



Firrhill News

June 2016

Produced by the Parent Council

Sponsored Walk

The annual School sponsored walk took place on Friday 13th May, a cool, dry day. Pupils and staff followed a 6 mile circuit from the school along Colinton Road through the Dell and returning via Craiglockhart Avenue.



Thanks to the pupils, staff and to all who kindly sponsored and supported this fun event





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PTA Quiz Night

On Friday 6th May the PTA held their annual quiz night at Colinton Bowling Club, Redford Road. Graham Walker, quizmaster, entertained us with interesting questions and witty observations. There was a baked potato with chilli supper by MacKenzies Catering, a raffle, some games with a cash prize and the opportunity to win a bottle of whisky. Good company along with very reasonable bar prices all added up to a relaxed fund raising evening. So do come along to this PTA event next year!



Questions were on a wide variety of subjects and ranged from "which rugby team are called the Springboks?" (South Africa); to "who is the singer Norah Jones's father?" (Ravi Shankar) and "what is a cockchafer?" (It is a beetle).



Thanks to the PTA especially to Ruth Gebbie for organising this successful quiz night and to all staff, parents and friends for their generous support



Team names included "the Sci-quos" our science faculty staff; the retro "let's get quizzical" and topical "Boaty MacBoatface"!



The winners, for the second year running, with 104 points, were "The Campbells are not coming" pictured above. They won a trophy and goody bag. Joint second place went to "Votey MacVoteface" and "Slow Learners" with 103 points each. This year's booby prize went to "Macfarlane stole the wall ties!" a team of Firrhill staff who won some nice tea towels for coming last, in spite of gaining a respectable score of 80 points. They also won some sweets for their original team name!



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Lawyers in Schools - Firrhill High School 2016

As part of the school's focus on developing Scotland's young workforce, Emily Catterwell and Roslyn Mulholland from CMS Cameron McKenna, an Edinburgh law firm and Ros Ranger, Curriculum Leader Technologies, organised a series of six sessions for twenty six S3 pupils between September 2015 and March 2016.

The topics covered included:

- Learning about the law
- Family law
- Employment law
- Human Rights
- Discrimination
- Social media and the law



"If you are in touch with Firrhill, would it be possible to let them know how impressed I was by their students. They were really engaged, knowledgeable, respectful and polite – a great advert for the school and its teachers" said Esther Duncan, Professional Support Lawyer

Report about the Experience from a S3 pupil:

Firrhill was one of the lucky schools to have the opportunity to participate in the Lawyers in Schools programme. The course consisted of six, one hour sessions in which third year students met up with qualified lawyers from both RBS and law firm CMS, and discussed different aspects of the law, all particularly relevant to issues in the news and general life today. The different topics covered included employment law, human rights issues, and the current laws on social media, amongst other, similarly interesting and relevant topics. There were also other issues that were talked about, such as how the law, in this fast changing and advancing world, must be similarly fast adapting to keep up and prevent people or companies doing wrong. That in particular was a huge aspect to the discussion on social media, as it seems that barely a month goes by without another social media app appearing.

You may think that, if you don't want to be a lawyer when you leave school, this is completely irrelevant for you, and not worth your time. However I, and the other students who participated, will assure you that no matter what your future aspirations are, this programme is certainly worthwhile, simply because of the range of skills you will develop while participating in Lawyers in Schools. Although the course is focused on law, debating, communication and awareness of different views these are all skills that could be transferred to almost any workplace around the globe. Even though I personally didn't want to become a lawyer, I found the sessions interesting, fun and quite eye-opening, and would now consider a career in law. Furthermore, it's a chance to interact with real lawyers, who give their insight into law, and how much of it is around us every day, without us noticing. So if you do get the chance to go to the Lawyers in Schools programme, take the opportunity before you and you won't regret it!

Our Head Boy, Ross Britain, has been involved in a variety of experiences offered by CMS, including the S3 Lawyers in Schools:

"Work experience at CMS gave me a real insight into life as a lawyer. I shadowed solicitors in different legal departments – construction, banking and litigation – and visited Edinburgh's courts where I watched some interesting cases unfold and spoke to Scotland's top judge. These experiences inspired me to apply for law at university and provided great content for my personal statement and interviews. I'm really grateful for the opportunity and the continuing support CMS has given me"

Ross has unconditional acceptances from Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow Universities to study law, along with a conditional acceptance from Cambridge.



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Bike Racing on the Isle of Man

Louis Moore S2, travelled to the Isle of Man in April to take part in the 2nd stage of British Youth Road Series. He took part in the first stage a couple of weeks earlier in Hetton. A great sporting achievement - well done Louis!

A few weeks ago I was racing in the British Road Series in the Isle of Man. I am a member of the Edinburgh Road Club (ERC). I race for the Martin Curie Race Team (MCRT) and was representing them. There were three stages: the first was against the clock, the next was a long hilly route and the last being pan flat on the promenade in Ramsey. The first stage suited me as it was flat because I'm not the best climber so that meant that stage two was hard and unfortunately my pedal broke on the start line so that cost me time. The third stage was good for me because it was also flat. The boy who won overall was 6ft 3" so he had a bit of an advantage! Aside from that the weekend was really good.

by Louis Moore S2



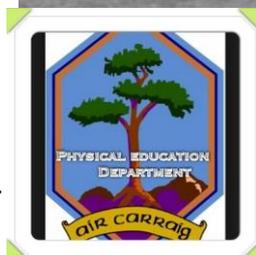
FHS PE Dept @FirrhillPE



<https://twitter.com/firrhillpe>
FHS PE Dept @FirrhillPE

Follow FHS PE Dept twitter account @FirrhillPE find out about pupils' sporting achievements.

Inform Firrhill News about your sporting success: email Carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com



The Firrhill PE Dept @FirrhillPE twitter account is packed with photos of recent sporting triumphs and events including: a recent trip to see Newcastle United play at St James' Park; karate; netball; swimming and a scheme to promote tennis at Firrhill.



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Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Expedition

During Activity Week in May, a number of Firrhill S3 pupils completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Qualifying Expedition. The weather was warm and dry (but still very cold during the night). The pupils walked in small groups, from East Rigg in Balerno via Listonsheils; the Bore Stane and North Esk Reservoir to the village of Carlops. They camped at Broomlee Centre, West Linton and cooked supper on camp stoves. They returned to Carlops the next day via the Roman Road. Each group was required to have an aim, such as observing wildlife. On Thursday 12th May the groups worked together to create a presentation of their expedition for their assessors.



Well done to all the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award S3 pupils on their fantastic achievement



Thanks to all the dedicated staff for enabling the expedition to take place and run smoothly

To enjoy the expedition pupils are advised to wear well-fitting walking boots or shoes and whilst they need to pack essentials it is very important that their packs are not too

Watch Firrhill's DoFE YouTube film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiaipRN4bCE>



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Hockey Fun Day

On Saturday 16th April in cold conditions! The Hockey Club held its annual end of year tournament at Meggetland; followed by the coaches and parents vs seniors match which the seniors won 1-0.





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Lost Property & “Pop Up” Thrift Shop

Each term sadly there is a very large amount of unclaimed lost property which needs to be disposed of. So please name all items of uniform!

A new “Rag Bag” clothing bank, which is to be sited in the school grounds will help to ensure unclaimed items are reused.

A new PTA *pop up thrift shop* will take place on parents’ nights, selling badged school uniform items including blazers, hoodies and PE kit. Please support this venture for both buying items and donating good quality used clothing. Un-claimed badged items from lost property may be placed in the PTA thrift shop.



“There will be a new *pop up thrift shop* which will offer badged items: sweatshirts T-shirts blazers and hoodies - look out for us on parents’ nights” says Ruth Gebbie, PTA

“Please label all items of clothing with your child’s name and class to ensure we can match missing items with their owners” says Miss Statham, Depute Head Teacher

FIRRHILL HIGH SCHOOL

PTA

Thrift Shop Appeal



Outgrown your uniform? Too many sweatshirts?

Want to raise funds for school clubs and activities?

The PTA are opening a **pop-up Thrift Shop** for school-badged clothing at parents’ evenings **but we need your help to stock it.**

Wanted:

- School-badged clothing only eg blazers, sweatshirts, polo-shirts, ties
- Clothing must be clean and in a reasonable condition

Where do I donate clothing?

- Hand-in Blazers to the school office and complete form if you wish to receive 70% of proceeds from sale
- Place other items of school-badged clothing in PTA box by school office - all sale proceeds will go to PTA