



St Margaret's Academy

Snippets

21st September 2018

Message from the Headteacher

I hope you enjoyed reading the previous edition of the snippets bulletin which was created by our new S6 school captains. They have started the year well and are beginning to bond as a team. I'm looking forward to working with them over the next year and I'm sure they will make a significant contribution to the life of the school.

Two weeks ago we had a review team from the council visit the school to evaluate our S1-3 Curriculum (The Broad General Education). This review visit is part of a wider review of the Broad General Education across all secondary schools in West Lothian and St Margaret's Academy was the first school to be visited. The feedback from the review has been very positive and comments have included....

- 'Attainment and achievement is very good for learners and this is supported by a strong and continually developing Curriculum'

- 'The curriculum meets the needs and aspirations of all learners by providing flexible pathways and promotes equity. There is a clear focus on addressing gender imbalance for example with STEM subjects'

The full report will be made available shortly and I will provide further feedback to the parent council at the meeting on Monday.

The West Lothian STELLAR award ceremony was held today in Howden Park Centre. These awards recognise the educational achievement of young people from across West Lothian and I am delighted that one of our pupils, Orla Davey (S6), received the top S5 attainment award in West Lothian. This was as a result of her achieving outstanding results in her Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications last session. Well Done Orla!

Finally, you may be aware that prior to the September weekend we had been experiencing a number of hoax fire alarms which caused significant disruption to students and staff in the school. Please be rest assured that we are doing everything possible to prevent further disruption to learning including installing a number of new call point covers and cameras. We have also been working closely with our partners at Scottish Fire & Rescue and will be arranging assemblies over the coming weeks to remind our young people of the potential dangers of triggering a fire alarm maliciously. I will be discussing this further with parents at the parent council meeting on Monday and would be delighted if you could join us from 7-8.30pm in the school library.

- Mr G McDowall

STELLAR awards 2018 -

Orla (S6) wins attainment award

Winning this award has been more than I expected! My initial goal was to work as hard as possible to get the best grades I could, with university in mind. Like me, so many students have worked so hard this year, and I will be happy to accept this award on behalf of the pupils and staff at St. Margaret's Academy.

What advice would I give to students starting exams? Be organised, self-disciplined, and above all, start early! Most importantly, just try your best and be proud of that, no matter what!

Orla Davey (S6)



Subject spotlight - Health & Well-being

The HWB Faculty would like to congratulate the S4-S6 students for their hard work and success in session 2017-2018.

We delivered a wide range of courses and are delighted to report significantly higher numbers of candidates choosing HWB courses compared to other schools in West Lothian. This is particularly evident in National 5 Health and Food Technology (HFT) where 19.1% of the S4 role were presented - more than five times the West Lothian average. At Higher HFT, 17.3% of students were presented with an impressive 91.2% achieving an A-C pass. There was also success in Advanced Higher HFT, Higher/Nat 5 Care as well as 21 passes in Early Education and Childcare. This variety of courses enables pupils to find individual pathways through the faculty and make choices based on their own strengths and interests.

Dance had a very successful year with a 100% pass rate at Higher and N5. Candidate numbers are high, with twice the regional presentation rate. Dance continues to grow in popularity at St Margaret's with ever increasing student numbers. Our young people clearly enjoy the opportunity to be creative and challenge themselves physically and technically.

N5 PE students also achieved an impressive 100% pass rate. Of the 58 candidates presented, 31 achieved an A grade. These results follow a positive pattern over recent years and this has transferred successfully into Higher PE where 86.6% of candidates achieved an A-C pass.

We firmly believe that our extensive extra - curricular program, offered to support curricular courses, has contributed to this success. The enthusiasm, commitment and high level of performance from our students, has gained St Margaret's Academy the WL School Sports Championship for the second year in a row. This commitment to Sport and Physical Education across the whole school has been recognised by Sport Scotland who, for four consecutive years, have awarded us their highest accolade of the Gold award for Excellence.

We are very grateful for and appreciate the continued support from parents/carers. We look forward to further success across the HWB faculty in the current academic year.

Tanera (S5) selected to dance at the inaugural Liverpool Tatoo

This year I have been selected to be part of the highland dance troupe for the debut Liverpool Tatoo on September 14th & 15th. There were 32 of us accepted from various countries around the world. This is an amazing opportunity I've been given and I look forward to it as I'm sure will be an amazing experience

Tanera(S5)



Message from Fr Simon

Last Thursday many of us gathered in the oratory to remember and pray for Anton Thom who died recently. Let's pray for all of those young people who are anxious that they may share how they are really feeling and so find the love and support they need.



Extra Curricular programme

Our extra curricular programme has now been finalised and is attached to this newsletter. We would encourage every young person to get involved in an extra curricular activity as its a great way to meet new people and discover a new hobby or interest.

West Lothian Leisure October holiday programme

The October holiday programme is now available from West Lothian Leisure and can be accessed via our school website or directly at

<https://www.westlothianleisure.com/media/2407/oct-hol-prog-2018-booklet-21-08-18.pdf>



Parent Council

St Margaret's Parent Council is a group of parents that represent all parents! We meet every month during term time to hear and discuss issues affecting the school and to voice our and other parents' suggestions and concerns.

Our next meeting is on the 24th September from 7-8pm with a 'cafe conversations' session from 8-8.30pm. Anyone with a child at the school is welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.