

OCT  
2019



Whitburn

# Academy

WHITBURN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2019

**This Issue**

- S4-S6 Prizewinners
- Pupil Leadership Team Announced
- Be Herd Stellar Award Winners
- Be Herd COSLA Award Winners
- Pupil Council Elections
- Dux Announced
- MVP Mentor Training
- Engineering Tomorrow Event



The final shot of the Be Herd Group's video for their COSLA Award nomination



## FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

---

OCT  
2019

Dear All,

I'm delighted to present to you our first newsletter of session 2019-20.

I am not going to say too much more other than I hope you enjoy reading about our successes and achievements in what has been an exceptional start to the session.

As always, I'd like to thank our pupils, staff and families for the continued commitment and support you all give to ensure that we make our school a great place to be for our young people to learn.

Tracey Loudon  
Headteacher



West Lothian  
Council



## BOOK FESTIVAL VISIT

On 22nd August, Some of our senior pupils visited the Edinburgh International Book Festival this week to hear Scottish writer Doug Johnstone talk about his latest book 'Breakers'.

Doug also signed copies of his book and chatted to pupils about books and reading. Our pupils really enjoyed browsing the huge onsite bookshop and came back to school with lots of new reading material.



their peers and to get feedback on comments raised at previous meetings.



Voting was held in the Assembly Hall before school during breaktime, during lunchtime and after school. Pupils were given voting cards, which were used to check that they were able to vote, then they then filled in their ballot papers in real voting booths and posted their votes in real ballot boxes. The voting booths and ballot boxes are the same ones used in the General and Scottish Parliament elections.

## PUPIL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On 5th September, the pupils of Whitburn Academy voted in the Pupil Council Elections.

Pupils from each year group are represented on the Pupil Council and they meet on a regular basis to discuss any issues raised by

## S6 BUDDYING TRAINING



On 6th September, a number of our S6 pupils took part in buddying training to allow them to support some of our S1 pupils.

From Week beginning 9th September, they will be in classes to support S1 pupils with their reading and writing.

## NATIONAL READ A BOOK DAY 2019

On 6th September, pupils took part in National Read a Book Day

Here are just a few of the reasons why you should read a book:

- It's the best excuse for peace and quiet.
- That stack of borrowed books needs a dent.
- Books are on your schedule: you can pick them up and put them down at your own convenience.

- Walking to the library is good exercise.
- You saw the movie, but you heard the book is way better.

## READING FOR PLEASURE MUSIC VIDEO

During Week beginning 2nd September, filming took place for our promotional video to launch our Reading Schools project in time for National Literacy Day.

The video, which will be shown at assemblies during week beginning 9th September will feature a few dance moves from the staff (including Ms Loudon, Mr Shankland and Mrs Marinello) and Miss Nisbet dressed up as Sia!





## BUILDING A READING CULTURE

Whitburn Academy staff and pupils are working together to continue to build a reading culture in our school.

There will be a range of events and competitions taking place this session to promote reading.

The first of these is the Building a Reading Culture Video featuring the staff and pupils reading for fun. This was directed by Miss Nisbet and Jack, one of our S5 pupils. Jack also edited the video and it looks great! The

screening of the video is at assemblies during week beginning 9th September. The video can be viewed on the School Website.

Why not follow us on Twitter at [@WACLiteracy](https://twitter.com/WACLiteracy) to find out more about Literacy at Whitburn Academy.



## PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Pupil Leadership Team is made up of the School Captains, House and Vice House Captains.

Whitburn Academy is proud to announce that the following pupils have been appointed as School Captains, House Captains and House Vice Captains for Session 2019-20:

• **School Captains:** *Adam Gilmour and Riley Polland*

• **Bruce House Captain:** *Ryan Brown*

• **Bruce House Vice Captain:** *Alison Maitland*

• **Douglas House Captain:** *Abbie McCormack*

• **Douglas House Vice Captain:** *Kerry Gordon*

• **Wallace House Captain:** *Mia Lewington*

• **Wallace House Vice Captain:** *Sophie Neally*





## BE HERD FILMING

Our Health and Wellbeing Group has been shortlisted as a finalist for the COSLA Excellence Awards for their Be Herd project.

The group have been working hard over the past few weeks to create a short film to present to the judging panel on 18th September.

On 10th September, the final piece of filming was completed when pupils from S1 - S6 and staff gathered in the playground to form the words 'Be Herd'. Filmed and photographed from the 2nd and 3rd floors of the main building, the results were very impressive!

A huge thanks must go to all the pupils and staff who have been involved in creating the film for the project.

A special thanks must also go to Miss Reid, Jack (S5) and Mr Hawthorn, who have taken photographs and filmed various parts of the film, the Be Herd Group for the work they have put into the project to date and to Ms Forbes - the driving force behind Be Herd!

## SPORTS CAPTAINS 2019-20

We have chosen our Sports Captains for Session 2019-20.

Congratulations go to: Robyn, Ben, Summer, Ethan, Katie, Michael, Hannah, Eve, Carly, Fiona, Yasmine and Lewis. These pupils really are

role models for their peers and to allow them to raise awareness of their role and to promote the events they will be leading, they will wear their Sports Captain hoodies around the school on a Friday.



## SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY 2019

On 11th September, Whitburn Academy held its annual senior awards ceremony to celebrate and reward the many academic and extra curricular successes of our S4-S6 pupils throughout Session 2018/19.



Following a brief welcome and Headteacher's address from Ms Loudon, the audience were treated to a musical performance by the Pop 'n' Rock group. This was followed by an inspirational talk by our guest speaker, former pupil, Hayley Nisbet.



The Academic Excellence Awards were then presented followed by the Scott Gilchrist playing 'Fairy Tale' by Ludovico Einaudi on the piano. Next the Outstanding Effort awards were presented, followed by another performance by the Pop 'n' Rock group.

The Wider Achievement awards were then presented and this was followed by a Presentation by the 'Be Herd' group. The final batch of awards were the Presentation of Value Ambassadors, the announcement of the winner of the House Cup and the presentation of the Special Awards.

The evening ended with a Vote of Thanks to everyone who was involved in the Awards Ceremony.





## HOUSE CHAMPIONS 2019



Congratulations to the pupils and staff of Douglas House, who were crowned as House Champions at the Senior Awards Ceremony on 11th September.

The House Cup is keenly contested between the three houses and points towards the trophy are awarded for the taking part in various inter house events that take place throughout the year.

Our photograph shows Douglas House Captain for 2018-19: Allwyn Gardner-Young, Vice House Captain: Eirinn McKay and Miss Fowler with the House Trophy.

## DUX AWARD WINNER

Whitburn Academy are proud to announce that S6 pupil, Mia Lewington, has won the Professor George Salmond Dux award.

Mia earned this prize following her excellent performance in this year's SQA Exams.

Congratulations to Mia from everyone at Whitburn Academy, we hope that Mia winning this award shows all our pupils that effort and hard work brings success.



## S4-S6 AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all of the following pupils, who received awards at the Senior Awards Ceremony for the hard work and effort they put in throughout Session 2018/19.

## Academic Excellence Awards

### S4 Award Winners:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Isla Brown	4B1	English and History
Daniel Cook	4B1	Mathematics, Media and Physics
Emma Currie	4D2	Design & Manufacture and Graphic Communication
Millie Denholm	4B1	Art & Design
Alyssa Hilditch	4W1	Chemistry and Computing
Nathan Hill	4W1	Physical Education
Emma Jamieson	4W1	Geography
Ellieann Johnstone	4D2	Hospitality: Cake Craft
Klaudia Laurman	4B2	Hospitality: Cookery
Alexander MacRae	4W2	Computing and Spanish
Emma-Jane McKay	4D1	Modern Studies
Eve Neally	4D1	French
Mara Prentice	4D1	Biology and French
Amy Stevenson	4B1	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies
Michael Thomson	4B1	Business Management
Natasha Thomson	4W2	Music

### S5 Award Winners:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Brandon Allan	5D1	Higher Art & Design
Adam Gilmour	5D1	Higher Graphic Communication
Ben Gordon	5D1	Higher Computing and Physics
Mia Lewington	5W2	Higher English, History and Music
Anna Martin	5D1	Higher Modern Studies and Sociology
Jenna McMahan	5W1	Higher Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies
Melissa McMullan	5B1	Higher Design & Manufacture
Riley Polland	5D1	Higher Chemistry and Mathematics
Joshua Redpath	5W2	Higher Geography

### S6 Award Winners

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Matthew Benfold	6B	Higher Spanish
Natasha Brown	6B	Higher Media
Sean Cameron	6W	Advanced Higher Art & Design and Higher Photography
Daniel Ferguson	6D	Advanced Higher Mathematics

Scott Gilchrist	6W	Higher Administration & IT, Higher Biology, Advanced Higher Music, Higher Music Technology and Higher Physical Education
Graeme Jamieson	6W	Advanced Higher Biology
Chloe Robinson	6B	Advanced Higher English
Steven Todd	6B	Higher Business Management
Clare Todd	6W	Higher Psychology
Michael Watt	6D	Higher Politics

### S4 Outstanding Effort Award Winners:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Adam Ashworth	4W1	Biology
Aimee-Leigh Cairney	4W2	Chemistry
Murron Calderhead	4D2	English
Ben Cochrane	4W2	Retail
Emma Currie	4D2	Art & Design
James Dow	4D2	Employability
Ellie Foster	4D2	History
Natasha Gibson	4W2	Support
David Greig	4B2	Design & Manufacture
Nicole Higgins	4D2	Travel & Tourism
Alyssa Hilditch	4W1	Mathematics
Finn Kelly	4D1	Media
Emma McMillan	4B1	Hospitality: Creative Cakes and Geography
Emma-Jane McKay	4B1	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies and Spanish
Rachael McKennan	4D1	Modern Studies
John Moore	4B2	Laboratory Science
Kevin Nowinski	4B2	Graphic Communication
Hazel Parlett	4B2	Creative Industries
Kayly Sutherland	4B2	Childcare
Michael Thomson	4B1	Music
Katie Wood	4W1	Business Management
Ellie Wood	4B1	Hospitality: Practical Cookery
Shannon Young	4W1	Physics

### S5 Outstanding Effort Award Winners:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Keira Black	5W1	Childcare and Hospitality
Ryan Brown	5B1	Politics
Alison Cowan	5W2	Art & Design and French
Kerry Gordon	5D1	English and Physics
Lee Haddow	5D2	Music
Chloe Johnstone	5B1	Geography

Daniel Johnstone	5W2	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Levi Morrison	5B1	Championing LGBT+ rights in Whitburn Academy
Dawn Kane	5D2	History	Michael Watt	6D	Championing LGBT+ rights in Whitburn Academy
Mia Lewington	5W2	Biology			
Melissa McColl	5B1	Mathematics and Modern Studies	Dawn Kane	5D2	Contribution to Ancre Somme Society
Harry McLaughlin	5W1	Photography	Mia Lewington	5W2	Contribution to Ancre Somme Society
Melissa McMullan	5B1	Design & Manufacture			
Riley Polland	5D1	Graphic Communication	Ben Gordon	5D1	Peer Tutor Work with younger pupils
Kiera Robertson	5D2	Administration & IT			
Anna Scott	5W2	Computing	Alex Scott	4D1	Peer Tutor Work with younger pupils
Morgan Simpson	5D2	Creative Industries			
Matthew Wallace	5D2	Chemistry	Chloe Robinson	6B	Contribution to the Graduation Committee

### **S6 Outstanding Effort Award Winners**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subject</b>			
Dominika Andrzejewska	6B	Modern Studies and Spanish	Natasha Brown	6B	Contribution to the Year Book Committee
Sophie Bennett	6W	Sports Leader			
Natasha Brown	6B	Music and Psychology	Tia Johnson	6B	Contribution to the Year Book Committee
Sean Cameron	6W	French and Photography			
Sophie Clark	6B	English	Claire Todd	6D	Contribution to the Year Book Committee
Paul Conway	6W	Computing			
Allwyn Gardner-Young	6D	Politics	Lee Haddow	5D2	Outstanding Extra-Curricular contribution to the Music Department
Scott Gilchrist	6W	Administration & IT and Music Technology			
Rachael Harris	6B	Design & Manufacture	Ewan Shaw	5W2	Outstanding Extra-Curricular contribution to the Music Department
Stephanie MacLean	6B	Sociology			
Jakub Mazurek	6D	Business Management			
Ellie McCaig	6D	History and Sociology	Reece Thom	5W1	Outstanding Extra-Curricular contribution to the Music Department
Nicole Russell	6B	Laboratory Science			
Tiegan Simpson	6D	Hospitality: Creative Cakes			
Claire Todd	6W	Art & Design and Graphic Communication	Matthew Benfold	6B	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'
Steven Todd	6B	Mathematics and Physical Education			
Mark White	6B	Media and Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Natasha Brown	6B	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'

### **Wider Achievement Awards**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Award</b>			
Jenna McMahon	5W1	Representing Scotland at Mock Court International and Winning the 'Rising Star Award 2018'	Scott Gilchrist	6W	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'
Scott Gilchrist	6W	100% Attendance across Six Years	Mia Lewington	5W2	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'

Stephanie MacLean	6B	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'	Anna Martin	5DI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Sam Morrison	5BI	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'	Naomi McLeod	4BI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Sophie Neally	5WI	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'	Jenna McMahon	5WI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Kirstie Russell	5BI	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'	Levi Morrison	5BI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Michael Watt	6D	Contribution to Music in Whitburn Academy and beyond as a 'Music Ambassador'	Sam Morrison	5BI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Dominika Andrzejewska	6B	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award	Courtney Morton	5WI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Matthew Benfold	6B	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award	Sophie Neilly	5WI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Aaron Dunbar	4W2	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award	Riley Polland	5DI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Adam Gilmour	5DI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award	Abbie Queen	5DI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Daniel Johnstone	5W2	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award	Josh Roy	4WI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Amy Lamont	5B	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award	Anna Scott	5W2	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Mia Lewington	5W2	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award	Ewan Shaw	5W2	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award

Jack Sneddon	4WI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Erin Stone	4WI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Kayly Sutherland	4B2	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Zack Taylor	5WI	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award
Michael Watt	6D	Outstanding Contribution to 'Be Herd' concert, nomination for COSLA award and winning a Stellar Award

### **Values Ambassadors**

#### **Respect**

Taylor Riley	4D2
Marc Archondakis	5D1
Rachel Harris	6B

#### **Integrity**

Melissa Campbell	4D1
Sophie Neally	5WI
Taylor McCaw	6W

#### **Compassion**

Amy Stevenson	4B1
Melissa McColl	5B1
Dominika Andrzejewska	6B

**Senior Values Champion:           SCOTT QUEEN**

#### **House Winner**

**House Points Trophy Winner:   DOUGLAS HOUSE**

### **Special Awards**

#### **Head Teacher's Awards**

**Head Teacher's Award for School Captain**  
**NATASHA BROWN**

**Head Teacher's Award for School Vice Captain**  
**RACHEL HARRIS**

#### **Russell Athletic Trophy**

**Outstanding contribution to PE Department:**  
**MICHAEL THOMSON**

#### **Professor James Sommerville Awards**

**The Award for Achievement - the student with the best academic performance in S4:**  
**ALEXANDER MACRAE**

**Medal for Sciences and Technologies - the student with the best academic performance in S4:**  
**ALYSSA HILDITCH / ALEXANDER MACRAE**

**Medal for Arts and Humanities - the student with the best academic performance in S4:**  
**EMMA-JANE MCKAY**

#### **More Special Awards**

**Whitburn Amateur Stage Productions Award - the senior student who has contributed hugely to the Music department over six years**  
**SCOTT GILCHRIST**

**The Andy Muir Award - the senior student who has made a significant contribution to the life of the school:**  
**MICHAEL WATT**

**Rotary Award - student who has shown commitment and determination to succeed and is now leaving school :**  
**ERIN STONE**

**Creative Writing Trophy - the senior student who has displayed an outstanding talent for creative writing:**

## **CHLOE ROBINSON**

**Lodge Polkemmet Trophy - the student who has made a significant contribution to the community or charity**

## **ALLWYN GARDNER-YOUNG**

### **Professor George Salmond Awards**

**Science and Technology - the senior student with the best academic performance in relevant subjects:**

## **ADAM GILMOUR**

**Arts and Humanities - the senior student with the best academic performance in relevant subjects:**

## **ANNA MARTIN**

**Quaich - the senior student who has made the biggest impact on, or contributed most to, interactions between the school and the local community:**

## **ANNA MARTIN**

**The student who has shown significant progress in a number of subjects**

## **MELISSA MCCOLL**

### **Sneddon Morrison Award**

**Languages - the senior student with the best academic performance in relevant subjects:**

## **KERRY GORDON**

**Dux Awards (sponsored by Professor George Salmond)**

**Proxime Accessit 2019**

## **ANNA MARTIN**

**Dux 2019**

## **MIA LEWINGTON**



# JUPITER ARTLAND WORKSHOP

The Jupiter Artland Foundation is a contemporary sculpture park set in 120 acres of woodland in West Lothian.



It is a registered charity, committed to nurturing the work of outstanding contemporary artists and commissioning site-specific works in response to the landscape. The Learning Foundation at Jupiter Artland, has been working in partnership with DYW, Whitburn Academy and schools across West Lothian to create a 3D design challenge for pupils.

S2 pupils have been challenged to design a three-dimensional work in response to a specific location within our school grounds. They may work as individuals or in groups however their selected 3D ideas need to

embrace the potential of our site and relate to our environment.

## YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Well Done to Lucy and Zoe, who have been appointed as SportScotland Young Ambassadors for Whitburn Academy.



Good luck to both girls as they embark on their leadership journey.

## BE HERD PRESENTATION

On 18th September, representatives from the Be Herd group headed to Edinburgh to make their presentation to the Cosla awards judging panel.

The Be Herd group, who have been nominated for a Cosla award for their efforts to raise awareness and remove the stigma of mental health issues in Whitburn Academy and the local community, spoke briefly to the judging panel before showing the promotional

video that they've filmed over the past few weeks. The group then answered a series of questions from the panel.

We should find out in the next few weeks how the group got on.



## MUSIC AMBASSADORS

The Music Department have appointed their ambassadors for session 2019-20





The Music Ambassadors run extra curricular clubs during lunch times for all year groups. They get opportunities to observe learning in the classroom and work as Pupils as Partners. They also help with leading events throughout the year.

Well Done to all the pupils who have been appointed to this role.

## S6 PRIMARY READING BUDDIES

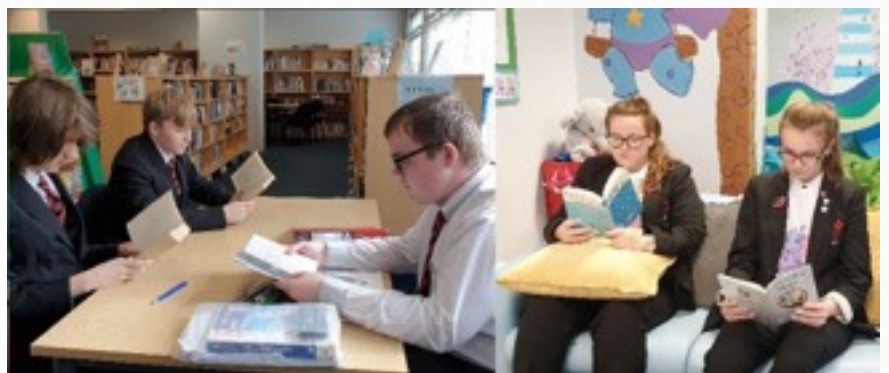
Some of our S6 students have kindly volunteered their time every Friday morning to go to Whitdale Primary School and help younger pupils develop their reading skills.



The S6 students are Adam, Mia, Kiera, Dawn and Kirstie. Thanks very much to Whitdale Primary for welcoming us in and supporting this reading programme.

## READING POSE COMPETITION

Throughout week beginning 16th September, the Literacy Group have been running a competition for pupils to send in a photo of their best 'reading pose'.



The competition, which is done as part of the Literacy Group's drive to build a reading culture in Whitburn Academy, received many entries from across the year groups.

Here are the results:

- Senior Winner: Kirstie
- Junior Winner: Kelsey
- Runners up: Jenna, Dawn, Kiera and Ellie

## STELLAR AWARD WINNERS

On Friday 20th September, the 'Be Herd' groups attended the West Lothian Stellar Awards ceremony.

We are very pleased to announce that the group won a Stellar Award for Health and Wellbeing!



Well Done to Ms Forbes and all the pupils in the Be Herd group on receiving this well deserved award for the work they are doing to raise awareness and remove the stigma of mental health issues in Whitburn Academy and our local community.

## BOOK SPINE POETRY COMPETITION

Mrs Skinner, the school librarian, is organising a Book Spine poetry competition to celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday 3rd October.

All English classes and reading groups have been invited to take part throughout this week. Pupils create a poem by stacking 6 books horizontally to make a poem from the titles. Winners will be announced by the end of next week.



## UNDER 13'S FIRST MATCH

The PE department under 13 football campaign kicked off on Friday 29th September.



The first match was against an organised Armadale Academy side who emerged victorious in this encounter. Despite this being the first match a number of boys have played in before, they displayed excellent effort which they should be very proud of. Onto the next match....

## ENGINEERING TOMORROW EVENT



On 25th September, 20 S2 pupils visited Edinburgh Airport to take part in the Engineering Tomorrow initiative.

Engineering Tomorrow is an initiative aimed at schools in areas of deprivation to build awareness around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects for young people. This gives young people an opportunity to sample Engineering through fun experiments and trying different technologies such as 3D

printing, wind tunnels, robotics and aerodynamics.

The pupils worked in groups to solve problems such as

- Using a 3D Printer to make a puzzle.
- Using a robot and programming it to navigate a course.
- Building a bridge and testing how much stress it could take.

The pupils had a great day and enjoyed finding out about different areas of STEM subjects and different options for future careers.

## MY WORLD OF WORK ASSEMBLIES

During Week beginning 30th September, Whitburn Academy's My World of Work Ambassadors delivered assemblies to the whole school.



The assemblies informed pupils about the My World of Work website and to support pupils to make informed choices about their career pathways.

The address for the My World of Work website is: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

## CAREER READY

On 2nd October, the new Career Ready cohort from Whitburn Academy celebrated the launch of the programme with their mentors from JBT Corporation, Glenmorangie Whisky, Kidzeco, West Lothian Council and CGI CGlobal.

Since 2002, Career Ready have connected employers with schools & colleges to provide young people aged 14-18 with mentors, internships, masterclasses, and employer-led activities that prepare them for the world of work.



They have a network of around 5,500 volunteers from 400 employers and have helped to transform the lives of 30,000 young people in 300+ schools & colleges in the past year.

## CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday 2nd October, a number of pupils represented Whitburn Academy in the annual West Lothian Schools Cross Country event.



Well done to all pupils who proudly represented our school. For more photographs of the event and all other PE-related news, follow us on Twitter - @WAC\_PE

## MVP MENTOR TRAINING

On 2nd and 3rd October, a group of senior pupils took part in Mentors in Violence Prevention Scotland training.

The MVP programme is designed to train pupils to speak out against bullying and all forms of violent and abusive behaviour, MVP focuses on an innovative 'bystander' approach that empowers each student to take an active role in promoting a positive school climate.

Within the MVP Programme young people are identified not as victims or perpetrators but as empowered bystanders able to support and even challenge abusive and bullying peers.

Young people are provided with a range of safe options which can prevent situations from escalating. The senior pupils will deliver lessons to our S1 and S2 pupils during this year.

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 27th September, the Charity Committee held a coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Research.



The pupils served cakes, juice, tea and coffee in the staff room at break time, while Erin (S4) provided some musical entertainment on the keyboard.



The event raised the fantastic total of £196.95 for MacMillan Cancer Research.

A big Thank You to all the Pupils and Staff who helped us raise this excellent amount of money for a worthwhile cause.

## SUBJECT AMBASSADOR TRAINING

On 3rd October, a number of pupils from all year groups took part in subject ambassador training.

The role of the Subject Ambassador is an important one as it will allow the school to research and listen to pupil's perspectives and views, empower pupils to build partnerships with each other and with staff as well as empowering pupils to lead and make changes.

It will also allow Subject Ambassadors to:

- lead or assist staff with extra-curricular activities
- lead or support events in the subject
- lead subject assemblies
- represent the subject in the school community and beyond





## ACADEMIC WRITING WORKSHOP

On 8th October, a group of senior pupils took part in an Academic Writing workshop led by Scottish writer Doug Johnstone.

Doug is the author of several young adult novels and some of our pupils were lucky enough to meet him at the Edinburgh Book Festival in August.

As part of the Bridge Project, funded by the Royal Literary Fund, Doug led a workshop on developing formal writing skills, bridging the gap between school and further/higher education.

The skills and techniques covered will be of huge benefit to pupils studying subjects such as English, Modern Studies and History, where more structured, formal writing is required for assignments and exam questions.

## INTER COUNTY SWIMMING COMPETITION

On 5th October, Melissa: one of our S2 pupils, took part in the Inter County Swimming Championships in Sheffield.

Melissa was part of the team representing the Scotland East team. They finished in 7th place in the 1st Division. Well Done to Melissa and the rest of the Scotland East team!



## HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD TO PASS EVENING

On 8th October, we held a How to Help Your Child to Pass evening.

The purpose of the evening was to highlight to parents / carers the numerous opportunities and resources on offer to pupils for exam classes such as:

- after school classes / council masterclasses

- resources in the school library
- how to use Scholar

There were also presentations on:

- studying effectively
- sleeping properly
- exam preparation from senior pupils perspective

The powerpoint slideshow from this event is available to download from the SQA Exams page on the School Website.





## MATHS WEEK

Monday 30th September to Friday 4th October was the most amazing week ever.....Maths week!!

Every single department and young person (in S1- S3) embraced this wonderful celebration!

Over the course of the week our young people took part in various activities including representing Whitburn Academy in multiple National competitions where there were also prizes to be won. These included Rigour, Maths Wi Nae Borders and Sumdog to name a few. Sumdog winners received their prizes and certificates w/b Monday 7th October during house assemblies.



## S2 NUMERACY WORKSHOP

Marcus Speirs, the managing director of 3 Pillars For Life, delivered a presentation and workshops to S2 on Friday 4th October.

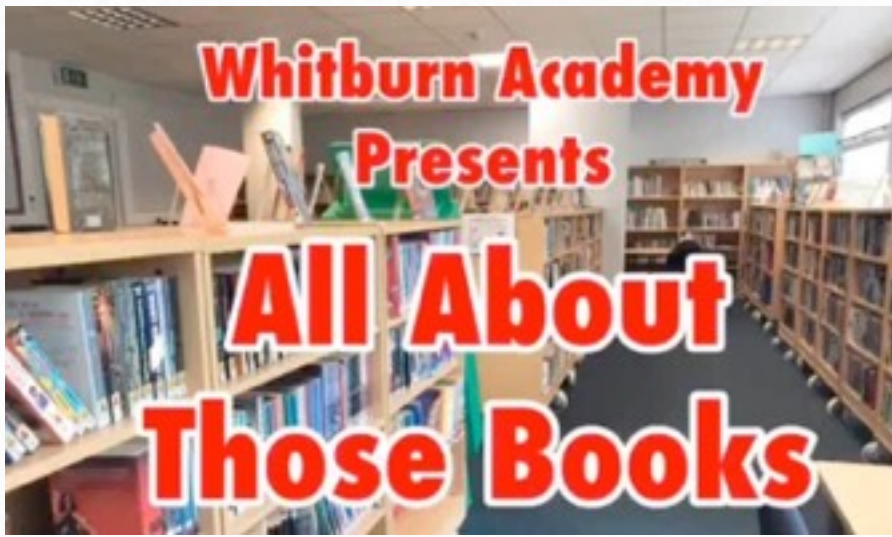
The aim was to stress the importance of numeracy in the workplace and also everyday life. The young people explored the vast number of careers and industries that relied on numeracy as well as trying to balance an average household budget.



## ALL ABOUT THOSE BOOKS PODCASTS

On 10th October, we recorded and released the first of many podcasts that are 'All about those books'.

Presented by DJ Nizzy (Miss Nisbet) and P Skinny (Mrs Skinner) and produced by DJ Techy (Mr Hawthorn), the first episode in the series includes a discussion about the book, 'Simon versus the Homo Sapiens Agenda'. The book discussed in the second podcast will be 'When Hitler stole Pink Rabbit'.



The podcasts can be found on our Soundcloud page: <https://soundcloud.com/whitburnacademy>. We intend to record and release a podcast most weeks during term time.

## COSLA GOLD AWARD WINNERS

On 10th October, the Be Herd group attended the COSLA Awards Ceremony in the Fairmont Hotel in St Andrews.

We are very proud to announce that the group won the Gold award for Tackling Inequalities and Improving Health! Congratulations to

everyone involved with the Be Herd Group on winning this award, it is truly well deserved!

It is a fantastic achievement for our Be Herd group whose aim is to raise awareness and tackle the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

The Whitburn Academy Be Herd project has already transformed and saved lives. Our hard hitting, moving assemblies and concert tackled mental health issues head on and gave our community the confidence and courage to Be Herd. By empowering people to talk about mental health; life chances are improved allowing our community to thrive both now and in the future. We want to share our goal with everyone because we all have mental health, there is no need for an elephant in the room and we all need to Be Herd.

The group have been invited by Neil Findlay MSP to share our success in the Scottish Parliament in November so that our work can be shared all across Scotland.





# SLEEP SUPPORT



**FREephone** 0800 138 6565

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person who has sleep problems then you can call us for advice and support.

Mon-Thu 10am-4pm

[www.sleepscotland.org](http://www.sleepscotland.org)

8 Hope Park Square, Edinburgh EH8 9NW  
Email: [enquiries@sleepscotland.org](mailto:enquiries@sleepscotland.org)  
Telephone: 0131 651 1392

Registered as a Charity No. SC 027560



# Caring for a child with an eating disorder?



## Get support from a parent who's walked this path before.

**Try Echo peer coaching, a free telephone service from Beat, the UK's eating disorder charity.**

Through Echo peer coaching, you'll be able to speak to a parent who's been there. Echo coaches have supported their child into recovery from an eating disorder. Through weekly 30-minute phone conversations, they'll give you a space where you feel understood, while empowering you to make the most positive impact possible on your child's recovery.

Beat in partnership with NHS Lothian  
- funded by Scottish Government.



**Go to [beateatingdisorders.org.uk/echo](https://beateatingdisorders.org.uk/echo) to find out more, or call 0808 801 0544.**



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](https://gov.scot)

A charity registered in England and Wales (801343) and Scotland (SC039309). Company limited by guarantee no. 2368495.

Research shows **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT** has a **BIGGER INFLUENCE** on children's attainment than other social, economic and family background factors



Children and young people who have at least one parent/carer engaged in their schooling:

- ACHIEVE:**
- better exam results
  - higher retention rates
  - smoother transitions between nursery, primary and secondary school
- and also**
- attend school more regularly
  - have better social skills and improved behaviour
  - adapt better to school and engage more in school work
  - have better networks of supportive relationships
  - have a greater sense of personal competence
  - are more likely to go on to further or higher education

**There are 6 dimensions to family engagement**

- Parenting:**  
Are there opportunities for parents to get support with parenting and understanding their child's education and developmental needs?
- Collaboration with the community:**  
Does the school coordinate resources and services for families and pupils with the wider community, including third sector organisations?
- Volunteering**  
Does the school provide opportunities and encouragement for all parents to come into school at different times to suit parents' busy schedules?
- Learning at home:**  
Does the school give information and advice on the curriculum and how parents can help their children?
- Communication:**  
Does the school communicate and listen to all parents about their role in their child's education?
- Decision-Making:**  
Are a variety of parents involved in parent organisations and committees?



To find out what schools can do go to <https://education.gov.scot/improvement>

The information on this poster has been extracted from a literature review conducted by CRFR on behalf of the Scottish Government.





	Break time	Lunch time	After school
<b>Mon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cinema – Assembly Hall (Mr Hawthorn &amp; Mrs McVerry) (£1 for full year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cinema – Assembly Hall (Mr Hawthorn &amp; Mrs McVerry) (£1 for full year)</li> <li>Jigsaw Equality Group – LS Room 1 (Mrs Thomson and Miss Nicol)</li> <li>Guitar/Ukele – Music Ambassadors</li> <li>Design and Prop Making – Art (Miss MacKay)</li> <li>Chess Club (after October holiday) – room 214 (Mr Watson)</li> <li>Rights Respecting Schools Group – Room 312 (Miss Dickson)</li> <li>Live Lounge – Music Ambassadors</li> <li>Music Theory and Supported Study – Music Ambassadors</li> <li>S1 Computing Club – room 209 (Ms Watson)</li> <li>International Film Club – room 106 (Mr Duffy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table Tennis – Dance Studio (Mr Steven)</li> <li>Volleyball – Games Hall (Miss Nicol)</li> </ul>
<b>Tues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cinema – Assembly Hall (Mr Hawthorn &amp; Mrs McVerry) (£1 for full year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cinema – Assembly Hall (Mr Hawthorn &amp; Mrs McVerry) (£1 for full year)</li> <li>Compass Café – Room 204 (Miss Manning)</li> <li>Drum Kit – Music Ambassadors</li> <li>Choir – MR3 (Miss Ho)</li> <li>Tuned Percussion – Music Ambassadors</li> <li>Languages Club – room 106 (Mr Duffy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gymnastics/Dance – Dance Studio (Miss Buchanan)</li> <li>Multisports - Games Hall (Mr Duffy)</li> <li>Running club – PE (Ms Watson)</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cinema Assembly Hall (Mr Hawthorn &amp; Mrs McVerry) (£1 for full year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cinema – Assembly Hall (Mr Hawthorn &amp; Mrs McVerry) (£1 for full year)</li> <li>Creative Writing – Room 101 (Mr Tibbetts)</li> <li>Keyboard Club – Music Ambassadors</li> <li>Charity Committee – Room 209 (Ms Watson)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Netball – Games Hall (Miss Drysdale and Eve (S5))</li> <li>Wind band - MR2 (Mrs Cuthbertson)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cinema – Assembly Hall (Mr Hawthorn &amp; Mrs McVerry) (£1 for full year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cinema – Assembly Hall (Mr Hawthorn &amp; Mrs McVerry) (£1 for full year)</li> <li>S1-S4 Debate Club – Room 204 (Miss Manning and Miss Reid)</li> <li>Book Group – Library (Mrs Skinner)</li> <li>Be Herd – Elephant in the Room – Room 203 (Ms Forbes)</li> <li>Robotics (S3-S6) – Room 307 (Mrs Williamson)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young Engineers – DMG2 (Mr Young)</li> <li>Certificated Practical – Games Hall (Mr Stevenson)</li> <li>Rock and Pop Group (Mr Humphrey)</li> <li>Design and Prop Making – Art Department (Miss Mackay)</li> <li>School Show – MR1 (Ms McMillan)</li> </ul>

