

Perth Grammar

Update Newsletter w/c 16 September 2019

Extended Leadership and Achievement Visit (ELAV): Later this month we will have an ELAV visit which will comprise of a team of around seven local authority officers and peer school staff. The visit will enable validation of our self-evaluation as a school and support continuous improvement.

We have now received the results of the Parent Involvement and Engagement survey that was distributed at the end of last session. Thank you very much to the 65 respondents who took the time to complete this. As a means of developing family learning and enhancing parent engagement we would like to invite up to six parents to be part of a group discussion with a Quality Improvement Officer during the forthcoming ELAV on Friday 27th September 9am-9.45am. The focus of the meeting would be to seek views on next steps from the findings of this e.g. *How best could the school get in touch with you to provide information on what your child is currently learning about?, What information do you need to support your child's learning?* etc.

If you are available to participate please contact us by emailing perthgrammar@pkc.gov.uk on or before Thursday 19th September. In the event that we receive more than six notes of interest we will seek to accommodate this by holding another session at the same time.

Schools Strike 4 Climate: You may be aware that the *Schools Strike 4 Climate* event will be taking place this Friday, 20th September. Please see below the Perth and Kinross Council press statement on the issue of pupil participation in this event:

"In our schools, all children and young people are encouraged to be curious, discerning, enquiring and to develop and express their views in many contexts on a range of subjects. Climate change is one example of a subject that is investigated, considered and debated across Perth & Kinross Council schools. We welcome and encourage young people to take a pro-active interest in matters that will affect their lives and those of others.

Alongside this, our attendance procedures and principles for children and young people apply at all times during term time, and this includes parental responsibilities. Any decisions about taking time out of school for specific events are a matter for parents and carers. The Council respects these decisions and will continue to respect them, including for the Schools Strike 4 Climate proposal."

Accordingly, I would request that parents make the school aware in advance if they support their child participating. Where such consent is advised, the school will mark absences as 'authorised'.

Miss Robertson,
Head Teacher

School App

We are excited to launch our new Mobile App. Be sure to install it and set up your channels so you receive timely and relative push notifications. Full instructions can be found on our website [here](#)



Rights Respecting Schools and the launch of ARTICLE 12

Last week senior pupils led assemblies for all year groups. The presentations can be viewed [here](#).

There were 3 presentations:

1. Our Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group presented a reminder for all pupils about the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) – its history and importance, as well as a summary of what we have done and still need to do, to gain our Gold Award. **Our Gold assessment visit will be on 4th December** and we would welcome parental involvement in helping us to achieve this prestigious award. Get the date in your diary!
2. Then, our Senior Pupil Leadership Team presented a fresh, new approach to pupil voice and you may already have seen this on the RRSA Twitter Feed @RRSAPGS1. The name we have chosen is obvious, simple yet striking & innovative. From now on, pupil voice at Perth Grammar will be called ARTICLE 12. We hope you like it! Breaking from the traditional pupil councils of the past, the aim of the new structure is to make sure pupil voice is genuinely heard, empowering young people to participate in and influence the life of the school and its community. Through ARTICLE 12, pupils will express their opinions on issues that affect them, get help with their ideas for making a difference and take part in campaigns to support the rights of others. A representative from each year group in each house will form junior and senior pupil leadership teams as ARTICLE 12 Ambassadors. These will, when appropriate, become vertical house teams. They will liaise with specific campaign groups. We have many pupil campaign groups, ambassadors and mentors at Perth Grammar, making their voices heard on a wide range of issues from the well-established MyWoW and MVP ambassadors to our new Mental Health Ambassadors. In addition, each Tutor Time class will have its own CHATTERBOX. Yes, an actual box, which will be used for voting, sharing ideas, expressing opinions and GETTING STUFF DONE! We have created a calendar of campaigns all of which are linked to the UNCRC and all of our key events will be added to the parent calendar on the website. It's going to be a busy year!
Any pupil can apply to be an ARTICLE 12 Ambassador or member of the Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group. Just give your name to our school captains, Sioned Davies or Jack Bell.
3. The third presentation was for our annual Shoebox appeal which is described in the next article.

Shoe Box Appeal 2019: Perth Grammar School pupils are taking part in the



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2019 in partnership with Blythswood Care. The aim is for each Tutor Time class to fill a box with a variety of items, and this will then be sent to disadvantaged people in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. By taking part in this initiative, we are supporting the rights of young

people in these countries, for example, **Article 31 of the UNCRC says:** Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in cultural/artistic activities. Your gifts will help them to do this.



If you have any spare shoeboxes at home, or any items you would like to donate, they will be very gratefully received. For further information please speak to Miss Dickinson in the Science department. Thanks in advance for your support.

Individual School Photographs: These have been taken today. Your child will bring home a sample of their photo and an order form which must be returned to the school reception with payment, by the end of September.

P7-S2 Parent Drop-in: this will take place every Thursday morning from 9:15-10:15am in Perth Grammar School. Click [here](#) for more information.

S1 STEM Opportunity - Florida 2022: We are looking for notes of interest from S1 pupils for an International Stem trip visit to Florida in February 2022. If you would like more details please see Mrs Cook in Computing.

S4 Work Experience: We have around 50 S4 pupils out on work experience this week. We wish them good luck and hope they enjoy it.

S4-6 Jobs news: Click [here](#) for information on vacancies we have been informed of.

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

FLAG UK–International Experience Programmes: on Friday, S5/6 pupils were treated to an assembly from John Grant from [FLAG UK](#) – an organisation which aims to offer students in their senior school years in Scotland an experience of living in another country, attend a U.S. High School, make new friends, travel and take a year before returning to normal work or college/university. Over 150 Students have participated including several from Perth Grammar and one pupil has even gone back to take up a 2-year sports scholarship in an American college. **More information about the programme can be found [here](#).**

English Department/Learning Resource Centre

PGS Book Week: 23-27 September. We are looking forward to holding our first book week with the focus on reading for pleasure. Activities will be arranged for S1 pupils: book fair, competitions, First Minister's Reading Challenge. JK Rowling said: "If you don't like to read you haven't found the right book."



English Department – Advanced Higher: The Advanced Higher class have had an inspiring week. Firstly, Mr Farrell led an emotional poetry workshop in which he read both his own and his father's poems. He encouraged the class to keep a journal, showing us his father's journals dating back over 60 years, explaining how inspiration can come from paying attention to what is around us. Mr Farrell's daughter, Sarah (a published playwright no less) then treated us to a creative writing workshop, at the end of which I think everyone was surprised by how much they had written and I was very impressed at the quality of the work they produced. I know everyone left both sessions feeling motivated and encouraged. Mrs Wishart, English Teacher.

School Sports Coaching Project Oct 2019 - any pupil interested please fill in the attached SSCP application form and hand in to the PE department for the attention of David Paul, Active School Coordinator.

Volunteering opportunities: Any pupils who are interested in Volunteering at their local PS or Sports Club please get in touch with Karen Todd, Active School Coordinator or email KTodd@liveactive.co.uk. Volunteering hours can be used to gain Saltire Awards. The Saltire Awards are the Scottish Governments way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of young volunteers in Scotland, aged 12-15. Young People gain nationally recognised certificates, signed by Scottish Government Ministers, for the different amounts of volunteering they do.

Tulloch NET is running a youth work Consultation. If you live in Tulloch they want to hear your ideas of what could be developed in the area with young people. If you have ideas come and share them on Wednesday 18th September any time between 4pm and 7pm at The Community Hub, 2 Tulloch Square.

Replacement Bus Passes: These are no longer available from the school and must be applied for online using this link <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17284/Schools-transport-and-trips>

School Holidays: The holidays for this and next two academic years can be viewed on our website - click [here](#) for the link.

School Absence Line: Please call 01738 472888 before 9am to advise if your child will be absent for any reason.