Date: 1/02/17

Dear Parents/Carers/Relatives/Pupils

I hope you enjoy this month’s newsletter.

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**Upcoming priorities/events**

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**House Points Total......so far!**

As can be seen from the House Points Total chart, Mackintosh has managed to pull ahead. Fortunately, Wallace is only 720 points behind. Fleming is in third place, close behind Wallace, with only a 130 point gap. Burns is lagging with 425 points in fourth place. Parents can play their role in boosting House Points by completing an Achievements Nomination Form, found under the Pupil Zone section of the school website.

Many points are still up for grabs in the upcoming House Week which will take place mid February. The house that has the most points will win the House Cup and are of course, treated to the Winners Day Out.

**Article - Ryan Ferguson and Calum Ballantyne**

**S6 House Captains**

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Who Cares ...... **WE CARE**

.... more detail on page 19
This week's focus: Literacy
Note taking and Research Skills

Pupils are often asked to take notes in class or to do research at home. Key skills and knowledge required for effective note-taking and research include:

<table>
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<th>Skill</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Skimming</td>
<td>Reading to quickly identify the main ideas of a text.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scanning</td>
<td>Reading a piece of text quickly to find specific information, like names,</td>
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<td>dates or key words.</td>
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<td>Summarising</td>
<td>Picking out only the essential details and important ideas in a piece of</td>
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<td>writing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraphrasing</td>
<td>Writing down someone else’s ideas in your own words.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plagiarism</td>
<td>Taking ideas/ passages / sentences from someone else’s work and presenting</td>
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<tr>
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<td>them as your own.</td>
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Pupil Challenge
- Write down three examples of when you have used your research skills in school so far this year.
- Explain each task, subject and what skills you used.

Parent Challenge
- Tell your child about a time when you were required to do research or make notes.

If your child is in S2 then please ask them about this numeracy focus, which is running across all subjects from the 6th to 9th of February. A letter providing more information will be sent home to at the start of the week.

Please take the time to read and talk about this with your child and use the feedback slip to let us know what you think.

The RoA Team
Aqib – ‘Young Achiever of the Year’

Well done to S6 pupil Aqib Afzal awarded ‘Young Achiever of the Year’ at The Scottish Asian Business Awards held at the Crowne Plaza in Glasgow. Aqib has started his own promotion company called ‘AQMedia’ specialising in short, fast paced videos.

Aqib has kindly provided some information about himself and his company.

*Aqib the Founder of AqMedia, has always been into visuals. From making a really small video for ‘YouTube’ to recording his own gaming videos. Growing up, he never felt influenced to follow any particular trends. He has always had a passion and love for the Business side of things. Running his own company has been good for teaching him the Ethics of the industry.*

"I loved the creative element and feeling like I was in control of my work. I could portray my thoughts and feelings the way I wanted to and I was not forced into set criteria where things had to be done in a certain way."

*Aqib has also been flooded with lots of support from his followers and local businesses which resulted in him winning the Young Entrepreneur/Achiever category at the Asian Business Awards.*

He started off getting his videos out there by doing highlights for a few charities such as ‘CCG’ – a local community group:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnlBw0r0QBo

‘Human Appeal’ and ‘Wipe the Tears’.

*After these videos were published they instantly got a fantastic response.*

*He continues to provide his services to a range of clients keeping him level and open to learning more.*

"I’ve had plenty of ups and downs just like everyone does. But its kept me going and I’ve put in the work which has led me to the places that I never thought I would be."
Matthew and Aaron have written about their Zombie Science lecture.

‘On Wednesday 18 January all S3 science pupils enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining and informative lecture on the science of the Zombie brain from “zombieologist” Dr. Howe. The talk gave detail on the damage or diseases of the brain that could cause zombie like traits. We also learned about how to combat the diseases and rehabilitate the zombie brain.

One zombie trait is the constant hunger, Dr. Howe hypothesised that this is due to a ghrelin deficiency meaning you cannot tell when you are full. We also learned about the concept of neuroplasticity the brain's way of repairing itself. The brain cannot repair any physical damage but it will retrain itself to do the same actions as before using a different path.

Overall, the talk was well enjoyed by staff and pupils in attendance and I am sure everyone learned something, some audience members even got a chance to participate.’ - Matthew Cliff S3

’S3 were lucky to receive an insight to the brains of both humans and zombies. Dr Howe from Zombie Science carried out the lecture, and thanked S3 pupils for a “warm and enthusiastic welcome,” via their Facebook page. The scientist from Glasgow University's ‘Zombiology Department’ carried out a memorable presentation for third years including audience interaction and a lot of new information about how the brain works and how to protect yourself in the case of a zombie attack.’ – Aaron Mills S3

Other comments from S3 pupils -
‘Fascinating information!’ – Mirren ....... ‘A very interesting and involved presentation’ - Jack
‘Very good interactive experience’ – Thomas ....... ‘Seemed like a really genuine person.’ - Amy
‘Great presentation, full of factual humour!’ – Ryan

Article - Mrs L Taylor, Faculty Head Science
REHIS Success for S3 HFT Pupils

Congratulations to S3 Health and Food Technology pupils on successfully completing and passing their 'Elementary Food Hygiene' course. A special 'thank you ' to Mrs Elizabeth Fairbairn, one of the Gryffe Valley Rotary Club Young Chef Competition judges, for taking the time to come into the school to present the certificates to the pupils.

This award comes from the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS).

Through completion of this, the pupils have gained knowledge about how to handle food safely and used this in many practical activities undertaken so far in their HFT class. This nationally recognised qualification is much valued by employers.

Article - Mrs R Thomson, Health Food and Technology Department
Photographs – Rowan Seel, S3
FILM CLUB

The Gryffe Film Club in association with IntoFilm has now started for the 2016/17 term and membership is only growing! The club, comprised of S1-S3, meet every lunchtime on a Thursday with Mr Anderson in English to watch a selection of films covering a range of different genres. Pupils are encouraged to develop an interest in film as well as engage in conversation around the different themes which the movies explore. Pupils have voted for a range of films so far from the animation ‘Shrek’ to the inspiring ‘Les Miserables’. All pupils are invited to bring their lunch, meet new friends and enjoy a free cinematic experience all from the comfort of the classroom.

Film Review of The Month
‘The Great Gatsby’
***

‘The Great Gatsby’ is a 2013 American romance film based on F.Scott Fitzgerald’s novel of the same name. The film stars Leonardo DiCaprio as the eponymous Jay Gatsby. The film is narrated by Nick Carraway who is receiving help for addiction and talking about the most hopeful man he has ever known. Nick’s doctor suggests he writes his thoughts down since his writing is his passion. Nick moves next door to millionaire Jay Gatsby and across the bay from his cousin Daisy. Nick becomes drawn into the captivating world of the wealthy and he tells a tale of impossible dreams, love and finally tragedy. ‘The Great Gatsby’ is visually stunning which works well for a film of this genre. I would highly recommend this film to anyone.

Rebecca Thompson, S4

Youth Speaks 2017 Intermediate Final

On Sunday 15 January, the Youth Speaks 2017 Intermediate final took place in Pollockshaws Burgh Hall, Glasgow. There were seven teams competing in total and Esme James (S2), Jack Young (S3) and Sophie Spence (S1) represented Gryffe by exploring the extent to which prison is the best option when it comes to dealing with criminals.

Topics were varied and the standard was high and although the Gryffe team will not go on to the next round, they are delighted to have been an important part of a very worthwhile event.

Article - Miss J Higgins, English Department
The English Department has been working with the pupils across the BGE to promote personal reading through a range of reading programmes in 2016/17. The programmes have been tailored by our Librarian Mrs Kerr to engage and inspire our pupils to immerse themselves in a range of literature genres. Each month the English Department will nominate a Star Reader of The Month. This prestigious award is not just for pupils who can read the most difficult texts but those who persist with their reading when the going gets a little bit tough!

The Writer of the Month award is given for the pupil who has shown their improving literacy skills within a piece of written work.

This month’s winners were nominated from Mrs Anderson, Mrs Carter and Mrs Shaw’s classes.

**S1 Winners**

*Reader of the Month*
- Connie Longwell
- Ella Brawley

*Writer of the Month*
- Jessica MacKenzie
- Stephen Barclay

**S2 Winners**

*Reader of the Month*
- Iona Cochran
- Mia Connell

*Writer of the Month*
- Alisha Mosha
- Ailsa Freeburn

**S3 Winners**

*Reader of the Month*
- Stuart Smith
- Katie Lovett

*Writer of the Month*
- Kieran Love
- Amelia Peacock
Higher RMPS Class enjoy a visit to the Gurdwara

Just before the Christmas holidays, the Higher RMPS classes went on their annual trip to the Gurdwara - the Sikh place of worship. We were treated to a tour of the new Gurdwara building, which has taken a number of years to complete. The building itself is beautiful and full of information about the Sikh faith and the work of many from the Glasgow Community and beyond.

Our guides Kam and Dalmeet also took us up to the prayer hall where we all gathered on the floor to ask questions about Sikhism that have come up on our Higher course. They gave brilliant insight into how Sikh beliefs influence their everyday lives and we saw an aspect of this in practice when we visited the Langar. This free community kitchen is run purely by volunteers from the faith and we thoroughly enjoyed the pakora, curry and chapatis on offer.

We thank the ladies who took the time to show us around and the Gurdwara community for welcoming us for this unique and valuable learning experience.

Article by Higher RMPS class
History Trip to the Mitchell Library

Higher History Pupils, myself included, attended an exclusive event, held at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, commemorating the role of woman in industry, during the First World War. It was a fantastic opportunity to expand our knowledge and understanding of something so important to society, as well as something linked to our course.

The day involved four workshops which we rotated round. The first workshop was a radical learning experience, transporting us back to 1915 – when Britain was forced to find alternative timber sources at home, after U-boats began to sink imports of timber. We were able to experience cutting a log for ourselves, which left some of us with sore arms. Some of us even tried on safety equipment from then and now... It was incredible to think the average age of one of these women was 53!

In the next workshop, we were given artifacts to examine and study, before presenting them to a room full of mostly strangers with a prize for the best one. I am pleased to say that out of the four competitions held, Gryffe took home the gold for three!

The other workshops, involved a presentation on the Gretna Girls. A group of women who moved to the New Town of Gretna to work at the munitions factory, which helped to turn the tide of the War. Finally, we were given a glimpse of the role of women in the Govan rent strikes. At this workshop we were also given the opportunity to do a source work question with an SQA verifier.

Overall, it was an amazing opportunity and a great day out. Everyone certainly left with a more profound understanding and appreciation of the role of women in the First World War.

Article - Euan Huey, S5
Inspired is the annual exhibition of artwork from children and young people in schools and nurseries across Renfrewshire. The exhibition aims to showcase the development of childrens’ art and design work from the early works of 3 and 4 year olds through to the sophisticated and talented pieces which form a Fifth or Sixth Year pupil’s folio for national qualifications.

Also, this year there will be community artworks created in workshops facilitated by ‘Ice Cream Architecture’: “We made Paisley City” is an installation of architectural models based on a fantasy future Paisley and “Our story” is a large multimedia mural.

The exhibition will be on display at Paisley Museum and Art Gallery from 27th January to 18th April 2017.

We are delighted to announce that the following Gryffe pupils have had their artwork chosen for this exhibition.

S1  Carly McCallum  S1  Amie Moran
S2  Mhairi Reid  S2  Libby Cole
S5  Laura Maskrey  S5  Alix Stewart
S6  Emma Campbell  S6  Ciara Nicholson
S6  Paul Hamill

Article - Mrs M Wilson, Faculty Head Art and Design Technology

Drawing by Laura Maskrey
Young Musician of the Year 2017

Twelve amazing performances were enjoyed in the theatre from extremely talented Young Musician of the Year Finalists. In keeping with Gryffe tradition, David Murray kindly took on the job of adjudicator. Pupils really value David’s feedback which is always detailed but constructive.

Junior
Gregor Hewitt  Trumpet  Ragamuffin  Lesley Pearson
Christian Galvin  Guitar  Allegro  Santiago de Murcia
Rebecca Graham  Voice  Over The Rainbow  Harold Arlen
Calum Jamieson  Guitar  Smack Talk  Simon Troup

Intermediate
Jack Young  Piano  Over The Rainbow  Harold Arlen
Katie Reid  Voice  Se Tu M’ami  Pergolesi
Lewis Da Silva  Piano  La Tarantelle  Burgmuller
Laura Workman  Flute  Smoke Gets In Your Eyes  Harback & Kern

Senior
Bruce Wards  Piano  Prelude in G Minor  Rachmaninoff
Alison Hedley  Violin  Meditation  Massenet
Hannah Morrison  Piano  Nacht Am Sesstrand  Kaski
Jasmine Galvin  Piano  Prelude in C# Minor  Rachmaninoff

Mr David Murray had the difficult job of choosing the winners.

Very well done to everyone involved and special congratulations to the winners in each category –

Gregor Hewitt (Junior)
Katie Reid (Intermediate) and
Jasmine Galvin (Senior)

Article - Mrs A Currie, Faculty Head Music and Modern Languages
Our DoE Journey...

Bronze Award Group 2015/16

68 pupils from last session have now completed their Bronze Award. The Awards ceremony was held on Friday 13 January in the school. Pupils received their Bronze Certificates and Badges from Mr Christie, Depute Head Teacher and Graham Gregory, DoE Development Worker. 29 pupils are progressing to their Silver Award.
Silver Award Group 2015/16
This Award Group contains 25 pupils who are in the process of completing their Award. 13 pupils will be attending their Qualifying Expedition on 28-30 March. 18 pupils are progressing to their Gold Award.

Gold Award Group 2015/16
5 pupils completed their Gold Award in July 2016 in the Kinlochleven area. Pupils walked for 4 days and camped for 3 nights in midge infested terrain. 4 pupils (Jessica Harris, Rachael Anderson, Rachel Szuster and Lucy McCabe) were from last year’s S6 and 1 pupil from last year’s S5 (Lauren Newlands) showed tremendous fitness and dedication to complete the gruelling 4 days. During their Expedition, pupils also had to compile a substantive report on the local community. The group focused on the Aluminium works that was in operation for many decades and is now a museum in Kinlochleven. The 5 pupils delivered a substantive presentation to their DofE Assessor at the Awards Ceremony on 13 January. The pupils will now complete their on line evidence before going to Holyrood Palace in the summer of 2017 to receive their Awards.

Bronze Award Group 2016/17
The current Bronze Award Group has 67 pupils from S3 who are currently going through classroom based training sessions. Pupils have worked on Food and Hydration, Emergency procedures, eDofe, Navigation and Mandatory Kit. They will shortly begin tent building. All pupils will begin practice day walks in February and March with Practice Expeditions during the Easter Break. Qualifying Expeditions are in May.

Silver Award Group 2016/17
The current Silver Award Group has 29 pupils from S4 who have completed their Bronze Award last session. Practice day walks are planned for 20 and 21 February with Practice and Qualifying Expedition dates still to be confirmed.
Gold Award Group 2016/17
18 pupils from S5 and S6 are currently working towards completing their Gold awards by July 2017. This is the highest amount of pupils ever at Gold Level in Gryffe High School. Pupils completed their Fitness Walk on 9 December in the Inversnaid Area in very difficult walking conditions. Pupils will begin the planning for their Final Expeditions in June and July by completing a River Crossing Day in April/May and attending planning meetings with DofE Instructors over the next few months. Pupils are required to plan and execute their own routes at Gold Award level.

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Young Leaders
5 pupils have now completed their Young Leader Award, Lauren Newlands, Erin Campbell, Tegan Arnott, Rachel Boyd and Emma Rodgers. Our pupils attended a presentation ceremony at Scottish Parliament in October 2016 where they were presented with their award by the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Ken Macintosh. 12 pupils were presented with a Young Leader award and 5 were from Gryffe High School, a tremendous effort by all 5 pupils. These 5 pupils have supported the DofE staff team and more importantly, pupils during their Bronze Award. A significant amount of time has been devoted to this scheme and we are currently seeking new Young Leaders for next session from next year’s S5 pupils.
S6 Pupils Drive to Success!

Throughout the year, many S6 pupils pass their driving test when they become 17. Local driving school JbS are very good at keeping us up to date with who has passed, by tagging the school on Twitter @GryffeHighSch

JbS Driver Tuition - Houston, Renfrewshire.
(T-075 85 75 85 28)
(jbs drivertuition.co.uk) @drivejbs (Twitter)

Here are the details of 3 recent successes (and all FIRST attempt passes!).

Jordan McGonigle, Clare McNamara and Scott Thomson all passed on their FIRST attempt. Well done to you and to all the others who have passed their driving test in S6.

Safe driving!
Fantastic Football!

24 pupils travelled south for the English Premiership clash between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur as some of the world’s best players fought it out for a valuable 3 points in the race for the title.

Following a Man City masterclass for the first hour which saw them 2 goals ahead, the excitement continued as Spurs managed to steal a point with two comeback goals to stun the home crowd.

An enjoyable day for all the boys and we will look forward to our next trip down south.

Article - Mr G O’Hare,
Faculty Head Health and Wellbeing

S6 Pupils give Blood

On Wednesday 25 January, the Blood Transfusion Service provided S6 pupils with the opportunity to become a blood donor. The previous Friday during their PPD class, a presentation was given to the year group from Alison from Scot Blood outlining the reasons behind giving blood and the restrictions placed in order to become a donor.

The challenge was given to the S6 pupils to engage in this opportunity and hopefully begin their journey of being a regular donor. The S6 pupils rose to the challenge with all appointments fully booked by Monday morning. The mobile unit was busy all day with 43 pupil appointments. A fantastic response from the S6 pupils resulted in a total of 35 pints of blood being donated with a number more registering to donate in the future.

Comments were made by the Scot Blood staff regarding the maturity and the way pupils handled themselves across the day and that they were delighted with the response. Well done to all pupils involved and hopefully they will continue to give blood in the future.

Article - Mr A Findlay, PT Pupil Support
Photographs - Rowan Seel S3
PTA News
- Save the Date –
Sunday 23 April 2017
Tennis Tea

Gryffe PTA have organised our next big fundraising event in conjunction with Strathclyde Tennis & Squash Club on the afternoon of Sunday 23 April 2017.

Be sure to keep this date free and come along to enjoy a delicious “Tennis Tea” before trying out tennis, squash or a trial gym session.

There will also be lots of fun for all ages with games, tombola, raffle and retail therapy opportunities.

Tickets priced £5 for adults and £3 for school aged children / concessions will be available from the school from March.

Please come along and help us reach our Theatre Refurbishment target of £40,000.

Check out the PTA /PC website for more details of this event and the progress of our fundraising efforts so far.

http://gryffehighschoolcouncil.org/

or face book page

https://www.facebook.com/groups/GHSTheatreImprovementGroup/

Upcoming priorities/events

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<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>Upcoming priorities/events</th>
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<td>Newsletter uploaded on to website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 2</td>
<td>S4 Options Interview Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 6</td>
<td>Internet Safety Week</td>
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<td>Responsibility of All Week 3</td>
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<td>- Money Week</td>
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<td>S5 Progression Week</td>
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<td>Thurs 9</td>
<td>Ski Trip to Pila</td>
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<td>Fri 10</td>
<td>In-Service Day</td>
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<td>Mon 13</td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Tue 14</td>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 15</td>
<td>Pupils start back, prompt 8:50 am start</td>
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<td>House Week</td>
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<td>Thurs 16</td>
<td>S5&amp;S6 Reports issued to pupils</td>
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<td>Friday 17</td>
<td>Wear House Colours Day</td>
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<td>Wed 22</td>
<td>S5 Options Interview Day</td>
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<td>Thurs 23</td>
<td>S2 Reports issued to pupils</td>
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<td>Mon 27</td>
<td>Fairtrade fortnight begins</td>
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<td>S2&amp;S3 Parents’ Information Evening</td>
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<td>7:00pm start</td>
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| MARCH             | |
| Wed 1             | Newsletter uploaded on to website |
| Thurs 2           | S2 Parents’ Evening, 4:30pm start |
| Mon 6             | S2 Options Interview Day |

PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER GRYFFE!

Start planning for your future career or education goals now!

For all the latest employment, work experience or higher education opportunities follow our new social media accounts:

@GryffeCareers

Gryffe Careers