



# St Kentigern's Academy

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Head Teacher:

Mr Andrew Sharkey

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Monday, 25 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this update finds you well. It has been a busy but truly enjoyable first half term at St. Kentigern's. There is much to share in this update, so I kindly ask you to take a few moments to sit down and go through it.

**Building Update** - As you are aware a section of the school building has been permanently closed due to the presence of roof planks containing reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). Ensuring that teaching and learning can continue remains our top priority. To oversee the ongoing building works, we have appointed Sally Cameron as the school's point of contact for all matters related to the ongoing building works.

Moving forward, we have set up new temporary units in the yard to accommodate our assembly space, cafeteria, music classrooms, and CDT classrooms. Additionally the Almond Suite has been newly renovated to house our CDT Workshops.

Furthermore we are currently in the process of constructing six additional temporary units to provide more new teaching and learning spaces.

While the building works are in progress we do not have access to indoor PE spaces. Therefore students are having their PE lessons at other community sites, including the Blackburn Partnership Centre and Blackburn Football Club. We kindly request that you ensure your child brings a jacket for PE, as the weather may be cold and wet. It's also advisable for them to bring a change of clothes to avoid discomfort from wearing wet clothes for the entire day following a PE lesson. If any of this poses any issue, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

The rebuilding of a portion of the school will continue for several months and we sincerely appreciate your understanding and support during this period. We will maintain regular communication as needed. In the meantime, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the building work or its impact on the school, please feel free to email Sally Cameron at [sally.cameron@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:sally.cameron@westlothian.org.uk).

**Strike Action** – I would like to confirm that **St. Kentigern's Academy, along with all schools in West Lothian, will NOT be affected by the strike action planned for this week** by unions representing janitorial, catering, cleaning, and other support staff.

**New telephone number** – Please note that the school has a new telephone number: **01506 280570**. The old number will no longer be in service from the end of September, so kindly update this new number in your phones.



**Calendar** – A reminder that the parent calendar for the upcoming year is available on the school website at [School Calendar - St Kentigern's Academy \(westlothian.org.uk\)](https://www.stkentigerns.ac.uk/school-calendar). Please take a moment to review it and note the key dates relevant to you for the coming year.



**S1 Showcase Evening** – We are excited to invite parents of S1 students to our Showcase Evening, which will take place at **7pm on October 5th**. This event offers an opportunity to experience some of the subjects and lessons your child encounters in S1 and a chance to meet our dedicated staff team. More information, including the link to reserve your tickets, can be found at <https://t.co/TsonT9jHHJ>. Doors will open at 6:45pm at the main school office. We look forward to seeing you there!

**S1 Mass** - We celebrated the end of transition with our S1 students and their families earlier this month at our annual welcome Mass. The gospel spoke of seeds planted in rich soil, and we hope that our S1s develop strong, healthy roots in our nurturing environment. We extend our thanks to Fr. Peter for celebrating the mass, and to our exceptional RE and Music teams for their meticulous planning. We also thank the fifty parents who joined us for this significant event in our school calendar.

**School Show** – This year's school show is "Hairspray." It will be performed on **November 7th, 8th, and 9th at the Regal Theatre, Bathgate**. Tickets are priced at £8 for adults and £6 for concessions/children. You can purchase tickets from Miss Kennedy in the school or at the main reception.

**Fire Drill** - On Thursday morning, we conducted our first fire drill of the session, and I would like to commend our students for their calm, quick, and orderly evacuation of the building to their designated muster points. While these drills help us improve our safety systems, the key to everyone's safety is students remaining calm and following clear instructions, as they did on Thursday.

**Student Successes** – We are always delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students at St. Kent's, and here is just a flavour of some of our most recent. Rachel, an S3 student, has received the remarkable news that her work will be featured in an upcoming Young Writer's book, a testament to her creative prowess and dedication. In the sports arena, S6 student Lottie displayed remarkable talent and determination, securing a Bronze medal at the ITF TAEKWON-DO World Championships in Tampere, Finland. Finally, and as equally impressive, Isla, an S5 student, has earned a week of invaluable work experience in November with the Edinburgh Sheriff Court. This achievement directly stems from her active participation in the Mock Court Project we run here at St. Kent's.


During the summer, a number of students at St. Kent's participated in the Career Ready program, which entailed completing 4-week internships with prestigious companies, followed by delivering presentations on their experiences. The feedback from mentors and professionals at these companies and organisations has been overwhelmingly positive, showcasing our students' substantial growth in both confidence and skill. Our participants this year were Lucy at Mitsubishi Electric, Kieran at Glenmorangie, Amy at Sky, and Marta at the Scottish Government.

Just as we take pride in celebrating the accomplishments of our students, we also continue to be inspired by their achievements, and we applaud their hard work and commitment.

There are so many noteworthy achievements in our students' lives, and it is challenging to cover everything. Therefore, if you have news to share, please send it directly to me, and I will do my utmost to include this information in future updates. We are proud of all achievements, regardless of their scale.

Hope you have a good week, and thanks for taking the time to read this update

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Sharkey". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Andrew Sharkey  
Head Teacher