



Dates for the diary

- 4 Oct – S1 Interim Reports Issued
- 8 Oct – Musical Performances for All Year Groups in the Assembly Hall
- 11 Oct – Term Ends at 12.35pm
- 12- 20 Oct – October Break**
- 21&22 Oct – Staff In-service days**
- 23 Oct – Pupils Resume**
- 24 Oct - S2 Enrichment Change
- 30 Oct – Theatre Company French Play
- 1 Nov – S3 Interim Reports Issued
- 6 Nov – P7 Open Evening
- 8 Nov – Remembrance Assemblies
- 8 Nov - DofE Bronze Training
- 14-29 Nov – S4 Prelims
- 15 Nov – S5/6 Interim Reports Issued
- 15 Nov- DofE Bronze Training
- 19 Nov – S1 and S2 Enrichment Change
- 21 Nov – S5/6 Parents' Evening
- 27 Nov – Higher History Bannockburn Trip
- 28 Nov – S2 Enrichment Change
- 28 Nov – Parents' Association Meeting
- 2-6 Dec – S4 Work Experience Week

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/ Carers

A variety of developments are taking shape across the school. We now have a Senior Student leadership team in place who will help develop student voice within the school. They will be supported by other S6 students who will lead a variety of different portfolios including Charities, Student Voice and Learning to name a few.

Staff are now working collaboratively in a number of working groups across the school including Health and Wellbeing, Learning and Teaching, and Employability and Wider Achievement. The Learning and Teaching strand is focussing on a programme we have called the Big 5 Project which involves staff working to embed 5 key strategies relating to formative assessment, improving teacher, peer and self-evaluation of learning and ensuring young people understand their next steps to improve their learning. As I said in a recent article in the Midlothian Advertiser – Teaching and Learning is very important if we are to improve attainment and wider achievement for all students.

Finally, after the October break we will be asking for feedback from parents around our values which will lead to formulating a clear vision of what we are trying to do for young people. We will also be surveying you about curriculum models for next year.

Due to the budget and staffing situation in Midlothian we will need to look at a phased approach to developing the curriculum over the next few years, however there will still need to be substantial changes into next year to ensure our timetable is efficient and allows reasonable choice into the senior phase. There will be a variety of communication in coming weeks on both these areas.

Craig Biddick, Acting Head Teacher

IMPORTANT: Reporting Absence from School

Parents/Carers are reminded that they should phone the school office each day of their child's absence. The school office is open from 8am.

According to procedure if a pupil feels unwell in school, they should ask to be excused by their class teacher and report to the school office, where staff will contact their parent/carer. Please remind your child of this should they contact you directly during school hours. Any request for a pupil to have time off during term time must be addressed to the Head Teacher.

Driving Lessons - parents please note: Wherever possible, driving lessons should be arranged outwith the school day and only in exceptional circumstances during Study periods, when leave may be granted at the Head Teacher's discretion. Absences during class time will be recorded as 'Unauthorised'.

School Office and Guidance Staff

Parents Association

The Parents' Association exists to bring parents and carers together so they can support the school in providing the best education possible for our children.

The meeting dates for the 2019/20 school year are as follows:

Thurs 28 Nov, Wed 29 Jan, Wed 25 Mar and Thurs 7 May

All meetings are at the school at 7 p.m. (6.45 p.m. for tea /coffee /chat). Please do come along to find out more about what's going on at the school and about how you can get involved.

To find out more about the PA join our Facebook group (Penicuik High School Parents' Association), take a look at our web page (<http://penicuik.mgfl.net/parents/parents-association-2/>) or email us at: penicukhspa@gmail.com

Helen Armstrong, Parents Association

Important Notices for S6 Pupils Applying for University in 2020

LEAPS

As covered in the newsletter last month, a reminder that all S6 pupils were given a presentation by LEAPS during PSE on Thursday 22 August. LEAPS support students who are traditionally under-represented in Higher Education. They offer impartial advice and guidance on any university or college pupils may wish to go to as well as events and activities to support their choices, application and transition into Higher Education. LEAPS support S5/6 pupils at Penicuik High School who have the potential to achieve 3 Highers over 2 sittings and match one or more of the following criteria;

- Student who is the first generation in their family to apply to Higher Education or whose parents do not already hold a degree
- Student from a low income background (e.g. pupil entitled to EMA, free school meals or family receiving income support)
- Student who has spent time in care or being looked after
- Student who is a Young Carer
- Student may also be eligible based on their postcode check at; www.leapsonline.org/eligibility

LEAPS eligible pupils are now being scheduled for a 1:1 interview in school, pre-completion of their UCAS applications. Eligible pupils must complete the pre-interview survey online by going to www.leapssurvey.org (be careful – you cannot save this so it will time out if you do not finish it in one sitting and you may lose all of your information!)

Furthermore, LEAPS are offering their annual Creative Extras event to pupils intending to apply for Art and Design courses. This event will run from 14-18 October. In November, they will also be offering a personal statement workshop and Acting audition preparation. Post-application advice will be offered during Feb and March 2020 as well as the S6 'Unicafe'.

Please note, the deadline for eligibility is 30 November 2019. For more information, please go online or see Mr Saffhill.

UCAS Applications

First drafts of personal statements should be completed by pupils applying to university and handed to the relevant Guidance Teacher by the October break. This is essential in order to allow Guidance staff to check the progress of the pupil's UCAS application including the personal statement and to request input from the appropriate classroom teachers so that an overall school reference can be completed. Guidance staff will return the first draft of the personal statement to pupils to give them time to implement any required changes before the UCAS applications are then submitted before the Christmas break. Please note: although the official UCAS deadline is in January, as a school we work towards the deadline of completing all UCAS references and submitting the applications by the Christmas break at the latest. Pupils have been allocated time to work on the UCAS applications during PSE with the support of Guidance Staff/Careers Advisors. Payment for UCAS applications needs to be made via the school office.

UCAS At the heart of
connecting people
to higher education

The Guidance Team

LEAPS is a partnership of the following organisations:



Penicuik Alumni

We would love to hear from former pupils of Penicuik High School and what they have been up to since leaving.

If you, your son or daughter is 'Penicuik High School Alumni' and would be willing to share their story, a photo/s and the years they attended the school, please get in touch at the email address above - we would love to hear from you!



PARTICIPATION
RESPECT
INCLUSION
DETERMINATION
EXCELLENCE

Edinburgh College Applications and School College Partnership (SCP) Courses

School College Partnership Programme

School College Partnership courses can be taken by pupils going into S4/5/6 as part of their school timetables. These courses can be built into course choices for S4/5/6. An electronic brochure detailing the full SCP offer has been produced for pupils and parents and can be accessed online at: <http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/courses/schools>

A Reminder to all Current College Pupils

All College and FA pupils have been issued with a letter requesting written parental permission. A few of these forms are still outstanding. These should be returned to the Guidance Base as soon as possible.

Pupils are expected to attend every Tuesday and Thursday (unless attending Childcare at Midlothian Campus which is on a Monday PM or advised otherwise by the college or via the pupil newsletter) and only if parental approval has been given.

If you are absent from school on a college day, you must also contact the college to let them know you are going to be absent. This is the pupil/parents' responsibility!

All pupils have been issued with a code of conduct and must ensure they follow this to ensure their placement at college is maintained;

- Pupils must check they are aware of the transport arrangement for getting to and from their course. If getting a taxi they must arrive at the pick-up point in plenty of time and ensure they get in the right one! Transport arrangements can be found on the noticeboard outside the Guidance Base. If getting a bus, they must ensure they have collected tickets from the school office (as they sign out) and that they are leaving class no earlier than the time agreed. Again, please check the noticeboard for details.
- All pupils must sign out before leaving school
- All pupils must attend school in full uniform on a college day but can bring a change of clothes for college
- All pupils must ensure they are organised for lunch - you can't leave school earlier to do this!
- All pupils are responsible for ensuring they keep up to date with any work or notices missed at school whilst attending their college course
- And finally, enjoy your course! Any questions or concerns, please see Ms McLennan

Key Dates (SCP)

2019/20 SCP courses commence run from 1.30pm – 4pm.

Semester 2 will commence on 9th January 2020.

An SCP/FA taster day will be held late October/early November to inform pupil course choices for 2020/21. This will involve interactive activities plus a twilight information session for parents. Further information will be provided soon.

Guidance Department and Careers Advisors



Use the following website to access lots of local employment opportunities.

www.edubuzz.org/midandeastvacancies

- Local Jobs
- Training Opportunities
- Apprenticeships
- Airport Jobs
- Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS card)
- Individual Training Accounts (ITA) £200 towards the cost of learning or training
- Further Education
- Higher Education
- NHS Jobs
- Council Jobs
- Volunteering Opportunities
- SDS Facebook



Skills Development Scotland, 29 Eskbank Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 1HJ

T: 0131 663 7287 (Mon – Thurs 9.00am – 5.00pm Friday 10.30am – 5.00pm)

Penicuik Library, 39a Carlops Road, Penicuik, EH26 9EP (Thursday only)

Phone 0131 663 7287 for an appointment or drop in between 12.30pm and 2.00pm without an appointment.

www.myworldofwork.co.uk

OpenDays in Scotland

<p>University of Aberdeen www.abdn.ac.uk/study/open-days Saturday 15 June (Medicine only), Tuesday 27 August and Saturday 5 October</p>	<p>Glasgow Caledonian University www.gcu.ac.uk/study/opendaysandtours Monday 2 September and Saturday 5 October</p>	<p>University of Stirling www.stir.ac.uk/1aa Saturday 8 June, Saturday 14 September and Saturday 26 October</p>
<p>Abertay University www.abertay.ac.uk/visit/open-days Saturday 28 September and Wednesday 23 October</p>	<p>Heriot-Watt University www.hw.ac.uk/opendays 7 June & 26 October (Edinburgh Campus), 27 September & 8 November (Scottish Borders Campus)</p>	<p>University of Strathclyde www.strath.ac.uk/openday Monday 2 September and Saturday 5 October</p>
<p>University of Dundee www.dundee.ac.uk/opendays Monday 10 June (Dentistry), Friday 14 June (Medicine), Monday 26 August, Saturday 21 September</p>	<p>Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh www.qmu.ac.uk/open-days-and-meeting-us Saturday 21 September and Saturday 12 October</p>	<p>University of the Highlands and Islands www.uhi.ac.uk/opendays UHI offers courses across multiple campuses & Open Day dates vary. Please check the website for updates.</p>
<p>University of Edinburgh www.ed.ac.uk/opendays Monday 10 June, Saturday 21 September and Saturday 5 October</p>	<p>Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen www.rgu.ac.uk/openday Wednesday 2 October and Saturday 2 November</p>	<p>University of the West of Scotland www.uws.ac.uk/study/open-days-info-sessions/ UWS offers courses across multiple campuses & Open Day dates vary. Please check the website for updates.</p>
<p>Edinburgh Napier University www.napier.ac.uk/opendays Monday 2 September and Saturday 28 September</p>	<p>University of St Andrews www.st-andrews.ac.uk/visiting/visiting-days/ug/ 6 March, 3 April, 10 April, 17 April, 25 September, 2 October, 16 October, 23 October, 30 October</p>	 <p>HELOA The Higher Education Liaison Officers Association www.heloa.ac.uk</p>
<p>University of Glasgow www.glasgow.ac.uk/opendays Thursday 13 June, Wednesday 4 September and Saturday 19 October</p>	<p>Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) www.sruc.ac.uk/SRUC SRUC offers courses across 6 campuses and Open Day dates vary. Please check the website for updates.</p>	

ERIC in English

All our S1 and S2 (and some S3) classes are reading their ERIC books fantastically. It is great to see so many of the students engrossed in the stories. If your son or daughter is still struggling to get 'hooked' on reading, please encourage them to try a book of short stories or a graphic novel.

"Here I Stand" is a collection of short stories for young adults by various authors produced by Amnesty International. The stories are about rights and freedom, covering issues such as gender equality, race hatred, surveillance, identity and freedom of speech.

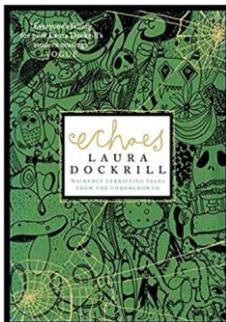
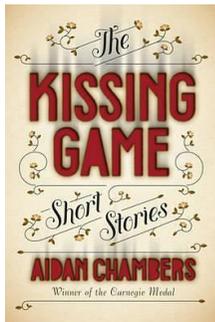
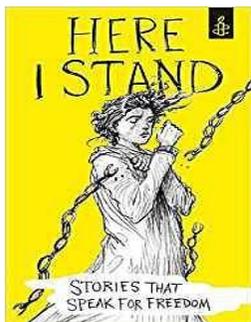
"The Kissing Game" by Aidan Chambers is sixteen short stories on the theme of teenage relationships.

"Echoes" by Laura Dockrill is a collection of modern-day fairytales, poems and retellings of classic stories, all with a slightly sinister edge.

"Under my Hat" is an anthology about witchcraft and wizardry.

"Mystery and Mayhem" has twelve different mysteries told by twelve fantastic authors. The mysteries are grouped together by type - poison, closed-system, canine and impossible mysteries - but there's a range of motives and solutions to the crimes.

"Tasmin and the Deep", "EL Deafo" and "The Marvels" are all graphic novels.



The English Department

Are You Interested In Becoming An Exam Invigilator?

Are you free during the day for the month of May?

Are you interested in getting involved in supporting students at what is a very stressful time in their lives?

Please note, you do not need to be free every day in May but the more available you are, the better. You would be paid by the SQA and will not be allowed to work with your own family or students personally known to you.

If you think you might be interested or to find out more information, please get in touch with John Chisholm at Penicuik High School using the contact details at the top of this newsletter.

Mr Chisholm

Sports News



PE Stars of the Month

The PE Department have awarded Emily Reid 1L2 and Blake Meikle 2C1 as their 'Stars of the Month' for September. Blake has been awarded this status because of his consistent high standard of performance in all activities. Blake sets a good example in his class because he always works hard whatever the activity and is willing to answer questions posed by his teacher. Also Blake is modest with his capabilities, he is always respectful to his other classmates and teacher. Well done Blake – keep up the good work! Emily has been awarded 'Star of the Month' for her positive attitude towards the subject. Emily has been working particularly hard during hockey and rugby to improve her skills. Throughout this year Emily has consistently shown respect towards her classmates and teachers. Congratulations on your achievement Emily – keep up the good work!

School Sport Award

We are delighted to inform you that Penicuik High School has been awarded a sportscotland Silver School Sport Award for 2019-2020! The Silver School Sport Award is recognition of our school's dedication to putting physical education and school sport at the heart of a school's planning, practice and ethos. The Silver Award also highlights that Penicuik High School has demonstrated an on-going commitment to increase young people's opportunities and engagement in physical education, school sport and leadership and provide clear pathways to life-long participation in sport. We can now use the sportscotland logo in our communications in recognition of this award (see above).



Girls Football Scottish Cup

On Wednesday 2 October the Girls Football Team were narrowly defeated on penalties in the First Round of the Scottish Cup at home to Braidhurst High of Motherwell. After a pulsating 1-1 draw, a superb goal scored by Dana Purves and some excellent performances throughout the team, it was the lottery of penalties that finally saw the team knocked out. Special mention to Player of the Match Gemma Boal on a very good individual performance and a superbly executed penalty!

Physical Education Department

**Penicuik High School
Sports & Physical Activity Programme 2019-20**

VENUE	ACTIVITY	AGE	DAY	TIME	COST	TEACHER/COACH
Games Hall	Girls Football	S1-S3	Mon	1pm-1.30pm	Nil	Lucy Horn (S6)
Games Hall	Girls Netball	S1-S2	Mon	3.30pm-4.30pm	Nil	Miss Campbell
Astro	Boys Football	S3-S4	Mon	3.30-4.30pm	Nil	Mr Witton
Spin Studio	Spin	S3-S6	Mon	3.40-4.15pm	Nil	Miss McShannon
Games Hall	Morning Fitness	S3-S6	Tue	7.20am -7.50am	Nil	Miss McShannon
Games Hall	Racquet Sports	S1-S6	Tue	1pm-1.30pm	Nil	Mr Witton
Games Hall	Girls Netball	S3-S6	Tue	3.30pm-4.30pm	Nil	Miss McShannon
Games Hall	Boys Rugby	S1-S2	Tue	3.30pm-4.30pm	Nil	Mr Witton
Astro	Hockey	S1-S6	Wed	3.30-4.30pm	Nil	Mrs Cochrane
Games Hall	Basketball	S3-S4	Thu	3.30pm-4.30pm	Nil	Mr Hunter
Old Gym	Dance	S1-S6	Thu	3.30pm-4.30pm	Nil	Miss Tavakoli/Miss Burrows
Spin Studio	Morning Spin	S2-S6	Fri	7.20am -7.50am	Nil	Miss McShannon
The basketball club below is not included in the £10 fee and is only bookable online at · http://midlothian.legendonlineservices.co.uk or visit www.activemidlothian.org.uk for a the link and guide						
Games Hall	Basketball	S1-2	Fri	2:15-3:00pm	£3 pw	Gavin Menzies

More Information

- Please ensure you wear suitable clothing and footwear for the activity
- Please bring a bottle of water to the activity
- Please bring a packed lunch on the days you are attending lunchtime clubs.
- Please check the daily bulletin / Active Schools notice board for any changes to the above – details may change
- Please inform family that you are attending clubs and will be late home or arrange suitable transport / lift home
- Please join Penicuik High School Sports Club – this will allow you to attend as many clubs as you want for only £10 per year. (Some clubs e.g. basketball are not included in this) Forms available from PE department
- Permission forms can be collected from the PE department



Follow us on twitter: @Penicuik PE & Active Penicuik

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) News

Work Experience

Pupils in S4 will be undertaking a week of Work Experience from 2-6 December 2019. Through PSE, pupils have been shown how to access the 'Workit' database where they can request opportunities from the selection available. Pupils have also been encouraged to make their own or 'Self Found' arrangements. Paperwork for this is available during PSE and must be completed and returned to the Guidance base by the deadline of 11 October, before the October holidays, to allow time for it to be processed and the necessary health and safety checks undertaken by Midlothian Council. If you need more information about work experience, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Business Breakfasts

The first Business Breakfast took place on Friday 27 September. This event was attended by around 20 pupils from S4-S6 and focussed on the topic of HR and Business. Further Business Breakfasts will follow in the near future so watch this space for more info!

Midlothian Industry Insight Event – Construction & Engineering – Wed 20 Nov, 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Skills Development Scotland, in conjunction with Midlothian Council, is running a Construction and Engineering Careers Insight Evening on Wednesday 20th November from 4.30pm-6.30pm at Newbattle High School. This event is open to all young people in Midlothian in S3-6 and aims to give information into the huge range of career possibilities in the Construction and Engineering Sector.

To help all interested students and families attend free transport is available to the event. Parents are very welcome to accompany their child to the event. Your son/daughter's guidance teacher will go over all of this with them in PSE and if they are interested in attending will help them complete the registration form and transport request (if this is required).

We hope this event is a positive starting point for young people considering a career in the Construction and Engineering Sector.

My World of Work

On Tuesday 26th September we welcomed Gordon Craig from Skills Development Scotland into school to assist with the recruitment of My World of Work Ambassadors. The role of the Ambassadors is to promote this useful resource to all students and parents/carers associated with the school. Please visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk for information on all career related questions.

Mrs Brandie, PT Guidance and Work Experience Co-ordinator

MIDLOTHIAN INDUSTRY INSIGHT EVENT...

CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING

COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE VARIETY OF JOBS AND CAREERS THAT EXIST WITHIN CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING.

DYW | EDINBURGH, MIDLOTHIAN & EAST LoTHIAN
Developing the Young Workforce

Midlothian

- HEAR FROM SPEAKERS
- TRY OUT WORKSHOPS
- MEET WITH EMPLOYERS
- LEARN ABOUT TRAINING, CAREERS & PATHWAYS

YOUNG PEOPLE
EDUCATORS
PARENTS

TRANSPORT CAN BE PROVIDED

WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

NEWBATTLE COMMUNITY CAMPUS

4.30PM - 6.30PM

SIGN UP IN YOUR SCHOOL

SUSTAINABILITY ENGINEER | DRONE PILOT
CAD TECHNICIAN
PROJECT MANAGER | ARCHITECT
ELECTRICIAN
STONEMASON | MECHANICAL ENGINEER
PLANT OPERATOR
CIVIL ENGINEER | JOINER

The poster features a dark blue background with white and orange text. At the top, it reads 'MIDLOTHIAN INDUSTRY INSIGHT EVENT...' followed by 'CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING' in large, bold, white letters. Below this, there are three white arrows pointing down to three orange boxes. The left box contains the text 'COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE VARIETY OF JOBS AND CAREERS THAT EXIST WITHIN CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING.' The middle box contains the 'DYW' logo and 'Midlothian' with a green leaf icon. The right box contains a list of activities: 'HEAR FROM SPEAKERS', 'TRY OUT WORKSHOPS', 'MEET WITH EMPLOYERS', and 'LEARN ABOUT TRAINING, CAREERS & PATHWAYS'. Below these boxes, there are three white arrows pointing right towards the text 'YOUNG PEOPLE', 'EDUCATORS', and 'PARENTS'. To the right of these arrows is a blue gear icon with the text 'TRANSPORT CAN BE PROVIDED'. Further right, the date 'WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER' and location 'NEWBATTLE COMMUNITY CAMPUS' are written in orange. Below this, the time '4.30PM - 6.30PM' is written in orange. In the center, there is a blue gear icon with the text 'SIGN UP IN YOUR SCHOOL'. At the bottom, there is a stack of orange blocks representing various career paths: 'SUSTAINABILITY ENGINEER | DRONE PILOT', 'CAD TECHNICIAN', 'PROJECT MANAGER | ARCHITECT', 'ELECTRICIAN', 'STONEMASON | MECHANICAL ENGINEER', 'PLANT OPERATOR', and 'CIVIL ENGINEER | JOINER'. At the bottom right, there are illustrations of a construction crane, a wind turbine, and several people in work clothes.

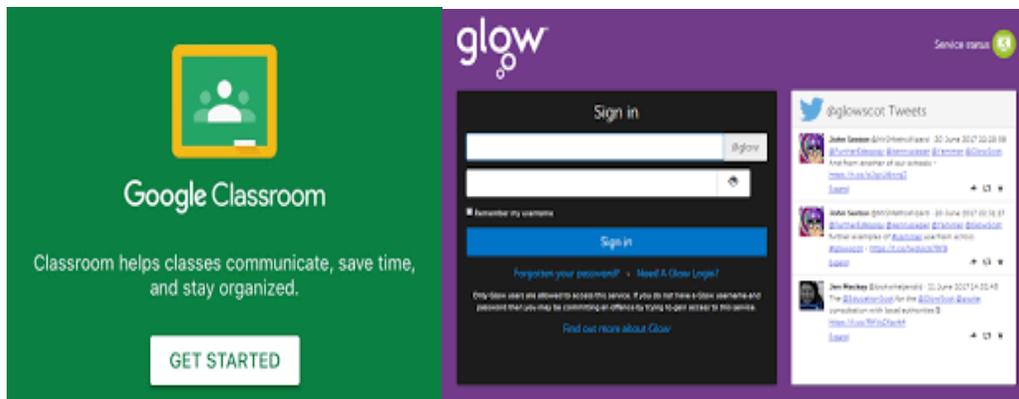
Google Classroom

A number of staff are now using Google Classroom with classes. Google Classroom is available through the GLOW portal. It is a streamlined and easy to use tool that helps students and teachers organise assignments whilst fostering better communication and improving digital literacy.

With Classroom, teachers can create classes, share course notes and distribute assignments. Graded assignments can then be returned to the pupils with feedback. If a pupil forgets their login details these can be reset by their teacher. Some staff are using Classroom to share course notes whilst others may use it for assigning homework and other assignments.

Content can be accessed from a desktop PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone. We would advise those pupils who are using Classroom on a smartphone or tablet to download the Google Classroom app. Some pupils have encountered problems when logging on initially especially if they have an existing Google account. In this instance they should use the following email address on the GLOW login screen mcusername@mc.glow.scot (substitute the word username for the pupil username).

If you have any questions regarding Google Classroom please contact Mr P Beards P.Beards@mgfl.net



*Mr Beards,
PT Design, Technology, Business and Computing*

Parent Pay

From 23 October parents will be able to use Parent Pay to pay for school lunches. Letters will be issued before October holidays with activation codes and new pin numbers will be issued to students on 23 October.

School Office Staff



*Some fantastic European Landmark Models made by S1 pupils in Geography,
The Social Studies Department*

S1 Geography Model Homework

Each year about this time our S1 pupils do a report on Scotland compared to another European country. This year the bar was raised by asking the pupils to build a model of something iconic from Scotland or their chosen European country.

The results have been spectacular and very creative! We had a display of all the models over a lunchtime for staff to come and see.

Well done S1s (and any parents that helped!) you have done a great job. Some of the models can be seen above and on the page below.

Mr Johnstone, Principal Teacher of Social Studies



Some fantastic European Landmark Models made by S1 pupils in Geography, The Social Studies Department

