

Weekly Heads Up!

Friday 12 January 2018

Message from the Headteacher

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your families were able to enjoy the break and now feel rested and prepared for the term ahead. Our new term has begun and we enter a very busy term for our senior pupils. Our prelim exams will start on Monday 22nd January and all of our senior pupils are busy in preparation for these. As you will see below, we are also starting to look at preparing for session 2018/19 too.

I hope that 2018 will be all that you are hoping for and I look forward to sharing successes in school with you over the remainder of the year.

Senior Prelims

Will take place during the fortnight starting Monday 22nd January 2018.

N5 Maths

All N5 maths classes should be working through revision question booklets they have at home in preparation for their up-coming prelim. They should use their textbook, notes booklet and web resources (Rigour Maths and Mathsrevision) to help them learn the key skills covered in these revision booklets. They should also be looking over work on Pythagoras Theorem, Similarity, Angles and Trig Graphs & Equations for their mini assessment next week.

H and AH Maths

To prepare for prelim thoroughly all Higher and Advanced Higher pupils should be working through past papers. They should be using textbook and/or notes and online resources (Rigour Maths, Mathsrevision, HSN Notes) to support them learn the key skills covered within the course.

Senior Phase Options Consultations

The Senior Leadership Team has begun consultations around course choice for 2018/19 with our S3, S4 and S5 students. This means that students will have the opportunity to adjust timetabling column structures to ensure that, as far as possible, we are accommodating the wishes of our young people. Mr Ryrie from Skills Development Scotland will spend the next few weeks interviewing all S3 students about subject choice and its relevance to career choice. Furthermore, careers and subject choices are being discussed in Social Education. It would be appreciated if parents could take the opportunity to discuss careers and subject choices with their child at home. There will be an Options Information evening for parents of all S3/4/5 on the 28th February which will be one week before final decisions have to be handed in. Further information on all of this will follow over the coming weeks.

Music practical exams - advance warning!

Pupils sitting N5 or Higher music have a practical exam coming up - probably in the first week in March, although it could be earlier! This is the FINAL exam, conducted by a visiting examiner from the SQA. It is crucial that pupils are using class time wisely to prepare for this exam (and not wasting time talking about their hair or practising their dance moves). If they have access to an instrument at home, please encourage them to do as much practise as possible!

Music revision dictionaries

Mr Mabon has created **revision dictionaries** for N5, H and AH. These are available on GLOW, on the shared drive in school and through the school website. Music students should use these resources (which have taken a year to prepare!) every week at home from now until the listening exam in May.

Beauty and the Beast

Auditions took place this afternoon (*Friday 12th January*) for the principal parts in our Summer show, Beauty & The Beast. The show is open to anyone from S1 to S6. Rehearsals will take place on Thursday lunchtimes and Friday afternoons every week from Friday 19th January (with a break for SQA exams).

Rehearsals will generally last from 1.45pm until 3.45pm on Fridays. Anyone who wishes to be in the show must be able to attend these rehearsals every week, although accommodation will be made for those who may be involved in hockey or rugby matches on Fridays. Nearer the time of the show (from late April) there may be some rehearsals on Sunday afternoons. The show itself is from Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th June. Tickets will be available from after the Easter holiday.

Parent Council 200 Club Lottery

We have ever increasing members in the 200 Club and the prize money is growing every month. If you are not yet a member, please consider doing so as it is one of the ways in which the Parent Council is supporting the school through fundraising. The cost is £2 per month or £24 annually. Forms are available on the school website.

Winners of the January 2018 draw are:

1st Prize: Lesley Thomson – No.21

2nd Prize: Sandra Dewar – No.19

3rd Prize: Alexandra Watson – No.38