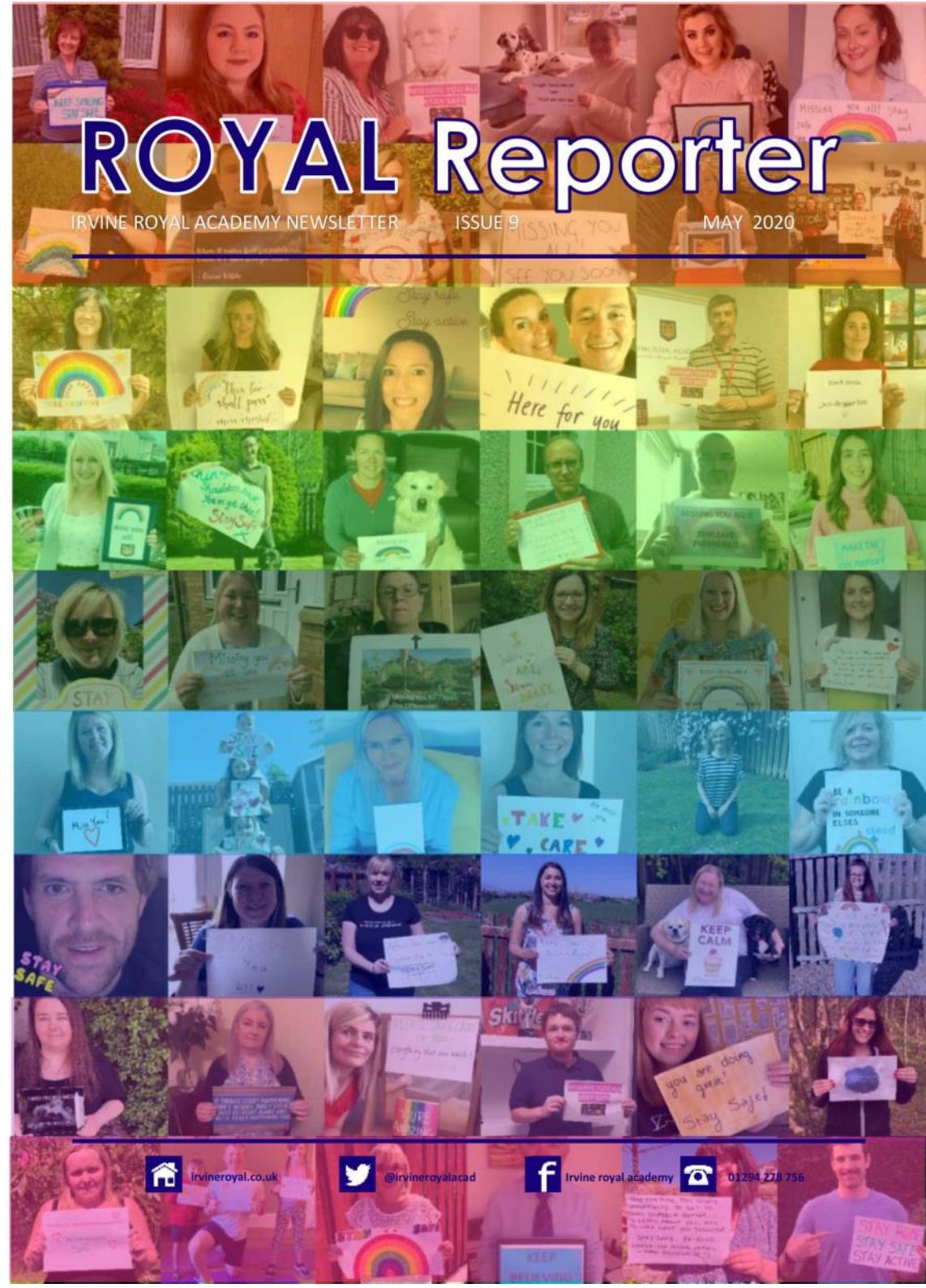


ROYAL Reporter

IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9

MAY 2020



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HEAD TEACHER BLOG

I write this opening to our 2020 newsletter less than 24 hours after the Prime Minister has declared that our country is now in "lockdown" due to the Coronavirus. It is somewhat surreal sitting at school with no Irvine Royal Academy pupils or staff and only a few children of critical Key Workers to support.

After reflecting on the past few days, I am more reassured than ever that the staff here really do go above and beyond to support young people. They have worked incredibly hard to prepare resource packs, upload materials on to Glow and in turn, set up



Google Classrooms to ensure high quality remote learning – this has been a huge learning curve for us all. As I write, staff are in regular contact with young people for a multiplicity of reasons but first and foremost, the key priority is to make sure that the health and wellbeing of our young people is prioritised. This is a time of real stress and the anxieties felt by our pupils cannot be minimised – we are here to help and have communicated our details on the various platforms available to us – we will continue to do so. We are still unclear about what is going to happen with the SQA in light of the exams being cancelled and we will communicate any information to you as and when we get it – I promise you that we will work hard to ensure that our pupils are in no way disadvantaged by this unprecedented situation.

Since the last newsletter was issued in December, the school has continued to go from strength to strength. Many of our young people make us proud on so many levels, whether that be through sporting success, musical achievements, Rotary events, Maths challenges or indeed just through the way in which the majority of them live and breathe our school values. Particular mention must go to our leavers and primarily our S6 leavers. I have had the pleasure of working closely with the Senior Pupil Leadership Team and I really cannot thank them enough. They have represented the school in a

way that has brought me so much pride and without question, have played a significant part in making me feel part of the team here at Irvine Royal Academy – Jack, Amy, Emma and Payton – thank you from the bottom of my heart! Your support warmth, humour and sheer kindness will never, ever be forgotten.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those staff who have stepped up over the last few months and made a valuable contribution towards ensuring positive outcomes for our young people – Mr Turnbull will go back to his class teacher position following his stint as Acting PT Guidance and Mrs Gibson will return to her substantive role as PT Guidance – she carried out her duties as Acting DHT admirably and I thank her for her relentless energy and overwhelming support! We will now revert back to three DHTs and Mrs Clifford, who has been Acting DHT for the past two years, will continue to fill in for Mr Little until his return – our thoughts are with Mr Little at this time. He is a highly valued member of the team at Irvine Royal and we all miss having him around.

Our Parent Council have continued to support the school in every way possible and recently donated brand new school uniform for our pupils to access – they work tirelessly behind the scenes and deserve all the recognition they get – they go about their business with a positive attitude and I for one cannot thank

enough – we are very, very lucky to have such a dedicated bunch of parents continually working in partnership to make things better for our pupils.

As you read through this newsletter, put together by Miss McNeil, I am hopeful that it will remind you of all the good things that have happened over the recent period – things that will happen again as soon as we go back to "normal" – I suspect new norms may however come about as a result of our current experience and in some respects, that may not be a bad thing.

From the day I started here, I could see, hear and feel the potential and nothing has swayed me from my early impressions. When school life resumes, I will look to you all for your support in helping me and my teams drive the school forward – I am excited about what the future holds for our school and for our young people. Thanks for all your support!

Stay safe out there!

Lizie Sloan



PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM BLOG

Over the past term the Pupil Leadership Team have been very busy once again. From transition visits at the start of the new year to our Valentine's Events we've had a jam packed, fun term within the school.

Irvine Civic Forum

Mrs Sloan and Jack also attended the Irvine Civic Group Meeting at the townhouse to discuss how organisations in Irvine can work together to make our town the best it can be.



ENABLE Scotland Partnership

We also met with ENABLE Scotland to plan a partnership with the fantastic charity for the school. This will allow pupils to work alongside the charity who supports adults and children with learning disabilities.



Burns Memorial Ceremony

Jack and Amy lay a wreath in memory of Robert Burns at the Burns Memorial in Irvine alongside many other organisations and schools within the community.



Youth Philanthropy Initiative

The Head Boy and Head Girl also had the pleasure of hosting the Youth Philanthropy Initiative final where S3s presented why their chosen charities deserve £3000, congratulations to the British Heart Foundation group who won the money which will help the Irvine branch in delivering vital services within the area.



P7 Transition Visits

Jack, Amy, Emma and Payton all visited Castlepark, Woodlands, Loudoun Montgomery and Annick to answer any questions the P7s had about secondary school life.



S1-2 Valentines Disco

Finally, our Valentine's Events were very popular in the school, thank you to all of the pupils who bought a lollipop to be delivered and attended our Valentine's Day disco for S1 & 2.

Looking ahead...

Sadly due to the current situation, the S6 Prom at Enterkine House is in the process of being rescheduled. Thank you to Miss Carten for organising this. We cannot wait to celebrate our achievements once this passes!

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to all teachers and staff at Irvine Royal Academy for their continual support and guidance over the past six years—particularly during the recent switch to home learning.

Despite our last term as captains not rolling out the way we planned, we are so proud of our school community and wish everyone the best during this time. Please take care,

Jack, Amy, Emma and Payton



PARENT COUNCIL BLOG

Throughout the past year, the Parent Council have been extremely busy and tried to do as much as possible to support our school and raise funds to give our young people as many opportunities as we can!

We have organised and held two psychic evenings which both included raffles. Many raffle prizes were donated by local businesses and parents and we would like to thank all of those who kindly gifted these. We also organised a clothes sale and have ran a tuck shop at all school events, such as the school musical 'Mary Poppins' and various discos. All of these events went across extremely well and helped raise funds that we could donate to areas in the school that we needing support.

As the parent council, we have also volunteered our time at the P7/S1 transition and welcome events, as we feel it's a great opportunity for parents to meet and learn from each others personal experiences with the transition to Irvine Royal from primary.

The parent council was also recently represented the school during the YPI final on the judging panel to decide which charity received the monies.

We have also been extremely fortunate in attaining a local grant to assist in providing school uniform and various other items to support any child in need. This is new partnership to the school and is a relationship we hope to keep going moving forward.

Furthermore, we have also managed to source numerous prom dresses and offers of free assistance from local hairdressers, nail technicians and make-up artists to ensure that all Irvine Royal girls have the opportunity to attend prom and feel beautiful! We are also hoping to source suits for our young men too!

Last summer, we donated £750 to the school to start their own memorial garden for young people to have a place they can visit to remember loved ones and friends they have lost. This project was inspired after the sudden loss of an S2 pupil, who will always be remembered at Irvine Royal.

We would like to take this time to extend our love and well wishes to all pupils and parents and hope that you are all keeping safe and taking care.

STAY CONNECTED

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR SCHOOL



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IrvineRoyalAcademy



MESSAGES FROM LOCKDOWN...



Hope you are all well S2 and S3 and have had some fun during the holiday if you could! I told you all my challenge was to walk round Millport after my hip operation but instead I have been walking near to where I live. Hip hip hooray!! It's been great to walk a wee bit further every day! love the new Harry Styles album, lol! I've also been making wee animals out of egg boxes with my son Ramsay! A rainbow appeared in my room to cheer me up! Thank goodness for magic and science!!! Stay safe, stay indoors (apart from exercise)!!! Be kind to yourself and others! Thinking of you all.

Mrs Pryce

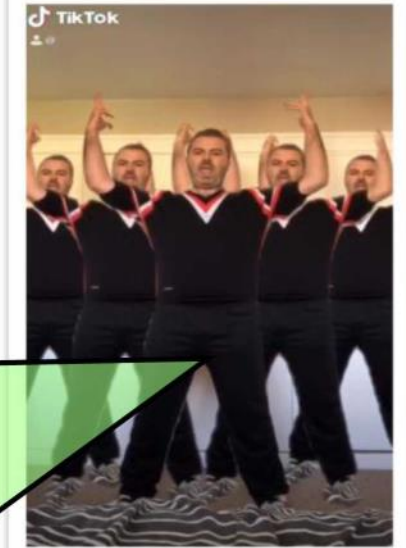
Here is me sorting the roof of my gatehouse turret that was badly damaged when a tree knocked it down. I needed to do some leadwork then put on slates. Technical subjects allow you to do lots of practical skills, and using your hands to create something is very rewarding, and can save a lot of money over time. Hoping everyone else is finding different skills to practise during a time of great opportunity.

Mr Love



Hi folks, hope you're all safe and well. During lockdown, when not working away, I've been trying to keep myself busy and one of the ways I've been doing this is by baking - don't be surprised if I'm a bit rounder when you see me next haha. My other addiction has now become TikTok (I blame Miss McNeil) where I have been trying to learn the newest dances, and relive some of my glory days as a dancer and cheerleader. This has provided much needed hilarity in these difficult times so have a feeling I'll keep this up for a while at least. Who knows, I may pop up on your #fyp some-time soon!

Mr Elliot



Being a keen cyclist, during the Easter Holidays, I completed a 50 mile loop that took in all North Ayrshire Mainland Secondary Schools. Although it was a challenge, I got a lovely day for it and it was great to see that all the schools were still there!

Mr Couper

MESSAGES FROM LOCKDOWN...



I saw this posted by a fellow North Ayrshire Council employee (original credit to them) and would like to share...

"Conversations will not be in lockdown, relationships will not be in lockdown, love will not be in lockdown, songs will not be in lockdown, reading will not be in lockdown, hope will not be in lockdown.

May we lean into the good stuff that remains: our pupils, our parents, our carers, our staff, our community and our key workers"

Mr McNiff

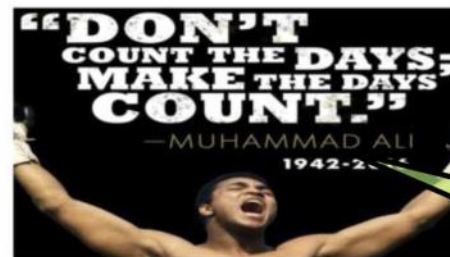
My routine has now moved from running around the school to sitting rather a lot! (and as we know, I don't like to sit down!) I have taken to working out everyday using the Nike training app. Great way to do exercises that suit your level of ability (I am sure Miss Howie would be pleased to hear that I am still setting targets!). Missing absolutely everyone. This is making me realise just how much I miss the kids and catching up with them!

Mrs Gibson



I've been keeping busy painting, baking and taking a million photos of my dog. Having a routine in place has really helped keep me busy and happy!

Mrs Mithem



Stay safe!

Mrs Andrews

During isolation in our house we have been going daily walks to the Dean Park in Kilmarnock and enjoyed a bit of baking- mars bar cake was delicious. I have also been learning some new skills- she can now do a headstand and has learned a TikTok dance with my daughter.

Miss Wotherspoon



MESSAGES FROM LOCKDOWN...

I have been keeping busy by doing jigsaws (only took me 5 weeks ha ha!) and doing yoga. I have kept up with my family and friends on Zoom by organising quizzes for us including Miss McNeil and Miss Merrilees – who was terrible. I think I could give Bradley Walsh a run for his money! Hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Miss McCormack



I've been spending time renovating my house— so far I've painted, laid new flooring and wallpapered! I've also been taking time to create scrapbooks of my recent travels across the globe and of course I've been having daily facetimes with my fur-baby Mr. Darcy who still lives with my mum (his gran) - I'm missing his snuggles and sass! Oh and I've also been writing/editing this newsletter...

Miss McNeil



I've been spring cleaning, baking, attempting to complete a jigsaw and Facetimeing my family and friends. Hoping everyone is well and staying safe!

Miss Merrilees



Mrs Murray has been putting her artistic skills to good use and has painted her garden fence. Now her fence and her arms have a lovely summer glow. Mr McAvoy and Miss Carten have been getting lots of fresh air out walking their dogs. They've even managed to test the laws of gravity and motion when throwing balls for Indy and Rossi to catch. Miss Carten has also been studying the states of matter by doing lots of home baking. Miss Stewart has been using her knowledge of photosynthesis to do some gardening with the help of all her pets, especially her pig as he loves the sunshine. Mr Sinclair has been out running every day with his bottle of H₂O to keep him hydrated. His goal is to make sure he keeps in shape for all his dance moves. Mrs Denham and Miss Sharp have also been out running and doing online exercise classes, where they have seen respiration in action, to work off all the home baking they have been digesting. . We are missing you and can't wait to see you in the classroom again soon. Bee-have, bee happy, bee positive and bee safe!

Science Department

GET TO KNOW...

Mr. Elliot Business Education



Describe yourself in three words?

Theatrical. Open-minded. Sarcastic.

Who inspires you?

I have to say my parents. They taught me to always work hard and chase my dreams! They've always believed in me.

Why did you become a teacher?

My previous job was working in a school office, but I also ran the Dance club and helped with the school shows. I loved working directly with the kids and seeing the moments when their hard work paid off. I felt going into teaching would allow me to see more of those 'lightbulb moments'. I've never looked back since!

Favourite place in the world?

New York City! I love everything about it.

What's your favourite movie?

Depends on my mood, but I love anything with Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds.

Last TV show you binge watched?

'Cheer' on Netflix!

If you could, who would you most like to switch lives with for the day?

Lin-Manuel Miranda— American composer, stage and screen star.

If you had a super power, what would it be?

Hands down teleportation! Would never need to buy a tank of fuel again!

Theme tune to describe your life?

Lady Gaga—Just Dance

Favourite quote?

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, its about learning to dance in the rain.

Interesting fact about yourself?

I've danced with a professional from Strictly Come Dancing (Kristina Rihanoff)!

Best moment at Irvine Royal so far...

Closing night of 'Mary Poppins'. I was so full of pride in the cast and crew at what we managed to achieved! We built up a show family which will last for years!

GET TO KNOW...

Mrs. Mitchem Art & Design



Describe yourself in three words?

Kind. Creative. Strange.

Who inspires you?

My dog, Freya. She inspires me to work hard every day so I can give her a good life!

Why did you become a teacher?

To spread the joy of Art and Design and to work with creative young people.

Favourite place in the world?

Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, USA or the full state of Oregon because I can be immersed in Nature, eat amazing donuts and go whale watching!

What's your favourite movie?

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.

Last TV show you binge watched?

Currently watching 'Arrested Development', but just binged a Malcolm X documentary.

If you could, who would you most like to switch lives with for the day?

Either Autumn Peltier - Canadian environmental activist, or Jonathan Van Ness from 'Queer Eye'.

If you had a super power, what would it be?

Teleportation, so I could travel the world and not need to get the bus to work!

Theme tune to describe your life?

Florence & the Machine—Shake it Out

Favourite quote?

"Live your life so when its time to die, even the reaper cries" - Red Hot Chilli Peppers

Interesting fact about yourself?

I am an artist and have had work displayed in London's Royal Academy of Art.

Best moment at Irvine Royal so far...

The day they served battered vegetarian square sausage, chips and curry sauce at the canteen for lunch; or every time someone gets 'Artwork of the Month', I get to see the smile on their face and it just makes my day!

Class of 2020 Yearbook



This year's yearbook is nearing completion. Special thanks to the yearbook team for all their support and hard work. Like most things at the moment, it is posing a few challenges for the team, however, we are near completion and hope to have it ready for the S6 prom. Special thanks to Jack Warnock, our Parent Council and Theresa Potter for being successful in their bid for funding.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the finished book or any previous yearbooks, please get in touch. (see email address below).

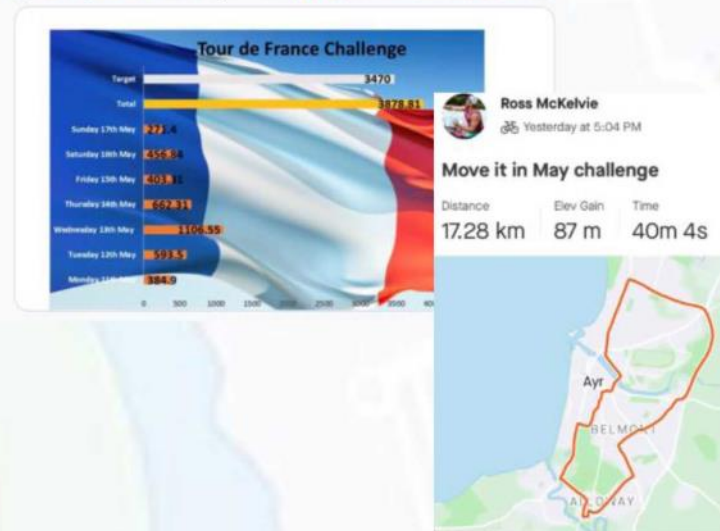
Every year we look for companies to advertise in the book. If you would be interested in supporting our fundraising for 2021 yearbook, please get in touch via gw07gibsonlaura@glow.sch.uk

#MoveItMay Challenge

A tour of Europe when holidaying abroad is looking unlikely this summer, so to learn about different languages and cultures and to increase physical activity and mental wellbeing, the PE department organised 'Move it May'. So far pupils and staff have been walking, jogging or cycling the length of John O'Groats to Land's End and the Tour De France. The next stop is el Camino de Santiago in Spain to earn the Compostela certificate!

This challenge has been fantastic motivation to get moving during lockdown, with many taking up new hobbies such as running and cycling! Overall, 'Move It May' has really united the wider school community during this difficult time—and also provided some interhouse competition between departments and staff! The success of the challenge even caught the attention of the local press and an article was published in the Irvine Times! We can't wait to see what other challenges are coming next...

 Irvine Royal PE Dept @IrvineRoyalPE · May 18
🌟🌟 Move it in May, Tour De France Challenge Update 🇫🇷🇫🇷🇫🇷. We successfully walked/jogged/cycled the entire 3470km of the Tour De France and then travelled an additional 408km 🏆. What an amazing effort from our @IrvineRoyalAcad community this week 🙌 #teamworkmakesthedreamwork



Haysholm Visit

Haysholm is a non-denominational school for pupils aged 5 – 18 with complex additional support needs, located in Irvine. Mrs Macfarlane, Mr Sinclair and Miss Stewart organised a winter themed morning with pupils to inspire their curiosity in science. The staff had great fun engaging with the young people in activities such as slime making, snow globe production and using bath bombs. The pupils from Haysholm had a fantastic time, making their own snow globes and enjoying the sensory experience of the winter slime they made. Mr Dreyer also made an appearance to support our team and the young people of Haysholm. The Science department can't wait to visit again next year and have more fun!



Science Centre Trip



On Thursday the 20th of February S1 pupils visited Glasgow Science Centre to participate in a cyber security event. This allowed pupils to interact with professionals in the field of ethical hacking in order to learn more about the latest ways to stay safe online. This included learning about how long it would take for a supercomputer to hack their passwords and learning to crack codes using ethical hacking software. In addition to this, pupils were welcomed into the Science Centre's Planetarium. This spectacular state-of-the-art fulldome digital projection system encouraged pupils to be fascinated by space and increase their understanding of the universe. Finally, pupils were allowed to explore the science mall where they were able to interact with many of the fascinating displays and learn many of the real-world applications of science.

Medics Against Violence



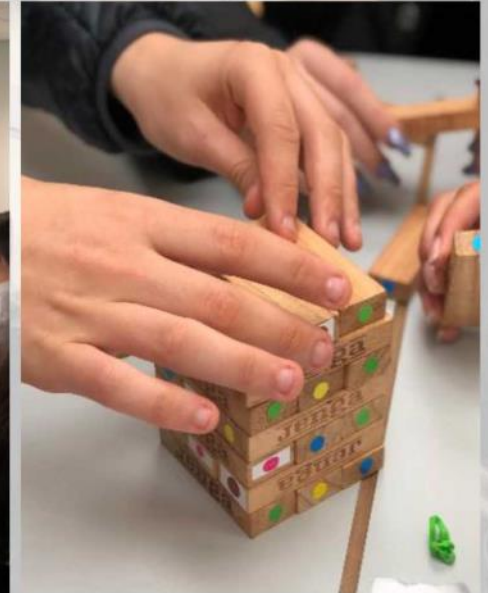
After Glasgow was recognised as the murder capital of Europe in 2008, the Scottish charity 'Medics Against Violence' was established and senior Modern Studies pupils at Irvine Royal Academy had the privilege to receive a presentation from three of their medical professionals.

During the presentation, each representative shared their own personal experiences of working with patients in Scotland who had fallen victim to extreme violence and the impact this has had on the lives of the victims, the attackers and the medical professionals who provided treatment. The presentation also included voices from various other people associated with violent crime, such as police officers and family members who have been affected. Students were also able to participate in a question and answering session with the medical professionals and delve further into their experiences of working on the front line. This experience overall was fascinating and strongly established the message that prevention is better than a cure!

Climate Ready Classrooms

Keep Scotland Beautiful, a charity run by the Scottish government, visited Irvine Royal Academy to deliver the 'Climate Ready Classrooms' workshop to Miss McNeil and S3 Geography pupils. During the workshop, pupils got the opportunity to work directly with an environmental scientist who is working directly with the Scottish government to tackle climate change. Pupils learned the current imbalance between carbon sinks and carbon sources and the impact rising carbon emissions is subsequently having on our planet.

North Ayrshire Council recently announced a 'climate emergency', hence this workshop was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to engage in taking this initiative forward. Irvine Royal Academy are the first school in North Ayrshire to participate in the 'Climate Ready Classrooms' workshop and all pupils who were involved received Carbon Literacy accreditation for their efforts. All pupils have been encouraged to take their learning from this workshop forward and educate the wider school community on the reality of our current climate emergency.

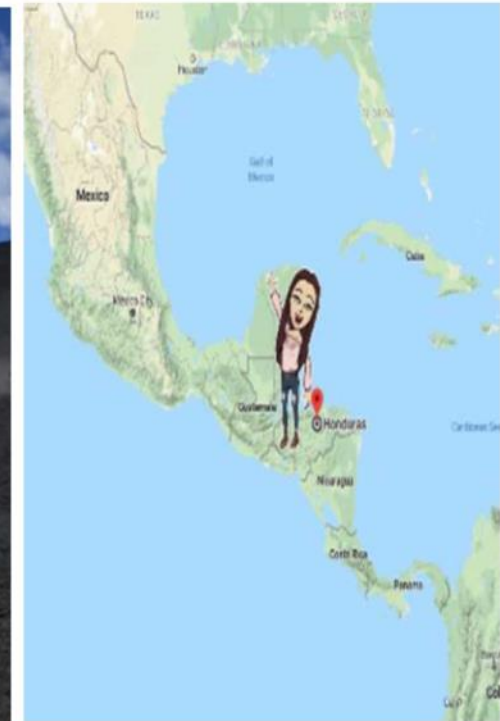


Counter Terrorism Unit

Senior Modern Studies and RMPS pupils were fortunate to receive a visit from an officer working for the Ayrshire Counter Terrorism Group—a specialised unit within Police Scotland. During the presentation, students learned about different terrorist organisations and how these groups are using propaganda to perform global radicalisation through social media. The officer also provided an insight into de-escalation strategies that are being implemented both locally and globally to protect and safeguard our communities and their success rates.

Students were also made aware of the different levels of terrorism and the impact each attack can make, through the incorporation of recent examples of terrorism, such as the London and Manchester events. Later in the presentation, the officer opened the floor and allowed students to ask any questions they had, which created many opportunities for important conversations to be had. This presentation was an extremely valuable experience for our students and their learning!

Language Linking Global Thinking



Since August, S3 Spanish pupils have been enjoying regular blogs from our SCILT contact Alice in Honduras. She has been updating pupils with her progress and her experience during her gap year, which she is spending teaching English in a local school.

S3 pupils have had the privilege and opportunity to reply to her blogs and ask questions about her experience living and working abroad. In her most recent blog, students enjoyed learning about volcano boarding—which is essentially snowboarding on gravel!

MFL P7 Transition

Since August, Miss Webb and Mrs Forsell have been delivering weekly lessons in both French and Spanish to Primary 7 pupils within our local cluster. Staff have loved getting the opportunity to share their passion for foreign language with primary staff and pupils and have also enjoyed getting to know the future pupils of Irvine Royal Academy whilst doing so!

Both Miss Webb and Mrs Forsell hope that this budding relationship will help ease the transition from primary to secondary for all pupils involved and provide a strong start to their future experience in the languages department! They hope to continue this partnership in the future!

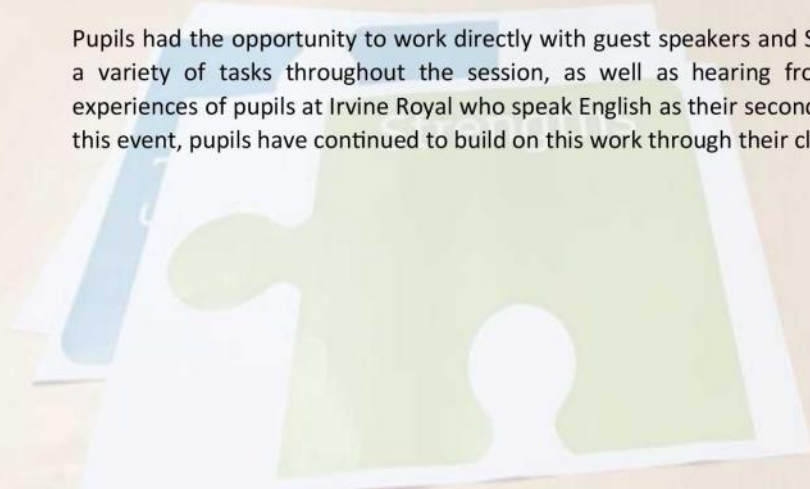


DYW Generation Global



Third year pupils took part in a Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) event that was centred around the advantages of studying a foreign language and the careers that stem from this field as they make their subject choices for fourth year.

Pupils had the opportunity to work directly with guest speakers and Skills Scotland on a variety of tasks throughout the session, as well as hearing from the personal experiences of pupils at Irvine Royal who speak English as their second language. Since this event, pupils have continued to build on this work through their class activities.



Trip to Tinto

Mrs Forsell and her group of staff learners enjoyed putting their Spanish into action by ordering and sampling some traditional Spanish tapas at Tinto in Troon. The group have been meeting on a weekly basis and learning Spanish outside school hours— they have even been completing homework activities to improve their knowledge and understanding of the language, so it was lovely to celebrate their achievements and new skills!

It was also a timely opportunity to say *hasta luego* to Mrs Brown, a former teaching assistant at Irvine Royal Academy, and wish her well on her new venture!



S1 Library Visits



In March, the first groups of S1 English classes travelled by foot to visit their local library. During their visit, pupils were given a tour of the library and informed about which services and facilities are available to them that could not only support their learning at school, but also enhance their personal interests outside!

Reading for Gold

This year our S1 and S2 pupils have been 'Reading for Gold'! This is an exciting reading competition that allows pupils to read five books of their choice, whilst completing a task to go with the book. Our pupils have completed some great written tasks such as book reviews, letters to authors and creating their own quiz. When each pupil completes their Bronze level they move onto Silver and finally Gold. Well done to all of our successful readers who have boosted their literacy skills whilst learning more about the many exciting worlds within fiction and non-fiction!

Keep on reading!

Reading for Bronze	
S1	S2
Ryan McKendrick	Daniel Wilson
Jack Lawson	Jessica Thomson
Daniel Colvin	Paige Norton
Chad Jenkins	Erin McLeod
Kayleigh Murray	Lara Alcroft
Kieran Walker	Ben Syme
Aiden Kennedy	
Tegan Hickmott	
Phoebe McIntyre	
Garry Marshall	
Brandon McCardle	
Siobhan Kilcoyne	
Casey Mills	
Boyd Scott	
Aimee Ferguson	
Marci Brown	
Beth Harper	
Lennon Tyler	
Egan Palmer	
Paul Cairns	

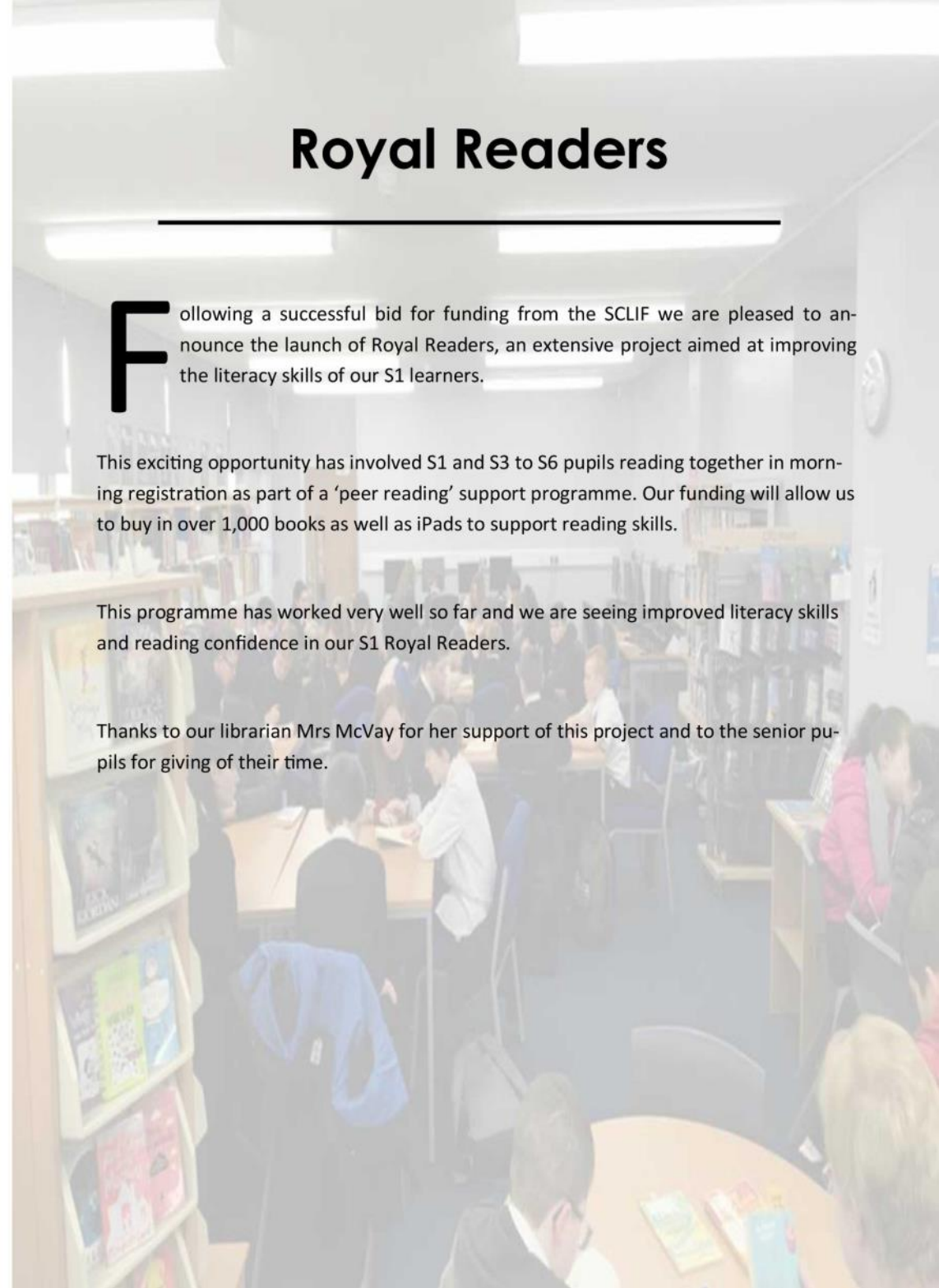
Royal Readers

Following a successful bid for funding from the SCLIF we are pleased to announce the launch of Royal Readers, an extensive project aimed at improving the literacy skills of our S1 learners.

This exciting opportunity has involved S1 and S3 to S6 pupils reading together in morning registration as part of a 'peer reading' support programme. Our funding will allow us to buy in over 1,000 books as well as iPads to support reading skills.

This programme has worked very well so far and we are seeing improved literacy skills and reading confidence in our S1 Royal Readers.

Thanks to our librarian Mrs McVay for her support of this project and to the senior pupils for giving of their time.



UKMT Team Challenge

The UKMT Team Challenge is a series of UK-wide events composed of four rounds that make great use of problem-solving, team work and communication skills. For the first time, Irvine Royal Academy joined 23 other schools at Edinburgh University's informatics forum to compete for the chance to be one of the 90 schools to go through to the UK finals in London. Alas, our team did not win. However the Edinburgh event was one of 4 taking place in Scotland, meaning Irvine Royal was only one of around 100 schools taking part in the regional finals out of 339 secondary schools in Scotland.

Our amazing team of 4 was made up of Bayley Hanvey (S1), Chad Jenkins (S1), Hailey Allison (S2) and Sarah Jeffrey (S2); faced off against home competition first of all by being successful in the UKMT individual assessment, with 13 pupils going forward. However, it could have been 48 as that's how many pupils were interested in taking part! Despite not winning, our fantastic four upheld the school values throughout and we should all be very proud of them. The pupils had a great time during this trip and we can only reflect and look forward to next years competition. They very much worked well as a team from selection to the end—using up their lunchtimes to practice for the event! Please do wish them a well done if you see them!



Darts Club



North Ayrshire has a strong darts presence to such an extent that many of our own pupils play outside of school. After speaking to pupils involved, the idea was suggested to start a club with the hope of extending it to other schools in North Ayrshire and hopefully create a small league.

Is there a link to education? Well the pupils who play darts have an excellent numeracy ability and it cannot be a coincidence. Additionally there are articles about schools across the globe who have introduced darts and have seen an improvement in numeracy. Pupils who may not enjoy the subject, do enjoy playing darts but don't see they are actually improving their numeracy at the same time. It cannot be underestimated the amount of mental maths involved playing darts.

Currently our own club has just started. The hope is to try and have a pupil team and a staff team to present the school in the wee league in the future. Anyone who is interested, pupil or staff, contact Mr McNiff in maths. Currently the club takes place at Friday lunchtimes and pupils who are interested must have no referrals this year in order to join.

VR & Gaming Club



VR and Gaming Irvine Royal Academy

Even Playstation and board games have a strong mathematical link. Elements of imagination, creativity and logic are required in order to be successful at many computer and board games. As such, there is a VR & Gaming club every Monday lunchtime. We alternate between VR and board games each week. Spaces are limited every week so don't worry if you miss out one week you can reserve a space the following week. Anyone who is interested, please contact Mr McNiff in maths.

Outstanding Artwork

Kaitlyn Kentfield has been excelling in developing her photograph skills. This simple teapot composition is full of drama and mystery thanks to the lighting creating a strong tonal contrast.



Khiara's work on her 'Zine' – mini magazine is thoughtful, refined and eye-catching. Khiara has clearly understood the design brief and has shown her creativity in this piece of design.



Ski Trip 2020

Pila, Italy

Twenty-two pupils went on a week-long excursion between Saturday 4th and Friday 10th January to the Italian Alps to learn or develop their skiing skills. Pupils spent 5 days on the Pila slopes with their Italian ski instructors learning the basics of the snow plough to developing their carving and parallel turning. Pupils got to experience the Alpine lifestyle along with seeing some incredible sites (Mount Blanc & The Matterhorn), taking part in extra-curricular activities such as bowling, arcades and a Disco and trying some of Italy's finest cuisine. *Staff: Mr Couper, Miss Howie & Mr McAvoy.*



North Ayrshire Sports Academy



North Ayrshire Sports Academy (NASA) pupils Ayli McInnes, Amy Dickson, Jayde Watret & Molly Wyllie took part in 3 days of coach education workshops. The S6 pupils undertook courses in Athletics, Netball, Volleyball & an Anti-Sectarian Football course called Bridges & Barriers. The 4 NASA pupils delivered extra-curricular sports and physical activity sessions in Annick Primary, Castlepark Primary & Woodlands Primary. They delivered to pupils from P1-P7.

Charlie McLean achieved an amazing 500 hours of volunteering for his Saltire Award!! He started the award at the beginning of his volunteering journey with Active Schools in the 2018/19 academic year and completed the 500 hours this term. Charlie was part of our North Ayrshire Sports Academy.

Extra-Curricular Sports

The extra-curricular sports programme had a busy term 2. In particular, the lunch clubs were thriving with the PE department, sports leaders and other school staff delivering a range of sports clubs. This term the Netball club continued their growth & Mrs Cains team showed great improvement in their matches against other schools



The PE department & Active Schools worked together to deliver a P7 Transition sports club to pupils from Annick Primary, Castlepark Primary, Loudoun Montgomery Primary & Woodlands Primary. Thanks to Mr McKelvie & the sports leaders for delivering the 6 week club.

The Dance club led by two S4 pupils Kenzay Gibson & Kenzi Farr and supported by Miss Stewart took part in the Active Schools Dance competition at Greenwood Academy. The group of dancers ranging from S1-S3 performed excellently on the day and did the school proud.



S2-S4 Sports Leaders

S2-S4 Sports Leaders Programme- A group of highly motivated young S2-S4 pupils completed an in-school coach education programme with Active Schools. The pupils took part in 4 weeks of workshops to provide them with the skills to deliver extra-curricular sports sessions in the local Primary Schools. Most of the pupils have been out delivering sessions this term.

Irvine Royals young sports leaders have been delivering an amazing number of voluntary hours a week in the Academy and local Irvine Primary Schools. During term 2 pupils have delivered in Annick Primary, Castlepark Primary, St Marks Primary, Woodlands Primary and Irvine Royal Academy. On average Irvine Royal pupils have delivered a total of 15 hours extra-curricular per week in the Irvine Schools. That works out at roughly 150 hours volunteering in term 3 from our amazing sports leaders at Irvine Royal. What an inspiration they are to all the young people in the school and local community.



Traditional Music

Robert Burns celebrations were also in full force as S1 and S2 looked at Scottish Instruments, Scottish groups and 'Tam O'shanter' the musical overture by Malcolm Arnold. Elsewhere Bronte and Nicola were invited to perform a Scottish programme at Ladies Winton Bowling Club for their Burns Supper. The girls were piped in to the top table and enjoyed a traditional meal, before entertaining the group.

Continuing with the Scottish theme, Lauren and Nicola represented Irvine Royal at the North Ayrshire Traditional Musician of the Year competition. Nicola was placed runner up in her category. We have also had a number of S1 and S2 girls performing on violin and viola at the recent Ayrshire Music Festival, well done and thank you for your hard work and dedication.



Young Musician of the Year



January saw our annual Young Musician and Young Singer of the Year Competitions. Congratulations to Nicola, Carmen and Bronte for their placings and all the other girls for their performances. Mr Kee (English), Miss Tomelty (English), Mr Eliot (Business Studies) and Miss Bethell (DHT) kindly gave up their time to adjudicate and were very complimentary about all participants. Nicola went on to represent Irvine Royal at the Rotary Clubs Young Musician Competition at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, in Glasgow.

Meet Miss Wotherspoon

I want to introduce myself to all parents, carers and pupils in Irvine Royal Academy. My name is Karen Wotherspoon and I am so happy to have been recently appointed as the Principal Teacher of Pupil Support. I began in this new role on Monday the 16th of March but due to the current situation I have been unable to meet with as many of you as I would have liked. Therefore, I am using the Newsletter as an opportunity for you to get to know me a little better in the hope that I get to meet you in the not too distant future..



I have taught for the last eleven years in Kilwinning Academy where I started out as a Chemistry Teacher and remained in this position for six years. I then moved from teaching my subject to join the Integrated Support Team where for five years I was in the privileged position of covering two different roles. I initially covered a secondment for two years as Principal Teacher of Pastoral Support and latterly I was the Nurture Teacher for Kilwinning Academy.

Throughout my teaching career I have always shown a determination to meet the needs of all learners, and have understood the importance of forming positive relationships with parents, carers and outside agencies. I am very much looking forward to working in partnership with all those who help to ensure the young people in Irvine Royal achieve their potential.

Finally, I am excited to lead a team within which there already exists a commitment to provide all learners with the same opportunities to succeed. As the department grows I am keen to engage with more of our learners and provide the best possible targeted support to those who need it.

Everyone at Irvine Royal Academy are delighted to welcome Miss Wotherspoon as part of the team and look forward to working with her when we return!

S1 Numeracy Group

The S1 numeracy life skills course has been developed and delivered by Mr Muirhead this term. Each week this group spend a double period in the Home Economics department where they work in pairs to bake. During this activity pupils learn about different units of measure and the practicalities of measuring ingredients. Then using division strategies they allocate cakes to pupils and staff in the group. Other activities include budgeting and working out profit margins.

In terms of life skills, pupils are shown how to operate an electrical oven, work out temperatures and timings and learn how to clean up after themselves. The main focus has been to build confidence in maths while interacting with others. This has been a great experience for all involved where adults have observed the improvement in pupil's confidence, specifically commenting on the number of positive relationships that are being formed in this group. Young people are clearly thriving in this environment, with one girl stating, "This group is the best part of my week".

The group also spend time in the classroom where they use different programs and strategies to consolidate the learning that takes place in the kitchen. We look forward to recommencing this group when we return!

