



# Currie Community High School

## Newsletter - Easter 2018

'DON'T LIMIT YOUR CHALLENGES, CHALLENGE YOUR LIMITS'

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## Head Teachers Message

Welcome to the Easter Newsletter.

Inside, as always, you will find a vast array of fantastic achievements, experiences and learning opportunities which our young people have been involved in over the last few months.

At the moment all of our senior students are preparing for their final SQA examinations. Please encourage your child to attend the Easter Study School to ensure they are fully prepared for these vital exams.

In the last Newsletter, I gave you a firm assurance that all staff at Currie would continue to provide the very best educational experience for all our young people during this time of uncertainty and disruption. I am pleased to say that this continues to be the case.

Over the last few months the level of parental and community engagement in not only the School Review proposals but also the life and work of the school has been incredible. It was wonderful to work alongside so many parents and other family members from both Currie CHS and Woodlands to clear the snow on a Sunday to ensure we could open the school on the Monday! This is just one example of the enormous support which Currie CHS enjoys from the local community.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support for the school.

We should find out, by the end of May, what the City of Edinburgh Council proposes for the future of our school.

Until then and for the foreseeable future please be assured that I will continue to lead the school and, working together, we will ensure that every single individual is given every opportunity to achieve their hopes and dreams for the future. I look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve this.

I wish you all a lovely spring break and look forward to welcoming all our young people back for the summer term.

*Doreen MacKinnon*

## EASYFUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for **Currie Community High School**? There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/curriecommunityhs/> and join for free.
  2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
  3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!
- There are no catches or hidden charges and Currie Community High School will be really grateful for your donations.

**Thank you for your support.**



# Currie Community High School Newsletter

## Our Vision Statement:

### **'DON'T LIMIT YOUR CHALLENGES, CHALLENGE YOUR LIMITS'.**

The aims of the school and the key principles underpinning the school's ethos, its visions and values and, indeed, all aspects of the life and work of the school are:

- To create an environment within which all young people at Currie Community High School are challenged and supported to: attain qualifications at the highest level possible; to achieve their full potential through a range of opportunities for personal development; to develop skills for learning, life and work and become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens; and move into positive and sustained destinations
- To promote equality and inclusion; celebrate diversity; and remove barriers to learning
- To promote Learning for Sustainability (outdoor learning, global citizenship, education for sustainable development) and Social Justice.
- To journey towards excellence for all and in all areas of the school's life and work including learning and teaching and the curriculum

#### **Our Values: Confidence**

- To perform to the best of your ability
- To seize every important opportunity
- To try something new
- To accept others and yourself
- To be enthusiastic and motivated to learn

#### **Unity**

- Supportive to others
- Unified commitment to improvement
- Appreciating achievements of all kinds

#### **Respect**

- Those around you
- Differences
- Yourself
- The Environment

#### **Responsible**

- For freedom of expression
- Being safe and making good choices
- Your own actions
- For participating in the life and work of our community

#### **Initiative**

- Mistakes are okay as long as you learn from them
- Achieve your own goals through developing skills for life, learning and work
- Show determination, resilience and ambition

#### **Equality**

- Accept all aspects of social and cultural life regardless of personal belief while developing your own beliefs and values
- Treat others as you would wish to be treated
- Show care towards those who may need help



## CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY KONG

Earlier this year in February Mary Kong WON U15 Girls Singles Scottish Schools Badminton Union title AND, with her partner Keryn Swan from Balahouton WON the U16 Girls Doubles title. **What an incredible achievement for Mary, who is still only in S2!**



**What an incredible achievement for Mary, who is still only in S2!**

**[BadmintonScot](#)**

**[#ThisGirlCan](#)**

**[#HardWorkPaysOff](#)**



Follow this and other sporting stories via CCHS Twitter account  
**@CurrieCHSPE**



## Currie Community High School Newsletter

### ARTISTIC LINKS TO NETHER CURRIE PRIMARY

**Jenni Baillie** and **Sophie Mauriello** (pictured below) are two of our Advanced Higher Art and Design students who were judges at a **Sustainable Fashion Show** at Neither Currie Primary School in November 2017. They had a great time with the pupils working on their ECO friendly creations.



### PIP NEEDS YOU!

**Parents in Partnership** (CCHS Parent council—and PIP for short) allows the parents to have the opportunity to be more involved with the education of their child, to find out about what is going on in the school, and meet other parents. It's also an opportunity for parents to bring their skills and time to the school/educational environment.

**Our next meeting is on Monday 23rd April 2018**

The hot topic remains the school review and the proposal by Edinburgh City Council to close Currie High School.

We are always looking for new members and keen to encourage parents to actively be part of our schools community. The school encourages parents to share their working experiences, sporting or other talents which will enrich our pupils learning. If you can help please get in touch.

Contact Susan Tait via school on 0131 449 2165 or email [cchspip@gmail.com](mailto:cchspip@gmail.com)



# Currie Community High School Newsletter

## Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

### Senior Phase Roadshow



As part of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), we have created an event which focuses on giving students choice, while engaging them with different career pathways. On Monday; 5 February we held our first 'Senior Phase Roadshow' and all S5 & S6 students took part. To bring this opportunity to our students we engaged with a range of employers and keynotes across different businesses and Industries.

The Senior Phase Roadshow aimed to do two things: make students aware of the different pathways available to them (through our keynote speakers pathways) and also through taking part in workshops .

Our **keynotes** were Caitlin Toner – Sopra Steria; Paige Evans – Capital City Partnership; Michal Komocki – Morrison Construction and Lindsey Docherty – Young Scot. Our keynotes were engaging and shared the pathways they followed from school, and are continuing to move along. Our **workshop** partners were from NHS Lothian, RICS, EY, Double Tree by Hilton (Edinburgh Airport) and Standard Life Aberdeen. Students chose two workshops out of the five to attend, which meant they took part in areas of interest, linked to their potential career aspirations.



Students really enjoyed the morning and some of them said:

- *'Very useful for me, it made me think that whatever you chose to do after school, it will always work out and you don't always need a plan'*
- *'Helpful in displaying alternative careers paths other than university. Very interesting and eye-opening '*
- *If I had not applied for uni, I would consider doing their modern apprenticeship as the job sounded interesting with aspect I would enjoy'*

- *'It showed that further education can help you go further up in the business and you don't need to start at the bottom'*



Thank you to all our partners and students for taking part! It was a very positive experience. We look forward to next year, but this time earlier!

Go to [@curriechs\\_dyw](https://twitter.com/curriechs_dyw) Twitter feed to find out more about the Senior Phase Roadshow and what we are doing as part of DYW. Look out for a video that will be coming soon too!

Mr Schmidt & Ms Deans



## Currie Community High School Newsletter

### **CURRIE WINS LOCAL DERBY in SEVEN GOAL THRILLER**

**BALERNO.....2      CURRIE.....5**

The S2 boys won a pulsating end-to-end game by 5 goals to 2 against Balerno High School last night (21/3/18). Balerno High School were very confident of beating us, as there was much pre-match banter from Balerno supporters that they were going to thrash us, since they had four Hearts youth players strengthening their line-up. The Hearts youth players were certainly very capable and caused us concerns on numerous occasions, however, as has become the norm, the boys defence was rock solid. Captain Robbie McCutcheon, Gregor Fraser, Matthew Lang, Euan Dove, Daniel Burton and Kieran Rose all had strong performances. If the Balerno/Hearts youth players did get past our defence, they still had to get through Josh Philps, who was outstanding as goalkeeper. He made numerous vital saves.

Supporting the boys defence was our hardworking midfield, who battled tirelessly throughout the game - stifling many promising attacks. There was also outstanding performances from Robbie Cochrane and Charlie Nairn, both thriving off long balls from the boot of Josh in particular. Both scored a brace of goals, while Gregor scored a stunning header in the first few minutes of the game.

There is definitely a palpable change in the way the boys have been playing in the last three games. Physically most have grown, so they are now better able to go toe-to-toe with our opponents. Probably due to this growth, the boys are also playing with much greater confidence and determination. There is a real steely competitive edge to their play at the moment. Most importantly the boys are really playing well as a team, everyone is making positive contributions.

**I would encourage parents to come along and watch them. Well done boys.**

**John Saunders (Coach)**



Currently on Fridays many of us S3s have been participating in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. It is a good opportunity to learn new skills and more about yourself. We have been practising canoeing and kayaking for the final expedition in April. Other parts of the D of E are volunteering, a physical activity and a skill. This doesn't only help you but also helps others through volunteering. We would recommend all younger pupils to try D of E when you get to S3.

**Scott Sutton and Ewan Gent 3H2**



## Currie Community High School Newsletter

### Lilypads: Striving to eradicate Period Poverty



Imagine you are 13, living at home with your parents who are unable to provide you with any financial support other than a roof over your head. You have just started your period and initially you have no idea what it is. Stigma prevents you from asking your community what to do. You have no income to purchase sanitary products for yourself, and your father dictates the family budget where your needs are not a priority. Your friends at school suggest mattress stuffing or sleeping with the older men in your town who give them pads in return. What do you do?

Lilypads is a social enterprise based in Homa Bay Kenya which sells reusable sanitary pads to local communities and provides menstrual health education to local schools. The Lilypads are made from cotton based fabrics and last for 2 years thus providing a long term solution which is environmentally sustainable. Reducing the use of disposable products which are unable to degrade is extremely beneficial to the environment and our use of recycled fabric reduces waste. Donated fabric and mass producing in Nairobi enables us to keep the cost of the pads low, lasting 2 years they are 1/6<sup>th</sup> the cost of alternatives on the market ensuring all have access.



Mhairi and Alison teaching in Kenya—Feb 2018

Lilypads is delighted to be working with CCHS to bring the conversation regarding period poverty and stigma to Edinburgh where the same problem exists. We have recently launched a crowdfunder page where we hope to raise the money to fund improvements to our pad design and finalise our educational model. Any contribution large or small will make a huge difference to the lives of these girls, help us eradicate period poverty for good by following the link : <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/lilypads-1/>

By Mhairi Cochrane (former pupil)

Follow or Get in Touch with Lilypads!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lilypadsedinburgh/>

Instagram: @lilypads.ed

Email: [lilypadsedinburgh@gmail.com](mailto:lilypadsedinburgh@gmail.com)



# Currie Community High School Newsletter

## S6 Youth & Philanthropy Initiative



Last term our S6 students positively engaged with YPI during their S6 PSE lessons. The students formed small teams and researched social issues they felt passionately about. They researched local charities linked to their social issue, then selected, visited and interviewed their chosen charity and used their findings to create a presentation for the competition, to compete for

the prize of £3000 for the winning team, funded by the Wood Foundation and Currie CHS. There were over 16 different charities represented in the initial stages of the competition with one winning team from each class competing in the final.

The CCHS whole school final took place on Wednesday 13th December. The following charities were represented in the final:

- **Simpsons Special Care Babies**
- **Cutting Edge Theatre**
- **Harlaw Monday Group**
- **Canine Concern Scotland Trust**
- **Edinburgh Food Project**
- **Currie Kirk Minibus Fund**

The students all presented exceptionally well on the day with a very close final between the 6 teams. **The winning team were representing the Currie Kirk Minibus Fund**, a local charity which operates a community minibus and provides transport for people to various places from day care centres to summer camps. The winning team comprising of Alex Bates, Liam Packwood, Peter Sawkins and Jay Marsden-Bullen spoke passionately and with pride about the Currie Kirk Minibus Fund. Special thanks to our judging panel which was formed by various members of the school community including Anna Hazel-Dunn (Head Teacher - Nether Currie PS), Rob Greenaway (S1 Year Head CCHS), Jim Dewar (Minister - Juniper Green Parish Church), Lynne McNicoll (co-founder - It's Good to Give charity) and two S5 Prefects - Benedict Tan and Khadija Chohan.

A fabulous event raising awareness of many local charities and another wonderful display by our talented S6 students who were a credit to themselves, the school and to the charities. Well done everyone!

**Louise Paterson**



# Currie Community High School Newsletter

## Developing the Young Workforce - Modern Languages Faculty

Following a visit to Currie High from Karina Glennie of Dalmahoy Hotel in November 2017, all our S3 pupils were given the opportunity to enter a competition in French and/or German.

Pupils had to produce a brochure outlining top tourist attractions for children in Edinburgh for French and German-speaking visitors to the hotel. The two winning brochures are to be printed and used by the hotel for French / German-speaking visitors with young families. The quality of the entries was very high and was judged on both presentation and language used. Amy Manson and Rhona Duncan were chosen as our winners, along with 16 runners-up.



On 27<sup>th</sup> February all 18 winners were invited to Dalmahoy for the morning. Staff from the hotel took our pupils through what skills they are looking for in potential employees, before engaging them in a fun team-building activity involving hula-hoops! We then learnt more about how to write an impressive CV, and in particular, what not to write. Lastly, the group was taken on a tour of the hotel and enjoyed seeing the leisure club, some of the function rooms and especially the most expensive bedroom / suite in the hotel. One of our S3 boys was overheard saying 'I have actually never seen anything this posh!' which summed up our morning's experience. But also - a great glimpse into the world of work for Currie's pupils.

## German Christmas Market



In the last school week of 2017, a group of ten S3 pupils wrapped up warmly, and headed for the *Weihnachtsmarkt* in Princes' Street Gardens.

We spent a lovely hour and a half, sampling delicacies such as *Brezel* and *heisse Schokolade*, and wandering around soaking up the authentic atmosphere.

Pupils had to fill in a detailed questionnaire, noting down any new vocabulary we came across. We admired all the German wooden decorations, looked at

all the different types of *Wurst* on offer and generally enjoyed the experience. The highlight for the teachers was hearing our pupils interviewing some of the German stallholders – well done, S3!

Leila Okasha



## Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

### Digital Road Trip



As part of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), we are creating new opportunities for students to engage directly with employers in the workplace, through a series of 'Road Trips'.

On Monday; 26 February we held our first 'Road Trip' and a group of 16 students, from S4 to S6, went across Edinburgh to engage with businesses in the Digital Industry. We worked with a range of partners, including Laing O'Rourke (St James Shopping Centre), Deloitte Digital

(Saltire Court), RBS (Gogarburn), Edinburgh College (Sighthill Campus) and the JET Academy to bring this opportunity to our students.

The Road Trip aimed to make students aware of the digital industry and how digital technologies (e.g. Virtual Reality, App construction, etc.) are used across the construction, creative and financial sectors. After this, students went to Edinburgh College and were tasked with meeting a brief from a customer to create a digital product, by using their knowledge and experience from during the day. It was great to see some of the innovative ideas that students came up with.

Our partners enjoyed the day and we thank them for participating. The students thought the day was beneficial and made them think about the different options/pathways available. The students were well-behaved and represented you, themselves and the school well.

Go to [@curriechs\\_dyw](https://twitter.com/curriechs_dyw) Twitter feed to find out more about the Road Trip and what we are doing as part of DYW. Look out for a video that will be coming soon too. The 'Road Trip' series will be expanding next year, look out for these.

Mr Schmidt





## Currie Community High School Newsletter

### **REMINDER TO PARENTS/CARERS**

Please ensure that if your child has a medical condition requiring emergency medication this is provided to the school **ASAP**.

- **Asthma** —a spare in date Inhaler that has the prescription sticker on it and spacer
- **Allergies** - two in date epi-pens (if required) with the prescription sticker and antihistamine or equivalent.
- **Any other condition requiring medication** that is taken or the school administers in school day.

Please note **MEDICAL FORMS** can be found on the school website under -

**Information—Welfare room.**

Any questions please let me know.

**Susan Tait—Welfare PSA**

**Groupcall Xpressions App**  
View your child's information on your mobile phone!

A new way to keep in touch with what is happening at Currie High School.

This is a FREE App that can easily added to your smart phone. It connects directly with the school so when any communication is sent out you automatically receive a notification.

We would like as many parents\* as possible to sign up to the Xpressions App.

\*at the moment only the main parent contact can sign up to the App.

- ◆ Free messages sent by school delivered directly to the app—updates on what's happening at school, for example the publication of the School Newsletter.
- ◆ Absence notifications
- ◆ School Calendar access
- ◆ If the school is closed for any reason the app will be used to communicate this and you will receive the notification.
- ◆ Able to message the school admin account

STEP 1—Download the app from the app store—its free!

STEP 2—Log in. All you require is your email address and mobile number that you use in contact with the school. A third security check must be completed, and you will be asked to set up a password to log in , then you are done.

More information can be found via <http://parents.groupcall.com/faqs/>

Please Note—we are phasing in each function gradually over next term so all functions may not be immediately available.



# THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE

The school badge should be visible at all times

- School polo shirt in white with embroidered badge OR collared shirt or blouse in white with a school tie
- School sweatshirt in black with embroidered badge (can be worn on its own or over school polo shirt) OR plain black v-necked pullover or plain black v-necked cardigan (to be worn over shirt/blouse & tie) OR school hoodie in black with embroidered badge which must be worn over school polo shirt or shirt/blouse & school tie

- Black footwear
- Black trousers or skirt

School blazer for S6 (compulsory), S5 (optional) and all Prefects (compulsory).

*NB All outdoor clothing, including hats and scarves, must be removed indoors.*

### **Items which are not part of our dress code include:**

- Any items of clothing which are so tight, short or revealing that they may cause offence
- Shorts
- Fashion, patterned, illustrated or hooded tops of any style
- Tops in different colours to school colours (this includes grey)
- Tracksuit or jogging tops
- Denim jeans of any colour
- Combat, tracksuit, jogging trousers
- Football strips, scarves or football related clothing
- Caps and hats
- Clothing bearing prominent manufacturers' logo, words or pictures which contravenes our policy on equality and fairness or which advertises alcohol, tobacco or other drugs
- Clothing or jewellery which contravenes health and safety regulations. For example, dangling ear-rings, long necklaces, scarves, garments which are easily flammable due to material and/or design
- Any items which are clearly fashion accessories e.g. coloured or decorated fashion belts
- Excessive or inappropriate make up
- Coloured or part-coloured footwear



# Currie Community High School Newsletter

## Contact Us

Phone: 0131 449 2165

Email:

admin@currie.edin.sch.uk

Website:

www.curriehighschool.co.uk

**Please keep the school up to date  
with all your contact details –**

**Remember, effective school  
communication relies on this.**

**Keep in contact—Sign up to  
The 'Xpressions' App**

Keep up to date with

**CCHS News**

VIA our Daily Bulletin

This can be accessed on our  
website by clicking on  
“Information” then “Bulletin”

## Parents in Partnership

Our main focus is the

**SAVE CURRIE HIGH campaign**

We will continue to look at the ongoing property issues and give an update on fund raising

**Next PiP meeting takes place  
on**

**Mon 23rd April 2018**

## Leadership Team

### Senior Leadership Team:

**Head Teacher** - Doreen MacKinnon  
(Year Head S6)

**Senior Depute Head Teacher** - Percy Farren  
(Tuesday-Thursday) (Year Head S3)

**Depute Head Teacher** - Alan McKinney  
(Year Head S4 & S5)

**Depute Head Teacher** - Lesley Muir  
(Year Head S2)

**Depute Head Teacher (Acting)** -  
Rob Greenaway (Year Head S1)

**Business Manager** - Phill Pache

### Pupil Support Leaders:

**Hermiston** - Duncan McBride

**Kinleith** - Donna Jordan

**Lennox** - Louise Paterson (Mon to Thurs)

### Support for Learning Leader:

Amanda Wilson

### Curriculum Leaders:

Lesley Muir / Kristy Dale - **English, Media Studies and Literacy**

Claire Mulvey - **Expressive Arts**

Rob Greenaway - **Health and Wellbeing**

Kirsti Dower - **Maths and Numeracy**

Catherine Mackenzie - **Modern Languages**

Ian Manderson— **Science**

David Toal - **Social Subjects**

John Schmidt - **Technologies**

### School Chaplains:

Jim Dewar, Minister Juniper Green Parish Church  
Easter Smart, Minister, Currie Kirk



## Currie Community High School Newsletter

### Dates for your diary 2017/2018

- Monday 26th March 2018 PiP meeting CANCELLED  
Thursday 29th March 2018 Term ends  
Friday 30th March–Monday 16th April 2018 Easter Holiday  
Tuesday 17th April 2018 All Resume  
Monday 23rd April 2018 PiP Meeting 7pm  
Tuesday 1st May 2018 Exam Leave begins / S2 Trip to New Lanark  
Monday 7th May 2018 Mayday holiday–school closed  
Tuesday 8th May 2018 In Service day–school closed  
Wednesday 9th May 2018 Pupils return to school  
Monday 21st May 2018 Victoria Day–school closed  
Tuesday 22nd May 2018 Pupils return to school  
Wednesday 23rd May 2018 S3 Trip to Juniper Artland  
Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June 2018 S1 Dalguise Trip  
Thursday 31st May 2018 PiP AGM 7pm  
Friday 1st June 2018 Exam Leave Ends  
Monday 4th June 2018 New Timetable begins  
Tuesday 5th June 2018 S1 and S2 HPV Immunisations / P7 Parents meeting  
Wednesday 13th June 2018 Awards Ceremony 7pm  
Friday 15th June 2018 S6 Prom at the Balmoral Hotel  
Tuesday 19th June to Thursday 21st June 2018 P7 Transition visit  
Saturday 23rd June to Thursday 28th June S3/4 History Battlefields Trip  
Thursday 28th June 2018 School closes at 2.35pm  
Friday 29th June 2018 Term ends