

Stirling High News



Head Teacher Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of Stirling High News edited and published by our S3 Admin Class. Inside you will read more on some of the many wide achievements of our young people. I was very proud to address pupils, parents and carers at our recent senior prize-giving evening. The list of achievements was highly impressive in academic, sporting and wider achievement.



At this time of year our senior phase pupils are preparing for their SQA assessments, I know that their hard work and determination will ensure success in the exams. Teaching staff continue to offer supported study opportunities and give of their time during exam leave to ensure our young people are best prepared for their exams.

For pupils not on exam leave, our timetable changes on 3rd May, this provides important learning and teaching time in their new classes in the lead up to the summer holidays.

The first phase of our hub refurbishment took place during the spring holidays with the introduction of new furniture, as a result of our pupils winning Stirling Council's catering competition with their Fresco catering concept. The Fresco bar is now in place serving American, Mexican and Italian food choices. Further development of the hub is planned to give our young people a welcoming, comfortable and dynamic centre of the school and our pupil councils continue to be consulted on the plans.

Please continue to contact the school if you have any suggestions on how we can improve the way we do things. stirlinghs@stirling.gov.uk

Thank you for all your continued support of the school.

Paul Cassidy

Head Teacher

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S4 Pupil wins national writing competition!

Iona McCormick, S4, winner of the 15 to 18 category for Keep Scotland Beautiful Young Reporter of the year award.

In September of this year I was delighted to be chosen to represent Scottish pupils at the Keep Scotland Beautiful Conference on Dog Fouling. It is a subject that is close to my heart, and all too often, close to my feet!

Dog fouling damages our communities in many ways and if you think that I am making too much of a fuss about it, then read on- by the end of this article I aim to have changed your mind and maybe even your actions.

Dog fouling is not just unpleasant but it is also a major health hazard. It can contain parasites, bacteria, tape and round worms which cause infections in humans and even toxocariasis which can lead to blindness.

There are an estimated 7.3 million dogs in the UK, producing approximately a 1,000 tons of dog mess each year. Nationwide dog fouling is down by 40-50% It is an improving picture but there are still a minority of dog owners that do not pick up after their dog.

Dog fouling costs the council money to clear up the mess which dog owners leave behind. In my opinion this money could be far better spent on schools, care services and roads at a time when public service budgets are being cut.

I have a West Highland terrier called Finlay and like most owners I couldn't wait until I had trained him so he wouldn't mess in the house. So I find it bizarre that people, who wouldn't dream of letting their pet foul on their living room carpet or floor, think it perfectly acceptable to let their dog mess outside on paths and verges for other people to step on. I'm lucky to live beside a beautiful community woodland which the local residents take care of. Lots of people regularly use the woodland including the local nursery.

Children are most at risk from dog mess because they play in and around areas where dogs are walked and often come into contact with dog mess. Can you imagine them getting it on their shoes, on their clothes, even on their hands accidentally?

And don't think it's just the paths that are the problem; it's the grass verges too. Not only is it unsightly but the council workers have to cut the verges where the dog mess gets churned up and goes over their clothes and perhaps onto their skin. No one should have to put up with this in the course of their work.

At Stirling High School we also have trouble with dog mess, especially on our playing fields. My school has been awarded 5 green flags, for a wide range of ECO activities and our close partnership with the local community.



We simply ask dog owners not to walk their dogs on our playing fields between the hours of 9.00 a.m.—6.00 p.m. and we have signs reminding locals why they must pick up their dog mess.

A couple of years ago, our school ran a high profile campaign against dog mess on the playing fields - we all went outside and scanned the grass, spray painting and flagging all of the dog mess we could find.

It was quite an eye-opener to see how much of the field ended up fluorescent red and flagged! Through local newspapers articles and posters, word quickly got about that Stirling High School is taking a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling.

No one playing sports should have to run the gauntlet of dog mess on their, shoes, clothes or their hands and feet.

It's simply disgusting and the school's Eco committee and students have had enough. We've decided that if there is no improvement soon, we may have to take more drastic action which could restrict the public's use of the playing fields.

The lesson from this is that the selfish behaviour of the few can spoil things for the many.

So next time you are outside, look out for these "Top 5 Dog Fouling Personalities" -

1. The Secret Agent— This owner clearly thinks they have a high tech invisible coat on and that no one can see them when their dog fouls. They love it when the clocks go back and darkness descends, feeling reassured that their pooch can foul in anonymity.
2. The Excuser— Will always have an excuse to hand but sadly, never a poo bag. This owner will say they just forgot a bag, they didn't notice their dog had fouled, or even that they're just walking the dog for their neighbour so they shouldn't have to pick it up!
3. The Foul Mouther— There's no holding back for this owner, anyone who challenges their dirty dog habits gets the wrong end of their vocabulary, which seems to be very limited apart from swear words.
4. The Stroller— Never in a hurry, this charming owner ambles along and watches the world go by with a smile. Sadly their attention is never on their dog. While they stand and stare at the clouds in the sky, their pet has performed on the pavement or grass out of their sight.
5. The Decorator— Perhaps most puzzling of all is this owner. They go to the trouble of actually picking up their dog mess and then leave the bag hanging on a tree branch which is usually near to the bin, almost as if they can't wait until Christmas time to hang bobbles on the Christmas tree!

Don't be one of the so—called silent majority, if you spot any of these selfish dog owners. Why not become the noisy majority and lets join together to let the dog foul-ers know we're watching them, we'll not stand for it and we will report them.

Let's have a zero tolerance attitude to dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs and their lazy, thoughtless behaviour. Hopefully we can achieve real change.

The message **will** get through—we're watching **you!**"

Prizegiving

Feedback from this years Senior Prizegiving was very positive: "Another wonderful senior prize giving, celebrating the successes and achievers of many of our amazing young people."

"Fantastic evening celebrating our pupils achievements with an inspirational guest speaker Naomi riches MBE #proud."



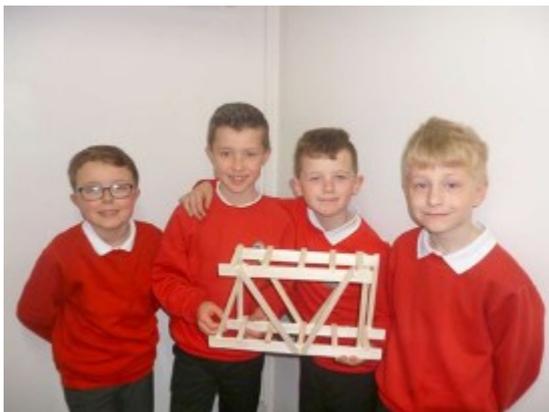
Senior prize giving. Proximate accessit Stuart Johnson and Vincent Jozajtis and dux Neil Sutcliffe.

Fair Trade Fortnight

At fair trade fortnight Barry the fair trade Banana popped up again to help with school projects as he does every year. This time he was on the environmental roof garden helping Stirling high eco club with their BEEautiful garden project. The group were working on the project with various departments and it is hoped that many pupils will be able to plant BEE friendly flowers to make the garden Bee friendly and beautiful. During this week Barry will also be out in the community after school helping the pupils who volunteer to work with the community by litter picking around the area. It is hoped that seeing Barry the fair trade banana will help people to think about buying fair trade.

Building bridges with P4s

Twenty four primary four pupils from Borestone Primary School visited our Design and Technology department recently, getting help designing and building Bridges for their school project. They worked with Mr Finn for a number of weeks and their finished bridges look great. The future of designers in Stirling High is in good hands.



Young Enterprise Success

We are so proud of our young enterprise team, bamboo, who won Best overall Company at the young enterprise forth valley finals last week. As well as best company overall they picked up best use of IT for their professional looking children's story book with a stranger danger theme. The team now go forward to the Scotland wide event on 15 June, possibly leading to a place in the UK finals in July.



Hub improvements

If you have visited the school since the spring break you can't help but notice the improvements to our pupil social space. Pupil feedback talked about the lack of comfortable seating or social space to enjoy with friends. The pupil council were consulted and the first phase of the hub improvements were implemented as a result. Look out for more improvements in the coming months!



Litter picking

Our Eco warriors meet every month to litter pick with the local community. We recently received this letter:

"I walked all through the park to meet up with the school team. My total haul was two sweetie papers, plastic top, a broken pencil and a biro. Even the walk round the back path was much improved with only a very small amount of litter.

Who would have believed it all these years ago when we first started. Well done school and community members, we seem finally to have a different culture is a hard thing to change- hope it keeps up."

Celebrating success

We use the pupil bulletin (on our school website), Facebook and Twitter to celebrate the success of our young people. Here are a few from recent months:



"Congratulations to Rhona Callander who represented the GB junior roller cycling team in the Netherlands"

"Mums, grans, aunt's and girls have signed up and will be taking part in the SHS race for life team"

"10th April Stirling high school under 14s football team had an amazing 4-1 win in first euro tie great goals were scored by: Zak X2, John and Oliver"

Aithne Lawrence 3D2 and Elliott Lawrence 5D2 are both continuing their good run of success in the field of water polo. Aithne is currently playing for both u17 and u19 Caledonia teams as goal keeper and, in the recent European Championships, Elliott's team came 8th out of the 12 teams competing performance.

Staffing update:

We were delighted to welcome Louise Montgomery to the post of Teacher of History and Ms Rachel McConnell as a permanent teacher of English. We were sad to say farewell to Angela Takel, Attendance Officer and Alison Menzies, teacher of Music.

We are delighted Mr Alasdair McLeod will join us at the end of May as our new Depute Head Teacher.



"Congratulations Max Flett. Just been named U13 Scottish boys basketball captain"

Sport relief

Staff and pupils took part in the great Stirling High School fun run for sports relief. The run consisted of 3 laps of the playing field either by walking, running or by 3 legged race. Stirling High School raised an amazing £820.60 for sport relief.



Business Catering Challenge

Exciting developments were made to the schools catering service after the Easter break, this is a result of our winning team's hard work and ideas. The team of 6, now S4, worked with Stirling Council Catering team and Totalize Media Marketing to design a new brand of catering service.



Their winning design will be launched into 6 of the Stirling Council secondary

Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd May - May Holiday. school closed to staff and Pupils

Tuesday 3rd May– S4/5/6 Study leave begins for ALL S6 pupils and some S4/5 pupils - pupils will be informed.

Tuesday 3rd May– New timetable Begins for ALL pupils not on study leave (S1/2/3 some S4/5 Pupils)

Friday 13th May S1 Reports sent home via school bag mail