



CASTLEHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Gordon Menzies

Children's Services
Director: Steven Quinn

School Vision

Cultivating a community of respect, equity, and kindness, fuelling ambitious minds to thrive and make a positive impact in our world.

School Values

Ambition

Respect

Kindness

Head Teacher Weekly Update

Dear Pupils, Parent/Carer,

In our first full week back following the industrial action and holiday weekend, it has been an extremely busy week at Castlehead High.

PUPIL PARLIAMENT

Our very first Pupil Parliament joined for their first meeting this week. Pupils across the school have been elected by their classmates to represent their house group at the Parliament. This gives the pupils a voice to support improvements in the school and take on leadership roles. Members of the Castlehead Parliament (MCP's) will lead committees on key improvement priorities in Teaching and Learning, Raising Attainment and Health and Wellbeing, each of which link to the School Improvement Plan Priorities. Miss McCulloch has been supporting the Pupil Parliament and was extremely proud of the attitude and drive for improvement from the group at this first meeting. The group have agreed to create a vision for the Parliament and are going to collate this to make a 'Word Cloud' that will be part of the Parliament logo. We look forward to hearing more in the coming months. Please see over the page a picture of our fabulous MCP's:



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SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The school is moving to a more efficient way of communicating with parents/carers by sending emails rather than text messages.

To do this, we require parents email addresses and would be grateful if you could complete the Microsoft Form by Friday 13th October using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VA4HMguFg8>

You should also have received a text message from the school with the link attached.

PAIRED READING

On Thursday, Miss Anderson and our Paired Reading helpers welcomed several enthusiastic S1 and S2 pupils for a getting to know you session where they met their new mentors. There was of course the chocolate raffle, with Lacey Leigh (S1) and Abbie (S5) winning the first week. Miss Anderson was extremely impressed by all pupils involved.

Please see some photos of the event over the page:



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PARIS TRIP 2025

There will be an information evening on **Monday 9th October** at **6pm** in the auditorium. This is an event for pupils and parents that are interested in going on the trip to Paris in June 2025. Important information will be provided and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

**MODERN
LANGAUGES
TRIP**

Paris 2025

23rd - 28th June 2025

**MON
9TH
OCT**

INFO MEETING

We will be holding a information evening on Monday 9th October 6-7pm in Castlehead's auditorium. This is for all pupils and their families who are interested in the trip to get more information on what is involved, how to sign up and answer your burning questions.

MALAGA TRIP 2024

Another information evening for parents/carers of pupils who are going on the Malaga 2024 trip will be held on **Wednesday 11th October** at **6pm** in the auditorium. This is an essential meeting for parents/carers to attend as vital information and updates on the trip will be shared.



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ALPHABETTI SPAGHETTI

There was fun and games at the Alphabetti Spaghetti club this week where pupils had the opportunity to make badges. With creativity skills learned across the school being put into practice, the group had some great fun, even if the machine was a bit 'fiddly'!



RENFREWSHIRE SCHOOLS ROAD RACE

On Thursday, our team of boys and girls in S1, S2 and S3 headed to Linwood to take part in the annual Renfrew Schools Road Race. After some horrendous weather and our pupils getting absolutely soaked to the skin, all our pupils performed brilliantly. We did have two outstanding performances with these pupils bringing medals back with them to Castlehead. Congratulations to **Jacob Congulton** who won **GOLD** in the S2 boys' race and to **Vanessa McVeigh** for winning **SILVER** in the S3 girls' race. Pictures to come next week.

CREATIVITY SKILLS IN ACTION EVENT

On Wednesday, we were delighted to host the first ever Creativity Skills in Action event in collaboration with [@djcad uod](#). We welcomed Art and Technical teachers from across Scotland who participated in a session based around assisting pupils with portfolios, encouraging creativity in the classroom and information about [@daydream.believers](#) and The Creative Thinking qualification. A highlight was the presentation given by pupils Annabelle, Kim, and Olivia about their experiences of the Creative Thinking course last session. Please see some pictures over the page. Well done to everyone involved.



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In addition to the staff development event, Senior Design Faculty pupils were lucky enough to experience sessions delivered by [@djcad_uod](#) tutors. They learned strategies for developing creativity skills and generating ideas and experimented in creating prototypes in response to a brief centred around interaction design. The pupils did a fantastic job and presented some innovative ideas. Thanks to staff from Interaction Design at DJCAD for delivering the workshops.



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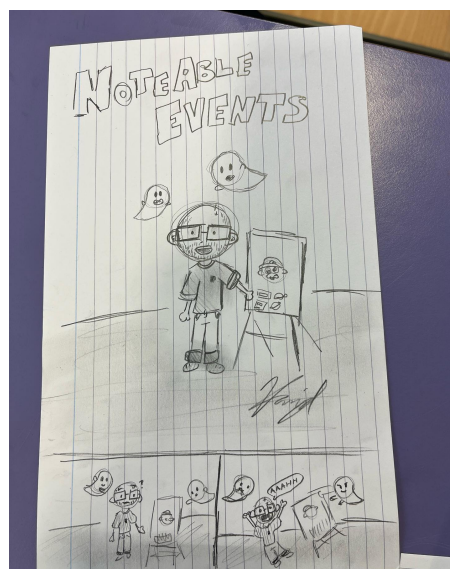
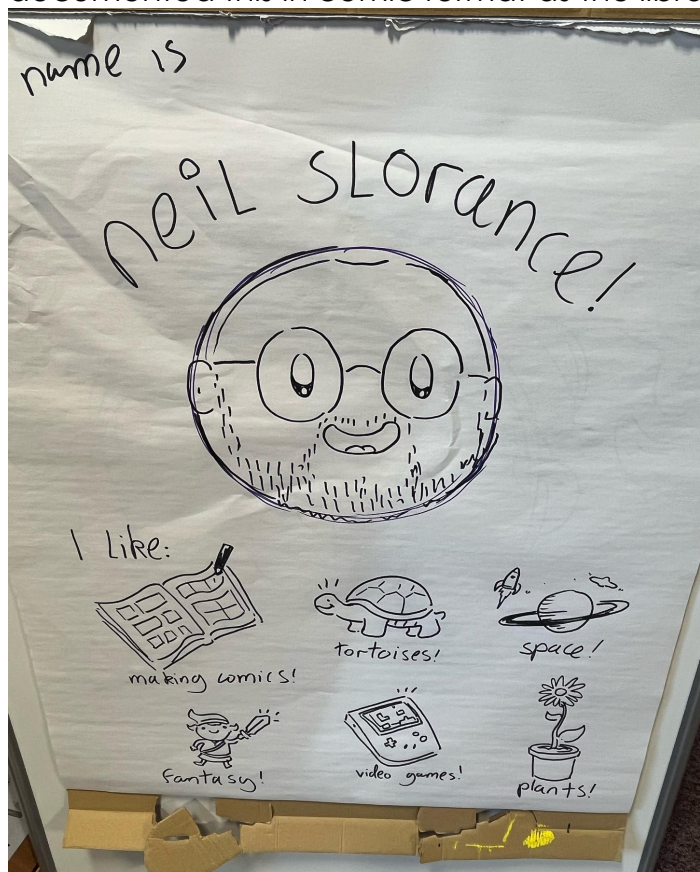




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NEIL SLORANCE SESSIONS

We had our first of 10 sessions with illustrator [@neilslorance](#) on Monday with pupils starting to work on what will be a comic book. Neil mentioned that he had written a book about a ghost which then led to a spooky collapse of the drawing easel twice. An S5 documented this in comic format as the library ghost.



YEAR GROUP ASSEMBLIES

On Thursday, I had the pleasure of holding assemblies for all year groups. The focus of the assemblies was on what our values look like in our school. As we have launched our new school values in August, it was important for pupils to understand what our values mean to the school community and how they should be evident in every interaction. Pupils were also informed about the School Improvement Priority on Learning and Teaching and our focus this session on what an effective learner is and identifying feedback and acting upon this.



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LANGUAGES & LITERATURE DEPARTMENT READING PROGRAMME

As part of the Languages and Literature Department Reading Programme, students in S1 and S2 are given a small reading journal and encouraged to develop their reading and writing skills, as well as link these skills to the novels and non-fiction books they are reading at home and in class. Some of these tasks can be challenging, however our S1C pupil, Lacey-Leigh McLurg has produced something exceptional: a wonderful puppet.

Let us introduce you to Church, a character from the novel 'Pet Cemetery' by Stephen King which she is reading. He is a stunning and cute vampire sock bat! Congratulations Lacey-Leigh for such a fabulous piece of work.



I hope you all have a relaxing weekend. With very best wishes to you and your family,

Gordon Menzies
Head Teacher



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