



St Kentigern's Academy

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Head Teacher:

Mr Andrew Sharkey

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Friday, 18 August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this update finds you well and that you had a lovely summer break. It has been a busy but really enjoyable first week back at St Kentigern's. We have been delighted to see all our returning students, and extend a special welcome to our 220 new S1 students. Well done to them all for making such a positive start and settling back into our school routines so quickly. We are very grateful for the support provided by our S6 buddies, who have not only guided our new S1 students but have also exemplified our school values and have been great role models.

Exam Results – We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our Senior Students for their remarkable achievements in the recent SQA exams. The resounding success they have attained is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the exceptional support provided by both their teachers and their families. The collective results of the school as a whole painted a picture of excellence, showing that our young people are now ready to embark on the next phase of their educational journeys, be it at St. Kentigern's, the workplace, college, or through higher education pathways. Whilst more details of these results will be shared later in the term, it is important to take this moment to applaud each student's dedication, resilience and success. Once again, a resounding well done to all involved.

Ongoing Works – A significant programme of work has been agreed to ensure our school can remain operational for students and staff over the coming months and years. The West Lothian Council Executive have approved plans to remove roof planks containing reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) from areas of our school where access has been restricted. There will also be a new plant room built to ensure vital services such electricity and hot water remain available. The large-scale and complex nature of all the ongoing work requires investment of nearly £6 million from the budget already allocated for the school. Full details are available on our website at <https://stkentigersacademy.westlothian.org.uk/ProgOfWork>

New West Wing – As part of the ongoing works at the school we had a full new wing of Portakabin temporary classrooms installed over the summer. This new wing provides us with new PE changing rooms, toilets, Music and Graphic Communication classrooms, rehearsal rooms, and a canteen space that can seat almost 400 students. The area has full IT connectivity and the classrooms all have interactive boards and air condition/ heating.

New CDT Workshops – In addition to the new wing, the school now has 3 brand new fully equipped CDT workshops – 2 woodwork and 1 metalwork. These new workshops and the new wing will help ensure that we will be able to continue to offer our full curriculum.



Uniform – Uniform this week has been of a very high standard and we would like to ask for your support in ensuring that students continue to attend in **full school uniform**. While we have taken (and will continue to offer) a supportive approach with those who arrive at school out of uniform, it is the right time to **raise the bar** and work together to enhance our sense of **community, security and pride** through the wearing of our school uniform.

If any family has financial issues with being able to purchase uniform please contact Miss Lawlor at the school and she, along with the Student Support Team, will be happy to help.

And do you have any old uniform you no longer need? As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability we have a new Uniform Drop Off point in the school. The drop-off point is conveniently located at the school office where you can kindly leave the uniforms during office hours. We kindly request that the donated uniforms are clean and in good condition to ensure their suitability for reuse.

By participating in this initiative, you actively contribute to our sustainable practices and help us foster a sense of community within our school. We thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Clothing Grant – West Lothian provides a school clothing grant of £180. Details of eligibility can be found at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/43281/School-Clothing-Grants-Free-School-Meals-Milk> If you are not eligible and would like to discuss other supports available, please call the school office on 01506 656404.

Free School Meals – If eligible, parents are required to register their children for free school meals every year. This is done online at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/43281/School-Clothing-Grants-Free-School-Meals-Milk>

Financial Supports – There are a number of other financial supports available to our families. More information is available at <http://bitly.ws/y6xq>

If you would like further info on how we can help, please contact our financial support officer, Jennie Fraser at FYPAS@WestLothian.gov.uk or Call 01506 283 000, option 4.

Schuh Design Challenge – It may only be the first week back but we have a number of successes to celebrate. Julia in last year's S4 was the West Lothian winner of the Schuh Design Challenge 2023, beating students from every secondary in West Lothian. Congratulations Julia, and you can see her winning entry at <https://twitter.com/STKARTDEPT/status/1674721684861886464?s=20>

Green Flag – We were notified at the end of last term that the school has been awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag. We are delighted about achieving this award and huge congratulations go to Miss Gray and the Eco-Group for putting our application together and for coordinating all of our eco-activities. In the letter notifying us of our award the organisers noted that we “have done a fantastic job and are highly deserving of the Green Flag Award.”

School Captains - Congratulations to **Blake** and **Fern** (Columba House), **Betty** and **Keeva** (Margaret House), and **Grace** and **Brian** (Ninian House) who have been all been appointed as School Captains. We know they will make a great team and can't wait to see how they take forward their roles and priorities this year. More information is available at <https://twitter.com/StKentAc/status/1674072031741059078?s=20>

Wishing everyone a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Sharkey". The signature is written in black ink and features a large, sweeping loop at the end of the name.

Andrew Sharkey
Head Teacher