



St Modan's High School



Newsletter – June 2016

SCHOOL SHOW

OLIVER

More than 50 pupils took part in St Modan's annual School Show which, this year was the classic 'Oliver.' For 3 nights the school hall was packed with hundreds of friends and family who were treated to a colourful musical display of talent.

Well done to all who took part and to those who supported this event. As always the school is hugely proud of the achievements of our young people and staff, especially our Production Team (Miss Collin, Miss Carr-Gomm, Miss Young, Miss Kettles and Mr Paoli). Thanks also to

all those who worked so hard in the background our sound engineers, back-stage, scenery, costumes, hair/make up, props and so much more. Once again we are grateful to Mr Tony Walker and the hugely dedicated members of the PTA for their support in raising money, for school activities, through sales of hot dogs, raffle tickets and a wide range of other goods on each of the evenings of the show. Raffle winners have been notified by now and should contact the school to collect prizes before the end of term.



STAFFING CHANGES NEXT SESSION

Several staff moving on

We bid a fond farewell to a number of staff leaving St Modan's and wish each and every one of them all the very best for the future. Ms Nimmo retires from Home Economics and, as you know Mrs Raeside retired earlier this session from the Autism Provision. After many years of hard work, dedication and commitment to serving the community of St Modan's both decided it's time to move on and to embrace some new challenges beyond St Modan's. A huge thank you to them both and hope that they enjoy the exciting times which lie ahead.

Miss McCormack (PT Modern Languages) moves to a school much closer to home next year, as does Mrs Somerville following maternity leave. Miss Young (Music) leaves us to pursue her dream of Opera Singing at the Royal Conservatoire, Miss McDonald recently announced her promotion to PT Maths at Turnbull High School and Miss Clarkin moves on to new challenges, having covered a temporary post in our English Department.

We bid farewell also to the following staff whose probationary year at St Modan's sadly comes to an end and who will soon take up posts in schools across the globe; Miss Watt, Mr Mokwa, Mr Murray, Miss Farrell and Miss Ferguson. We owe each of them an enormous debt of gratitude and thank them all for their huge contributions to the St Modan's community over the past session.

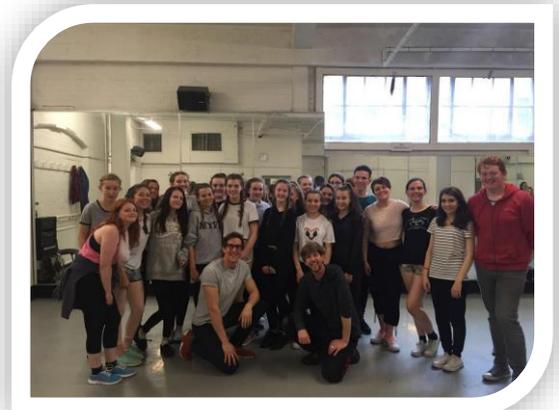
Finally, we offer our huge congratulations to Mr Mitchell (DHT) who will be taking up post as Headteacher of Chryston High School (North Lanarkshire) in August. Mr Mitchell leaves us after 5 years as DHT and has been a great asset to our school. We know he will be missed by many and will be a great Headteacher. Chryston are very lucky to have him.

We are also delighted to be welcoming a number of new staff to our school in August; Mr Hope (Permanent Mod Lang), Miss Caldwell (Music), Mrs Daly (English), Miss Bouhala (Mod Lang), Miss Wishart (English). We also welcome our 8 new probationer teachers – Miss Gibson (Tech), Miss Gallacher (PE), Mr Brims (PE), Mr Duffy (History), Miss Hutton (Geog), Miss Bircher (English), Miss McElroy (Bio) and Mr Gibson (Art).

SCHOOL TRIPS

Paris, London, Belgium, Edinburgh 2016

Over 100 pupils and staff left school last week to head off on our annual school trips to London, Belgium and Paris. This year we also introduced a trip to the Highland Show in Edinburgh. Check out our Twitter account for lots of information and photos of these great trips offered to our young people. Thanks to parents for their support and well done to all involved. As always, our pupils are a real credit to their families and the school and we are all very proud of the manner in which each and every one conducts themselves whilst representing our school.



CARITAS AWARDS

Two of our S6 pupils Alice Gornall and Eilidh Wynd successfully completed the Caritas Award for 2016 and attended the very grand Awards Ceremony in the Clyde Auditorium, joining over 1000 other young people from schools all over Scotland. This award recognises 'faith-inspired action' for work carried out in schools and local communities as well as reflection on young people's faith and Liturgy.

The very special Awards event was a mix of music, humour from well-known comedian Des Clark and also time for reflection on the great work and experiences of all the candidates over the course of the last year. We congratulate Alice and Eilidh for this tremendous achievement and hope that they carry on the good work beyond school.



ART NEWS

Visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum

A group of talented art students from St Modan's High visited Kelvingrove Galleries in Glasgow to take part in the annual art competition. Each pupil selected an area of the gallery to work from real exhibits and architectural features. They produced some fabulous art work within a three hour time slot. Time flew by and the students produced artistic interpretations of a variety of subject choices, ranging from animal skulls to airplanes! Passers-by stopped to chat and admire the work, and to comment on the exemplary behaviour of the St Modan's pupils. Mrs McMenemy, Mrs Brown, Mr Kirby and Miss Ferguson had a hard day manning the work station and dishing out advice. Luckily (and coincidentally) the work station was right beside the cafe so they managed to scrape through the day! A special mention must be made to the small group of 1st year pupils who joined the artists on the day and worked with commitment and skill in the galleries. The whole group filled us all with confidence in the artistic future of our school!



ART WORKSHOP REPORT

A group of S3 and S4 Art and Design students, along with Miss Ferguson and Mrs McMenemy, travelled to Napier College in Edinburgh to see the Degree Shows and to take part in an Art Workshop led by the well-known artist, Ron O'Donnell.

The pupils were introduced to some classical art masterpieces and given information on context and social aspects of these pieces. They were shown how Ron interprets aspects of classical art into his own extraordinary three dimensional arrangements and how he uses digital photography and modern technology to produce his pieces of art. The students were involved in a "hands on" interpretation of the "Raft of Medusa". They used the cameras to photograph the three dimensional models Ron had built and they posed in the raft to provide Ron with images for this art work. He has promised to send us prints of the art work when complete!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The very high standard maintained by the school with regards to uniform directly impacts on the positive learning environment and aspirations of our young people and on this there is no compromise. From August, items of non-uniform will be removed and where necessary parents will be contacted so that pupils can go home and change. Over the past few weeks a small number of pupils arrived to school wearing garments which do not meet the high standards of our School uniform – in particular leggings, trainers, short lycra skirts, black jeans and outdoor jackets other than the school one. We need YOUR support to ensure this does not continue into the new session. Parents are asked to check uniforms before children leave the home to ensure that full school uniform is worn. Your support is hugely appreciated in this regard. Please contact the school in advance if uniform is likely to be an issue for your son/daughter when returning in August.

Please note that our Uniform Supplier is **Scotcrest, Alva**.

You can order uniforms in 3 easy ways:

1. Place your order through the website or **2.** Phone your order to 01259 761827 (card payments will be taken at time of order) or **3.** Come along to our shop at: West Stirling Street, Alva FK12 5EN and take your garments from stock

OUR AUTISM PROVISION HITS LONDON!

A great time was had last week by the pupils of our Autism Provision on their now annual London trip. Students enjoyed a huge variety of activities including the Harry Potter Experience, a tour around the museums, a cruise up the Thames, a trip to Lego Land and more. A total of Sixteen students went on this amazing trip and enjoyed their metropolitan experience enormously. Huge thanks to our committed staff of the Autism Provision who organised the trip and to the parents for their tremendous understanding, patience and support in making it all possible.



OUR NEW HOUSE STRUCTURE

Consultation

By now you (S2-6 parents) should all have received communications regarding our new House structure being implemented from August. Since sending this information to you and following extensive consultation with pupils and staff, we have chosen our house names:

- **Rosneath**
- **Ardchattan**
- **Kilmodan**

These names are all linked to the life and travels of St Modan and link to the heritage of the school as they were used as St Modan's House names in the past. Many of our parents might even remember them! We can also confirm that the three Heads of House for our school will be: Mrs N McGeehan (Rosneath), Mr M Paoli (Ardchattan) and Mrs C Pert (Kilmodan). We have made every effort to allocate families to one House and for most families we have achieved this goal. If you wish to contact the school regarding your child's progress then, from August you should contact your child's PSD teacher in the first instance (as is currently the case), followed by your child's Head of House. One major advantage of the new House structure is that parents now have only one Head of House (formerly known as the PT PSD) – the same Head of House for the whole family. Parents of our new S1 will receive further information towards the end of the Summer break.

SCHOOL EVENTS/MEETINGS NEXT SESSION

Start Time Consultation

The school recently conducted a consultation around preferred start time of school events next session. This consultation was conducted in response to the sometimes disappointing turn-out at school events and meetings etc, including Parent Council and PTA. Parents responded by telling us that we should change school events to an earlier time, between 6pm and 6.30pm. 73% of parents who responded to our survey told us that the timing of the event affects whether or not they are able to attend and 66% said they preferred a start time of between 6pm and 6.30pm. Following our consultation the school intends to change the start time of school events including meetings, shows, information evenings etc so that they start at 6.15pm to make it easier for a greater number of parents to attend. Over the course of this session parents also told us that they appreciated opportunities for parents to meet staff in person eg during information evenings etc. This earlier start will also result in more staff being able to attend these important events, providing greater opportunities for parent-teacher interaction as requested.

SENIOR PHASE REPORTING TO PARENTS

Changes next session

Next session St Modan's is changing the way we report to parents in S4-6. Earlier this month parents were offered the option of changing from the current arrangement of two tracking reports, one Parents evening and a final written report to two tracking reports and two parents evenings. 91% of S5/6 parents who responded to our survey, sent by email indicated that they supported the latter, to swap the final written report with an additional Parents Evening shortly after the prelims. Comments indicated that this would be more productive following prelims and would have more impact on effecting change in advance of the final SQA exams. In response, our school has taken the decision to make this change, not only in S5/6 but to extend it also to our new S4 – S4 will now have 3 Tracking reports and two Parents Evenings over the new session (a huge improvement from two years ago where we offered one tracking, one final and one parents evening). By making this change we would hope that parents are able to take advantage of increasing opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue with teachers to support their child's learning in the Senior Phase. In addition, next session we will pilot an increase in email communications direct from PTs to parents when it's necessary to inform you of important assessments etc in Senior Phase – to ensure this can happen effectively please ensure that we have your current email address on record.

YOUNG CARERS' GROUP

This is our second year of running a Young Carers' Group in St Modan's. The group has been a huge success, meeting regularly to allow young carers across the school to have a period of respite where they can take part in a variety of activities including discussion, relaxation, cooking, crafts etc. Earlier this month our Young Carers group was visited by representatives from Stirling Council and reps from local YC groups to explore how well St Modan's supports these young people. Our visitors spoke very highly of the group and all they had achieved in their short time together and how they showed a great sense of pride in themselves and the school. Our feedback was hugely positive and a credit to those involved. Any pupil who thinks they may be a Young Carer and would like more information on the group then please speak to Mrs Gardner or Miss Keeley in school.

SPORTING SUCCESS

Junior Games

Well done to the new S2 year group who were involved in Active Stirling's Junior Games earlier this month. The pupils were a credit to the school in this whole day event of music, dance, culture and sporting activity in over twenty five different events. Thanks also go to the senior pupils who assisted with the running of the event and who all made a fantastic contribution to the success of the day.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

SDS Skills Investment Plan states that it is estimated that Scotland needs 2,500 new engineers every year. In 2013, of the professionally registered engineers in employment in the UK, only 4.4% were female.

St Modan's recently marked National Women in Engineering Day with a variety of activities for many of our female pupils. Girls in junior school took part in active workshops such as: Knex Bridge Building Challenge, Apple Batteries and Steam Boats, Land Buggy Challenge and more. S5/6 pupils also had the opportunity to speak to female engineers in an Engineering Career Networking Session.

Hopefully we will inspire our female pupils to consider engineering as a future career pathway!



MY MONEY WEEK

60 Entries from St Modan's!

The eighth annual My Money Week took place from 13 - 19 June 2016, thanks to generous support from Martin Lewis OBE. My Money Week is a national activity week for primary and secondary schools that provides a fantastic opportunity for young people to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence in money matters to thrive in our society. This year St Modan's pupils (new S2) were involved in a variety of inter-disciplinary learning activities through Maths, English and Science to explore financial literacy. The week ended with a challenge to enter a national competition to write the best newspaper article on 'Does Good Debt Really Exist?' St Modan's submitted over 60 entries to the competition – many of which are outstanding. Well done to all who took part. We look forward to hearing of the results of the competition on our return in August.



SUMMER FETE

Huge thanks to our PTA

Thank you to all our PTA members and for those who came along to support our Summer fete. The PTA raise much needed cash to support school events, trips and other activities offered to our young people and we couldn't do it without them! Most recently the PTA helped fund the purchase of 31 mountain bikes to transform our PE curriculum – our young people (and staff) are loving this welcome addition and some pupils have even commented that, until now they have never learned to ride a bike! Thanks to the PTA this is changing. We look forward to extending their use next session so that all year groups benefit from the PTA's generosity.



S6 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Our S6 council elections took place recently and we're proud to announce the results as follows...

Head Boy – **Adam Crossley**

Depute Head Boy – **Sam McQuillian**

Huge congratulations to all 4. These roles carry with them a huge responsibility and all 4 are delighted to accept their new roles. We wish them well for S6 and know that they will all represent our school well and do us proud.

CHARITY

Lasallian Update

7 of our former S6 pupils head off in the next few days on their Lasallian projects across the globe. This charity work involves working in developing communities across Africa and Asia (India, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana), building schools, homes and community centres as well as teaching the local children. We wish them all well for their 5 weeks of service to others and look forward to hearing of their travels and experiences when they return.

COUNCIL CHANGES (EDUCATION)

An update on Council restructuring

You will be aware that Stirling Council is restructuring and that a number of significant changes are being made to posts across the council, including education. Mr David Leng (Director of Education) is leaving Stirling Council for new and exciting challenges elsewhere and we wish him all the very best for the future and thank him for his support over the past 3 years. Following recent interviews, Mr Kevin Kelman (former Assistant Head of Education) has been appointed to the new role of Chief Education Officer. We look forward to working more closely with Mr Kelman as he settles in to his new role.

CAREER READY – PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR WORK

St Modan's pilots Career Ready



St Modan's is proud to be working with Career Ready next session.

Career Ready is a UK wide charity linking employers with schools and colleges to open up the world of work to young people.

Career Ready offers a structured programme of employer engagement that enables schools and colleges to meet their statutory duty for careers. They have worked with experts in education and business to develop high quality, employer-endorsed materials, which deliver a set of Skills for Career Success to help students compete with the best in the country. Pupils who take part in this programme will work closely with a business mentor throughout S5/6 and will be guaranteed a 4-week paid internship with the company at the end of their first year.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do and had no idea that I would be interested in business, or even if I was capable of getting into university. I recently got my grades and have been accepted into Stirling University and could not have achieved that without the help of my mentor and all the motivational talks we attended."

Marc Hillhouse, graduate, Bellahouston Academy

Career Ready gives students from lower income families and others the confidence, skills and networks to achieve their potential. Through volunteering for Career Ready employers get a rewarding opportunity to develop their own presenting, coaching and management skills, and find the next generation of talented employees.

“By offering internships we provide opportunities for team members to experience line management, and I’ve found that every time we’ve had interns from the Career Ready programme there has been some kind of breakthrough, that has benefitted us long beyond their leaving.”

Barry Sewell, UK BPO Service Delivery Leader at RSA in Liverpool

Our Contact

Miss Sinclair (Business Studies) will be our school coordinator for this exciting programme next session. If you would like more information about the Career Ready programme – have a look at their website <https://careerready.org.uk/>

HELP WITH COSTS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Financial support available

There is a wide range of financial help if you are on a low income and your child is at school. This includes:

- * Footwear and Clothing Grants
- * Free Schools Meals
- * Education Maintenance Allowance.

The Footwear and Clothing Grant is a one off annual payment per child towards the cost of buying essential clothing for children up to the age of 16 who attend school. Applications are open until 31st December. A short application form is required along with your most recent Tax Credit award letter.

Free School Meals are now available for all Primary 1 – 3 pupils. Please remember older children are eligible and you will need to apply. You can do this at any time.

Education Maintenance Allowance is a weekly allowance of £30 and this is paid to young people who stay in full-time education at school or college after their 16th birthday. The young person has to satisfy attendance requirements and complete a learning agreement. This is paid directly to the young person and entitlement is dependent on their parents’ income.

To find out more information on all of the above and how to apply, please go online to your Council Website www.stirling.gov.uk and search for school grants. You can also phone 01786 233418 to speak to the Council’s Revenue and Benefits Team.

This support is also available to families from Falkirk and Clacks by contacting council offices.

In addition, our own Parent Council recently set up a Uniform Bank in school to provide parents with the opportunity to pick up free items of uniform (jackets, blazers, sweatshirts etc). Please enquire through the PC or our main office – or check it out next time you’re passing the school.

SQA EXAMINATIONS 2016

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT SQA



SQA Results Day is Tuesday 9th August

Good luck to all of our SQA exam candidates. We wish them all the very best for August.

MySQA for Pupils

MySQA is a web service that offers you secure and unique access to your results.

Don't wait for your results envelope to drop through the mailbox. SQA candidates should sign up to receive results by text or email. By doing so candidates are able to choose to have their results sent by e-mail or text on the morning of TUESDAY 9th AUGUST, rather than wait for the post to be delivered. Even if candidates are away from home, they won't have to wait or get someone else to open the results envelope for them. Find out how to activate an SQA account at www.mysqa.info. Registration is simple, all you need is your Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and an e-mail address.

Unexpected SQA results?

Following the publication of the SQA exam results any pupil who would like to discuss a possible change to his/her course choice for next session **must contact the school by telephone on the morning of Wednesday 17th August** (10am to 12.30pm) for advice from a senior member of staff. The introduction of 'free-choice' in senior school this session allowed 94% of seniors to choose their first choice and strongest subjects for next session – consequently changes to course choice should be minimal and **will be agreed only in exceptional circumstances**. Timetables are finalised during the final days of the holiday and timetables printed so any changes must be agreed before then. Please note this date in the diary.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

| Day | Date | Event |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday | 9th August | SQA Results arrive in homes |
| Wednesday | 17th August | Senior staff in school to take calls about Course Choice |
| Monday | 22nd August | INSET Day – Teachers only |
| Tuesday | 23rd August | Pupil return to school – 8.30am |

Scottish Autism

Parent Seminar - Autism and Wellbeing

We would like to invite you to a seminar for parents on Autism and Wellbeing where we will be sharing our knowledge and experience on this topic.

The programme for the day includes a presentation on "What is it like to be a person who knows nothing?" from special guest speaker Michael McCreadie as well as presentations from Scottish Autism staff from New Struan School and adult services on subjects including stress reduction and using social and therapeutic horticulture to improve wellbeing.

We will also be providing a buffet lunch after the seminar from 12.45pm - 2pm to give parents the opportunity to network with other parents and to share and exchange ideas and information.

Date: Wednesday 7th September

Time: 9.30am - 12.45pm (arrival from 9am)

Venue: New Struan School, 100 Smithfield Loan, Alloa, FK10 1NP

[Book your free place now!](#)

The closing date for bookings is Friday 2nd September.

Enquiries

Please direct enquiries to: KerryAnn MacDonald, Event Coordinator

Tel: 01259 720044

Email: ka.macdonald@scottishautism.org

We hope you will be able to join us!

WANT MORE ST MODAN'S NEWS?

This newsletter represents only a small fraction of the activities going on in our school. If you would like to know more please log on to our website at www.stmodans.co.uk and follow us on Twitter [@StModansHS](https://twitter.com/StModansHS) to receive regular updates and information about our activities, successes and many pupil achievements.

We look forward to welcoming all our new S1 pupils in August and bid a fond farewell to all our leavers

Have a great Summer. Happy holidays!



happy
summer