

### S3 Girls Win the Scottish Youth Parliament's We-CTV Competition - Literacies Category

A group of S3 girls who have been working with Rachel in our Apex Unit have won the We-CTV Competition in the literacies category which is an outstanding achievement.

As part of the No Knives Better Lives initiative, the Scottish Youth Parliament created We-CTV, an interactive competition which allows young people to explore the issue of interpersonal violence through creative media. As a group, they decided to submit their entry on the risky topic of sexting by using literacy as their create concept.

In November, the group attended a National Production Day at Hampden Park where they had the opportunity to meet with creative experts to help them develop their poem on sexting. The girls also participated in workshops to increase their knowledge of interpersonal violence and all had a fantastic time. From there, they handed in their finished piece of work which went on to win the competition.

The winners of the literature category have won a visit to Scotland's largest children's publisher Floris Books, where they will take part in a writing workshop with award-winning author, Cathy MacPhail, and learn how publishing works from the Floris team. The winners will also have the chance to immerse themselves in Edinburgh's literary heritage, and will go on a tour of the city. They'll get the chance to visit the café where Harry Potter was written, see the book sculptures at the National Library, and climb the Scott Monument. The girls also won a hamper of books for the school, kindly donated by the Scottish Book Trust. Each individual in the winning group also won their very own Kindle!

Well done and congratulation to The Amor Girl's Group

### S3 HEALTH DRAMA

On Friday 20th March, all of our S3 cohort attended a 2 period drama presentation and workshop organised by Health Promotion.

This is an annual event which is used to raise health issues, find out what young people think and also gives local health workers the opportunity to promote their services and answer our pupils' questions.

### DIARY DATES

Thursday 2 April 2015	-	End of term 3
Monday 20 April 2015	-	Start of term 4
Friday 3 July 2015	-	End of term 4
Tuesday 18 August	-	Start Term 1
Friday 9 October 2015	-	End of Term 1
Monday 26 October 2015	-	Start of Term 2
Wednesday 23 December 2015	-	End of Term 2

### INSERVICE DAYS 2014—2015

No.5 : Friday 22 May 2015
No.1 : Monday 17 August 2015
No.2 : Thursday 12 November 2015
No.3 : Friday 13 November 2015
*No.4 : Thursday 11 February 2016
No.5 : Friday 27 May 2016

### SPRING 2016 MID TERM

\*Friday 12 & Monday 15 February 2016

### OTHER HOLIDAYS

Good Friday	-	Friday 3 April 2015
May Day	-	Monday 4 May 2015
Victoria Day	-	Monday 25 May 2015

Please go to <http://st-pauls.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk/> where you will find the school calendar, daily notices, news items, school handbooks, sports clubs & study clubs etc.

Details of school uniform can be found on school website  
<http://st-pauls.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk>  
Punctuality

**SCHOOL SKIRTS SHOULD BE KNEE LENGTH**

The school day starts with registration at 8.50 am. All pupils must attend Registration. Please ensure your son/daughter is on time in the morning and also for afternoon classes which begin at 1.35 pm.

### PARENT COUNCIL DATES

Chairperson - Martin MacGregor  
Secretary - Claire Hosie  
Treasurer - Mandy McKenzie (Acting)

Should you wish to raise anything with the Parent Council please contact the school or email: [stpauls@dundeeparentcouncil.org](mailto:stpauls@dundeeparentcouncil.org)

Parent Council meetings are open to all parents and guardians/carers and we would encourage you to come along and support the school and our children's education.

Wednesday 20 May 2015 - Parent Council Meeting

16 September 2015 AGM

### CAREERS ADVISER THURSDAY LUNCH TIME DROP IN

The school career adviser is available for quick questions or help related to careers and leaving school options for S4, 5 and 6 pupils. Located in the Careers Office in the Library from 1pm - 1:35pm every Thursday starting next session. No appointment required, just drop in. Available on a first come, first served basis - 10 minutes max per pupil.

### SQA EXAMS 2015

This year the SQA Exams run from Tuesday 28 April to Friday 5 June. Exam leave will begin end of day on Tuesday 5 May until Thursday 21 May. After the holidays each S4, S5 and S6 year group will be given a special Assembly to ensure that they are aware of exam conditions. However I would ask you to discuss the following information with your son/daughter.

- ◆ All pupils must bring their Scottish Candidate number into each exam with them. These cards are used to identify pupils by the Invigilators.
- ◆ Pupils have been given an individual timetable which includes time/date of exam, location and seat number for each exam. All pupils must sit at their allocated desk.
- ◆ Mobile phones are **strictly** forbidden in the exam room. "If a candidate is found to have a mobile phone on their person, the standard penalty applied is cancellation".
- ◆ Pupils must wear full school uniform to school during the exam period.
- ◆ Pupils must arrive at least 15 minutes before the exam is due to begin.
- ◆ Pupils who need additional help/support from their subject teachers are welcome to come into school to study during Study Leave, full school uniform **must** be worn.
- ◆ Results will be delivered on Tuesday, 4th August 2015.
- ◆ If your child is too ill to attend an exam you should contact the school on the morning of the exam or prior to the exam if the illness is evident then. A doctor's certificate should be submitted to the school at the latest 3 days after the date of the exam. In any other exceptional circumstance please inform the school with supporting documentation as soon as you can to allow the school to make the submission swiftly.

"My SQA" is a web service offering fast access to your results. Your results will be sent by email or text (useful if on holiday) on Tuesday, 4th August 2015. Pupils must register for this service. Further information can be accessed on [WWW.whyywait.org.uk](http://WWW.whyywait.org.uk).

*On behalf of all of the staff and pupils of St. Paul's RC Academy, we wish all our pupils success in your exams.*

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT

As of August 2014 St. Paul's RC Academy is using a new PE kit for all years, boys and girls. The kit is available from the school wear shop at the same price but it will be dri-fit material and the colours are be the same for boys and girls, black shorts, t-shirt with green and white piping.

### HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

*Any pupil taken out of school to go on holiday during term time will be marked as an **unauthorised absence**. Providing a letter from your employer in advance of any holiday stating that this holiday cannot be taken at any other time of year or is fixed to a certain time of year is required to mark a holiday absence as authorised.*

**All absences require parent/carer to make a call to the school with reason for absence on each morning of absence**



# ST. PAUL'S RC ACADEMY GILLBURN ROAD

Parental Newsletter No. 26 - Easter 2015

Website Address: <http://st-pauls.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk/>



## ONE COMMUNITY MANY GIFTS

Dear Parent/Carer

*Thank you for taking the time to read how our young people have been developing their gifts and sharing these gifts with our community. I hope you enjoy reading about their many achievements this term.*

*You will also be aware that our senior pupils have been working hard this term finalising projects, writing reports, completing log books and other assignments as well preparing for Exams next term. I would also draw to your attention the important information regarding the SQA exams on the back of our newsletter. Please note the dates of 'exam leave' and the arrangements for exams. I am sure you will encourage our young people to use their Easter Holiday to get in some extra study to prepare for their exams.*

*I would like to thank you all for your continued support for our young people and our school. I hope all our young people get the opportunity to recharge their batteries over the holiday and return refreshed for the summer term.*

John L Carroll  
Head Teacher

### CONTEMPORARY DANCE GROUP

The Contemporary Dance Group at St Paul's took to the stage at the Caird Hall in early March to compete in the Dundee Schools Dance Festival. The theme chosen for the dance was the Holocaust and the stimulus for this choice came from the History Department and the Holocaust assemblies at the school. The dance portrayed the treatment of the Jews as they were removed from their normal lives and put into the concentration camps. The dancers wore the iconic "striped pyjamas" which the Jews were given to wear in the camps as a uniform for those imprisoned. The dance finishes with the Jews trapped inside the gas chamber clawing at the walls in a bid to escape.

The dance was described as "breath-taking" by members of the audience at the Caird Hall and many were moved to tears at the emotions being portrayed by the pupils in the group.

When the results were announced the audience erupted as St Paul's was announced as Gold Medal winners.

At the end of March, the group were asked to perform the dance again during lunchtime for a select audience of parents, teachers and pupils.

The group will now be invited to perform once more at the Active Schools Awards Evening in June.



### DESIGN IN MOTION

On Friday 27th February the CDT department welcomed the visit of the Design Bus to St Paul's Academy. Throughout the day groups of pupils from CDT and Art viewed the exhibitions inside. These included sculptures produced on 3D printers, game design, textiles and smart materials, as well as 3D design software.

Informative presentations were given by the staff accompanying the bus explaining the role of digital design today, and in the future, with reference to the exhibitions on board. The visit of the Design Bus was part of the V & A's pre-opening programme.



### TAYPLAN

S1 and S3 pupils took part in the launch of this event aimed at planning the future of Dundee. The presenters from Taylan asked our young people what Dundee needs for its citizens and brought this theme to life using Minecraft gaming technology. Many of our pupils are keen to attend the Youth Camp in June - watch this space!



### JUDY MURRAY CONFERENCE - MARCH 2015

Some of the photos from when the pupils met Judy Murray recently. A very interesting and inspiring conference.

### NETBALL

St. Paul's has a great group of girls who come along every week for netball practice. Their commitment and attitude is to be commended and they are a credit to St Pauls. They are a talented group of young ladies who show that working together closely as a team can bring great rewards and we are very proud of all of them.



Congratulations to our S1 netball team who gained silver in the final of the netball tournament. They played fantastically and their commitment is a credit to St Pauls. Well done girls.

### ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

This competition took place on February 11th and Rachel Gallo-way in S5 ND Chris Bright in S4 did a great job of representing the school at the semi - final and against tough competition from across the city.

### UK PARLIAMENT - SPEAKERS SCHOOL COUNCIL AWARD

A huge congratulations to the Pupil Council for achieving 'Highly Commended' from the Speaker's School Council Awards. This was awarded for their efforts in the planning and success of last year's Easter fund raising event. Well done to all involved!



### BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Many congratulations to Murray McLaughlin 6M who won a silver medal in the Elite Youth Scottish Open Boxing Championships (75kg 1997) in Motherwell. Well done Murray and good luck in the British Finals!

### ST. PAUL'S CHESS LEAGUE 2014/2015

I would like to congratulate Declan Shafi Champion of St Paul's Chess League 2014/15 who won for the second year in row. Well done Declan! In second place was Dale Freedman and in third place Josh Christie.



I would like to take this opportunity and thank all participants: Josh Christie, Dale Freedman, Karol Kolodziejski, Declan Shafi, Christopher Anderson, Brandon Ferguson, Owen Sullivan, Michael Wallace, John Lawson, Jay Fen-

### ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

It has been a busy term in the English department. Our senior pupils have been working incredibly hard on completing folios in time for SQA submission and now work has begun on revision for their impending exams. **Study Support for National 5 & Higher English & Media is offered most days at lunchtimes, we would urge you to encourage your child to attend.**

S1-3 pupils have also been working hard this term with some aspiring young writers emerging. Some of Mrs Brown's S1 pupils have taken part in the BBC Young Writers 500 Words competition. Mrs Murray's S2 class have taken part in 'The Mary Slessor' writing competition in which they had to write imaginatively or factually about the life of Mary Slessor. Miss Webster's S3 class entered 'The Burgess Trust' writing competition in which they had to write about Dundee. Good Luck to all entrants!

### World Book Week

We were delighted to receive an invitation from St Pius RC Primary School during World Book Week. Mrs. Rankin, along with Head Girl - Ellie McDonald and Head Boy - James Malone, visited P5/6&7 classes to read some of our favourite stories to the children. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all and we hope to visit again very soon.

### Education Scotland Project

Mrs. Brown, having returned from her secondment with Education Scotland, has been working hard on a project in partnership with St Vincent's RC Primary School. The project involves producing resources which exemplify pupil achievement in Listening and Talking.

Mrs. Brown's S1 and 2 pupils have been taking part in a Listening and Talking project, the results of which are due to be published on the Education Scotland website. The resources will be used by teachers across the country, so you could say some of our young people are going to be famous! The groups have been working on presentations, one of which was to create an exciting new school lunch menu.

Well done to all pupils involved, especially Abby Kelly, Hannah Stirton, Carly Gray and Amy Brown who gave the best group presentation to the class, convincing us that their new school dinner plan was a winner!



### ABERTAY UNIVERSITY ROADSHOW

Our S2 pupils were given the opportunity to 'Identify Fast Fingers Freddie' get some 'Relief from Indigestion' and 'Get a Grip on Your Heart' all in the name of providing an insight into and raise awareness of contemporary science subjects such as biotechnology, health sciences, forensic and food sciences by taking part in some taster experiments.



The experience was a definite hit with our budding scientists!

### HEALTHY ME



S2 Biology pupils worked with staff from Dundee Academy of Sport to measure aspects of health and fitness, using some of the most high-tech equipment available at Abertay University. Awareness was also raised of the variety of science subjects available to study on leaving school.

The events have been a 'How healthy am I?' awareness raising opportunity for all involved!

**Skills for Learning, Life and Work in Biology** – Teaching in Medicine Medical students from the University of Dundee, have been working with groups of third year Biology pupils on the topic of 'Body Balance' looking at aspects of Homeostasis - how the body regulates water, temperature and blood glucose.

### 'BACTERIA LIVE IN COMMUNITIES' - WORKSHOP

Our S1 pupils were invited to take part in a workshop from University of Dundee on Wednesday 11th March as part of 'Women in Science' events taking place across the city.

Groups of First year pupils (girls and boys) were involved in a Microbiology workshop in which they found out about the fantastic biofilm communities that bacteria can form and the ways in which this has an impact on our lives. Many had a real desire to rush home and clean their teeth very well!

### SCHOOL GARDEN

At long last we have started work on transforming our school garden. Some very helpful gardeners have helped us plant most of the 420 native hedge plants, which were supplied free from the Woodland trust and some first year pupils have been helping out with the planting. We now have a small group of 'would-be-gardeners' who are keen to get their hands dirty and clean out the greenhouse ready for the growing season. We hope to develop a wild garden to attract wildlife – not just crows and seagulls! - and start growing vegetables and herbs in our plots. We have much to do but as they say from little acorns big Oak trees grow. If anyone out there can provide us with garden tools, plants, topsoil, sleepers to build raised beds, muscle power, time (not thyme!!) ..... we would love to hear from you.

### YOUNG ENGINEERS EVENT AT SENSATION

A group of S1 and S2 pupils (DJ Bradley, Declan Shafi, Jacob Christie, Paul Jackson, Joshua Cairns and Cale Anderson) from our Computing Science club took part in a Science Festival at Sensation recently. The pupils took part in a number of engineering challenges based around the theme of James Watt and they showcased the work that they had been doing with our Raspberry Pis, Arduino boards and remote weather station equipment. The boys were a credit to the school.



### SCRATCH YOUR NOSE DAY

On Red Nose day our Computing pupils in S1 and S2 were using Scratch and specially made Red Nose day Graphics to produce their own computer games.



### DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Chris Anderson, Rhori Bartley-Jones, Lewis Lamond, Melissa Sime, Mateusz Garas and Ben Sullivan recently became the first St. Paul's pupils to complete their DofE Bronze Awards. This is a demanding internationally recognised award for which they had to show sustained commitment to Volunteering, Physical and Skill activities and complete a 2-day unaccompanied expedition in Glen Shee.

### DISCOVERING DEGREES 2015

Fifteen S2 pupils attended Discovering Degree's at the University of Dundee on Tuesday 24th February. They attended lectures/workshops in Nursing, Geography, and Architecture. Lunch was in DUSA and they all received a Graduation Certificate. It is hoped that this experience will help our young people think seriously about attending university in the future. The University of Dundee offers a number of events to encourage and support young people in St Paul's to apply for a degree course in several faculties including; Medicine, Dentistry and Law through the REACH initiative and Art or Architecture through the ACES initiative. Pupils from S3 up are welcome to register with these initiatives on the University of Dundee website. Once registered they will be invited to events, taster days and campus visits. These are very helpful prior to submitting UCAS applications. If you would like any further information please contact Mr McCarty at the school.

### HIGH DRAMA!

It's been another busy session in the Drama Department. In addition to our pupils studying at BGE, Nat 4 & 5 and Higher levels, many have also been involved in a range of extra-curricular drama activities including participating in the school pantomime "Cinderella" as actors and technical crew and attending theatrical productions (eg. "Jekyll and Hyde" and "Ghost Train"). Our S4-S6 pupils have also had the opportunity to participate in the Enterprise and Work Experience programmes at Dundee Rep Theatre where they worked collaboratively with professionals in acting performance or theatrical technical design.

### MUSIC

#### Dundee Schools' Arts Festival and Spring Concerts 2015

Starting on Monday 23rd March over 4 days, 5 venues and in 22 different competitive classes, 43 pupils from St Paul's participated in the 2015 Dundee Schools' Arts Festival gaining 6 bronze, 12 silver and 4 gold awards. All pupils involved were a credit to the department and school as a whole. There is a very high standard of music making across the city at present, and it was great to have St Paul's RC Academy so well represented in the Arts Festival.

Rachel Galloway S5 - Vocal Solo Girls Senior - Silver  
Annie Petrie S3 - Vocal Solo Girls Junior - Silver  
Robbie Lamond S2 - Vocal Solo Boys Junior - Silver  
Cari Wilde S1 - Brass Solo Intermediate - Bronze  
Robbie Lamond S2 - Brass Solo Intermediate - Bronze  
Joshua Christie S4 - Brass Solo Intermediate - Bronze  
Declan Shafi S2 - Woodwind Solo Junior - Silver  
Iona McKaig S6 - Oboe Solo Advanced - Bronze  
Bartek Witkowski S4 - Orchestral Snare Drum Solo Senior - Gold  
Bartek Witkowski S4 - Senior Rock Band (Drum Kit) - Gold  
Conor McBay S6 - Senior Rock Band (Guitar) - Silver  
Chris Brighty S4 - Intermediate Rock Band (Guitar) - Silver  
Kerry Whitelaw S4 - Senior Electric Guitar - Gold  
Craig Duncan S4 - Senior Bass Guitar - Bronze  
Kama Donald S1 - Junior Violin Solo - Silver  
Abby Kelly S2 - Intermediate Violin Solo - Silver  
Heather Walker S5 - Advanced Viola Solo - Silver  
Anis Nobre S1 - Junior Keyboard - Silver  
Chris McComiskie S3 - Intermediate Keyboard - Gold  
**String Trio** (Heather Walker S5, Ewan Cassidy S5, Caitlin McPhee S3) - Silver

**Mixed Ensemble** (Ben Sullivan S4, Cari Wilde S1, Joshua Christie S4, Jacob Christie S2, Glen Crosby S2, Declan Shafi S2, Robbie Lamond S2) - Bronze  
**School Choir** - (Kama Donald S1, Robbie Lamond S2, Nathan Doogan S3, Chris Fox S3, Kennedy Thomson S3, Matthew Fox S5, Ewan Cassidy S5, Abbie Cassidy S4, Alecia Francis S4, Ellie McDonald S6, Hannah Cook, S3, Rachel Galloway S5, Abbey Hosie S3, Vivenne Butler) - Silver

The Spring Concerts that took place on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March at the Caird Hall were outstanding. Over both nights, all central bands, orchestras and ensembles were featured and short films were shown highlighting the wider work of Dundee Instrumental Music Service and the impact of its work. The following pupils from St Paul's were involved in these concerts:

**Kama Donald S1 - Abby Kelly S2 - Bartek Witkowski S4  
Kerry Whitelaw S4 - Chris Brighty S4 - Iona McKaig S6**

### BELMONT BAND CAMPS

The weekends of both 13th and 20th March saw over 200 pupils, staff and instructors attend band camps at the Scottish Outdoor Education Centre, Meigle. Both weekends were very enjoyable and helped prepare pupils for the Annual Bands and Orchestras Concerts. Kerry Whitelaw S4, Chris Brighty S4, Abby Kelly S2, Kama Donald S1 and Mrs O'Rourke were in attendance from St Paul's.

### SCIAF WEEK

St Paul's have celebrated their first annual SCIAF week. The week was kicked off with SCIAF Assemblies where pupils learned about the important work of SCIAF. Other events included: a SCIAF fayre, Car washing, Sponsored Silence, Staff/Senior Sponsored Fast,



Ice bucket Challenge, Bouncy Castle, Guess the Teddy Bear's Birthday, Guess the sweets in the Jar, Cake raffles, Staff and Senior Coffee morning - to name but a few!



The week was a huge success and the total so far is £1,156.76 (and rising.)

The Government have pledged to double the total that SCIAF fundraise this year with a deadline of 17th May so St Paul's are well on their way to making a difference to the lives of so many other people. Well done to all our pupils and as always - thank you for your continued support!

### WORLD WAR 1 PROJECT

As part of the commemoration of the anniversary of the First World War, Dundee citizens were invited to write a novel for young people. The brief was to write something set in some way around the fighting or the Home Front in Tayside. Three entries made the short list and that is where our pupils came in. All the secondary schools in Dundee selected a group of pupils who would read the books and judge which one they liked the best. Our group comprised four S2 pupils: Beth Gibb, Megan Grant, Hannah Stirton and Kennedy Storrie.

Our intrepid four then went to St Andrew's Primary school to introduce the books to Mr Quinn's P5 class who then designed book jackets for the three novels. Later, the girls judged these and sent one winner from each novel in to the competition organisers to be entered into the across Dundee competition.

On Wednesday this week we all went to Steps Theatre in the Wellgate for the awards presentation. Our girls agreed that 'Shell Hole' was the one they liked best but this was not the overall winner. The winner was Wreck of the Argyll, a spy story set around Dundee and the Bell Rock lighthouse off Arbroath which was written by John Fulton. St Andrew's didn't win anything in the book jacket competition, but a good time was had by all!

Our girls were each given a £10 gift card for Waterstones as a thank you from the organisers and funders for their help in the project. We felt the whole project was a valuable experience and we were delighted to have been part of it.

### S3 LIFT OFF EVENT

St. Paul's RC Academy enjoys a very close partnership with LIFT OFF. Pupils find out about some of the courses available in Higher Education, and begin to explore where these might take them in groups with help from LIFT OFF's 'real life' student volunteers.

This is a fun event, designed to make pupils a little more aware of some of the available options after school and was well received by all our pupils.



STUDY CLUBS AND SPORTS CLUBS  
<http://st-pauls.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk/>

Please visit St. Paul's website for information on the various clubs we run in the school. There are Study Support Clubs and Sports Clubs. We encourage our pupils to become involved in a range of school based extra-curricular activities.