



Carrick Academy Newsletter

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Carrick Academy
74 Kirkoswald Road
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ROYAL LUNCH

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Over the summer, two of our pupils, Shannyn Henderson and Hannah Cathcart, had lunch with Prince Philip at the McDonald Hotel in Edinburgh as a result of their participation in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. They also had the chance to answer some questions in front of key educational figures in Scotland.



-What were your favourite parts?
 We enjoyed the lunch and we got to answer questions asked by Barry Fisher about our Duke of Edinburgh experience on a stage in front of about 50 people including the Directors of Education for Scotland.

Hannah Cathcart and Shannyn Henderson

-Have you learned anything from the experience?
 We learned to be more confident in front of big audiences, especially in front of older people.

Upcoming Events

Friday 11 th September - S4	Biology Field Trip
Tuesday 15 th September - S6	Careers Convention
Fri 18 th - Mon 21 st September	Local Holiday
Friday 25 th September - S3	Substance Abuse Day

CONGRATULATIONS

Former pupils Samantha Clark and Lois Cowie both graduated from the University of Glasgow. Samantha graduated with a B.Sc. First Class and Lois with a B.V.M.S.

Congratulations to them both and we wish them the best of luck for the future.

The Carrick Academy Parent Council AGM will take place on Monday 14th September at 7pm in the Conference Room within Carrick Academy. All parents are welcome to attend this meeting.

HEAD TEACHER REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on developments in the school since I last communicated with you through this column in June.

Firstly, I would like to thank parents for the support they have given the school with our drive to improve the number of pupils complying with the school dress code. The way pupils have presented over the first 2 weeks back at school has been exemplary and, in my opinion, has made a significant difference to the atmosphere and ethos within the school.

I have also addressed pupils at the initial assemblies and complimented them on the standard of their dress as well as talking to them about new guidelines regarding the use of mobile phones in the school. These guidelines, and also the guidelines for dealing with pupils who fail to comply with the dress code requirements are included in this newsletter for your information.

The other main item discussed at the assemblies related to my desire to establish a statement of vision and values for Carrick Academy as well as a statement of school aims. It is important that these statements are agreed by all members of the school community and, with this in mind, I intend establishing pupil consultation groups who will meet to discuss the draft documents. Any suggestions they make for improvement will be taken seriously, as will the views of parents who will be consulted on the wording of the statements at the Parent Council meeting on Monday 14 September.

Another item for discussion at this meeting will be our school plan for year 3 of the School of Ambition initiative. This is our final year on this programme and we aim to maximise the benefit that our pupils will gain in the future from projects initiated through our involvement in the programme. Certainly, it is my aim to ensure that Carrick Academy develops into a genuine 'school of ambition' over the next few years to the benefit of all involved with the school and the wider community.

One of our main priorities over the course of the new session will be to look at strategies, including ways to enhance parental involvement in supporting the learning of their children, to raise the levels of attainment and success in national examinations of our pupils. On the whole, pupils at the upper end of the ability range would not appear to be achieving as well as they could, although there are some outstanding achievements by individual pupils. I am also pleased to say that we will be able to offer our pupils the opportunity to enjoy success in wider achievements over the coming session with an increasing number of extra-curricular activities being made available. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to those members of staff who give so willingly of their own time to enhance the pupil experience in Carrick Academy. The programme of activities available will be discussed with pupils at assemblies in the near future and then e-mailed to every pupil so that they have all the information they require.

Overall, I have been very pleased with the way the new session has started, although we had to overcome difficulties caused by a broken water pipe in the new building towards the end of the summer and also the challenges presented by a number of well established and experience staff leaving the school at the end of last session.

Finally, I would like to remind parents that I am very happy to meet with them to discuss matters of concern, either regarding individual pupils or about the school generally. I look forward to working with you and the pupils of Carrick Academy over the course of the session.

Keith Webster

Head Teacher

Parental Contact re Non-Compliance with School Dress Code

- Any member of staff can refer a pupil if the pupil is failing to comply with the school dress code. The referral should be made by e-mail to the appropriate PT Guidance. The dress code should be displayed prominently in each classroom - and will also be displayed in public areas of the school - for ease of reference for pupils and staff.
- The **first** referral should be dealt with by means of a Guidance interview with the pupil. The PTG should outline the steps to be taken if there is no improvement in the situation following the interview. A record should be kept of the date of this discussion.
- The **second** referral should be dealt with by means of a Guidance phone call home. The PTG should inform the parent that this is the second referral and outline the steps to be taken if there is no improvement in the situation following the telephone call. The emphasis should be on request for parental support and cooperation with the issue. A record should be kept of the date of this discussion and brief details of parental response.
- The **third** referral should be dealt with by means of Guidance referral to the appropriate Year Head.
- The Year Head will write to the parent at this stage and request that they come into school for a meeting to discuss the situation. The Year Head should outline the next stage of the process in the event of the issue being unresolved following this meeting. Again, the emphasis should be on parental support and cooperation. A record should be kept of the date of this meeting and brief details of parental response.
- For **fourth and subsequent** referrals the PTG should refer again to the appropriate Year Head.
- If the matter remains unresolved following the initial Year Head meeting with parent then the Year Head should refer the pupil to the Head Teacher who will consider the case on an individual basis before deciding on the most appropriate form of action. A record should be kept of the action taken.

Mobile Phone Guidelines

- Pupils are permitted to bring mobile phones to school but they must be switched off during the school day, apart from at morning interval and lunchtime.
- No photographs or video clips of any person should be taken without their prior permission.
- Pupils are **not permitted** to take mobile phones, or personal music players, into an SQA prelim or final exam.
- Mobile phones are the responsibility of the owner at all times in terms of security and safekeeping, except in circumstances where the item has been confiscated.
- It is appropriate for a member of staff to confiscate a mobile phone if it is switched on during the school day, apart from at morning interval and lunchtime.
- All confiscated phones should be labelled with the owner's name. The battery should be removed and kept by the pupil.
- The confiscated phone should be forwarded to the Senior Depute Head Teacher, or appropriate Year Head in her absence, as soon as is practically possible and certainly before the end of the school day.
- The owner of the phone should be instructed to report to the Senior DHT, or appropriate Year Head in her absence, at the end of the school day.
- If the owner refuses to hand over the phone then the teacher should seek SMT assistance immediately. This should be done in the usual manner, ie by contacting the school office.
- The Senior DHT will keep a record of all confiscated phones sent to her.
- The first time a phone is confiscated from a pupil the Senior DHT will warn the pupil and remind him or her about the use of such items in school. The phone will be returned to the pupil.
- The second time a phone is confiscated from a particular pupil the Senior DHT will inform the pupil that the phone is being retained. The phone will not be returned until the pupil's parent makes telephone contact with the Senior DHT.
- For any subsequent confiscations from a particular pupil the phone will not be returned until the pupil's parent comes to the school to collect it.

NEW STAFF

We welcome a number of new staff to Carrick this session. Watch out for interviews and photos over the next few Newsletters.

Mr Craig Barbour	Design and Technology
Mr John Brogan	English
Mrs Cecelia Conroy and Mrs Lois Field	Home Economics
Ms Mary Howie and Mr David Clark	Maths
Mrs Carrie Rae	Modern Languages
Mr Michael Wright	Physical Education
Ms Lisa Wilson	Pupil Support
Mr John Stevens	Physics
Mr Scott Walker	Instrumental Instructor (Brass)

SCHOOL CAPTAINS ANNOUNCED.



Ashleigh Bird and Robert Sykes.



School Captains and Vice-Captains were appointed this week and we are delighted to name Robert Sykes and Ashleigh Bird as our School Captains. Jordan Morris, Julie Dunabie and Sam Currie were named Vice-Captains. The Captains had a few words to say;

How do you feel about being school captain?

Ashleigh: I am both extremely pleased and shocked at the same time. I haven't been at this school for that long and hope that this opportunity will enable me to bring my own thoughts and ideas to the school.

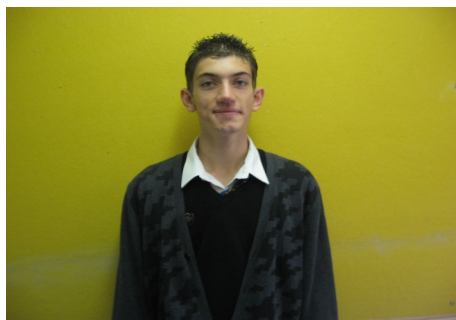
What do you hope to change?

Robert: One of my main aims is to make Carrick's atmosphere more inviting. I would like to organise the putting up of proper posters which really illustrate what being at Carrick is about and also highlight the achievements of the school. However, as I said before I am still at the brainstorming stage and hope that there will be the chance for several other changes.

What are your main Ideas?

Ashleigh: At the moment I am simply brainstorming both my own thoughts and the comments I am receiving from other students. (They have, after all, been here longer than I have and so will have their own views and experience right from first year). I am hoping to gain enough input from students to be able to make a real development and difference to the school and would encourage anyone with any ideas to see either myself, the other School Captain—Robert Sykes, or any of the Vice-Captains- Julie Dunabie, Jordan Morris and Sam Currie.

Julie Dunabie, Sam Currie and Jordan Morris



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Craig Davidson

Well Done– Rugby Achievements

- Gordon Gregor – U15 Ayshire side
- Jamie Cambell – U16 Ayshire and South West
- Blair Jardine – U16 Ayshire and South West, Glasgow Thistles trip to France and national rugby camp at Struan.
- John Dewar - U16 Ayshire and South West, Glasgow Thistles trip to France and national rugby camp at Struan.
- Craig Davidson – Scotland U18, Glasgow U17, National Academy training programme and national rugby camp at Struan.
- Eilidh Blondin – West of Scotland U18 Girls
- Paige Mccurdie – West of Scotland U18 Girls

Rugby and Football Training

Rugby:

Monday – S1 and S2
Tuesday – U15's and 1st XV
Wednesday- 1st XV
Friday – Girls team
Saturday morning – match day

All training sessions are at 3:30 to 5:00 pm.

Football:

S1 Boys – Wednesday after school (Mr Wright/Mr Barbour)
S2 Boys – Wednesday after school (Mr Riley)
S3 Boys – Thursday after school (Mr Kerr)
S4 Boys – Thursday after school (Mr Wilson/Mr Brown)
S5/6 Boys – Monday after school (Mr Dunsmuir)
Girls – Tuesday after school (Mr Dunsmuir/David Logan)

Fixtures

Rugby:

1st VX

Tuesday 11th August - Irvine U18's 12 - 30 Carrick

Tuesday 18th August - Carrick 7 – 7 Kilmarnock U18's

Wednesday 26th August – Carrick 93 – 0 Girvan Academy

Football:

The season got off to a flying start with a win against Kyle.

Carrick 3 v 1 Kyle

Scorers for Carrick were Tony Howie, Jo Maxwell and Kyle Cook.