

King's Park Secondary School Newsletter for Families and Friends



www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

October 2009



King's Park Secondary is one of 100 schools in the UK selected for The Co-operative Group's £1m Green Energy for Schools scheme, and will receive rooftop solar panels worth £20,000. Thank you to parent Mr Colin Towler for nominating us!



Trades House Awards – Congratulations to Euan, Nathan and Rameez



Robyn, Ruaridh and Mr Houston represent Glasgow in a British Council visit to Beijing



Congratulations to Louise – Highly Commended in the Bridgeton Burns Club Competition



Congratulations to the rowers – representing Glasgow Schools at the Scottish Schools Championships. Anina narrowly missed 2nd place in the 'junior 15' singles sculling event.

More details of all these stories on the school website

Improvement Plan Priorities for Session 2009-10

You might remember that in the last newsletter, we told you that our Improvement Plan priorities for session 2009-10 are:

- Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence – more active learning; interdisciplinary learning; working in a context; numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing across learning
- Meeting Learning Needs – Promotion of a Positive Learning Climate – improve teaching for effective learning; implement behaviour management plan; additional support for learning; improve working with parents; 'more choices, more chances' strategy.
- Managing Information – Improve the tracking of pupil progress.

Any member of the Parent Forum is welcome to have a copy of the detailed plan. Please contact the school.

Standards and Quality Report for session 2008-09

Another document which is available from the school, and also on the school website, is the Standards and Quality Report for last session. This gives an evaluation of our standards of attainment and achievement for last year, and includes a very long list of many of the achievements of our pupils. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please contact the school.

Quality Review of King's Park Secondary School

During the week beginning Monday 19 October, officers from Education Services will conduct a Quality Review of our school. The team of reviewers will be:

- Ms Morag Gunion, Area Education Manager for the South East
- Mr Andrew McSorley, Head Teacher of St Thomas Aquinas Secondary, Glasgow
- Mr David Lawson, Quality Improvement Officer
- Ms Jacqui Nimmo, Quality Improvement Officer
- Ms Diane O'Neill, Depute Head Teacher, Castlemilk High School
- Ms Olivia King, Depute Head Teacher, Bannerman High School
- Mr Stephen Watters, Quality Improvement Officer
- Mr David Byrne, Quality Improvement Officer

We have been asked to evaluate ourselves using the HMIE ratings 1-6 (1=unsatisfactory, 2=weak, 3=satisfactory, 4=good, 5=very good, 6=excellent), on a range of Quality Indicators. The team will scrutinise all the evidence we provide to see if they agree with our self-evaluation. They will also talk to pupils, staff and parents, and will visit classes to see learning and teaching. The team will look at:

Improvements in Performance ... Learners' Experiences ... The Curriculum ... Teaching for Effective Learning ... Meeting Learning Needs ... Partnership with Learners and Parents ... Care, Welfare and Development ... Improvements Through Self-Evaluation ... Leadership of Improvement and Change

One of the members of the Quality Review Team will meet a group of parents on Thursday 22 October at some time between 11 am and 12.30 pm. If you would like to join this group, and speak to the reviewer, please contact Mrs Barr, Head Teacher, so that we can make arrangements.

As soon as we know the result of the Quality Review – at some point before Christmas - we will report back to you.

More details of all these stories on the school website



Laura and Anthony were selected to attend the Scottish Space School at the University of Strathclyde.



Modern Studies visit to the Scottish Parliament

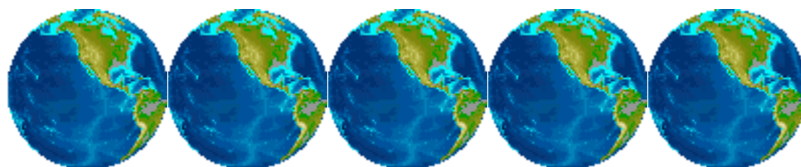


Congratulations to Abby – reached the final 3 of the Big Hearted Scotland Child of the Year Award



Congratulations to Ramon – who took part in the Great Scottish Run (10K), raising money for charity.

Once Again, King's Park Pupils Shine at Castle Toward



Congratulations to S5 pupil Liana Bates – accepted to play viola for the International Youth Orchestra Bremen!

Dear All

This newsletter is a reminder of some of the wonderful achievements of our pupils. It is just a small selection of the many good news stories from our school website.

However, sometimes shocking incidents happen without warning.

I wrote to you last month about the attack which took place on one of our pupils at the school gate, at the end of one day in September. The attacker was not a King's Park pupil, and the incident was related to matters in the community. The police were called and we are pleased that many pupils helped them with their enquiries. We had an increased police presence around the local community and at the school for a time. Community Safety officers and the Community Police held assemblies for each year group. They did not speak about the actual incident, but sought to reassure pupils about their safety. They spoke about the increased police presence, and the importance of reporting any information which might be helpful. Every pupil was given a leaflet with the CrimeStoppers number. All pupils were encouraged to report incidents or concerns. Pastoral Care staff were able to support the pupils who witnessed the incident. Any pupil or parent who is still concerned is invited to contact Pastoral Care staff.

We will never accept such incidents in our school, although they may, sadly, be a feature of the society we live in. King's Park values Respect and Responsibility, and violence has no place here. Our number one priority is the safety of our pupils, and we must work together to keep our school a safe place of learning. Thank you for your many messages of support.

As always, we encourage parents to stay in close touch, and to contact us if you have any concerns. We rely heavily on our partnership with you in the promotion of high standards of work, dress, behaviour, attendance and timekeeping. Please do get in touch with me if you wish to discuss anything.

Kind Regards



Mrs Margaret Barr
Head Teacher

Accompanying this newsletter, you should receive the following:

PARENTS OF S4-S6 PUPILS

Deadline information for SQA examinations. We value your support in making sure your children meet these deadlines.

If this information doesn't make it home through schoolbag post, please contact the school for a copy.

We welcome your feedback on this document.

Coming soon ...

PARENTS OF S1-3 PUPILS

**Numeracy –
A Guide to Parents about
how topics involving
numbers are taught in King's
Park Secondary School.**

King's Park Supports Malawi – Just Trading Scotland



For children in Malawi, only a primary education is free, but secondary education has to be paid for. The result is that only about one child in three receives a secondary education. It would cost a farmer what he can earn from the sale of 90kg of rice (if he gets a fair price for it) to pay for a child to go to secondary school for one year. The 90kg challenge asks groups to sell 90kg of fairly traded rice which is what is needed to send a child to secondary school for a year. The idea started in churches but is now beginning to spread into the wider community.

**This rice is on sale in school - £2.50 for a 1kg bag.
If you would like to purchase some, please contact the school.**

KING'S PARK SECONDARY - ECO NEWS



Message from the Eco Committee

The Eco Group are forming their first full Eco Committee. This committee will consist of pupils, staff (teaching and support staff), parents, and other members of the school community.

We are looking for a couple of parent representatives who would be able to commit to a monthly meeting after school, perhaps 3.30 pm till 4.30 pm.

The aims of the Eco Committee will be to

- plan and instigate a reduction in the school's environmental impact
- raise awareness of environmental issues
- achieve Green Flag status



Message from the Fairtrade Group

The Fairtrade group are going from strength to strength and are looking at forming a Food Co-op. They envisage a co-operative which could:

- supply parents and staff with Fairtrade, ethical products,
- offer a reduction from the manufacturers' prices,
- raise money for good causes within the school, local or global community,
- raise awareness of Fairtrade products

They would like to hear from any parent who has experience/knowledge of setting up a Food Co-op and any who would be willing to help.

Any parent interested in either of these initiatives– please contact David Lonie (Mathematics Department) on 0141-582 0150 or dlonie@kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk



Trip to the Glasgow Film Theatre – 'HOME'

The Eco Group took part in a discussion organised by Oxfam and Christian Aid, and saw the film 'HOME', all about saving the planet. Read their report on the school website.

Trip to the Glasgow Film Theatre to view 'Angels in the Dust'.

Two of our pupils – Hayley and Laura – volunteered to demonstrate how the AIDS virus works. Then the S6 group viewed the film 'Angels in the Dust'.



SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REMIND PARENTS ABOUT THE GLASGOW ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR ICT

Access to the Glasgow Secondary Schools ICT System

Acceptable Use Policy (Pupils)

The ambition for Glasgow Schools is that information and communication technology will become an integral part of the educational experience of every young person. As a Glasgow Secondary School pupil, you are being given access to one of the most advanced information and communication technology (ICT) systems available at any secondary school in the UK. This ICT System will provide access to extensive curricular software, email and the Internet for all. The objective is to give you the best possible grounding in the skills necessary to succeed in the information age.

As with all resources available within school deliberate misuse of the ICT System will be subject to the school's disciplinary procedures and sanctions.

What is expected of you?



Acceptable Use of the ICT System

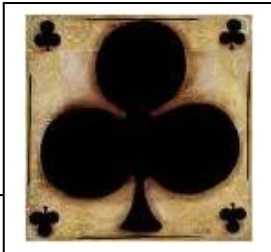
1. You must always get permission from a teacher before using the ICT System or accessing any information or application.
2. You must keep secret your personal login and password for the ICT System and never allow others to use them.
3. You must not attempt to access any part of the ICT System that is not part of your personal desktop.
4. You must not intentionally damage or vandalise any part of the ICT System (including computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse, printer, cable etc) or delete any computer software used on the ICT System or the data of another user.
5. You must not intentionally introduce software designed to cause damage to any component part of the ICT System software (commonly known as a virus).
6. You must never take food or drink into classrooms that have computers in them. It is all too easy to damage computer equipment through spillage and there is a risk of injury where liquids come into contact with electrical appliances.
7. You must always end session your on a computer by closing it down correctly. If you are unsure how to close down, you should ask your teacher.

Acceptable Use of E-mail and the Internet

You are responsible for good behaviour on the Internet and should consider your e-mail communications as being similar in all respects to any conversation in a classroom or a school corridor. *General school rules apply.* In addition the following acts are prohibited :

1. Sending or displaying any abusive, racist or otherwise offensive material.
2. Using obscene language.
3. Accessing or attempting to access any inappropriate or offensive material.
4. Violating copyright laws.
5. Failing to report known instances of any of the above.

Remember, everything that you do on the system will be automatically recorded and the people who operate the ICT System will monitor your compliance with this Acceptable Use Policy.



CLUBS

See our school website for a list of the clubs and activities.

- Football
- Dance
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Choir
- Orchestra
- Ceilidh Band
- Jazz Band
- History
- Computing
- Eco
- International
- Library
- and more.

Coming soon – Cheerleading!



The Sconestone came to King's Park.
Read all about it on the website.

WANTED

Parents Wanted!

APPEAL FOR YOUR HELP
Please email or phone 0141-582 0150

In the Eco page of this newsletter, there are appeals for parents who:

- are willing to be members of our Eco Committee OR
- have experience of setting up a Food Co-op, or are just willing to help.

Please contact Mr David Lonie in the Mathematics department for more information.

dlonie@kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

Another area where we really need parental help is with Sport Clubs and Activities. We have senior pupils who act as Sports Captains, who are working very hard, but they need parental help. We have many pupils who wish to run a club, but need an adult to supervise – no skills required, just supervise. Parental help at the Swimming Gala, Sports Day, Football Tournaments etc would be greatly appreciated.

We hope to publish a list of dates when parental help would be needed. In the meantime, if you might be interested, please contact Mr Stephen Capaldi, acting Principal Teacher of Physical Education.

scapaldi@kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

THANK YOU!

Eid Mubarak

Another very successful Eid Party was held by the Eid Committee.

Excellent organisation - well done girls!

See the school website for photos.



Vision, Values and Aims

Thank you to everyone for contributing to our Vision, Values and Aims for King's Park Secondary School. The outcome is:

Our Vision for King's Park Secondary School

We want King's Park Secondary to thrive as an

- ambitious,
 - vibrant and
 - caring
 - community of learners and responsible citizens,
- always working in partnership with others
- to improve and
 - to meet the needs of every learner,
- where resources, knowledge and skills are shared and used wisely,
- and achievements are shared and celebrated.

Our Aims for King's Park Secondary School

1. **ACHIEVEMENT AND ATTAINMENT.** To provide teaching and learning of a very high standard to motivate and enable all pupils to become confident individuals and achieve their full potential.
2. **FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING.** To ensure a positive, inclusive ethos exists within the school to support staff and pupils in their teaching and learning and foster partnerships with parents and carers.
3. **INCLUSION AND EQUALITY.** To develop a sense of equality and fairness, community spirit, understanding and tolerance enabling all pupils to feel valued and respected benefiting from the education provided.
4. **VALUES AND CITIZENSHIP.** To develop values and citizenship, in partnership with parents, to enable pupils to have respect for self and others and to interact appropriately as responsible citizens within the school environment and wider community.
5. **LEARNING FOR LIFE.** To encourage pupils to be ambitious and creative by providing opportunities to equip them with the foundation skills, attitudes and expectations necessary to function successfully in a changing society.
6. **SUMMARY.** To equip all pupils to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

