



# CASTLEHEAD HIGH SCHOOL



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**Head Teacher: Mr Gordon Menzies**

**Children's Services**

**Director: Steven Quinn**

## Head Teacher Update

Dear Pupils, Parent/Carer,

This week is slightly shorter due to the May holiday weekend. The school will be closed to pupils tomorrow, apart from our pupils sitting National 5 and Higher Art and Design. The school will also be closed to pupils on Monday and Tuesday. S1, S2 and S3 pupils will return on Wednesday, with our senior pupils returning from exam leave on Thursday next week.

When our senior pupils return, they will spend Thursday and Friday participating in activities and information sessions as part of the senior induction programme. Senior pupils will have a range of opportunities and input involving Engage Renfrewshire, Saltire volunteering, STEM Leaders, MVP/Young and Equally Safe, Routes for all - Pathways to College/University, Castlehead Pupil Parliament, Street Stuff, Rapid Response, Befriender training, Climate Change Champions, Renfrewshire School Sport Education and New driver input from Scottish Fire among others. It is crucial that all returning senior pupils (S4 and S5) arrive next Thursday to begin the days sessions at 8.50am. Thanks must go to Mrs Abercrombie and the team of staff who created a brilliant offering to support our pupils. We look forward to welcoming them all back.

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, we will begin our new school timetable.

Last week I sent a text message to parents/carers asking for feedback on what they believe should be our School Improvement Priorities for next session. We value parent/carers feedback and working in partnership together in creating an improvement plan is important for the direction of travel for our school next session. Thanks to the parents who have already completed the survey. If any parent has not already done so, please follow the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/m7VHUVFDYG>





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Celebrating the success of our pupils is an extremely important part of life at Castlehead. This week S1 pupils have been taking part in the UK Maths Challenge. Congratulations to Emily Diamond-Hagan, Bella Wilson, Kyle White, Max Tunstead and Leo Morrison on their brilliant achievements.



Following the exam diet, a number of our pupils are moving on to pastures new. Renfrewshire Council, INVEST in Renfrewshire and Skills Development Scotland are hosting information sessions at the Russell Institute for parents and carers who have pupils leaving at the summer. This will take place on the dates on the leaflet below. If any parent/carers requires more information, please contact the appropriate Pupil Support teacher.

**Are you a parent/carer of a young person leaving school this year?**

Looking to support your young Person with their next steps?

Come along to one of our Information sessions!

**Sessions**  
Tues 6th Jun - 5.30pm - 6.30pm  
Thu 8th Jun - 3pm - 4pm  
Sat 10th Jun - 11am - 12pm

Phone: 0300 300 1180 or email: [invest@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:invest@renfrewshire.gov.uk)  
InvestinRenfrewshire  
Russell Institute, 30 Causeyside St, Paisley, PA1 1UN

Skills Development Scotland | **INVEST** in Renfrewshire | Renfrewshire Council





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Over the last few months, we have consulted with pupils, staff, groups of parents/carers and partners to identify a range of values and vision statements for Castlehead High School moving forward. A shared vision and shared values among stakeholders in our school community is essential to achieve the desired future direction and goals of our school. This shared vision and shared values will help to create a sense of common purpose and identity within our school community. These should be at the heart of what the school is about and what we do every day. Earlier this week we asked parents/carers to vote from a range of values and a selection of vision statements created together by the pupils, staff, parents/carers and partners. This vote will go out to pupils during PSHE lessons over the coming weeks and to staff and partners/carers. If any parent/carer has not already completed the consultation, please follow the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/eUySzQ7ZqG>

Next Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> June), we will hold our whole school awards ceremony at Martyrs Church on Kings Street. Last session we held individual BGE and Senior Phase awards events, but following consultation with parents, pupils, and staff, we agreed that a whole school event would provide a wonderful opportunity to honour the achievements of our pupils together. Invitations have now gone out to all award winners and family members, and we look forward to celebrating together as a whole school community.



This morning we welcomed Jens Flemming Pietras to Castlehead High. Jens came all the way from Denmark and is highly regarded in his teacher training role at Absalon Teacher Education University. Jens was keen to visit a Scottish Secondary School and attend lessons about history and active citizenship. He began his day by observing lessons in the Humanities Faculty, then joined pupils in Modern Languages, before having a personalised tour of the Support for Learning department in the school, then on for a quick visit to Home Economics and Art. Jens was very







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enthusiastic about his visit and voiced his appreciation of the learning and teaching he witnessed, praising both the teachers and pupils.



Finally, today we launched our activities days programme for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. After several years without this happening, the 'Castlehead High School Activities Days' make a long-awaited return. Staff from across the school have been working tirelessly to organise events, trips, and activities that we hope our pupils will appreciate and enjoy. Pupils in S1-3 received the booklet this afternoon. If any pupil has any questions, they should speak to Mr Anderson in the Technical department.

Please see the key dates for this term below:

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May:** The school will be closed for the holiday weekend and in-service day. S1-3 pupils will return on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May.





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**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June:** Pupils in S4 and S5 return to school following the SQA exam diet to take part in our two-day senior induction programme.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June:** Awards Ceremony.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June:** New Timetable. Pupils will move onto their new timetable.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June:** Activities days

I hope you have a relaxing long weekend and the lovely weather that we are experiencing continues. We look forward to welcoming the young people back to school on Wednesday morning at 8.50am.

With very best wishes to you and your family,

Gordon Menzies  
Head Teacher

