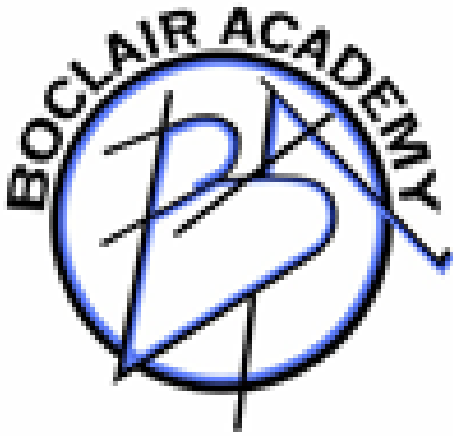
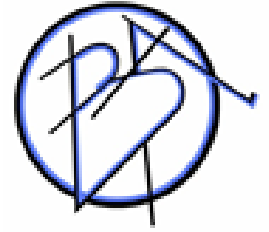


BOCLAIR ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. Yet again it has been a busy few weeks for our young people and staff and set to get busier over the coming weeks as we approach the exam period for our senior pupils.

At the start of January our senior pupils undertook Preliminary Examinations across all subjects. While there were some disappointments for individual pupils the overall performance of the year groups involved was extremely positive. A lot of hard work is now required from all young people in S4, S5 and S6 in order to ensure they build on current performance levels. A reminder that spring revision classes take place in most subjects during the first week of the spring holiday, Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th April.

S2 and S3 pupils have been focussing on important decisions regarding their courses for next year and we have been very impressed with their maturity and responsibility during the various events that have taken place to support their decision making. S1 pupils have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm for learning and excellent conduct around the school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Parent Council for their hard work and dedication to supporting our school community. If you would like to get involved please contact parentcouncil@boclair.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

The articles included in this edition of Boclair News provide a description of some of the various successes and events which have been part of Boclair Academy over the last few weeks. I hope you find the following information helpful and as ever we welcome your comments and new information which we can share in future newsletters.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable Spring Holiday.

Douglas Brown
Head Teacher



Respect

Honesty

Fairness

Ambition

Cheerleading

Our cheerleading team competed at the Scottish Schools Cheerleading Competition in February this year.

Our team consisted of 69 pupils from S1-S6 and we competed in the Level 1 Cheer, Level 2 Cheer and the Pom divisions.



Our team placed 1st place in the Level 2 Cheer division and achieved the highest scoring routine of the whole competition!

Well done to everyone; you were all amazing and performed each routine perfectly!

What an outstanding achievement!

Dancefest

In February, 65 of our dancers competed at the EDC Dancefest competition at Douglas Academy. We entered 6 dances and achieved the following amazing results:

1st Place- Junior HipHop Duo: Mylie Murray and Darci Gibson

1st Place- Senior Expressive Duo: Lucy Colsh and Grace McNeish

1st Place- Senior Jazz Team: Kharis Monaghan, Sophie Greig, Kyle McBride, Olivia Mullen, Olivia Keany, Jasmine McHale, Gemma Colsh, Khadijah Adam, Hannah Rae

2nd Place- Senior Expressive Duo: Lucy Muotune and Keeva McLaughlin

2nd Place- Senior Jazz Team: Kharis Monaghan, Sophie Greig, Kyle McBride, Olivia Mullen, Olivia Keany, Jasmine McHale, Gemma Colsh, Khadijah Adam



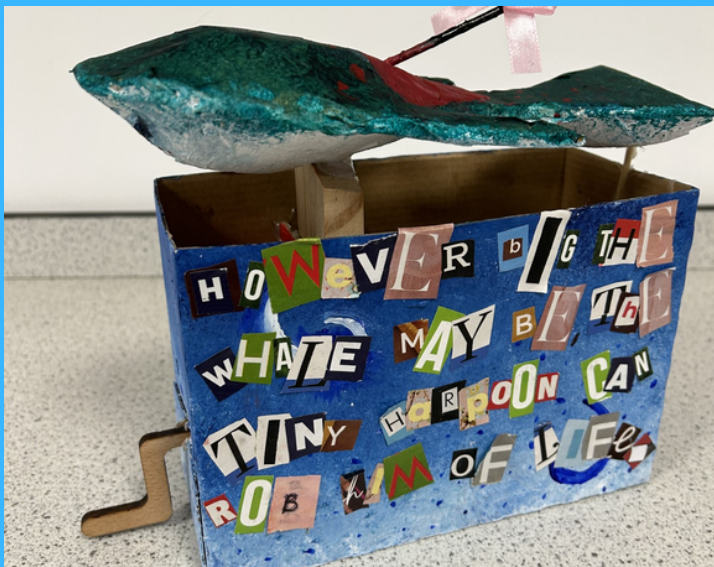
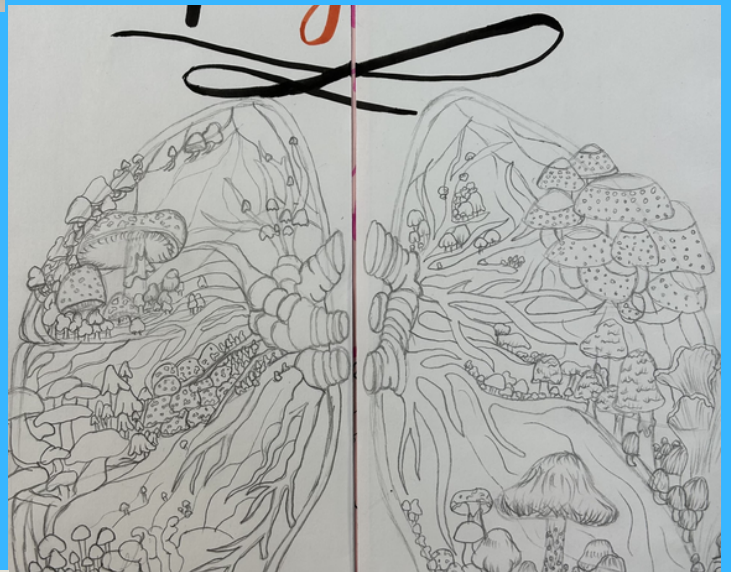
AND... Boclair Academy won the judge's award for the 'School of the Day'!! Congratulations, our pupils' hard work and dedication to Dance has truly paid off!



Bio Art Attack

Early this year pupils in S1-2, alongside the Science Club, created art work for the Royal Biology Society's 'Bio Art Attack Competition' with a focus on areas of biology which interested them. Our Science club decided to focus on using recycled materials to create models of coral.

Aafiyah Ghouri in S2 drew a drawing of Aspergillus, inspired by our microbes topic in the S2 biology course.



Martha Miller-Fraser in S2 created a fantastic working 3D model of a whale.

Leadership Academy



S1 and S2 pupils were given the opportunity at the beginning of the year to apply to be part of take the Boclair Leadership Academy. Over the 2 year groups 95 pupils applied and were given a place on the programme. They signed up to be part of a group who would develop their leadership skills through increased responsibility across the school. At the centre of their learning experience is a key theme or 'mission' which pupils work towards within a conference style event. The focus has been on personal development, mental health awareness and introduction of leadership concepts.

The S1 and S2 pupils have completed two out of the four conference days which are structured around the four C's of leadership; Communication, Courage, Confidence and Courage. We asked pupils to share their experiences so far as part of the Leadership Academy, and here is their version of a Leadership blog:



Why did you apply to the leadership academy?

"I applied because I love to get involved with events around the school that I can help and be a part of! I also want to develop my skills further to become the best I can when I move on from high school in my years ahead!"



What advice would you pass on to your younger peers if they were thinking about applying to the leadership academy?

“Do it you will enjoy it and you will be a better human in general it’s worth it. Be yourself and make sure you are comfortable doing things you wouldn't normally do.”

Can you outline skills which you have you applied and developed?

“ My ability to work with others and to talk to people I don’t really know.”

How does the work you have done so far link to the 4 school values?

“Ambition: we have been training towards becoming able leaders meaning we have many ambitions as of to change the world. Fairness and Respect: we have talked about how everyone is equal and treated fairly and everyone can make a change no matter the skills and qualities you have. Also to respect people's rights and opinions.”



Respect

Honesty

Fairness

Ambition

S3 Mental Health Ambassadors



Congratulations to our S3 Mental Health Ambassadors who completed their training with Life Link.

Pupils explored various aspects of mental health including - Anxiety, stress, panic attacks and unhelpful thoughts.



S3 Ambassadors also learned ways to actively listen and communicate with others to help open conversations about mental health.

Pupils are currently creating supportive activities where they can help peers talk more openly about mental health.

Look out for their work and ideas coming soon!





S6 Mental Health Ambassadors

Well done to our 20 S6 pupils who successfully completed their Mental Health first Aid Training with our partners at Be Inn Unity.



S6 gained knowledge on various aspects of mental health but also learned about -Attachment theory, Stress Response and Teenage Brain!

Pupils have gone on to develop and deliver mental health lessons to younger peers in S2 during their PSE programme.



Sustainability Award



Our S6 Enterprise team competed in the Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire Final and won the award for Sustainability. This involved presenting about their journey throughout the Company Programme and participating in an interview with the judges. The final was held in the Technology and Innovation Centre at Strathclyde University.

Family Learning



A fantastic evening in Home Economics for the Family Learning Event.



Cookery class

Families made delicious Penne Arrabiata and garlic bread garnished with a van dyke tomato and chopped parsley.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and having the opportunity to cook a meal with a family member. We even had time to taste test at the end of the session!

Boclair's "NXP Monarch" Racing Team



Boclair Academy's "NXP Monarch" Racing Team reached the national finals of the F1 in Schools competition.

The F1 in Schools initiative was developed to introduce students to STEM subjects in the most engaging way possible, through the creation of a miniature F1 car. It is an educational project, which was designed for teachers, informed by engineers, and endorsed by F1.



The national final is the culmination of an extensive series of regional finals which saw the top teams progress to the nationals. The national finals were a three-day event for the teams to showcase their work in designing, manufacturing, and branding miniature F1 cars; as well as racing them on a 20-metre racetrack. This year's event took place at the Magna Science Adventure Centre, in Rotherham during March 2024.



Throughout the challenge, the team had to raise sponsorship and manage their budgets to fund research, travel and accommodation. In addition to funding, sponsored such as Switch Digital supported the team with marketing and pitching support to help bring the team's hard work to life.

Judges Choice

For the event NXP Monarch had to create a pit display, prepare both an enterprise and engineering portfolio, complete a 10 minute presentation and race their car down the track. The event culminated with a nomination in the "judges choice" award and the 19th fastest car out of 60 teams.



With the NXP Monarch members being in 6th year and the team reaching the national finals competition after their 3rd regional finals. They will not have the opportunity to compete in the event next year. However, a number of the pupils plan on joining the "F1 student" equivalent at university next year.



Referee Course

Well done to our refereeing class who have successfully passed their Referee Exam and are now going through their registrations to be fully qualified referees. The pupils have refereed S1/2 and girls' games this year to gain extra experience!

Cross Country and Athletics

This year, Boclair academy has participated across a number of athletics events including the Scottish Schools Road Race, Swimming Championship and the Aquathlon.



A notable one being the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships, 23 Pupils represented Boclair Academy. The pupils enthusiastically joined the race, embracing the challenge with determination and resilience as they navigated the course with spirit. Special mention to Ben M (S1) who was the highest placing Boclair pupil at 32nd out of 226 people.



Netball

It has been a great year for our S1/2 netball team. Everyone has been very welcoming and accommodating for our new S1s, they have settled in brilliantly and strongly contributed to the success of the team. It has been wonderful to see them go from strength to strength developing their skills on and off the court, in terms of communication and teamwork! We are very proud of the S1/2s and are looking forward to supporting their netball journey within school.



Our S3/4 team has been fantastic, throughout the East Dunbartonshire Council netball league, they have won 9 out of 12 games. Their success has come from their hard work and dedication throughout the year, they often organise their own training to focus on their development needs. These girls have been brilliant role models to our younger teams and embody the school values in everything they do!



Our senior team demonstrate exceptional teamwork and skill whenever they get the opportunity to compete. This was clearly shown when they participated within the East Dunbartonshire Council Netball Festival, winning 2/3 of their games.

We will miss them greatly when they leave Boclair Academy.



Badminton



Our badminton club has been very popular this year with 30+ pupils attending each week. Well done to the many pupils who have represented Boclair at National and Local Council Competitions.

Many thanks to Michelle G (S6) and Danny R (S4) for their help in running the club

Basketball



The S1, 2 & 3 Basketball team enjoyed an authority wide tournament at Bearsden Academy earlier in the year. The teams performed well with the S3 team taking home 1st place medals.

The club is thriving with new members each week! A big shout out to our S6 helpers who ensure each week the tournaments are running smoothly and safely.

Respect

Honesty

Fairness

Ambition

Rugby

The rugby club has gone from strength to strength with 20+ pupils attending sessions afterschool on Thursday's. Pupils attend from all year groups and the sessions are currently ran by S6 leaders alongside the teachers. This has helped bolster the link the school has with West of Scotland RFC where tournaments take place for the West school's cup for S1, S2 and S3 teams. The club has continued to grow despite the training taking place on the astroturf due to the new school building. With the return of training to the grass pitches next year the aim is for more contact sessions to take place and therefore more pupils being keen to play rugby!



Volleyball



This year our seniors expressed an interested in beginning a volleyball club! The club is very well attended across S4 - S6 and from the high numbers of participants, we decided to put on a second more competitive club for those looking to be a part of the team.

Boclair Academy hosted the first East Dunbartonshire Council wide volleyball tournament, in which 5 schools attended! It was a great evening filled with great morale and a high standard of play! Our team placed third and are looking forward to further competitions.

S1 Boys Football



The first-year football team have been finding great success this this. They are currently unbeaten in the league and are looking to continue this run of form in their remaining games.

In addition to this, they have progressed into the quarterfinals of the Scottish Plate after a convincing win over Greenfaulds High School in the last round. Overall, a successful year so far.

S2 Boys Football



It has been a great year for S2 football, they have been competitive in the league and are pushing for the top spot. Excitingly they are in the final for the East Dunbartonshire Council Cup, which is scheduled for March. They have had great success in the Scottish cup, reaching the late stages of the competition, only to lose to last year's winners on penalties.

Throughout the season they have displayed the school values and been brilliant role models of the school.

S3 Boys Football



It has been a great year for the under 15 football team. They are currently sitting top of the East Dunbartonshire League, 5 points clear. They are hopeful of making it a 3rd title in 3 years!

The boys are also through to the semi-finals of the East Dunbartonshire Cup and face Bearsden when we return after the Easter break

S4 Boys Football

The Under 16 football team has performed excellently throughout the course of the school year. The team went on an impressive run in the Scottish Cup, reaching the last 16 of the competition before losing narrowly to a strong Kilmarnock Academy side. The highlight of the cup run was a fantastic 6-1 win away to Duncanrig Secondary School in East Kilbride. With four league games left and an upcoming game in the EDC cup, the team still has a lot to play for this season.



Senior Boys Football

Boclair Academy's under 18s are currently 6th in the league but have games in hand over all of the teams above us, so we're hoping to get a few decent results to propel us further up the table. We are also through to the semi-finals of the EDC Cup where we will play the winners of Bearsden v Douglas for a shot at the final.

U15 and U18 Girls Football

It's been another great year for both our girls football teams. Our under 18s team have had their debut year and topped the East Dunbartonshire League. Our U15s team have followed suit, sitting on top of the league of the East Dunbartonshire League and also competing in the final of the SPAR cup this month. All the girls have displayed great determination and sportsmanship, doing the Boclair name proud. Well done to both our teams!



S1/2 Girls Football



Well done to our S1/2 Girls football team who played in the Regional round of the Spar cup in November.

International Success

We want to congratulate our brilliant pupils who have represented Scotland in Football this past year:

U15: Ben H (S3), Oliver G (S4), Aiden C (S4) and Max C (S3).

U16: Aiden M (S4), Alex S (S4), Cameron F (S4) and Oliver G (S4).



Games club

Throughout the term S1 and S2 pupils have been relaxing, having fun and making friends at our Friday lunchtime Library board games club. Uno, Pick Up Sticks and draughts have proven to be the most popular games this term.



Respect

Honesty

Fairness

Ambition

Advanced Higher French

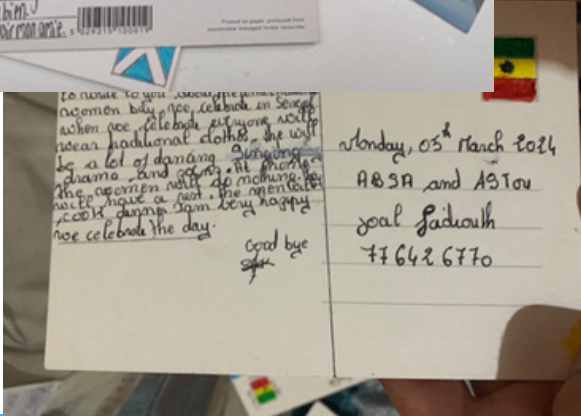


Advanced Higher French recently completed their 20 minute speaking exam with an SQA Visiting Assessor. The Assessor was very impressed with our pupils.

Bravo la classe! Vous êtes les meilleurs!

Senegal

Ex-pupil, Katy Candy has been spending a year teaching in Senegal. We are so proud of her! Her pupils wrote to us about International Women's Day in English. Several Boclair pupils sent postcards back using their French.





S2 Career conference

S2 pupils took part in the annual careers conference ahead of course choice interviews.

Pupils have been working hard in PSE, finding out about different subjects and where they can lead to as you progress through school and beyond.

Meet an employer

A number of employers joined the careers conference to help S2 pupils understand different career pathways and jobs. Pupils enjoyed the chance to ask questions and find out more about career opportunities.



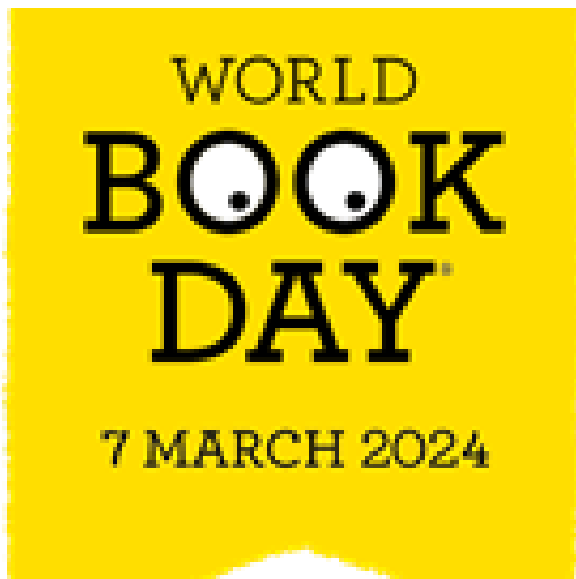
Thank you

Thank you to all our guest employers and to our pupils for a great event!

Media "Boscars" Ceremony 2024

National 5 and Higher Media are nearing the end of their courses. Classes have been working hard this term to plan, produce and edit their own pieces of Media and will enjoy a "Boscars" (Boclair Oscars) viewing and awards ceremony after the holidays.

Here the pupils will choose their own Oscars style categories (with some new additions such as most convincing on-screen death) vote for the ones they think are the most deserving in that category and the winners will receive mini-Oscars trophies as a fun end to the year and to recognise all their hard work. We look forward to viewing their final film trailers!



S1 and S2 classes have been working very hard on World Book Day (7th March 2024) activities in class this session. We are all very proud of how motivated and eager young people were throughout the week. Some particular highlights include interactive book games such as 'Book Charades', 'Translate the Book', book review writing and cover design competitions. We are also delighted in the way in which pupils challenged themselves by using skills acquired from other subjects including French and Art.

Since the start of the year, S1 Drama Club have been meeting every Wednesday after school and have worked hard on their performance and scriptwriting skills. I am particularly proud of all pupils' efforts and the way in which they have made each other feel included and welcome in the club. A recent highlight was the group's re-enactment of 'The Traitors'- I think Claudia Winkleman may have a run for her money! Watch this space.....





Bar Mock

Bar Mock Trial is a competition designed to give senior students a taste of what a future career in the legal profession would look like. Our team was made up of four lawyers, a macer, a clerk, and several witnesses. The lawyers took the lead on two challenging cases and worked together to come up with a blistering defence and a powerful prosecution for each of the cases.

With the help of a real advocate, we prepared and presented the cases at the High Court in Glasgow against other schools. The tournament is a great addition to your personal statement and with the help of Mr Brown, Mr Shand and Miss Scott, it is an experience you will never forget!



Crochet Club

The crochet club is a place to relax and unwind, quite literally. The club started around two months ago and since then we have crafted cute and cuddly creatures (from llamas to squids!) as well as bright yellow Easter egg cosies. This is a club for absolute beginners and experts alike - everyone learns from each other! So come along to try something new, meet new friends and spin a yarn with Miss Scott and Ms Davison!

S1 and S2 Drama - We will Rock You Diorama



S1 and S2 drama classes have had the opportunity to create set designs for the school show - We Will Rock You. They have created a ground plan and draft drawings before working together to produce a 3D diorama of what the stage would look like in full action. Our judging panel can't wait to see the finished articles after the holidays!

BGE Family Learning Event

The recent family learning event in March which featured English was a great success!



After a walk-through of the BGE curriculum with Mr Smith, Miss Morrison led a creative task where families enthusiastically collaborated and created their own poems from established poems, showcasing the final results on our whiteboard desks. The session was rounded off with a tour of our extensive book collection in the library. It was a great opportunity to meet families and extended members of the schools community. We can't wait for the next event!

Active Learning in English

As we get to the end of their academic year, senior pupils have engaged in a number of active learning strategies to advance their understanding of the courses they have been studying. Active learning is a process that involves young people being engaged in the material that they are learning, giving them the opportunity to take charge of what they learn and how they learn. This encourages pupils to be proactive in their revision as well as provide them additional study skills ahead of their exams.

The staff in the English department have been working tirelessly to create resources that aid pupils learning as well as being engaging and active. Young people have enjoyed the wide range of strategies that the department have provided as well as gaining a deeper understanding of the course. Tasks such as CAD Connect 4 and Tally's Blood Nando's menu have been a big hit to name just a few. We wish our seniors the best of luck in their forth coming exams!

S1 Film Club

S1 pupils have been enjoying a film club that takes place on a Thursday lunch time. We have had a variety of films on show such as Harry Potter, The Hunger Games and Jurassic park, with many more different films from different genres on the next listing. The club is a safe place for S1's to bring their lunch and watch some great films as break from the busy canteen.



The creative writing club have had another great year, having created edition #5 of "The Writing Warren", which was on the theme "Invisible People" and included writing from pupils of all ages in the school. They are now working on their sixth edition of the magazine, on the theme "Inside the Mind", and are managing to balance some great writing with lots of creative writing games, songs, and fun!

It's been another busy term in the Library where we've been running various book-related activities during breaks and lunchtimes, as well as collaborating with English department class-based activities.



World Book Day library literature quiz

S1 pupils had fun taking part in the library literature quiz on World Book Day, March (figures 1 and 2). The 10 pupils scoring highest went on to take part in the online Scottish heats of the National Literacy Champions competition.



National Literacy Champions Competition

Our two S1 literacy teams, the Boclair Barracudas and the Boclair Bandicoots had a great time competing in the National Literacy Champions Competition. Although they did not win, the teams did our school proud and they are already looking forward to the 2025 competition.



World Book Day library activity- "Who's coming to Dinner?" book character quiz

S1 and S2 pupils enjoyed playing our book title/character game in the library during breaks and lunchtimes during the 2 weeks after World Book Day.

Tables were set for dinner, with the plates displaying picture clues that related to book titles and characters and pupils then used these clues to guess who the dinner guests were. Everyone completing the quiz received a coveted library pencil.



Respect

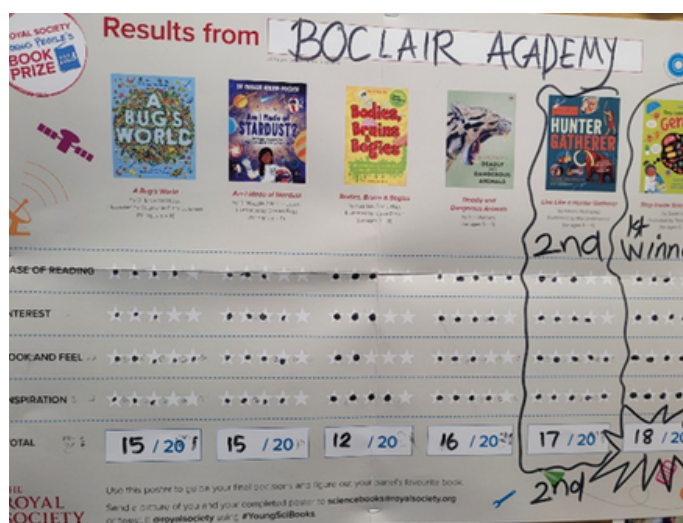
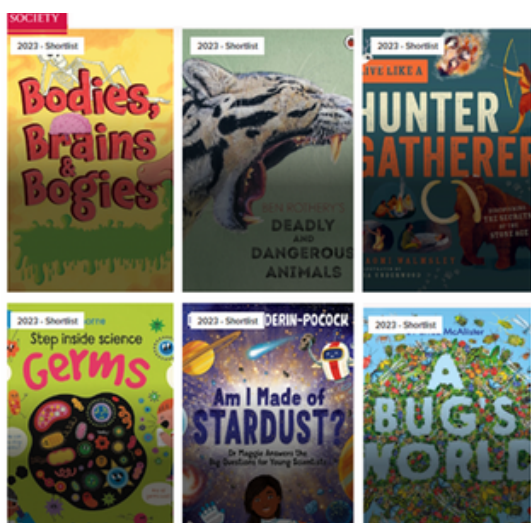
Honesty

Fairness

Ambition

Judging the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize for Science

Our school was once again selected to help judge the Young People's Book Prize and 30 of our S1 pupils read and evaluated the 6 books on the shortlist. Over several periods, pupils from our S1 classes examined and read the 6 books in the library and then rated them on content, appearance and suitability. Pupils voted for their favourite books and results were submitted to the Society. We are now waiting to find out if the other UK schools taking part in the judging process agree with our choice and vote our favourite book as the overall winner.



Book Fair

S1 and S2 enjoyed the opportunity of experiencing a mini bookshop in the library when we hosted a Scholastic book fair in the school. Popular purchases included the latest title in the Hunger Games series "Songbirds and Snakes" and the Five Nights at Freddy's series.



Junior book club

S1 and S2 pupils have been trying out different book related activities this term on Thursday lunchtimes in the Library.

As well as talking about books from their favourite genres, they have been listening to samples from various audiobooks to help the group to decide what book to read next.

We have also started storytelling activities in the library. In the first session we investigated and talked about the sinking of the Titanic and discussed why the human race are so fascinated by disasters.

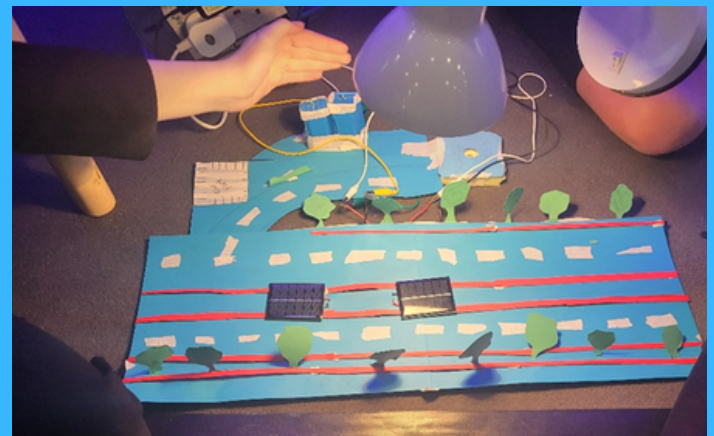


Pupils have been helping the librarian with various library related activities including devising book displays and helping set up our latest classroom activity "Blind Date with a Book". For this activity pupils selected interesting/favourite books and placed them in recycled lunch bags which are labelled with the first line of the book and the genre or keyword clues.

ITE Faraday STEM Challenge at Glasgow Science Centre

12 of our S1/2 pupils participated in a STEM challenge at the Glasgow Science Centre. Pupils were given the challenge of building a circuit and coming up with an idea to make our roads safer. One of our teams came up with the idea of bollards that raised out of the ground when traffic lights were red, to prevent cars from skipping red lights and causing accidents. The other team created an electric car charging station made from solar panels on our UK roads.

Both teams presented their fully functional circuits and ideas to a room full of people. They received excellent feedback from the judges and were a credit to Boclair Academy. A very impressive feat from all pupils involved. Well done!



Respect

Honesty

Fairness

Ambition

S3 Book club

During S3 library book club, pupils took part in the Barrington Stoke's Young Editor's scheme where they read, commented on and edited 2 real manuscripts ("Echostar" by Melinda Salisbury and "A Sudden Storm" by Bali Rai). Our pupils' editing suggestions were submitted to the Barrington Stoke who considered them and implemented some of our suggested changes before the books were published so the input by our pupils helped shape the final form of these books



Senior Baristas - Keep Scotland Beautiful Training at Douglas Academy

Some of our talented senior barista pupils attended a 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' training at Douglas Academy in order to learn about sustainable practices when running a coffee. Pupils participated in activities and discussions alongside pupils from across East Dunbartonshire Council. These pupils then fed back what they had learned to all baristas in our very own Stevie's Café.



S6 Mock Interview Programme

All of our S6 pupils were given the opportunity to participate in a 'Mock Interview' with a professional from their chosen career path. Pupils completed a questionnaire during PSE and learned how to answer classic interview questions during PSE in the lead up to their interviews taking place.

Around 15 professionals from different fields were invited to interview our pupils. The professionalism, preparation and confidence of our young people shone through and pupils received detailed feedback on their interviews. A massive well done to all pupils involved and a thank you again to all who gave up their time to come and hold interviews.



Respect

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Young STEM Leader

A number of our S5 and S6 pupils are currently taking part in the 'Young STEM Leader' programme. This involves working as a team to create, risk assess and deliver activities to groups of younger pupils.

One group recently delivered a lesson to S1 pupils which involved analysing fingerprints to help solve a crime.

Young STEM Leaders were also a massive help at our P7 Open Evening earlier this year where they also created activities for families and Primary 7 pupils to enjoy.

Pupils will continue to work on their Formal Level 6 qualifications which, when completed, will award them SCQF Credit points on their SQA certificates. Keep up to the good work to all involved.



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S2 Young Weir Wise Girls Into Engineering

Four talented S2 pupils were successful in securing places onto Strathclyde University’s Young Weir Wise Girls into Engineering programme. Applications are competitive as thousands of pupils across Scotland apply each year.

Nicole Hill and Imogen Hammond were able to attend two whole days at Strathclyde University hearing from different Engineering experts from different fields. They made robot arms and completed challenges along with pupils from across Scotland.

They even featured on the Strathclyde Engineering Twitter page!



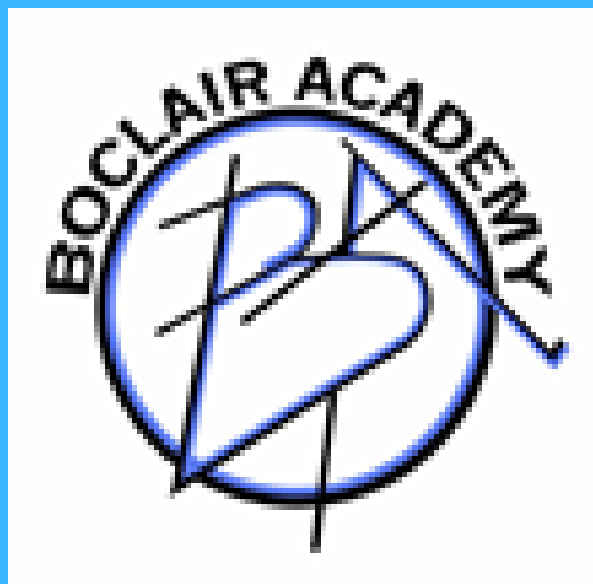
Carmen McDevitt and Niamh Macdonald participated in the online Teams version along with pupils from across Scotland. Challenges included building bridges out of spaghetti, slime in a cup and even their very own robotic arms. All pupils involved in both challenges were excellent role models from our school. A huge well done to you all!



Maths in STEM at BBC Scotland

A group of S5 pupils attended a ‘Maths in STEM’ event at BBC Scotland studios where we heard from accountants and producers at the BBC. We learned how budgets are managed on a yearly basis and how different TV shows require different budgets depending on costs.





Maximising Potential