



# Bellshill Academy Newsletter

## Easter 2015



### A Message from Mrs Munro

I am delighted to welcome you to Bellshill Academy's Spring Newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warmest congratulations and thanks to all of our young people and staff who have worked incredibly hard this term in order to achieve the many successes you will read about in our Newsletter.

As always, this is one of our busiest terms of the session as we prepare our young people for SQA assessments and examinations. It is therefore particularly important that we take time to recognise all of the members of our school community who have contributed to providing the widest range of experiences and opportunities for our pupils.

On behalf of all of our staff, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our great school and to wish you and your families a very happy Easter holiday.

### Art Project



A group of S4 pupils recently finished two murals which have been displayed in the school hallway. The paintings were inspired by the work of the artist James Cowie, who was a former Principal Teacher at Bellshill Academy. The pupils worked on and finished the murals in their own time after school and everyone was delighted with the final outcome. A small unveiling took place on 24<sup>th</sup> March where QIO of Expressive Arts, Irene Pandolfi was invited to attend together with Head Teacher Anne Munro, other members of staff and some S1 pupils. Many thanks to Mrs Claire Campbell in the Art department for supporting the pupils

throughout this project and congratulations to the students (Robyn Gardiner, Georzea Speedie, Erin Irvine, Lauren Mitchell and Ronan Robb-Macauley) for producing such a fantastic piece of work.

### Eclipse

To prepare for the solar eclipse on the 20<sup>th</sup> March all S2 pupils were studying the Solar System in Science. As well as looking at the solar system in detail they produced pin-hole cameras from a variety of materials to view the eclipse safely. Despite the cloudy weather all S2 pupils were able to view the eclipse from the playing fields.

### Author Visits

Pupils in S2 English at Bellshill Academy had a treat on Monday when award-winning author Cathy MacPhail visited the school. The pupils are studying one of her books and were enthralled as Cathy discussed her writing and inspiration. As well as giving the class a sneak preview of her latest book, Cathy involved the pupils in developing a creepy story set in the school after hours. S2 thoroughly enjoyed the visit and Cathy was very impressed by their terrifying ideas!



Scottish writer Matthew Fitt recently paid a visit to Bellshill Academy Library to address Mr McSwegan and Mrs Casement's S2 English class. Matthew gave a very entertaining talk about the use of Scots language in his own books and poems, as well as discussing his recent translations of *Asterix* books into Scots. S2 greatly enjoyed the visit .

### **Readathon Charity World Book Day**

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March, the English department, led by Miss Joanne Wilson and Mr Jack Maguire, organised a range of activities and quizzes for students and staff. Staff in all departments supported this by allowing all S1-3 classes 10 minutes private reading at the start of every period. The department also organised two charity Readathon competitions. Congratulations to Sean Beard S1 who won our "Just A Phrase You're Going Through" competition and to Mrs Gowrie who won our "Shelfie" competition. Both won a £50 Tesco voucher.

### **North Lanarkshire Dance Championships**



This year's North Lanarkshire Dance Championships took place over two days on 12<sup>th</sup> March at Airdrie Town Hall and 24<sup>th</sup> March at Bellshill Academy. Many schools from across the Authority took part in this event. A wide range of dance genres were performed to a very high standard. 30 pupils from Bellshill Academy took part in the competition and were awarded medals in the following categories:

**Junior Hip Hop: SILVER** - Sophie Reid & Sophie Kerr (duo)

**Junior Contemporary: GOLD** - Rebecca Haley, Luci Jones, Kimberly Crielly, Nicole Boyd, Lauren Gilmour, Robyn Gowrie, Kaitlyn Anderson. (group)

**Junior Contemporary: SILVER** – Charmaine Swan, Dana Jovetic-Rankine, Eve Gardiner, Sophie Kerr & Alana Hillcoat. (group)

**Irish Dancing: GOLD** – Emma Rae (solo)

### **Football Under 14's**

The Bellshill Under 14's have had a promising start to their school football careers. They have shown great spirit and determination this year, starting off the season with a fantastic win against Lesmahagow beating them 4-1. They had fought their way into the second round of the Scottish under 14's shield and although proving worthy of going far in the tournament, were beaten by Airdrie Academy. The boys from Bellshill have lots of potential and are searching for their second win of the season. Although providing a magnificent performance against St Ambrose recently, again they were just beaten. This aside, the desire and passion they have to play and represent their school and each other ensures that with a little bit of hard work there is a bright future for football here at the Academy.

### **Netball Club**

The Netball Club has restarted and runs on Tuesdays 3.30 - 4.30pm. The club is open to all year groups.

### **Rugby**

The Bellshill Barbarians (Ba Ba's) have had a successful couple of months. Their previous outing to the schools tournament was a great success as they managed to finish unbeaten in their group with three wins and a draw. Since then they have gone from strength to strength and been able to showcase their potential for this season and next. With two wins over Taylor recently the Ba Ba's are now gaining confidence, so much so they were able to run in nine tries in their most convincing win yet.

Let's not forget that this group of players are all beginners with little or no rugby experience. This said, in their last game of the term against Dalziel - a team made up of established club players- the team boasted their best performance of the season thus far. Led by Captain Alex Gavin (S2), the Academy took the game to Dalziel and managed to score four tries to their five. This highlights the progress made by the boys whose commitment to train and succeed have helped in establishing a formidable Under 14's side.

### **Partnership Office**

We were delighted to welcome our Executive Director of Education, Andrew Sutherland, local elected members and community partners to the launch of a joint Bellshill Academy and Cardinal Newman HS Fire Safety project. The launch which took place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March in the Academy's Jura suite,

was coordinated by Yvonne Macbean (Partnership Officer) and Jim Paterson (Youth Worker, Bellshill Area Team). Yvonne and Jim were given funding by the Bellshill Community Safety Sub Group to work with young people in the area to decrease the amount of willful fire raising and in particular wheelie bin fires.

A group of 25 young people from both Bellshill Academy and Cardinal Newman High worked together to develop a fire prevention peer education pack and educational videos to go along with the pack. Matt Costello, representing the Community Safety sub group, praised the students for the tremendous effort they had put in to such a worthwhile project.



The Third and Fourth year XL groups at Bellshill Academy have been working hard to raise funds for the Queen Street Appeal Fund. Over Christmas both groups ran enterprise projects. The third year pupils made and sold reindeer food, badges and bracelets while the fourth year group made and sold personalised Christmas baubles. These business ventures proved very profitable resulting in the groups raising an incredible £145.67 for the Appeal Fund.

### **Malawi Project**

Due to the success of last year's Malawi project, Bellshill Academy has selected a further eight charitable and enthusiastic students who will again represent the people of Bellshill in travelling to Malawi in June 2016. We are sure the whole community will again get behind this exceptional cause to develop links which will enable us to support communities in Malawi.

### **Live n Learn workshops**

This week all students in S4-6 took part in exam preparation workshops delivered by **Live n Learn**. This is the third year we have used the company to deliver innovative and inspirational workshops to our students. This

year staff and parents have also had the opportunity to take part in the interactive workshops. Feedback from all participants has been exceptionally positive.

### **Construction Crafts Skills Academy.**

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, we were delighted to welcome Councillor Logue, Convener of Learning and Leisure Services and Andrew Sutherland, Executive Director of Learning and Leisure Services to the school to open the new NLC Construction Crafts Skills Academy which is based in our school campus. The new construction academy will create fantastic opportunities for pupils to move directly into employment, college and training. It will be open to senior pupils from Bellshill Academy, Cardinal Newman High School and schools across North Lanarkshire.



The new academy brings together a range of partners including New College Lanarkshire, MEARS, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority and North Lanarkshire Council.

### **Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award**

Students in S5 had the opportunity to participate in a presentation delivered by the Mark Scott Foundation on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. This is the third year we have been invited to participate in this very prestigious award which is based on a community project.

### **Reach Group**

On the 18th February at Brannock High School the S4 Reach Group met. The S4 school session gives pupils the opportunity to explore and learn more about what it's like to work in one of the four Reach professions - Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Law and Dentistry - the training involved and the academic and non-academic skills and requirements they will have to achieve to give them the best chance

of gaining entry to study the subject at University.

### **P7 Transition Coffee Morning**

Many thanks to the large number parents and carers of P7 pupils who attended our transition coffee morning on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. The event which was organised by Mr John Johnston, DHT, was a great success. Parents and carers had the opportunity to hear presentations from our School Captains and S1 pupils being treated to tea and coffee prepared and served by our 4XL students.

Our S1 choir performed some Burns songs which they had prepared as part of our Burns celebrations and the morning ended with senior students conducting a tour of the school. Feedback from parents and carers was excellent and we plan to make this event an annual feature as part of our Transition Programme.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

To recognise Holocaust Memorial Day on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, two of our senior students, Greg Edney and Lauren Craig prepared a presentation which was used in all Tutor classes. The presentation was based on their visit last term to Auschwitz.

### **Police Talks**

Many thanks to our community Police Officers who, over the past few weeks have been delivering presentations to pupils in S2 and S3 as part of our Personal Support programme.

### **FOCUS West Campus Day.**

A group of S3 students had the opportunity to spend the day at the University of the West of Scotland, Hamilton Campus on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. The visit is part of the students' early preparations for applying to University.

### **MSYP Elections**

The MSYP (Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament) elections have taken place in school. Our very own Louise Aitken (S5) stood along with our current MSYP Jordan Linden. All pupils have had the opportunity to vote and Louise and Jordan held assemblies and meetings in school during the past few days.

### **HMI Conference**

We were delighted to host a conference for HM Inspectors of Education on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The conference was a huge success with Inspectors praising the work of the school and the impact the school is having in

improving outcomes for our students. Four of our senior students delivered presentations on the wide range of leadership opportunities they have been given, many of these opportunities have been led by our Partnership Officer Yvonne Macbean. Inspectors were very impressed by their presentations.

### **Study Skills Evening**

Following on from our last successful parents study skills evening in August we ran another night for parents on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. We felt that this was an ideal time to look at the importance of parental involvement in supporting our young people with their studying.

### **Film Making**

The Learning Centre, based in the Academy, has been commissioned to make a film (or films) using S6 pupils both in front of the camera and behind it. Students will have the opportunity to participate as performers, camera-people, writers, directors and sound technicians. The film will be produced from start to finish in June and will be a fantastic way for seniors to end their school career.

### **New Arrivals!**



Bellshill Academy welcomes new arrivals this term - 10 baby chicks! The eggs and equipment are supplied by Living Eggs Scotland. There has been a great deal of interest by pupils and staff with a couple of possible adoptions offered. Any chicks not rehomed will return to the free range farm. S1 are studying the Cells Alive topic in science at the moment and learning and teaching is certainly being enhanced for pupils and staff.