to welcoming our new parents/carers into the WHEC community in August 2017.

David Young - Head Teacher

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the Wester Hailes
Educational Enhancement Association

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