



CEDARS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the new term and our Autumn newsletter.

September 2023



A message from our Headteacher

Dear Cedars Family, as our October holiday approaches, we celebrate a wonderful first term. The dynamism that our staff bring to the school is seen in the opportunities and challenges our learners have enjoyed over the last few weeks.

From exploring the beautiful outdoors in the West of Scotland, to engaging with local charity 'Refuweegee;' from our innovative programs which nurture the whole individual - Discovery, Stepping Stones and Gateway - to academic pursuits such as Book Club and Debate Club; and from 'Hot Chocolate Friday' to our new outdoor reading library - it is evident that all our pupils are encouraged and inspired to push the boundaries of their own experience and abilities in order to seize the opportunities that abound in Cedars School.

In these pages, you'll see some of the 'moments' of this term, including scholarly pursuits, sporting and musical endeavours, community engagement, museum visits, guest speakers - and so much more including news of our Farmers Markets' stalls!

The impact of a Cedars education is seen in the outstanding exam results our pupils enjoyed this summer. We congratulate the Leavers of 2023 who have embarked upon apprenticeships, or courses at University of Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian University, West College Scotland and Clydebank College.

The Cedars experience is not solely about academic excellence; but the development of character and a resilient spirit, a zest for life and a compassion for others. The breadth of experiences that we offer our learners is only possible with the support of a wonderful team of volunteers, and of course our dedicated staff. I am so grateful to all our parents, families, and supporters who help make Cedars truly a school where every child belongs and can realise their fullest potential.

I look forward to seeing you all over the next weeks. Enjoy your autumn newsletter and be inspired by the remarkable pupils of Cedars School.

Very best wishes

Emma Rukin

Headteacher

Christmas Service



Cedars School Christmas
Celebration

Friday 15th December @
19:00

Please join us for this retelling
of the Christmas story
through drama and song.

Work Experience



S5-6 have work their Work
Experience week
9th to 13th of October

School Holidays



School closes for the October
Holiday on Friday 13th October
and reopens
at 09:00 on Monday the 30th of
October.

We wish you all a happy break.

New Chair of the School Board

We are very pleased to welcome Andrea Wyllie as Chair of Cedars School Board.



Andrea brings a wealth of experience in the private and third sectors, and will bring fresh insight.

Andrea is the current Chief Executive of the Greenock Medical Aid Society. We look forward to working with her. Andrea can be contacted by email at: chair@cedars.school

Our Parent Representative on the Board is Robin Scorthorne and he can be contacted by email at: parentrep@cedars.school

Thanks to our Outgoing Chair

We owe an enormous debt of thanks to our outgoing Chair of the School Board, Jennifer Jack.

Jennifer has steered the growth and development of Cedars School for 24 years, from our earliest days in Larkfield, to the successful, growing school we are today.

We are so thankful for the experience and wisdom she has brought to this role for almost a quarter of a century, and for the incredible support she has provided staff.

We wish Jennifer all the very best in her well-deserved retirement!

Exam Results

We had a 100% pass rate at National 2 - 4 levels.

Pupils also achieved Advanced Highers in Art and French. The tables below show how our results at National 5 and Higher compare to the national figures. Well done to all our pupils who did so well.

National 5 Results 2023			Higher Results 2023		
	National	Cedars		National	Cedars
A	39%	64%	A	33%	43%
A to C	79%	95%	A to C	77%	86%
D	11%	5%	D	13%	14%
No award	10%	0%	No award	10%	0%

The Reading School

The Creative Writing Club restarts for S2 – S4. Last session, we received a Bronze Reading Schools accreditation and we are now aiming for Silver.

Mrs Atkinson has set up an outdoor library for primary students and we now have cushions and rugs to create cosy reading spaces in the GP room during wet intervals and lunchtimes.

Mrs Creighton is running two Senior School Book Clubs. This term the book choice is *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.



S3-6 students are meeting at lunchtime to discuss their book on Wednesday 4th October and S1-2 students are meeting on 1st November.

Parents and friends of the school are welcome to join in by commenting on the relevant Instagram posts on @cedarsschool and @cedarsreaders.

You should have all received an email from Mrs Deary with details about joining Inverclyde Libraries.

We have plenty of other plans afoot to promote reading for pleasure. To keep up to date with our reading adventures and to read and hear book reviews, follow @cedarsreaders on Instagram.



Community Evenings

A huge thank you to all who came to our Community Evening.

Lighthouse performed two super pieces and we were delighted to introduce our new Head Boy (Lochlan Cartwright) and Head Girl (Emma Crosby).

Our teachers spent time with parents, where we looked at the year ahead and discussed what you can expect in each year group.

We finished with a closer look at how school and home can work together to support our young people's learning.

Gateway

Our Gateway students enjoyed their start of term enrolment at Auchenofoyle Campsite near Kilmacolm.

Our students met their Success Mentors for the first time before joining together in a variety of workshops and seminars.

Preparation for practice interviews is well underway and students conducted their first networking event at the end of September.

We are indebted to the support of our School Society who give their time and expertise so willingly to support our students in developing as: **confident, connected communicators.**

If you are a professional or business owner interested in joining our School Society, please speak to Miss Rukin.

Stepping Stones

We have a new slogan that encapsulates the vision of these weekly sessions: **Learn today, lead tomorrow.**

We cover an incredible range of skills, knowledge and understanding, and enjoy a chance to engage with a wide range of individuals who inspire our pupils as they prepare to become global citizens who lead in making a difference to society.

Discovery

Discovery is our new, Junior programme which leads into Stepping Stones and Gateway. Pupils are **'discovering our world and our place in it.'**

This term, Miss Black has created a range of stimulating learning sessions around the theme of 'My World of Work.' Pupils have enjoyed exploring different professions, taking part in individual and group activities to build on their knowledge and understanding, and learned to recognise and develop skills that will benefit them as they grow. As well as visits from professionals, we have trips out into the local community to discover more about places of work.

Cedars School Society

Our school society is a hub for alumni and professionals who are interested in supporting the school.

Membership is free and involves being added to the Society's mailing list.

Members are invited to visit our Stepping Stones or Gateway programmes to help connect our senior pupils with suitable professionals in areas they are interested in.

If you would like to join the School Society, please email er@cedars.school



The DofE Award scheme aims:

- encourage pupils to become more aware of others,
- develop high-level teamwork and leadership skills,
- help them to learn to appreciate their environment,
- foster the development of their own abilities,
- give them opportunities to become more self-reliant.

Over this past year a number of pupils in S4 have been working on their Bronze Award.

This is a gentle reminder for those pupils to submit their evidence and make sure that their assessors have completed the reports for each section!

As in previous years, all pupils in S3 and upwards are given the opportunity to participate in the DofE programme.

If you are interested in completing either the Bronze, Silver, or Gold award, please let Miss Bell know.

kb@cedars.school

For further information visit the Duke of Edinburgh's Award website - <http://www.dofe.org/>

For pupils needing to upload evidence on their accounts use - <http://edofe.org/>



Senior PE

This term S1-4 are working on developing their personal fitness on Mondays and on Wednesdays

They are working on developing their badminton skills. Once again the pupils are competing to see who will win the Athlete of the Day and win a day out of school.

Art & Design

It has been a positive start in art for all pupils at Cedars, so far this session!

The following is a snapshot of what pupils have been engaged in:

- J6/7 - Learning about the colour wheel;
- S1 - learning how to use paint to make the secondary and tertiary colours as well as how to make colours darker and lighter;
- S2 - creating landscape art by referring to a time lapse teaching video resource;
- S3 - Still life drawing and creating compositions using photography;
- S4 - Mask Design;
- S5 - Bodice Design.

Mathematics

Our senior pupils have many opportunities to practise mathematics at home.

All pupils have access to the **Complete Mathematics TUTOR** platform. This leads students through mathematics at the correct level to improve knowledge and skills.

S1 and S2 pupils can practise **Numeracy Ninjas** and **Sumdog**. A few minutes a day makes a big difference! National 5 and Higher students can also use **SCHOLAR** at home to reinforce learning.

Further information, including login details, are in each pupil's Google Classroom.

Please contact Mr Creighton if you have any questions. ac@cedars.school

Science

Higher Biology pupils recently enjoyed a day visiting the laboratories at Strathclyde University where they carried out a PCR reaction.

This important technique is the basis of most molecular and forensic laboratory work and is a key learning outcome in the Higher course. Dr Martin has just received the results from the pupil's experiments and is pleased to report that they obtained an excellent result.



In Chemistry, S3 have just finished a topic on Rates of Reaction while S4-S5 are steadily working their way towards their exams in May!

Meanwhile S1 and S2 have been working on a topic called "Healthy Bodies", as part of this they have looked at the health triangle, respiratory system, digestive system, and circulatory system, thankfully most pupils managed to find their pulse!



Social Subjects

We are off to a flying start this year!

S1 are learning about the importance of human rights and S2 have started learning about terrorism and some of the problems this causes in our society.

S3 are developing their historical skills as they start looking at the Atlantic Slave Trade.

Our seniors in S4-S6 are also taking steps to prepare themselves for the busy academic year ahead!

Debate club will also be back very soon, Miss Wilkie is open to ideas for debate topics!

Business Management

S3 students are gaining an understanding of the types of businesses there are, and who might own, control and finance them.

S3 students are also beginning to learn Business Management language, in words such as 'dividend', 'economy', 'profit' and 'industry'.

S5 students recently presented the method(s) of growth that the larger businesses have adopted.

S4 students are busy refreshing their knowledge of the course content, in preparation for past paper revision!

S5/6 are shown here sitting their first test in October.

They have been covering topics such as External factors affecting businesses and the extended Marketing Mix.



Francais

French teaching is underway once again at Cedars, with all pupils in the Junior School having a languages input each week.

In the Senior School, S1 is learning to communicate information about themselves and others, and S2 are figuring out how to talk about the past in another language.

S3 have made a great start to senior French, with a unit about school, while S4 are beginning their exam year by learning to speak about their holidays! Encouraged by great N5 exam results, the Higher class are revising grammar, and working through a writing unit.

All classes are becoming confident communicators, and having fun in the process. 🇫🇷🍷

Did you know that we've registered Cedars School with **easyfundraising** and you could help us to raise funds for the school at no extra cost to yourself?! This is a great opportunity to raise much needed funds for the school! When you shop online, with over 7,500 of your favourite brands; including John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, eBay, notonthehighstreet; you will raise FREE donations for Cedars School. If you're not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the easyfundraising website or app straightaway.

Visit our easyfundraising page to get started using the QR code shown here.



Junior School News

Junior 1 to 3

J1-3 have had a busy start to the term.

We have been learning a variety of skills in language and numeracy such as initial letters, reading comprehension, doubles to 20 and numbers to 100.

We have been engaging in a variety of learning experiences throughout each week such as French, Drama, PE, Art, Outdoor Learning, HWB, STEM activities and visits from members of our community for our People Who Help Us topic.



Junior 4 & 5

The children have made an excellent start to the year and are working hard on developing their maths and language skills.

The class have started a topic on the Vikings and enjoyed a trip to Largs to see the Viking Village. Skiing lessons at the Glasgow Ski and Snowboarding Centre are much enjoyed.



Junior 6 & 7

The year has got off to a super start with everyone very focussed on their learning.

Transitus are enjoying lessons with secondary teachers and P6 are joining them for some of this time.

In Social Studies they are learning about Mary Queen of Scots, while in Maths the focus is on place value. Much of the English learning is based on the novel study 'Holes'.

We have a number of trips organised in the coming months and have already taken part in a workshop at the Burrell Collection which was based on expressing yourself and thinking about our Identities past and present.

The skiing block is well underway and the young people are building on their skills from previous years.



Late News

Come and join us in the community – promoting Cedars School @ Farmers Markets' stalls this Autumn

- Oct 21st @ Bishopton
- Oct 28th @ Gourrock
- November 18th @ Bishopton
- November 25th @ Gourrock



FIRST LEGO League Challenge

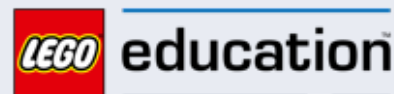
We're off to a great start with 25 pupils from Junior 7, Senior 1 and Senior 2.

This year's challenge is MasterPiece and is quite different from last year.

STEM has become STEAM with the inclusion of an Arts theme!

It's early days but the table models are built and in place. The students are now concentrating upon building their robots and working out how best to manoeuvre them round the objects using the motorised programmable hub and the four sensors of:

- Force
- Distance
- Colour
- Gyro



We have five teams of five. It's certainly fun!



Team training

Staff and volunteers enjoyed a fantastic team day before the start of term, with training from Dr Dougie Marks, Behavioural Scientist, University of Glasgow. Dr Marks delivered an insightful and thought-provoking session on the relationship between thoughts, emotions, behaviour, environment and culture - and the impact these have on wellbeing. This training is playing a pivotal role in our focus on health and wellbeing across our school community this year.



Meet our volunteers

Our volunteers play a pivotal role in our school community.

Our pupils benefit so much from their experience and care. Look out for more of our volunteers in future newsletters



Meet Derek; retired Systems Engineer at BAE who worked with the Royal Navy and other national defence forces. He joins the LEGO League Challenge each Wednesday.

Meet Janet; retired Head Physiotherapist at Erskine Care Homes for veterans. A post she had for 14 years. Janet works across the junior school supporting class teachers on Mondays & Thursdays



Meet Ken; Systems Engineer at Turbine Services Limited with 49 years of experience in the Power Generation and Petrochemical industries. Ken is a keen advocate of STEM and promotes the LEGO League Challenge nationally.



Meet Alison – retired Children Specialist Occupational Therapist with NHS Glasgow & Clyde. Alison works across the junior school supporting class teachers on Wednesdays.



School Facebook & Instagram Accounts

Look out for Facebook and Instagram accounts.

We try to update these on a daily basis – bringing you immediate insight into what is going on across our whole school.

