

Perth Grammar

Update Newsletter w/c 13th November 2017

Challenge to Change: we still need your votes!

The deadline for voting in the [Aviva Community Fund](#) for our Equality Conference is approaching. At the time of writing, we had reached an amazing 2500 votes but we still need more if we are to be sure of getting into the final. Your vote could make the difference! Together with pupils from Perth High, a group of our pupils are organising a major Equality Conference called '[Challenge to Change](#)' at Perth Concert Hall on Friday 9th March. They have already planned the day and have invited an exciting range of high profile speakers and leaders. Pupils from across Perth and Kinross will be invited to attend for a fun day of activities to make them think and maybe even change their mindset about respect and equality. However, they need funding to make it a real success and so **YOUR VOTE** for them in the Aviva Community Fund is needed. Please give them your votes before **21/11/17!** Click [here](#)>>

Inset Days: Reminder there are only 3 days of school this week as we are closed to pupils on Thursday 16th & Friday 17th November.

Severe Weather Arrangements: In the event the school has to close early or not open at all due to the weather, procedures are put in place to communicate with parents as much as possible. Click [here](#) to view the arrangements.

Celebrating success: click [here](#) for information of recent pupil successes.

UK Parliament Week: This week marks UK Parliament Week, a week of activities aiming to inspire interest in parliament, politics and democracy. It is also an opportunity to allow people to engage with the UK's democratic system. Over the three days we are in school, pupils will be given a variety of opportunities to think about the work of the UK Parliament, and how it affects their everyday lives. There will be inputs at house assemblies, opportunities to discuss parliament links in many subjects, and fun quizzes along the way. Check @PGSocialSubject for fun facts about Parliament over the next few days as well!

S2 Youth Philanthropy Initiative: For the third year running Perth Grammar S2 pupils have been taking part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). YPI is an active citizenship program that raises awareness amongst young people about philanthropy and their local community. Each year, every participating school is responsible for directing a £3000 YPI Grant to a local charity through a unique program of team work, research and competition. YPI Scotland is all about creativity and passion, leaving the four walls of the classroom behind, and supporting the issues young people care most about. The S2 pupils have now contacted their charity, and started work on their presentations. The semifinals are taking place over the next few weeks. The final will take place on Tuesday 12th December from 2pm to 3.30pm in Perth Grammar School Theatre.

S2-6 Careers fair: This is taking place on Wednesday 22nd November in the school. Click [here](#) for more information.

S4 Parents' Evening: This is taking place on Tuesday 14th November from 4.45-7pm. We use an online booking system for parents to make appointments. Click [here](#) for more details. If you have any problems please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

S4-6 Information Evening: We would like to invite you to attend our S4-6 Information Evening entitled *Employing Our Strengths* on Wednesday 22nd November in Perth Grammar School. The event will begin at 6pm and take the form of workshops which will run in classrooms around the Assembly Hall. Each workshop will be run by outside providers and will last for 30 minutes. Parents are free to choose workshops on the night. Topics will include careers in the Oil Industry; applying to University; Foundation Apprenticeships; Modern Apprenticeships; Perth College UHI and Dundee and Angus College; and support available from Skills Development Scotland. Parents will be able to come and talk to Principal Teachers of every subject from 6pm until 7:30pm in the assembly hall in place of a workshop. Your son/daughter will receive a letter during Personal Support tomorrow which has a slip to be returned to school to advise whether or not you will be attending. Click [here](#) for a copy.

S5/6 Parents' Evening: This is taking place on Tuesday 28th November from 4.45-7pm. We use an online booking system for parents to make appointments. Click [here](#) for more details. If you have any problems please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

S4-6 College Visits: Our Careers Adviser, Kathryn Aviss, is arranging visits to Perth College over the next three Tuesdays. These are intended to give senior pupils (and possibly some S3s) the opportunity to see what the college is like, tour the departmental facilities and meet the lecturers. It's a great opportunity for them and we hope it will encourage them to make decisions about their future. Below is a list of the departments being visited and the dates. If your son/daughter would like to attend please ask them to speak to Miss Aviss or Allan Clyne, Community Link Worker as a consent form needs to be completed. A copy of the consent form can be downloaded [here](#).

Department	Date
Hospitality	14/11/2017
Engineering and Aviation	14/11/2017
Sport and Fitness	21/11/2017
Creative Industries	21/11/2017
Audio Engineering and Theatre Arts	28/11/2017
Business, Accounting and Computing	28/11/2017

S5 Safe Drive/Stay Alive: On Wednesday 22nd November S5 pupils are invited to attend the Safe Drive/Stay Alive event at the North Inch Community Centre. They should have brought home a letter with a consent form which should be returned to their Personal Support Teacher. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

S4-6 Jobs News: Click [here](#) for information

Skills Development Scotland workshops: Please click [here](#) for information on these workshops which are being held on Wednesday 15th November at their office in Highland House, St Catherine's Road, Perth.

Generations Working Together: We are delighted that our new *Generations Working Together (GWT)* Development Officer Maureen O'Reilly has already managed to recruit a group of older volunteers to support our students in a variety of projects to help improve literacy and numeracy. She is still looking for more volunteers so if you are interested then please get in touch! This is a great opportunity with benefits for our whole school learning community. Training for volunteers has been organised for 16th, 23rd and 30th November and volunteers will begin to support in school from December onwards. Even if you cannot make these dates we would still like to hear from volunteers.

Do you have a parent/grandparent/friend who would flourish working with our students?

Please contact Maureen O'Reilly:

Email: Maureen@generationsworkingtogether.org

Mobile: 07927 550730

School number: 01738 472800

You can find out more about *Generations Working Together* here:

W: www.generationsworkingtogether.org

F: www.facebook.com/GenerationsWorkingTogether

T: <https://twitter.com/generationswt>

International Update

FLAG: On Friday 10th Nov, John Grant, from FLAG ("Foreign Links Around the Globe") gave a short presentation to all S5/6 on the FLAG USA International Experience Programme. This is a great programme which gives young people the chance to be involved in a high quality international educational experience. One of our current students is spending her S6 in Michigan on this programme and is having a great time. You can also find more information at this link: <https://www.flag-intl.org/>

Perth-Trento Exchange 2017: The exchange programme with our Italian partner school in Trento began in 2014. *The Istituto Pavoniano Artigianelli* is a specialist Graphic Design school. In 2015-16, 9 pupils from Perth Grammar and Perth High signed up to the project and exchange visits took place in September 2015 and June 2016. Pupils described it as one of the best experiences of their lives. Although the exchange didn't take place in session 2016-17, we were determined to get it going again this session. And so the latest group of 8 Italian students arrived in October, hosted by pupils from Perth Grammar and St John's Academy. Thanks to Mrs McLeish, we managed to persuade the Giraffe Cafe to work with us on a design project. Mr Farrell used his connections too and brought in his brother Gerry Farrell, a creative director in the advertising industry. Gerry gave the Scottish students some homework: make a video that tells us about the Giraffe Cafe and what its

employees would like to see improved. At very short notice over the last week of the October holidays, they came up with this excellent video:

<https://youtu.be/TrnXPi5Oi2g>

This gave the group the information they needed and after a masterclass from Gerry in how to run a successful advertising campaign, they got down to work – mostly in the Art department with Mrs Millar. At first it was quite difficult for the pupils to share ideas. Although the Italians spoke very good English, they drifted into speaking Italian with their classmates and the Scottish students did the same. However, after a while they got to know each other and were soon really cooking on gas! They agreed on their campaign and began to create designs, slogans and products to help sell Giraffe Café to the public. This included redesigned business and loyalty cards, posters, coffee cup covers, t-shirts and stickers. They also designed and made giraffe whiteboards, keyrings and a mirror on the school laser cutter and created a giraffe cookie-cutter using a 3D printer. On the last Friday of the visit they were invited to present their ideas to an audience of workers and staff at the Giraffe training centre at Ladeside. Here is what they said:

“Thank you for the amazing work that was done by the pupils for the Giraffe project. We were extremely impressed with the high standard of the project and would be keen to use some of the ideas. We hope that the exercise was as positive for the pupils as it was for us. It was particularly great to have some of our trainees give their feedback and feel involved in the process – they absolutely loved the designs and especially that all comments from the video session had been listened to.”

And click [here](#) to view the final presentation.

The next stage of the trip is the exciting bit for our pupils – a visit to Italy in February – they can't wait!