



# The Knox Newsletter



October 2016

## From the Head Teacher

Dear Friends,

Although it seems difficult to believe, we are now in the eighth week of the new term. I am not really sure where all that time went and I fear that the rest of the year will fly in so quickly.

The S1s have settled in well and are claiming their space in the school. They are coping well with classes and moving around in the hustle and bustle. They are getting used to our ways and I look forward to sharing our traditions with them.

The S6 are doing their best to make the year memorable by working together to organise the Pantomime, charity events, and the Leavers' Dance. They are an enthusiastic bunch of people who are keen to do well and leave a positive legacy. They have made a very good start to the year in regard of those goals.

We have already had various inputs into the curriculum. The S2s have recently had a visit from "Tree of Knowledge" and looked at aspects of team working, resilience, problem-solving, and being as successful as they possibly can. Various year groups also experienced "Google Expeditions" where they were able to take virtual tours of places ranging from Mexico, to the sea bed, right through to the human heart. Last week, senior pupils met up with Lyn Holmes, Finance Director of Canon UK and Ireland. She was able to give them a massive insight into her job and what she looks for in prospective employees, which is pure gold dust given that competition for jobs is so high.

We have been looking at participation in extra-curricular activities at Knox. We surveyed nearly 500 pupils at the end of last session and discovered that 90% of those surveyed participate in regular activities every week, with pupils reporting that they take part in up to three activities a week. This is great news for us as it means that a lot of our pupils are included, challenged and taking responsibility. I would like to thank my colleagues at Community Learning and Development for helping us with this survey and to all those parents, carers and volunteers in our community who make these activities happen.

We have said "good bye" to some staff since the start of session: Ms Easson left us to go and work for the Teenage Cancer Trust, Ms McIntyre has moved on to seek out new challenges and Ms Fairbairn has secured a promotion at Earlston High School. We wish them all well and look forward to hearing how they are getting on. This week we have also bidden "au revoir" to Mr Mackinnon, who is taking a year out to go travelling. We hope that he travels safely and look forward to his return. On the other side of this, we have welcomed Ms Robb in Science, and have been delighted to permanently appoint Mrs Reynolds in English.

If you are interested in our news and hearing more about what goes on in the school, please log on to the school website ([www.ka-net.org.uk](http://www.ka-net.org.uk)). I do a weekly update and you can find the bulletin, copies of letters and lots of useful information about the curriculum in there. It's well worth having a look.

Yours,

Head Teacher

## Dates for the Diary

Monday 24th October	In-Service Day	Thursday 1st December	Higher Music Benchmarking Assessment
Tuesday 25th October	Pupils Resume	Thursday 1st December	Careers Convention
Monday 31st October	S4/5/6 Tracking Reports Issued	Wednesday 7th December	PSP (6.15pm)
Tuesday 1st November	S5/6 Parents' Consultation (5-7pm)	Wednesday 7th December	S1 Alice in Wonderland Trip
Wednesday 2nd November	S3 Tracking Reports Issued	Thursday 8th December	S4/5/6 Tracking Reports Issued
Wednesday 2nd November	PSP (6.15pm)	Thursday 8th December	S1 Parents Consultation (5-7pm)
Wednesday 9th November	S5/6 Financial Education Seminar	Thursday 15th December	Christmas Dance (7-10pm)
Thursday 24th November	S1 Tracking Reports Issued	Friday 16th December	S1-4 Drama Trip (AM)
Thursday 24th November	S3 Girls Into Physics Trip	Tuesday 20th December	Christmas Concert (2pm and 7pm)
Thursday 24th November	Nat 5/Higher Drama Production Skills	Thursday 22nd December	Term Ends
Friday 25th November	UCAS Form Final Completion	Monday 9th January 2017	All Resume
Monday 28th November	Higher Music Benchmarking Assessment		
Tuesday 29th November	Business Education Pantomime Excursion		

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