



St Modan's High School



Newsletter – June 2019

SCHOOL SHOWS

Annual Dance Show

Wednesday the 5th of June was St Modan's annual Dance Show, the night included a variety of Dances that

involved different styles such as Hip Hop and Contemporary from pupils aged between S1 and S6. The night was a great success as it ran very smoothly and the amount of talent that was showcased was great to see. The Club are already looking forward to the show next year! Well done to all pupils involved in organising and performing in this great night, you should all be very proud of yourself.



We Will Rock You!

Last week more than 50 pupils took part in St Modan's annual School Show which, this year was the wonderful 'We Will Rock You', taking us all back to the days of hits by Queen. For 2 nights the school hall was packed with hundreds of friends and family who joined our talented young people on their amazing journey, showcasing a fantastic range of talents including song, dance and some incredible acting performances.

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 the many staff, especially Miss Carr-Gomm (Director) and those who worked so hard to support each and every one of the pupils. Thanks also to our PTP members for their support in raising money for similar school activities in the future through sales of food, drink and raffle tickets at interval.



STAFFING CHANGES NEXT SESSION

A number of staff changes happen at this time every year as we say farewell to our retirees, probationers and temporary staff.

Sadly we bid a fond farewell to a number of long-standing teachers of our school. Mrs Kerr of our Science department retires after 35 years at St Modan's. Similarly Mr Hannah of our Technical department retires after 27 years of service with us and Mrs McGinlay of our ASN department after 14 years with us. We wish each of them the happiest of retirements and know that they will be thinking of us all on 19th August! Pupils and staff alike have great memories of all three and will miss them greatly.

Some of our SLAs are also retiring after many years of dedicated service - Mrs Gowans, Mrs Broadfoot, Mrs McGowan. Thank you so much for their tremendous support.

Other staff leaving us this Summer include: Ms Hinchcliffe (PE), Mr Stewart (PE), Mr Brander (Social Subjects), Mr Milne (Social Subjects), Miss Congiu (English), Mr Dwane (Physics), Mrs Gornall (Numeracy), Ms Bjerland (ASN), Mrs Kennelly (ASN), Mr MacKinnon (SLA), Ms Stewart (SLA), Ms McCorquodale (SLA), Mr Carlin (SLA). We would like to thank all staff leaving us for their enormous help and support in their time at St Modan's and wish them all the very best for the future.

We would also like to thank our regular supply teachers who we couldn't do without and who have been so committed to our school: Ms Tuhan, Mr Johnston, Mr Kirby, Ms Mackintosh (Autism Provision). Thanks again to each of them.

It goes without saying that we have a number of new staff joining us soon and are looking forward to welcoming them all to the St Modan's family. We will introduce them all following arrival in August.

SCHOOL TRIP: LOCH EIL

Autism Annual Residential School Trip

This year a group eight young pupils came together at a residential at Loch Eil. This was an Outward Bound Trust trip which enabled the group to take part in various outdoor activities including, gorge walking, canoeing and wild camping. The young people were able to work towards their John Muir award and a great experience was had by pupils and staff alike.



Annual Art Galleries and Museum Competition 2019

Forty seven talented artists from all year groups at St Modan's High School participated in the annual Art Galleries and Museum competition in Glasgow. Each pupil selected something inspirational to draw in the Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery within the three hour timescale. The work was creative and exciting ranging from butterflies to giraffes, statues to architectural features of the building. The competition runs from January



till June and thousands of young people across Scotland take part in this prestigious event.

On the day our staff selected our "Bus" prize where we select a favourite from the St Modan's entries. This year we shortlisted eight entries and selected a superb, ethereal rendering of "Statue" by Amy Wright (S3) and "Butterfly with Shadow" by

Ellie Craig (S4). The girls will be presented

with a certificate from the Art & Design department as well as art materials in recognition of their work on the day.

We have recently been notified of the winners in this prestigious competition as follows:

In the S1-3 category we secured several medals including gold for Lauren Gilvear, Ethan Brown and Stephanie Smart (all S3). Silver for Amy



Wright (S3), Bronze for Anna McIver (S3), Roisin

Diamond and Dana Al- Nasser (both S2). Violet

Maitland- Smith (S3) and Orla Diamond (S2) achieved Highly Commended certificates and both Joseph Rough (S1) and Brooke McCafferty (S3) achieved a Commended. In the S4-6 category Micolaj Strzelczyk secured a Silver medal whilst Jamie Haythorpe (S6) and Mique Burgoyne (S4) achieved a Bronze.

Annual Scottish Academy Schools Competition

Well done to St Modan's pupil Ethan Brown (S3) who achieved a Highly Commended in the Intermediate category of the Annual Scottish Academy Schools Competition. The S3 pupil produced an intricate ink study of a grasshopper which was exhibited in the RSA Academicians' Gallery from 9 March - 3 April.

A Portrait of St Modan's Competition

Thank you to all of you who submitted an entry for this competition which was open to all pupils and staff (both old and new) at St Modan's. The 30 finalists have been selected from a very high standard and are currently on display in our school reception. The winner will be announced after the Summer Holidays and announced via our school twitter. Watch this space!



ST MODAN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The theme for St Modan's Day this year came from our school values. Our theme was Service and this is defined as 'we put others first and look for ways to do good.' We opened our Food Bank Appeal with this in mind and we had great feedback from pupils, staff and families.

St Modan's Feast Day Mass

What a beautiful day of celebration for our Feast Day! Thank you to Archbishop Leo Cushley, our parish priests and all who helped prepare our whole-school Mass. 1,000 people joined in prayer - our young people did us so proud. Thank you all.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

As you will be aware St Modan's expects a very high standard of school uniform. We are very proud of all of our pupils and of their immaculate appearance and know that the wearing of uniform has a tremendously positive impact on them and others. To maintain this high standard of school uniform we rely very heavily on your support. Consequently we hope you will support the school by ordering a full school uniform as detailed in the information section of the school website (stmodans.co.uk) under the *About Us* tab.

Please note that pupils are not permitted to wear outdoor garments to school other than our official school jacket and/or school blazer. Our warm, fleece-lined and fully waterproof school jacket offers our young people excellent protection from heavy rain and cold weather and was designed by our Pupil and Parent Councils, following an extensive consultation. We would hope that all S1 pupils have both a blazer **and** a school jacket for the start of the new school session 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

CARITAS

St. Modan's was honoured to receive the CARITAS AWARD at the Clyde Auditorium in Glasgow on Tuesday 28th May in the presence of the Bishops of Scotland, distinguished guests, John Swinney the first Minister of Education, 1400 pupils, parents and carers. This award celebrates the service given by young people in Catholic schools and parishes across Scotland. Our young people received their medals and certificates as a testimony to Catholic Education reflecting the Vision, Values and Aims of our school. Archbishop Cushley met with Jay Haywood and Charlotte Molloy, S6 pupils who represented the CARITAS group who put their faith into action completing 40 hours of service to the school, parishes and communities.



AUTISM PROVISION NEWS



St Modan's Autism Provision Tiny Farm

We're extending our School Farm to include chickens, rabbits, turkeys, goats and more but need help and advice. If you have time or experience you would like to share with us or would be happy to discuss how you can help, please contact the school. We'd love to hear

from you. 01786 470962. We would like to welcome to Mr Roberts our new Principal Teacher Learning and Teaching Autism to the provision who is leading this development.



CHANGES TO OUR HOUSE STRUCTURE

Pupil Support and Development

We are looking forward to embedding our new structure from August 2019. Lots of planning and transition work has taken place to prepare for the change.

From August 2019, PTs PSD will be allocated to year groups as follows:

- **S1 and S6** Mrs N McGeehan (3 x days) and Mrs M Farrugia (2 x days)
- **S2** New Appointment- still to be confirmed
- **S3** Mr M Paoli
- **S4** Mr S Curran
- **S5** Ms J Sinclair

The PSD Teacher Team remains mainly unchanged with the exception of some general staff changes.

Remember to follow the PSD Team on Twitter @stmodans_psd

If you have any concerns or queries about your child remember the PSD Teacher is your first contact at school via the School Office.

EDUCATION AWARDS 2019

St Modan's is proud to have been shortlisted as Scottish Education Awards Finalist in the category of Employability and Creativity. As you'll be aware the school has been involved in some very innovative approaches to ensuring our young people are equipped with the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to be successful beyond school. Young people are prepared better than ever before for employability through a creative suite of courses and approaches across a variety of curricular areas. This session St Modan's worked in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland, WSP and Forth Valley College among others. In addition the school runs classes to prepare young people specifically for employment as apprentices and offers accredited courses in construction, retail, early education, hospitality and much more. The great work done to develop our young workforce was recognised nationally by shortlisting St Modan's to be one of only three finalists for this prestigious award. Sadly, we were unsuccessful but are proud of the young people, parents, partners and staff who continue to contribute to support us on our journey and we look forward to winning the award next year!



SPORTING SUCCESS

Forth Valley Dance Competition

St Modan's High School thoroughly enjoyed competing and taking part in this year's annual FVDSC 2019. They entered two junior teams, one small group that danced Contemporary and one large group that danced a Commercial/Street performance. The Seniors entered another two teams, one small group that danced a Lyrical performance and the large group that performed the Evolution of Disney. Murray Kempster S4 also entered as a Soloist and performed a Contemporary piece. Overall none of the dances placed but the Senior team won the 'Creative Costumes Award' which they are very pleased about and this came from their Disney dance. St Modan's can't wait to come back next year with new choreography, themes and ideas.



Gymnastics

Congratulations to Ava Moore (S1) for her achievements in a recent gymnastics event. She competed at Pregrades Regional 2 level and was joint 3rd on vault and 1st overall on beam! Well done Ava!



Football

Liam Fowler (S4) enjoyed a trip to Holland with his football team at the end of March and took part in two matches during the weekend, losing one and winning the second. They also took a trip into Amsterdam to visit the Johan Crujff Arena, where they found out a lot about the National team Ajax. A great weekend was had by all
Paul O'Hara and Andrew Cruse (both S2) also enjoyed football success at the beginning of April when his team brought home the Tournament Trophy and won their place at the Winners Grand Finale at St George's Park in July. Well done to all!



Car Rally Championship

Jack Hall (S4) is currently competing in the J1000 Ecosse Junior Car Rally Championship. He achieved his first podium result in the 3rd round at Leuchars on Saturday 4th May, finishing 3rd. Well done Jack!



Inaugural St Modan's Sports Awards 2019

On Thursday 13th June St. Modan's celebrated their inaugural Sports Awards. For the first time ever in the recent

history of St Modan's every pupil who represented St Modan's in a sporting activity during session 2018/19 was recognised. We were delighted to welcome guest speaker, Paralympian Wheelchair athlete and World Record Holder Ben Rowlings who inspired our young people with stories of his journey, including tales from the Paralympics in Rio. Congratulations to all award winners, particularly our Junior Sportsperson: Amy Addison (new S3), Senior Sportsperson: Carly McNab (new S5) and the winners of our Outstanding Achievement awards; Liam Dunn (new S2) and Carly McNab

(new S5). It was a great evening celebrating the success of St Modan's young people and we look forward to next year's awards.



Please do contact the school office if you would like to make us aware of your child's achievements outside of school in any capacity, sporting or otherwise. We are keen to recognise and celebrate the God given talents of all of our young people. Nominations are always welcome for our Wall of Wonder from parents and family members alike.

DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE

A.C.E. Programme

During study leave many S4 pupils improved their employability skills by completing a range of activities. Activities were **Active, Challenging and Engaging** and consisted of a range of activities from volunteering to ice-skating and curling. They started off the week by improving on their awareness of local heritage by attending Bannockburn House where they worked on team-working skills. They challenged

themselves to new heights by trying rock climbing and hill walking and even created their own TV news reports from their visit to the SKY Academy. They secured some additional certification through the Education Through Cashback programme and their Heritage Hero Award as well as creating their own Mud Kitchens. All in all, a good few weeks was had by all.



F.A.S.T!

The Future Apprentices of St Modan's High School (FAST group) have been working with a number of employers throughout the year to improve their CV's and interview/Assessment Centre skills. Some of the employers who have been working with the FAST group include: DST, Diageo, CITB, FES, Stirling Council and Scottish Water. Many pupils have secured apprenticeships and we look forward to hearing further success stories throughout the Summer.

WHAT IF PROGRAMME

In February, 10 of our pupils from S4 and S5 attended a week's long employability programme called 'WHAT IF'. They were hosted by CECA and took part in a number of team building activities and personal goal setting. A thoroughly enjoyable week was had by all. One of our pupils even managed to secure an extended work placement on the back of the programme.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported this and our many other employability groups throughout the session. We're now seeing the benefit as our young people are securing positive destinations across Scotland.



ME Programme

Over the course of the year a number of our pupils benefited from the My Employability (ME) Programme in the school. Over 10 of our pupils achieved their Dynamic Youth Award for participating in the Money Matters Programme and 8 of our pupils in S5 and S6 were accredited with their SCQF Certificate in Emergency First Aid, delivered through Active Stirling.

Tunnocks Challenge

As part of the S3 Business Management Course, the pupils were challenged with a design brief of coming up with a new product for Tunnock's as part of their learning on business innovation. After being so successful last year, Tunnocks offered to judge the competition again and generously donated a number of prizes. The teachers were very jealous of their prizes, especially the overall winner hampers won by Jessie Chen and Sean Dunsmore.



STEM BLOODHOUND CHALLENGE

A group of 9 S2 students from St. Modans High School attended Forth Valley College, Stirling Campus on Monday 27th May for a fun-packed day of Scientific Activities with an engineering emphasis along with students from Wallace and Stirling High Schools.

The day started with a Team-Building Activity which got everyone thinking and warming up their brains for the day ahead. Next for us was the challenge of building a rocket which was to be launched in the afternoon using high pressure air as the propellant. Good aerodynamics and careful construction were the keys to success. A number of other interesting activities then followed including problem-solving computer games, and making your own CD Hovercraft.

After lunch the big challenge was presented. The task.....design and build your own rocket propelled car.....The aim.....design your rocket propelled car to achieve the highest possible straight line speed! Just like Formula 1, there was a long list of designs constraints which the pupils had to strictly follow.

Finally, the finished vehicles were taken outside to the drag strip for the speed test. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this and the winning car reached an amazing 52mph in the short distance of 25m!!

Everyone then headed home after a brilliant day participating in the STEM Bloodhound Challenge 2019.

S6 COUNCIL ELECTIONS



Congratulations to our fabulous new S6 Council for next session. Head Girl: Brenna Smith, Head Boy: Ryan Fitzsimmons. Our deputies are elected as follows: Ellie Kettrick; Frankie Nodes; Conor Diamond; Neil Casserly. All candidates were selected following a robust democratic process involving nominations, speeches, candidate statements and interviews. Well done to all of our new council – we are all very proud indeed!



CHARITIES

Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Our S3 pupils participated in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), an active citizenship programme that raises awareness amongst young people about philanthropy and charities in their local community. Each participating school is responsible for directing a £3000 YPI grant to a local charity through a unique programme of teamwork, research and competition. YPI is all about creativity and passion, leaving the four walls of the classroom behind, and supporting the issues young people care most about.

This year our winning Charity was Strathcarron Hospice who were represented by Jamie Hardie, Marc Kilgannon, Scott McKnight, Daniel Tait and Dean Horne.



S1 Coin Challenge

Amazing collaboration and creativity was shown from all the S1 teams representing their classes at this year's Coin Challenge. Each class designed a poster for the Let the Children Live charity helping street children in Columbia. Their designs were entirely made of coins! All coins used were donated to Let the Children Live, our S1 charity. Well done to all S1 classes for taking part, and huge congratulations to the winners in class 1K2!



Mental Health Matters

Huge well done to the MH Advocates and Mrs Ramsay who organised lots of fun events at the end of last month to raise awareness of Mental Health Issues and collected money for charity.

Lots of new volunteers enlisted as Advocates. 29 pupils in our new S5/6 have already achieved an

SQA Group Award at Level 5 in Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Strathcarron Hospice

The S6 Charities Team were delighted to make a donation of £3056.61 to Helen Bruce on behalf of Strathcarron Hospice. The team had organised and participated in a number of events this year including running in the 10K at Stirling University and hosting a Quiz Night at McQ's in Bannockburn. Well done to everyone involved!



OTHER NEWS



Ara McFarlane marks 45 years working at St Modan's

Huge congratulations to our very own Ara McFarlane for reaching 45 years in service to St Modan's High School. The place would not be the same without you.

S6 Valedictory Dinner



Our Valedictory Dinner was an evening mixed with pleasure, pride and sadness as we said our final goodbye our class of 2019. Our S6 leavers arrived at the Stirling Court Hotel on Tuesday 11th June dressed to impress and we all enjoyed a lovely meal together. Claire, our Head Girl, once again left us stunned by her ability to captivate an audience and bring laughter to a room. It was a delight to spend an evening with such a lovely group of young adults; they were a credit to their parents, our school and, most of all, to themselves. We would like to wish all our leavers every success as they embark on an exciting new chapter in their lives.

Teen Takeover

St Modan's High School pupils took part in a special 'Teen Takeover' event at Forth Valley College's Stirling Campus.

A group of 14 Third Year year pupils from the St Modan's welcomed more than 60 guests for an evening meal, as the hospitality hopefuls got a feel for the hospitality industry. With four youngsters based in the kitchen, eight serving and two working in the bar the stage was set to use their new found skills to wait on parents, teachers and Forth Valley College staff including Fiona Brown FVC's Vice Principal for Learning and Teaching. The evening was a huge success for all concerned. Well done to all our pupils!



Construction Class

We recently saw the grand opening of our construction pilot project build at St Modan's. A group of S6 students worked with Historic Environment Scotland to design and build a project from scratch using a variety of traditional building skills - from this pilot the school will work in partnership with SQA, HES, Skills Development Scotland and Forth Valley College to develop and pilot an exciting new national qualification for schools to learn about construction. Watch this space.



P7 Transition Days

We were delighted to have all of our new S1 pupils join us for two days in June where they got to meet their new classmates and a number of their teachers. Day 1 was spent doing fun activities to promote Health and Wellbeing. The PE department and Pupil Support Team offered a number of different activities involving sports and games. Day 2 was spent experiencing an S1 Timetable. The eager pupils got to attend a range of subjects, meet staff and see what life is really like at high school. The new S1 also enjoyed a lunch in the school canteen (courtesy of Stirling Council catering service). We ended our days together with a Transition Mass led by Fr Andrew Kingham. What an amazing group of young people attended. We can't wait until they join us properly in August. Enhanced transition visits are now well underway for those who require some extra support as they prepare for their move to St Modan's.

P7 Open Morning

We also held an Open Morning for the parents/carers of the new S1. The event was led by the new S2 pupils who have just finished their first year at high school. They spoke confidently and enthusiastically about their first year at high school. They then took the parents and carers on tours of the school. This event is a great opportunity for our future families to experience what St Modan's is like on a 'normal' busy school day. The event was well attended and feedback was extremely positive. Thank you to those who attended and a massive well done to the 20 young people who led the event.

Zoo Lab

S1 pupils took part in an animal handling workshop during a visit from ZooLab. Pupils had been learning about the Tropical Rainforests in Social Subjects and had the opportunity to handle some of the animals they had studied. Some of the animals included a boa constrictor snake, a baby tortoise and a giant African snail. A fun time was had by both staff and pupils.



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.

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 Teacher Partnership (PTP) run a Uniform Bank in school to provide parents with the opportunity to pick up items of uniform (jackets, blazers, sweatshirts etc) at a much reduced cost. Please enquire through the PTP or our main office – or check it out next time you're passing the school.

SQA EXAMINATIONS 2019

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT SQA



SQA Results Day is Tuesday 6th August 2019

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 6th 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. In order to receive a text and/or email with your 2019 exam results you must sign up to MySQA by 5pm on Tuesday 16th July 2019 and activate your account by 5pm on Wednesday 17th July 2019.

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 Mon 12th August** (9.30am to 12.00pm) 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	6th August	SQA Results arrive in homes
Monday	12th August	Senior staff in school to take calls about Course Choice (9.30-12.00)
Monday	19th August	INSET Day – Teachers only
Tuesday	20th August	INSET Day – Teachers only
Wednesday	21st August	Pupil return to school – 8.30am

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.

Happy holidays!

