



Currie Community High School

Newsletter - October 2018

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

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Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the new school session. Inside you will find, as always, details of the exciting opportunities available at Currie. Our first Music Concert of the year took place last night and was, very possibly, the best ever! The quality of musicianship, collaboration and enjoyment is a joy to watch! There will be an article with further details in our December Newsletter.

The year has started very well with some outstanding results from our senior students.

Almost 100% of all S4 Leavers in 2018 achieved 5 or more National 3 qualifications including an English/Literacy and Maths/Numeracy qualification at level 3 or higher.

In 2018, young people achieved the following awards by the end of S6

- 81% (of the S4 roll) achieved 1 or more Highers
- 67% (of the S4 roll) achieved 3 or more Highers
- 57% (of the S4 roll) achieved 5 or more Highers
- 45% (of the S4 roll) achieved 1 or more Advanced Highers

These results reflect well on the school but, more importantly, will serve the young people well for the rest of their lives. They are well deserved and were achieved through the hard work and commitment of each individual person and that of their teachers. Your role as parents cannot be underestimated and we are all very grateful for your unwavering support of your children and the school.

We have a number of new strategies to continue to raise aspirations and attainment for all our young people and further details will be provided after the October holiday.

Our new S1 pupils have started the year on a positive note – they are a sparky and delightful year group with an exciting future ahead of them.

I have been particularly impressed this year by the initiative shown by a number of our young people: they have led initiatives to promote inclusion and equality; they have raised money in creative ways at the sponsored walk; an increased number of seniors has volunteered to support in junior classes and in the Primary Schools; and a group of S2 are working on a proposal to have a 'Big Sleep Out' in the school to raise awareness of homelessness.

There have been some staff changes this term. Mr Richard Watson has moved on to a post in East Lothian and his replacement, Mr Mike Christie, a highly experienced teacher of Design Technology, joins on 29th October. Ms Julie Morrison will start as Acting CL English on 22nd October: Ms Morrison is replacing Mrs Dale and Ms Muir and will initially be part time until a permanent replacement is found for her current post. I am looking forward to welcoming both Mr Christie and Ms Morrison to Currie.

Please note that information about the proposed catchment changes can be found here under Item 7.9

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4553/education_children_and_families_committee

I hope you find this Newsletter informative and enjoyable.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and I wish you a lovely October holiday.

Doreen MacKinnon



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

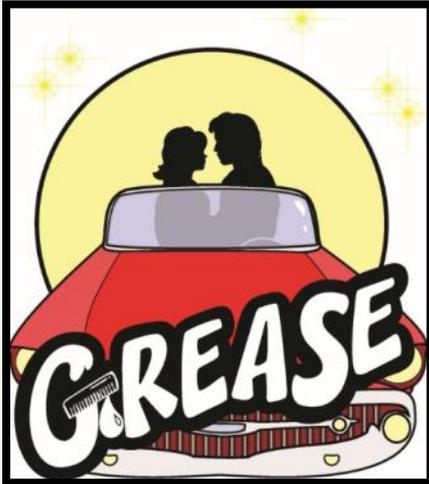
- Mistakes are okay as long as you learn from them
- Achieve your own goals through developing skills for life, learning and work
- Show determination, resilience and ambition

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



Get Ready cause 'GREASE' is coming



Rehearsals for our school show 'Grease' are in full swing and we are already looking forward to our performance dates on -

December 11th, 12th & 13th

Dance rehearsals are taking place every Monday
lunchtime in the small gym 12:45-13:15

Full cast rehearsals are taking place every Tuesday in the
Assembly Hall 16:00-18:00.

We also have a wonderful production team working
away behind the scenes!

Our excellent cast and chorus include -

Joe Mooney as Danny

Molly Billes as Sandy

Ryan Gutu as Kenickie

Hebba Lazim as Rizzo

Iona Jackson as Patty

Yousuf Malik as Roger

Kara Packwood as Frenchy

Shashank Swarna as Doody

Emma Drever as Jan

Dylan Reece as Sonny

Abbie Malone as Marty

Gabriel Raphael as Vince

Meg Stewart as Miss Lynch

Dylan Kenny as Teen Angel

Emma Rendall as Cha Cha

Hannah Pfeiffer as Jenny Casino

**Be sure to buy your tickets and come along to
what promises to be a great night.**



Currie Community High School Newsletter

Celebrating Diversity at Currie Community High School

As part of our overall approach to ensure that all pupils are engaged, included and involved at Currie Community High School, we will be raising awareness throughout the year of a number of characteristics which are protected by the Equality Act Scotland 2010 (for more information: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/4). In terms of supporting young people with their sexual orientation, we have already achieved the Bronze Charter with LGBT Youth Scotland and within our Improvement Plan for this current year we are working towards the prestigious Silver Award. This work also links in with our Rights Respecting Schools initiative in which we are working towards Silver Level. On Thursday 11th October we supported national LGBT Coming Out Day in cooperation with LGBT Youth Scotland. More information can be found here : www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/. In tutor groups pupils watched a brief video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3ECU6xtp68) and the school's GSA group (the Gay/Straight Alliance) arranged a display in the foyer to demonstrate that Currie Community High School is a safe, tolerant and inclusive environment. *Doreen MacKinnon*

CCHS Christmas Fayre

Saturday 24th November 2018 12pm to 3pm



If you can help out please contact PiP via
CCHSPIP@gmail.com



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.

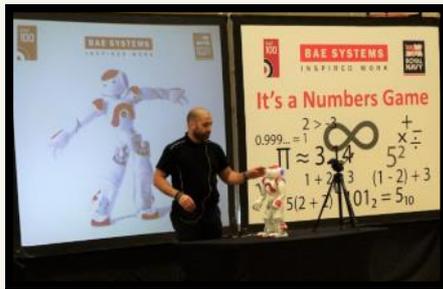
Thank you for your support.



Currie Community High School Newsletter

S1 & S2 BAE Systems Roadshow September Visit

BAE were back with their excellent roadshow for all S1 and S2 pupils called It's a Numbers Game. Throughout the show students were introduced to a series of fun and fascinating ways in which Maths is used in everyday life. These included examples of the practical application of mathematical techniques within BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy.



The presentation included the most up to date technologies to demonstrate the importance of Maths in the future of Engineering – the amazing robot MIA was back this year to show off her mathematical genius and explore developments in facial recognition technology. Students were invited to participate in some of the demonstrations and problem-solving games.

Irene Somerville

C'est la Vie @ The Filmhouse

A group of Senior Phase pupils from Modern Languages met Mrs Mackenzie at the Filmhouse Café on Wednesday 5th September and watched an excellent French film called "C'est la vie". It was a great experience to see a French film (with English subtitles) in the cinema and it was very entertaining evening. Ratings given were 10/10 so we can't ask for better! We were joined by our exchange students - Lois is from France and has joined S5 for part of the school year and Marlene is from Germany and in S4 for the whole session. We hope to arrange future cinema trips and that the number of interested pupils will increase. Look out for bulletin notices and sign up with your languages teacher!

Catherine MacKenzie





Currie Community High School Newsletter

Currie Community Award Winner

I am very pleased to receive the **Currie Community Award** in recognition of my involvement within the community and school. This involved the Dementia pop-up café and school office volunteering.

During my years at CCHS the subject that interested me the most was business and as a result I chose to do Business HND at Edinburgh College. This was to prepare me to undertake a degree at Napier University.

Erika Palmer (Class of 2018)



Munich Trip

On 15th December 2018, a group of 44 pupils and 6 members of staff are flying to Munich for a quick pre-Christmas visit. We have an action-packed itinerary with excursions to the Olympic stadium, to Dachau concentration camp and to Neuschwanstein Castle. Other activities include a walking tour of the city's main sights and of course a spot of shopping at the famous Christmas markets. Keep an eye out for the photos in the next issue!

Leila Okasha





Currie Community High School Newsletter

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

Senior Phase Roadshow

Last year we held our first ‘Senior Phase Roadshow’ in February. Based on feedback from our students, we have run our second event earlier. This helps students to focus on career pathways and potentially influence course choice and career choices.

On Wednesday; 12 September we held our second ‘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) and through taking part in 2 out of 6 workshops



Our **keynotes** were Jenni Lang – Postcode Lottery and Bruce Walker – Future X Innovation. Our keynotes were engaging and shared the pathways they followed from school, and are continuing to move along and to be aware of how being an entrepreneur can play its part. Our **workshop** partners were from Scottish Food & Drink Federation, Courtyard by Marriott (Edinburgh West), Royal Bank of Scotland, Canon UK, Skills Development Scotland and Leonardo. Students took part in two workshops, which meant they took part in areas of interest, linked to potential career aspirations

Students really enjoyed the morning and some of them said: *‘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’* * *‘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, including the Parent in Partnership (PiP), and students for taking part! It was a very positive experience. We look forward to next year!

For more information on DYW go to our Twitter, [@curriechs_dyw](https://twitter.com/curriechs_dyw), or our web pages at <https://tinyurl.com/currie-dyw>.

Mr Schmidt



Currie Community High School Newsletter

S2 Business Enterprise

The S2 Business pupils are busy working on an exciting new Unit of work. The 5 classes have set up new businesses and each class has voted on a product which they are going to produce. The products will be Christmas-themed and will be ethically designed and produced. They will be using recycled materials wherever possible, and are aiming for the target of zero waste going to landfill from the project – no plastic allowed!



The pupils have sourced the materials they need for their designs and are currently calculating their costs so they can decide on a suitable selling price. They have also been thinking about how to develop their brand identity and what message they want to convey to customers.

The pupils are really enjoying the opportunity to put some of last year's theory knowledge into practice. Production is due to start in the next few weeks. The products will be available for sale at the Currie Christmas Fair on the 24th November so we hope to see lots of you there to support the pupils.



Many thanks to the Parent Council for providing some of the funding for this valuable learning experience.

Mrs Matthewson

Business Advisors needed for Young Enterprise – can you help?



We are looking to **recruit some new Business Advisors for our Young Enterprise programme**. This is an activity which pupils can choose to do in their senior year. As a group they set up a company with each pupil taking on one of the Director roles. They make all the decisions for the business including raising finance, deciding on a product, production, marketing and selling.

Throughout the programme they are competing against all other Young Enterprise companies in the Edinburgh and Lothian area. There are a number of elements to the competition including taking part in a trade fair, writing a company report, producing a promotional video and delivering a presentation in front of a judging panel.

Each team requires the support of a Business Advisor. This role involves attending a one-hour Board meeting at the school each week to provide guidance and mentoring to the team. Your role is not to make the decisions for the pupils but simply to hear their ideas and perhaps point them in the right direction on occasion. Motivating the team is also an important part of the Business Advisor role. We are looking for any interested parents who have experience of working in any type of business and have an hour to spare each week. Full support is offered to the Advisors from Young Enterprise and also the Currie Link Teacher. This is a hugely rewarding opportunity to work with a group of our senior pupils and help to develop their skills.

Anyone who is interested or wants to find out more about the role should email Admin@currie.edin.sch.uk and mark the email **FAO Mrs Matthewson**.



#BooksNotJust4Xmas

Starting the conversation and keeping it going!

Since the start of term, the English Department and Mrs Marriott have had some great conversations with pupils about how they would like us to continue to develop our reading culture at Currie High School. The pupils have shared some fab ideas and we were delighted that so many different people contributed their thoughts.

Some of the ideas that were suggested were - **regular reading dares** in the Bulletin (watch this space...); **a Book Club** (or two - one for S4-S6 and another for S1-S3); **more books available** in areas where the pupils socialise - we're working on this!; and **'events'** at key times of the year.



What next...

- We're delighted that Currie Library will support us to gather the books that we need for our Book Club. Our first text will be chosen by pupils in the first week of October. The plan is to meet termly to chat about the book we've chosen over hot chocolate.

- Our first reading dare was a straightforward one – simply to recommend a book to a member of staff in school. The books suggested were all dystopian titles...to give an idea... 'The Witch Crag' by Kate Cann and 'The 100' by Kass Morgan.

- After the October break, we are going to be encouraging pupils in S1 to S3 to 'have a book in their bag'. The emphasis should be on pupils enjoying what they read and support from home makes a big difference sharing ideas and titles about reading material can open lots of conversations!

- Many other plans are in the pipeline...especially looking at gathering more books to share around school. If you have a bookshelf groaning with appropriate books that have already been read then you could make space for more by donating any spares to the school. We are looking at ways to make physical books as accessible and prevalent as possible. Please hand these in to M. Grieve in the English Department or LRC.

If you need reading inspiration ...take a look at the Scottish Book Trust website. There are masses of reading lists and titles: <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading/book-lists/teens>

Happy reading!

Maggie Greaves

LRC (Learning Resource Centre) News

This term all the S1s took part in a literary treasure hunt organised by Mrs Marriott in the school library. Accompanied by their English teachers all pupils completed an interactive worksheet to find out about how the school library works. At the end of the session S1 students knew how to borrow books and where the computers are. They also found out about other exciting events which take place in the school library such as author visits and reviewing books for Teen Titles magazine. A big thanks to all the S1 pupils for taking part in the treasure hunt so enthusiastically! Come into the school library soon to borrow some more books! **Gill Marriot**





Currie Community High School Newsletter

PIP NEEDS YOU!

Parents in Partnership (CCHS Parent council—and PiP for short) VACANCIES, it's a great opportunity to get more involved with the school, your child's education and to meet other parents.

Secretary role - the main duties involve -

- Organising, booking and communicating PiP Meeting dates via email and social media.
- Act as admin for the PiP email address and CCHS PiP Facebook site.
- Keep Parent/Carer contacts list up to date.
- Liaise with the Chairs to create and distribute the PiP meeting agenda.
- Take PiP Meeting minutes, attendance and apologies, then distribute.

Christmas Fayre Team— Can you help on the day of the Fayre—Saturday 24th November?

Mentoring—Do you have a particular skill that you can share with our students? We want to bring your skills to the school/educational environment. These skills can be (but not limited to) First Aid Training because you work in nursing, to STEM industries, from the Pentland Ranger services to working with the SSP-CA. The commitment can be as little as a one off one hour chat with our students to regular ongoing projects.

Volunteers—Would you be able to help with school trips, if you were able to help the school could put you through the PVG certificate, which is a requirements for working with our students, at no cost to you.

If you can help with any of the above please contact us via PiP email address (cchspip@gmail.com) or via the CCHSPIP Facebook page.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th January 2019

We hope to see many of you there at the September meeting.

Naomi Barton and Kirsty Stoddart—PiP Chairs

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!

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Thank you for your support.



Currie Community High School Newsletter

MEDICATION REMINDER

Please ensure that if your child has a medical condition requiring emergency medication this is provided to the school on the first day back in August.

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

MEDICAL FORMS can be found on the school website under - **Information—Welfare room.**

If you have 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

**HAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS
CHANGED? Please let us know -**

**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

South West School Review

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

**Next PiP meeting takes place
on**

Tues 15 January 2019

Leadership Team

Senior Leadership Team:

Head Teacher - Doreen MacKinnon
(Year Head S6)

Senior Depute Head Teacher - Percy Farren
(Year Head S4/S5/S6 Tues to Thurs)

Depute Head Teacher - Lesley Muir
(Year Head S4/S5/S6 Mon and Fri)

Depute Head Teacher - Alan McKinney
(Year Head S1/S2/S3)

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 & Julie Morrison - **English**

Claire Mulvey - **Expressive Arts**

Rob Greenaway - **Health and Wellbeing**

Kirsti Dower - **Maths and Numeracy**

Catherine Mackenzie - **Modern Languages**

Irene Somerville— **Science**

David Toal - **Social Subjects**

John Schmidt - **Technologies**

School Chaplains:

Jim Dewar, Minister Juniper Green Church

Easter Smart, Minister, Currie Kirk



Currie Community High School Newsletter

Dates for your diary 2018/2019

Wednesday 10th October 2018	PiP Meeting in the LRC at 7pm
Thursday 11th October 2018	Autumn Music Concert at 7pm
Friday 12th October 2018	Term Ends—October Break
Tuesday 23rd October 2018	Pupils Resume
Tuesday 23rd October 2018	S1 Parents Evening (Group Tutors)
Tuesday 6th November 2018	Jackie Kay Literary Event
Thursday 15th November 2018	S3 Parents' consultation (4.15-6.45pm)
Saturday 24th November 2018	CCHS Christmas Fayre 12 to 3pm
Monday 26th Nov—Friday 7th December 2018	S4 / NAT5 Prelims
Tuesday 4th December 2018	S1 Parents Consultation (non practical subjects)
Thursday 6th December 2018	S1 Parents Consultation (practical subjects)
Tuesday 11th to Thursday 13th December 2018	School Show—Grease
Friday 21st December 2018	Term Ends—Christmas Break
Wednesday 9th January 2019	Pupils Resume
Monday 14th to Friday 25th January 2019	S5/S6 Prelims
Tuesday 15th January 2019	PiP Meeting in LRC at 7pm
Wednesday 30th January 2019	S2 Coursing Information Parents Evening at 7pm
Tuesday 5th February 2019	S5/S6 Parents Consultations
Friday 8th February 2019	Term ends—February Break
Monday 18th February 2019	All Resume
Wednesday 20th February 2019	S4 Parents Consultations
Monday 11th March 2019	S2 Parents Consultations
Wednesday 27th March 2019	PiP Meeting in LRC at 7pm
Friday 5th April 2019	Term ends—Easter Break
Tuesday 23rd April 2019	All Resume
Monday 6th May 2019	Mayday holiday—school closed
Wednesday 8th May 2019	Pupils Resume
Monday 20th May 2019	Victoria Day—school closed
Tuesday 21st May 2019	All Resume
Tuesday 28th May 2019	PiP AGM in LRC at 7pm
Friday 28th June 2019	Term ends