

Study Support

Departments across the school offer a range of study support, revision or homework clubs leading up to the exams. Some of these are at set times. Others are by arrangement with the department and, if indicated, you should approach the Principal Teacher of the department to arrange this.

Maths

Tuesday Lunchtime

English

Tuesday & Thursday Lunchtime 1:20-1:50

Modern Languages

Thursday after school

Support is also available any lunchtime or after school on request

History

Tuesday lunchtime & after school

Modern Studies

Copies of revision materials and worked exam answers available on Glow

Geography

Wednesday after school

Philosophy

Monday lunchtimes

Support is available at other times on request

Design and Technologies

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes

Tuesday after school

Art

Department is available by arrangement any lunchtime

Library

Mornings 8:30-8:55

Lunchtimes 1:25-1:50

After school 3:30-4:30

Chemistry

Tuesday & Wednesday 3:30-4:30

Support is available at lunchtimes on request

Biology

Tuesday after school

Support is available at lunchtimes by arrangement

Physics

Wednesday after school

Thursday lunchtime

Support is also available any lunchtime or after school on request

Home Economics

Department staff are available most lunchtimes

Support is also available after school on request

Computing

S5/6 Friday lunchtime by arrangement

Music

Department is available any lunchtime or after school by arrangement.

Pupils can also arrange to collect materials from the department for use at home

PE

Tuesday after school

Support for learning

Tuesday & Thursday lunchtime

Business Studies

Staff available at lunchtime by arrangement

Important Dates

Parents Consultation nights

S3 Monday 13th January

In addition there will be information evenings to give information on Pupil Choice and pathways from the Broad General Education to Senior Phase and beyond,

S1 Wednesday 7th May, S4 Thursday 13th February (Guidance), S5 Monday 24th February Choice of Course Information Evening

A list of term dates can be found on the Dundee City Council Website.

Menzieshill High School

December 2013

Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year

from all at

Menzieshill High School



DISC Quiz































Menzieshill Festival



S6 Boys and staff on National Christmas Jumper Day 2013 supporting Save the Children Christmas Fund

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Music Department

Dundee City Council - Christmas Light Night

The String Quartet performed at the Christmas Light Night in McManus Galleries on Friday 15th November led by Mrs Green.

The pupils played beautifully and it was a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. The pupils played in the Victoria gallery which was a lovely setting.

The pupils involved were Rachel Beattie, Ian Christie, Ross Starke and Andrew Battes (pictured right).



Percussion Ensemble

The Senior Percussion Ensemble performed in the Scottish Open Shield & Cup & Youth Championships weekend at Perth Concert Hall on Sunday 17th November, led by Mr Carlyle.

The group played very well and were a credit to the school, they achieved a silver award. The pupils involved were Ian Christie, Craig Archibald, Callum Ewan, Sam Walker and Murray McArtney.

The Lion King - Edinburgh Playhouse

47 pupils and 5 staff went to see the stage musical The Lion King at Edinburgh Playhouse on Wednesday 20th November. We went for a meal before the performance where pupils of all year groups were able to chat and relax together. The performance was spectacular, especially the costumes. Some pupils got a very close up view of some of the animals as they walked through the aisles right past our seats! Here are some comments from pupils about the evening:

'I really enjoyed going to see The Lion King Musical because the costumes, music and the way in which the animals interacted with the audience was amazing.'



'I really enjoyed going to Edinburgh – it was great! We went to Pizza Hut for dinner which I enjoyed because I got to chat with my friends. The performance itself was unbelievable! The costumes were great and so was the music. I would recommend it to anyone!'

'The Lion King was a good night out in Edinburgh and was great experience for the young and old. The music was enjoyable and my favourite was Hakuna Matata.'

PE Department

Dairy Council The Queen's Baton Relay

On Wednesday the 20th of November the Health and Wellbeing Prefects from Menzieshill High School were invited to Glasgow to collect an award from The British Dairy Council. The Health and Wellbeing Prefects submitted evidence of their campaign to educate pupils in Health and Wellbeing. The pupils' campaign had to meet the following criteria from the Dairy Council

- **be based around positive messaging on nutrition and health**
- **be based on researched facts**
- **include all food groups that are seen on the Eatwell plate**
- **discuss milk, cheese and yogurt in the context of a healthy diet**
- **encourage physical activity**
- **be mindful of the environment – particularly food waste reduction.**

There were seven schools from Scotland selected and invited to this event. Menzieshill High School were one of the seven. Olympian Euan Burton was there to talk to the pupils and present their awards to them. The pupils from Menzieshill High School were selected and awarded a Silver Dairy Council Award which was a fantastic achievement.

The Queen's Baton Relay is a much loved tradition of the Commonwealth Games and symbolises the coming together of all Commonwealth nations and territories in preparation for the four-yearly festival of sport and culture.

The Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay is the curtain-raiser to the XX Commonwealth Games. Over a period of 288 days the baton will visit 70 nations and territories, cover 190,000 kilometres and involve a third of the world's population, making it the world's most engaging relay.

On 9 October 2013 the Queen's Baton Relay was launched at Buckingham Palace, at a ceremony where Her Majesty The Queen placed Her message to the Commonwealth into the baton.

Schools have been asked by the commonwealth games to nominate a Baton Bearer to represent the school. To do this the PE department of Menzieshill High School decided to let the pupils vote for their baton bearer. All pupils took part from 1st to 6th year.

The results from the schools poll were that Shaney McCabe S3 pupil was the winner.

School News

From the Parentzone website:

This leaflet has been produced to help parents better understand how their children will benefit from changes under Curriculum for Excellence as the new qualifications are introduced.



This information has been closely developed with the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPF) and will be sent to all parents of school children across Scotland. It covers information on Curriculum for Excellence, the key benefits for young people and examples of the different routes pupils can take throughout their education from age 3-18.

A copy of this leaflet can be found on the school website under Parents' News.



Cabinet secretary visit to Dundee City Campus - Parental leaflet launch

A selection of our pupils performed and were involved in the above event at Dundee university in September.

New National Qualifications

The National Parent Forum of Scotland has launched a series of subject-based summaries of the new National Qualifications for parents/carers, 'Nationals in a Nutshell'. These will be added to over the coming weeks.

The first set is available online on the National Parent Forum Website www.parentforumsotland.org or use the link <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/NPF/nationals-in-a-nutshell>

Head Teacher's Note



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our school newsletter, full of exciting information about what your young people are involved in and have achieved. A special welcome to the parents of our first year pupils who have settled so well.

Our staff have been impressed by their commitment, hard work and maturity.

In August we once again gained excellent SQA results. Our priority of raising the bar of ambition remains uppermost in our daily relationship with pupils especially in the new National 4 and National 5 qualifications. To support pupils we have introduced Assertive Mentoring in the senior school and Building Learning Power in S4. Both attainment programmes focus pupils on how they learn best, study skills and techniques and how to plan to achieve their aspirational targets.

Leadership remains high on the agenda offering opportunities for both staff & pupils to be part of the school's improvement. Learning & Teaching prefects have led focus groups for young people have also been involved in staff training days and are now offering study support to younger pupils.

The Health & Wellbeing Prefects lead assemblies and won a National Award for their high profile in the school.

The Curriculum is continuing to develop with the new qualifications this year and the new Higher next session. Staff are working extremely hard for your young people, planning courses and involving the younger people in understanding their Learning through different teaching techniques.

I am very proud of the planning, assessment and learning & teaching being provided.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that on the S3 parents night on the 13th January we will be joined by the SQA and Dundee/Angus College representative to provide parents with more information about the variety of qualifications on offer.

Parent Council

The parent council as always have been very supportive, helping, for example, at the Menzieshill festival in September. They regularly meet and membership is healthy and active. Training has been provided for our new chairperson and we have presented at a Parent Involvement Sharing Good Practice Event attended by the Minister of Education. We showcased the parental presentation by Educational Psychology for parents and we are planning to offer this again on Wednesday 22nd January at 6:30pm in the school assembly hall. All parent/carers are welcome and I would encourage S1 parents to come along. This is a fun and informative presentation helping us to understand "teenagers" as they grow.

The parent council also support the school in raising funds and to this end we have held 2 very successful Bingo nights over the last 2 years. We plan to hold one again on February 12th to raise funds to support the Easter School. This is extremely useful for pupils offering extra study support prior to their exams and I ask that you support us by joining us for the evening and/or donate prizes. Any unwanted Christmas gifts or it may be time after Christmas to take away those chocolates, all donations to be handed in to the school auxiliary by the end of January.

Finally I look forward to the challenges 2014 will bring knowing your child is fully supported by the staff at Menzieshill High.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas full of enchantment & cheer and a sparkling New Year.

Helen Gray

Home Economics

Cupcake Competition

Lucy Stewart in S3 was second in the Dundee Flower and Food Festival with her Loch Ness Monster cupcakes and won £25.

Kiera Robertson in S4 won the Technical prize (£25) in the same competition.

Well done to them and to all of the pupils who took part.



Lucy's Loch Ness Monster cupcakes

Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

S3 pupils gained the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland's Elementary Food Hygiene certificate after completing a food hygiene course in Home Economics classes.

Following all this hard work, they have been taking part in a bake off, finishing with a Christmas cake competition.



Heartstart



Skills for Work Early Education and Childcare pupils gained Heartstart Level 3 certificates as part of their first aid unit.

They are currently working on the play unit and are photographed on their stilts.

From Left to Right: Stacey Fraser, Rachel Stewart, Katie Ruddy, Jamie-Leigh Ferrier and Olivia Dewar

Computing

Over the past eight years senior pupils from Menzieshill High School have taken part in the Schools' 'Dare To Be Digital' computer games competition at the University of Abertay; being outright winners on several of those years.

To continue close ties with Dundee's Game Development industry, nine senior computing pupils have joined in a development project to produce a fully functional game with students from Coral Springs High School and McFatter Technical College in the USA.

The overall game will have a number of levels and pupils from Menzieshill will create two levels of these. The production and technical support will be offered by local games development company YOYO Games and computing teacher Mr Ghafoor; however the overall management of the project is being carried out by the same very confident and committed pupils.

It is hoped that the game will be completed in the early part of 2014. The experience gained in this project will certainly benefit the pupils who wish to follow a career in computing, games development or management.

Mr Ghafoor - Computing Department



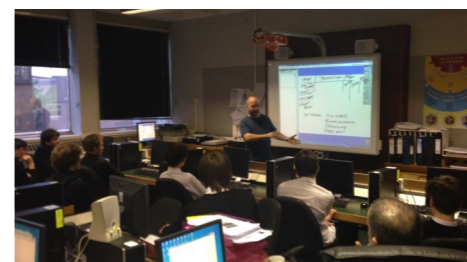
Linking Education & Employment

This session groups of our pupils have been working with pupils in three Florida schools as part of the Linking Education and Employment Outcomes (LEEO) International Project. Menzieshill High School are piloting this international project which involves pupils working collaboratively across the Atlantic, making use of different forms of information technology to facilitate this process.

Menzieshill High pupils have been working with pupils from Coral Springs High School and McArthur High School, both located in Southern Florida. S2 pupils have been communicating with American pupils in their Inter Disciplinary Learning periods on a Monday afternoon. Based on the positive reaction to this initial pilot we are also trialing a similar process with a group of S3 pupils.

Pupils in both the different year groups are collaborating on the issue of alternative sources of energy. This has involved pupils communicating with US pupils via web conferences and other forms of IT, with the aim of producing and delivering joint presentations comparing the merits of different sources of energy.

A key aim of the project is developing employability skills and pupils have been working with staff from Scottish and Southern Energy to develop the skills employers would be looking for in potential employees.



In addition, the employer mentors have delivered sessions to pupils on the renewable energy and we plan to take advantage of their offer to visit some of Scottish and Southern Energy's facilities.



The renewable energy sector is developing into a major employment driver in the local area and offers the potential of an exciting and very rewarding career path for pupils. Feedback from staff, pupils and our employer mentors has been very positive.

Mr Hulse (Maths) and Miss McCubbin (Design and Technology) are the teachers involved with these groups.

Some of our senior pupils are now also working with US students as they collaborate on the development of a computer game which we hope will be turned into a mobile phone App.

Senior pupils from this Higher Computing class are also working with another local employer mentor, YoYo Games, to manage the process of developing their tasks as part of a three way team involving our school and pupils from Coral Springs High School and McFatter Technical College in Southern Florida.

The pupils have already identified their tasks and will now be working with groups of US pupils under the project management advice of their employer mentors. Mr Ghafoor (Computing) is the teacher taking this group.

Pupils in all the groups have been very excited about the chance to work with American pupils and staff have commented on the positive impact on pupil motivation. The LEEO project aims to develop key employability skills as well as softer skills such as teamwork, communication, presentation and problem solving skills.

The international dimension of the project aims to develop the type of skills which pupils will increasingly require in a globalised international economy. Pupils have already had to deal with challenges such as the compatibility of different versions of software and technology, working with colleagues across different time-zones and from different culture backgrounds as well as the challenges in communication caused by different dialects!



As a result of the establishment of links with the Florida schools, the school is looking at options to further develop opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Our LRC

DISC Quiz

Menzieshill High School was represented at the annual Dundee Inter School literary quiz by a team of S2 girls: Catherine Chan, Kayla Craig, Kianne Newton and Kanza Rehan.



Left to Right: Catherine Chan, Kianne Newton, Kanza Rehan and Kayla Craig

This year's quiz, held in the library at Morgan Academy, was a hard fought contest as the teams battled with identifying books and characters and tested their memories by answering questions on film clips of Malorie Blackman the new Children's Laureate.

The team did the school proud, finally emerging in joint second place, only 1 ½ points behind the winners, Craigie High. This was our best result ever in the quiz and the girls were great ambassadors for the school.

English

Menzieshill High School Debating Club

We have had a very busy year at the debating club. In November we entered two teams in the Donald Dewar Memorial Competition. Team 1 consisted of Mehnaz Asad and Andrew Fry. They won their debate against Webster's High School but did not go through to the second round. Andrew Fry was commended for his style and Ross Starke won the floor debate.

Our second team was up against Buckhaven High School and Madras College. Ross Starke and Ross Irvine fought a closely contested battle. Unfortunately, Menzieshill did not make it to the second round.

This year Menzieshill were invited to take part in the prestigious St Andrew's Day Debate in the Scottish Parliament. Our school was represented by Robson St Clair who acquitted himself very well, given that this was his first real debate. He came in seventh place out of twenty-four schools and had a very enjoyable day.

Finally, our Big Christmas Debate takes place on December 20th. Mr Baird, ably abetted by Ross Irvine and Corben Bruce, is proposing the motion that 'Santa's elves are worked too hard'. Opposing the motion will be Mr Black supported by Ross Starke and Abbie Lang. Graeme MacKenzie will chair the debate. This promises to be an exciting way to end our term.

History

"When the war of the giants is over the war of the pygmies will begin". Indeed. Such insight from Churchill provides a window into the goings on of the History department over the past few months. In the style of military strategists of old this newsletter entry will employ a swift and decisive three-pronged approach incorporating three laser-guided warheads of knowledge from the department's ample cache.

"Ich bin ein Berliner!" It is our dream that such cries will soon be heard echoing around the playground as we bring *Glasnost* to Menzieshill. In a moment which rivals the felling of the Berlin Wall for historical significance the division of the two History classrooms to symbolise the east/west divide in Germany fired the imaginations with all the potency of a pair of preshrunk Levis.

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace." It is our hope in the History department to give pupils not only an understanding of the past but also a means by which to have an impact on the future.

Such symbolism was used in the lesson to create the divide (albeit in a simplified manner) between Communism and Capitalism.



Those who found themselves on the 'western' side of the wall (kindly provided free of charge by the MHS Design and Technology Department) enjoyed pens and 'Coca-Cola' while those under the Soviet flag persevered with water and blunt pencils.

For this reason, by the time this newsletter goes to press, we will have delivered a series of stand-alone lessons covering the cause, events and effects of the 1914 Christmas Truce. With such importance placed upon learning from the past it would be remiss of us to neglect the seismic impact this series of lessons had on last year's cohort.

Needless to say only positive learning experiences took place and no pupils from the Eastern Bloc were seriously harmed during this interactive learning experience.

Tables were upended to represent trenches, gifts exchanged, carols sung in a variety of languages (English, German, Upper Lochee and Greater Charleston among them) and lessons learned. We hope that pupils will once more take from the lessons an idea of the importance of humanity and citizenship and in the words of the great Bob Dylan (who some of the senior pupils have been learning about in the Civil Rights topic) understand that they, like the soldiers of ninety-nine years ago, can be *"more than just a pawn in their game"*.

"All war is deception". Subterfuge is certainly in evidence (albeit covertly) as the annual "Christmas Decoration Competition Extravaganza" gathers pace with all the bumbling enthusiasm of a carrot laden Rudolph. History HQ (TB05 and TB06) and the festive cannon fodder that are tutor groups TF5 and TF6 are presently embroiled in a seasonal war of attrition which shows no signs of breakthrough. From the safety of the parapets vigilant observers will cry forth and anything that moves, be it human, animal, or inanimate object will find itself with tinsel and/or bobbles attached to all appropriate places. Such seasonal capers have only served to enhance morale in the department and it is with this in mind that we must sign off and send this up the lum in true Dickensian style and hope it serves to bring a smile to your face over a tumbler of eggnog.

***Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
The History Department (Mr. Baird and Mr. MacDonald)***

Modern Studies

S3 Scottish Parliament Visit

This year, 39 S3 pupils took part in the visit to the Scottish Parliament which took place on 3 October. After listening to First Minister's Question in one of the meeting rooms, the MHS group then had the chance to question local MSP Joe Fitzpatrick on issues of concern to them including 'the bedroom tax', the Waterfront development and, of course, the independence debate. Several pupils, including John-Paul Laing and Ruairdh Lowden, deserve special mention for questions asked.

Following questions, Joe took the group on a tour of the parliament including taking time in the Chamber where Joe explained some of the ways and areas in which MSPs worked. Finally, the group were very fortunate when First Minister Alex Salmond came over to speak with the group and to answer a number of further questions. All in all a very successful and memorable visit.

Once again, the Modern Studies Department thanks local MSP Joe Fitzpatrick and his parliamentary colleagues Tom and Douglas for organising and leading our S3 visit to the Scottish Parliament.

Joe Fitzpatrick followed up our visit to the Scottish Parliament by dropping into MHS in December to speak with senior pupils (pictured right).



S4 Police Visit

West End community police officer Frank Sturrock dropped in to MHS to answer questions from the Modern Studies S4 class as part of their AVU. Questioned about his views on the death penalty to the legalisation of cannabis, Frank later tweeted on the quality and range of the pupils' questions. The department would again like to thank Frank for taking the time to visit.

Fifth & Sixth Year

18 pupils took the opportunity to visit London on the annual Modern Studies visit to the Houses of Parliament. In addition, the group took time to go shopping on Oxford Street, take a flight on the London Eye, check out the London Dungeon and take in a performance of Mamma Mia. Quite an intense 24 hours.

Feedback was very positive from the pupils involved. They all said they enjoyed themselves and felt they learned something. The pupils were also complimented on their good behaviour and questions from the parliamentary guides. Well done to each of you, you were a credit to the school and yourselves.

Thanks once more to local MP Jim McGovern for arranging the visit to the HoP. Jim is following up with a visit in December to speak with S4 pupils.

20 pupils from S5/6 visited Abertay University to listen to a debate on social inequality and extent government addressing problems in society.

As part of the campus arrangement, Megan McClellan attended a criminology conference in Glasgow which provided a range of insights and support which will directly support Megan in her studies.

Pupil Support

It has been a busy term again for the young people involved in pupil support.

We have been running our termly issue-based groups, 1:1 support and lunchtime clubs (such as art, roller club, health drop in's, walking group etc) as normal, but this year pupil support has also been supporting fifth and sixth year pupils to take part in their Duke of Edinburgh Award and ASDAN award.

As part of this the pupils organised the annual School festival which took place on 21 September.



The festival was a great success with lots of activities such as a bouncy castle, cake and candy, face painting and there were lots of other pupils, parents and staff which helped by giving up their free time. Thanks to everyone who helped.



Lots of money was raised for various causes, including the school itself, The Guide Dog Association and the Duke of Edinburgh group who raised over £200 towards paying for their award.



The girls from DofE and ASDAN also planned and ran the Santa's grotto this year and various pupils took part to run the event which was for the children from Menzieshill Nursery. The surprise guest was Santa – who is a very good friend of a previous head boy!

Pupil support have also formed links with Skill Share and Showcase the Street to provide bike maintenance and fitness workshops for pupils in S2 and S3. These cumulated in a sponsored bike ride and a sponsored Tay bridge run. Well done to all pupils and staff involved!!



Pupil support are also taking part in the IDL on Monday afternoons, providing pupils with the opportunity to get involved in horticulture and the school's garden.

Finally, several young people have been involved as part of the "Young Firefighters Course" with



Scottish Fire and Rescue at Blackness fire station. They learned about a day in the life of a fire-fighter, practical activities such as how to run hoses, find casualties in confined and darkened spaces, how fire spreads and how to prevent it.

Science

Science Department

On December 16th all S1 pupils took part in the Science Christmas Challenge.

Their challenge was to work in house teams of 4-6 pupils to build from waste materials, an eco-friendly Christmas tree. Pupils spent a week and a half collecting suitable materials from home to use in the challenge.

Part of the challenge was for pupils to decorate the Christmas tree with home-made decorations, some of which were made in collaboration with the Art department.

Pupils were given 40 minutes to work in teams to build their Christmas trees which had to fit several criteria including be at least five feet tall, be free standing, have one of the decorations on the top and have at least one home-made decoration for each pupil in the group.

Prizes were awarded for the tallest free standing tree, best decorated tree and the most justifiable eco-friendly tree.



Chemistry Department

On 2nd September 2013 40 National 4 and National 5 Chemistry pupils attended a lecture entitled "Fantastic Plastic" at Abertay University.

The lecture was organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry and gave

pupils an insight into how the future of plastics may be shaped including TVs that can be rolled up and taken anywhere to watch without the need for wires.

The lecture also enhanced some of the chemistry pupils are taught in class showing pupils the relevance of what they are learning to the outside world.

Chemical demonstrations allowed pupils to be wowed by reactions showing unusual properties of plastics while enhancing their background knowledge from the classroom.

An enjoyable lecture enjoyed by all.

Maths

Environmental Engineering Project

Congratulations to a team of seven first year pupils – under the guidance of Mr. Squair from the Maths department- who have won the regional heat, and £250 for the school, in an environmentally themed project aimed at reducing the school's usage of mains water.

The project, administered by the Engineering Development Trust, will next see the team participate in the national final, to be held in the Scottish Parliament in May. The Trust sponsors such projects with the aim of encouraging young people to follow careers in science, technology, engineering and maths. Working with a mentor from local industry-Mr. C. Arnold of Johnston Matthey Battery Systems-the team produced a design whereby rain, falling on the roof surfaces of the school, could be collected, lightly cleaned and used to replace mains water in the toilet cisterns. The final design demanded research, many measurements and difficult calculations.

The team attended a Celebration and Assessment Day at Dundee University where their ideas were presented using posters, a booklet and a model. Each member of the group had to talk about their particular contribution, with an introduction and conclusion being presented by the project leader.

Thanks are especially extended to Mr C Arnold for his help and advice, and for organising an interesting factory visit. Also to Mr J Waghorn of the Technical department for the construction of a model showing the final design.



Team visit to Johnston Matthey factory