



St Kentigern's Academy

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Head Teacher:

Mr Andrew Sharkey

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Monday, 15th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you had a lovely Easter break.

This letter contains a lot of information on things that have been happening and will be happening in the school, and is a follow up to our previous communication at the end of January 2024. So I would ask that you take five minutes to read it and to familiarise yourself with its content. There is information about:

- SQA Exams and Study Leave
- Easter Study School
- S6 Trip, Yearbooks, Hoodies and Leavers' Mass
- Ongoing Successes
- Building Update
- Ethos Survey
- New Telephone Number
- Head Teacher Drop In
- School Calendar
- Upcoming Key Dates

SQA Exams and Study Leave - as you will be aware, we are fast approaching the SQA exam period. All families of students in S4 to S6 received a group call with a link to a letter containing all the key dates and information about the exams. This letter is available on our website at <https://shorturl.at/hGHUZ>

The key information summarised is that:

- the SQA exam diet for session 2023-2024 begins on **Monday 22nd April** with students returning to school and the new timetable on Monday June 3rd.
- **All current S5 students will return to school for a S6 Conference day on Friday, 30th May and then back to their new timetable on Monday June 3rd.**
- **All current S4 students will return for an induction day on Thursday, 30th May, and then returning to timetable on Monday, June 3rd.**



- During study leave in-school learning and revision opportunities are being provided. This is dependent on everyone's exam diet but may include subject immersion days, opportunities to meet formally or informally with class teachers, targeted programmes of additional support, career related activities or opportunities to take part in other courses.
- In addition, teaching staff are available throughout the exam period for support as required. This is over and above the additional timetabled study classes. If students are coming in to speak to teachers during their study leave, they should phone or email in advance to check their teacher's availability and **must wear their school uniform.**

All S4, S5 and S6 students are having assemblies this week regarding the SQA exam arrangements highlighting again all the things they need to know. In addition, each student will be provided with a personalised exam timetable on Wednesday, 17th April. This contains a lot of information including the students address that the certificates will be sent to, time and location of exams, seat numbers and levels. It's important each student checks this and if they have any queries they should see Miss Murray as soon as possible. Students are also being issued with the SQA "Your Exams" booklet tomorrow morning. This includes the SCN card that students need to complete and bring to each exam. There are lots of electronic resources including links to SQA documents on our website at [SQA Information - St Kentigern's Academy](#)

Easter Study Support – Our Easter Study Support provision was very well attended with over 200 students from S4 to S6 taking part and attending classes during the Easter break. Thank you for supporting your children to do this and to the staff for volunteering to provide these classes.

S6 Trip, Yearbooks, Hoodies and Leavers' Mass – As our S6 students near the end of their time with us, they've been immersed in a flurry of activities marking their departure. From an exhilarating trip to Alton Towers to meticulously crafting their yearbook, which arrived today, and designing their leavers' hoodies, they've been busy creating lasting memories. This Friday, they'll gather for a poignant Leavers Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Blackburn, with an impressive turnout of 220 people, including S6 students, parents, carers, and teaching staff. With exams looming and the eagerly anticipated prom in June, the countdown to their next chapter intensifies. Their exemplary conduct and contributions as S6 students won't be forgotten, and we bid them farewell with fondness and pride.

Ongoing Successes – Since our last update we have had a number of student successes that I'm keen to update you about.

- A team of our S2 students are now the Scottish Champions in the Cyberfirst Girls' Competition run by the National Cyber Security Centre, a part of GCHQ, and sponsored by Morgan Stanley. As a result of this the team took part in a black tie awards ceremony in Oxford and had a weekend undertaking activities at Oxford University. The Scottish Government also recognised the girls' success and awarded the school £2000 for cyber-related resources, such as training, courses, hardware, or any other relevant tools to deliver excellence in cybersecurity-related lessons.
- Sophie in S4 was the Larder's student of the month - [Student of the Month Article](#)
- The Daily Record ran an article on the student's high levels of attainment in SQA qualifications and this was then reaffirmed by the school achieving its highest position ever (top 16% of schools) in the national league tables published in a number of newspapers over the past few weeks.
- Our Dancers were invited to the Primary School Dance Festival to perform as 'inspirational guests'

- Our SFA football Leaders ran a very successful football tournament for 3 of our associated primary schools
- Ex-students Chris Harkins won an award and recognition for being an outstanding apprentice ([\('Outstanding' West Lothian apprentices\)](#)) and Catherine Fitzsimons was featured in a national campaign by dressCode as a role model for young people in the tech sector ([\(dressCode Role Models\)](#))
- Our S5 and S6 Caritas and RBV students collected almost 500 Easter Eggs that were gifted to the West Lothian foodbank for distribution across the County. This is in addition to the 346.6Kgs of food (825 meals) that was donated in the run up to Christmas.
- Our school has been awarded the prestigious Digital Learning and Teaching Silver Award due to our sector leading work in this area.
- Vision schools have awarded the school recognition of commitment which means we are on our way towards the level 1 award for excellence in Holocaust teaching.
- Kaitlyn in S5 represented Scotland at an international Karate championship in Denmark.
- Ellie in S6 has secured a football scholarship with Central Wyoming College
- Kasha in S5 won Gold at the World Ice Climbing Championships
- Our Senior girl footballers progressed to semi-finals of U18s national trophy as part of the County Team
- Whilst not the overall winner, Zach in S5 was a finalist in the National Education Awards as the student with the highest attainment in S4 in Scotland.
- Our students excelled in the West Lothian Schools' Gymnastic Competition winning lots of medals and trophies including:
 - Level 1 team - Silver overall
 - Level 3 team - Gold plate winners
 - Level 4 team - Gold plate winners
 - Level 3 individual Gold – Ava D
 - Level 4 individual Silver - Niamh McC
 - Level 4 individual Gold – Niamh L (2nd year in a row!)
- Our students winning design for the British Antarctic Survey Antarctica Flag competition made its way to the Antarctic where a picture was taken of it.

As you can see, the school and its students continue to achieve in so many ways. The best way to keep up-to-date is to follow us on X at [@StKentAc](#)

Building Update - we are making good progress with our building programme, whilst continuing to ensure that our school is safe, open, and fully operational. Our new School main entrance has been open since the February break and we ask that you please follow the signs when visiting and bear with us whilst we upgrade this new space.

Our fortnightly building update is full of information and contact details should you wish to discuss the ongoing programme. These updates are available, along with copies of all our letters this academic year, on our website at [Parental Letters - St Kentigern's Academy](#)

Ethos Survey 2023-2024 - As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are conducting our annual Parental Ethos Survey, and we would like to request your participation.

Your feedback is invaluable to us as it helps us to understand your views and perspectives on our school's ethos, values, and overall performance. This survey is a vital part of our quality assurance processes, and your input will help us to ensure that we are providing the best possible education for your children.

We kindly request that you take a few minutes to complete the survey, which can be accessed using the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/90RmNXMCsK> The survey will be available until the **29th of April**.

We value your honest feedback and suggestions, and we would like to express our appreciation for your contribution. Your responses will be kept anonymous and confidential.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

New Telephone Number – Can we remind you that the school telephone number has changed to **01506 280570** and that we are no longer getting any messages or calls via the old numbers.

Head Teacher Drop In – The Head Teacher Drop In sessions will begin again next Wednesday, 24th April. These popular sessions are from 5 till 6pm and allow parents to speak directly with myself about any issues or concerns they wish to raise. To help with the organising of the sessions a booking form is now available at <https://forms.office.com/e/9favUasywA>

Calendar – A reminder that the parent calendar for the upcoming year is available on the school website at [School Calendar - St Kentigern's Academy](#). Please take a moment to review it and note the key dates relevant to you for the coming year.

Upcoming Key Dates:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| • S6 Leavers Mass & Celebration | 19 April 2024 |
| • Student Voice Week | 27 - 31 May 2024 |
| • New Timetable Starts | 03 June 2024 |
| • CARITAS Award Ceremony | 03 June 2024 |
| • Parent Council | 05 June 2024 |
| • House Captain Elections | 17 June 2024 |
| • P7 Induction Days | 11 - 13 June 2024 |
| • P7 Parent Information Evening | 11 June 2024 |
| • Prom | 12 June 2024 |
| • Sports Days | 23 - 24 June 2024 |

I hope you have a good week, and thank you for taking the time to read this update. Should you have any comments, suggestions or feedback on this update please can you add them to our feedback form at <https://forms.office.com/e/806yx7X0hX>

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Sharkey
Head Teacher