

# Perth Grammar

## Update Newsletter w/c 2nd October 2017

**October holidays:** The school finishes for the October holidays on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 3.35pm and returns on Monday 23rd October at 8.50am. This will be a '**WEAR IT BLUE** for Mary's Meals' day at a cost of £1.

**Message from Miss Robertson, Head Teacher:** Our learning community has experienced what has felt an even faster than usual Term 1 having welcomed the first year intake and a small number of new staff who have joined our team. It is very much business as normal mixed with a clear desire to go from good to great as we come together to be part of something special. Early indications show that S1 pupils have settled well.

In 2017/18 we commence the first of a three year plan with focus on i) equity for all learners, ii) improving the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the curriculum to enhance learner engagement and iii) ensuring all members of our learning community are leaders of learning and change. Near the end of session you may recall that we had a follow up Education Learning and Achievement Visit (ELAV) from the original report in March 2015. I am pleased to report that this went well and the action points from it are encompassed within the School Improvement Plan. During Term 1, departments/faculties participate in Attainment Reviews as part of the school's quality assurance processes and these have seen some excellent examples of teaching staff leading professional dialogue using Insight (the professional tool designed to help bring about improvements for learners in the Senior Phase (S4-S6)).

Term 1 has set the tone for a busy but productive session. As you are aware, Perth Grammar School is committed to the Rights Respecting Schools Award journey and last week we saw most departments/faculties participate in the 'World's Largest Lesson' in recognition of the Sustainable Development Goals. During the holidays, our Intergenerational Development Officer (supported by Pupil Equity Funding), Maureen O'Reilly will take up post. Her first task is to recruit volunteers and some of our senior prefects are busy thinking about how we could add a new dimension to learning by taking this approach.

This time last year I advised that staff had been trained in Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) and so it is with pleasure to report that S1 pupils have now been trained in this important programme that helps to develop responsible citizenship. Many other activities have taken place as evidenced via our Twitter account @PerthGrammar . One hundred pupils ventured to Comic Con in Glasgow recently and currently we have a group of young people on exchange in Aschaffenburg, Germany. The latter will be the starting point of S1 and S2 end of terms assemblies this week when I share the hopes and aspirations of the Principal at our partner school which also reflect the values of Perth Grammar School – *Pride, Respect, Ambition*.

Mr Ronald Wilson was elected as Chair of Parent Council. Parental engagement and family learning are core to our development as a school and we rely on you to support us in order to work in partnership to secure the best learning experience for our children and young people. We are happy to consider new ways of working together and look forward to seeing parental involvement translate into true parental engagement.

Expressive Arts and School of Basketball pupils have been accompanied by Ms Auld, Mrs Scott, Mr Reid, Mrs Lewis, Ms Waterson and myself on our bi-annual tour of our catchment primary schools on the Perth Grammar School Roadshow. This has proved to be a great way to share the many factors that bring about the positive ethos we know of our school. Thanks to those families who have come along.

As we look ahead it is important to encourage pupils to relax, recharge and refresh over the October holidays ready for Term 2. Be safe and make the most of the beautiful city and surrounding area in which we all live.

**P6/P7/S1 Parents' Evening:** Our annual P6/P7/S1 evening is being held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October from 7-9pm. All parents of S1 pupils are invited along to this evening to see what their children have been studying since they arrived at PGS in August. Click [here](#) for a copy of the letter sent out to P6/7 Parents.

**S1-6 Tracking Reports:** These will be sent home with pupils this week.

**S1-3 Pupils - MADRID 2018:** June 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018. Proposed cost of around £675 at the moment. If interested, and have not done so already, please inform Mr Hunter (B28) with reasons for wishing to go on the trip. Open to S1-3 pupils. Please reply asap to [JCHunter@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:JCHunter@pkc.gov.uk) or hand a note of interest in to B28. Click [here](#) to view information on the 2017 trip.

**S4-6 Jobs Information:** Please click [here](#) for information

**S4-6 College/Uni Information:** Please click [here](#) for information

**Key dates for next term for all year groups:**

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 25/10:    | P6/P7/S1 Open Evening  |
| 07/11:    | Parent Council meeting |
| 14/11:    | S4 Parents' Evening    |
| 16+17/11: | Inset Days             |
| 22/11:    | Careers Fair           |
| 28/11:    | S5/6 Parents' Evening  |
| 05/12:    | Parent Council meeting |
| 14/12:    | S6 Winter Ball         |
| 18+19/12: | Christmas concerts     |
| 22/12:    | End of Term            |

**Have a great holiday!**