

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

September 2019

New Currie High School

Sighthill Parish 80th



Currie Community High School is set to be rebuilt as part of the Scottish Government's *New Learning Estate Investment Programme*. New schools will be built in the first phase of a nationwide £1 billion investment programme.

Gordon said, "I am delighted to see that Currie Community High School is going to be part of the first phase of new schools and campuses across Scotland.

"We must ensure our schools are inspirational and nurturing places for learning. This investment will have a real impact on the experience of pupils, teachers and parents at Currie and the wider community.

"It really shows the Scottish Government's commitment to education and its understanding of the significant role that the facilities play in a child's learning.

"I look forward to what will be a world-class learning environment at Currie Community High School, and the WHEC and Balerno being included in future rounds of expenditure."

The decision to rebuild rather than relocate came after a strong community campaign to retain a high school in Currie.

Gordon commented, "I would like to thank the parents and all those who campaigned to persuade the Council that a local high school in Currie is the best option.

Gordon was delighted to attend a recent service that celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the founding of St Nicholas Sighthill Parish Church.

After lodging a motion in The Scottish Parliament recognising the church's work over the last 80 years, Gordon presented the minister, Dr Tom Kisitu, and the Session Clerk, John Wallace, with the motion. At the service, Gordon thanked St Nicholas Sighthill Parish Church for the guidance and support they have provided for many people in the area over the years.

He said "Rev Dr Tom Kisitu, previous Ministers, the St Nicholas Church leaders and the congregations have been, and continue to be, a positive and welcoming presence for all in the community."

Out and About...

John Swinney WHEC Visit



The Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney, recently joined Gordon on a visit to the WHEC.

They heard from teachers and students about the support and learning opportunities being offered, as well as the unique School Improvement Planning they have put in place.

Through the Scottish Government's *Scottish Attainment Challenge National Pupil Equity Funding*, the WHEC has established a literacy coordinator, a numeracy coordinator, a nurture coordinator, a health and wellbeing officer, and a family engagement worker.

Following the visit, Gordon said, "The WHEC is doing some impressive work to make sure that the students are getting the most out of their school journey. It was great to see that the literacy and numeracy outcomes for the Students in their senior phase have improved substantially and that there are more students leaving with National 4 and 5's."

Scottish SPCA School Visit



On a recent visit to Juniper Green Primary School, Gordon saw the work of the Scottish SPCA's education team first hand.

The pupils built and coded robots, and played games involving answering questions on animal welfare.

Gordon said that "It was great to see the pupils learning about animal welfare in such a fun way. We should all recognise that we must treat animals with compassion and this workshop was an innovative way for the pupils to learn more about animals here in Scotland."

Community Alcohol Partnership



Gordon took to the streets with local community police officers to engage with local retailers to promote the Community Alcohol Partnership and to remind them about alcohol-related ASB.

Commenting, he said, "The check undertaken included ensuring that there was a premises license on display, a Challenge 25 poster, that the alcohol was properly labelled and priced, and that the shopkeeper kept a refusals register. Alcohol misuse blights our communities and it is good to see local shops engaged with the problem in this way."

Contact Details

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Home visit Available for those who cannot travel

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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

- 1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library
- 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre
- 3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library
- 4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxfgangs Library (Not 24 Dec)
- 5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Com. Centre (Not 31 Dec)

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands