

St Thomas learns

Newsletter

December 2022



It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of another busy and successful term. This newsletter will give you a taste of some of the exciting learning, trips, activities and events that our young people have experienced over the last term.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Expressive Arts

- This term our junior and senior pupils have developed wood turning skills on the lathe. S5/6 Pupils in Practical Woodwork, have used sycamore wood to create beautiful bowls. Our S3 pupils have made festive snowmen using pine wood on the lathe.





Expressive Arts



In Art and Design this term our S1 pupils have been learning about pattern and symmetry, developing a fish inspired pattern as part of a costume project. S2 pupils have learned about the 'grid method' of drawing used by the Photorealist Artist Chuck Close. They have used this method in their portraits to create an accurate likeness.





Expressive Arts

- In Textiles, our S1 pupils have developed their hand sewing skills whilst making Christmas decorations. Our new S3 Textiles class have developed machine sewing techniques this term, producing beautiful iPad cases.

Modern Languages

First year to third year now enjoy lessons in French and Spanish

This term all classes at the Broad General Education stage have enjoyed a return to weekly lessons in both French and Spanish, following curriculum adjustments made in the pandemic. Learners are making good progress using the iPad in lessons and for digital homework. Recently classes have been busy creating multi-media files to record their French and Spanish talks adding images and video. Many learners have risen to the Duolingo classroom challenge, earning points on the leader board for progress in the language learning iPad app.

St Thomas links with Paris partner school

The languages faculty has been fortunate in forming a partnership with a secondary in Paris, the Collège Alberto Giacometti, in the Montparnasse district. Learners in S3 and S4 are exchanging digital information and voice notes with their peers who are learning English (with Scottish accents) in Paris. We look forward to meeting up with a school group from Paris who plan to book a youth hostel and visit Edinburgh. Our plans for the project involve a return visit to Paris once the conditions allow.

Modern Languages

SQA German for beginners

This term we have introduced German for beginners in S5 and S6, with learners now preparing for SQA Higher and National 5 awards. German is the language with the closest lexical distance to English (sharing many of the same words) and can readily be picked up from scratch. The class recently enjoyed a trip to the Edinburgh Christmas market looking at the influence of German tradition and at employment opportunities locally using languages.

German taster lessons for S3

With funding from Erasmus, we welcome Ms El-Sissi Koinzer from the university of Mainz, a German Education Trainee who is placed with us this year. She is supporting senior learners in exam preparation and providing groups of learners in S3 with a mini-lesson of the basics in German.

Primary seven French

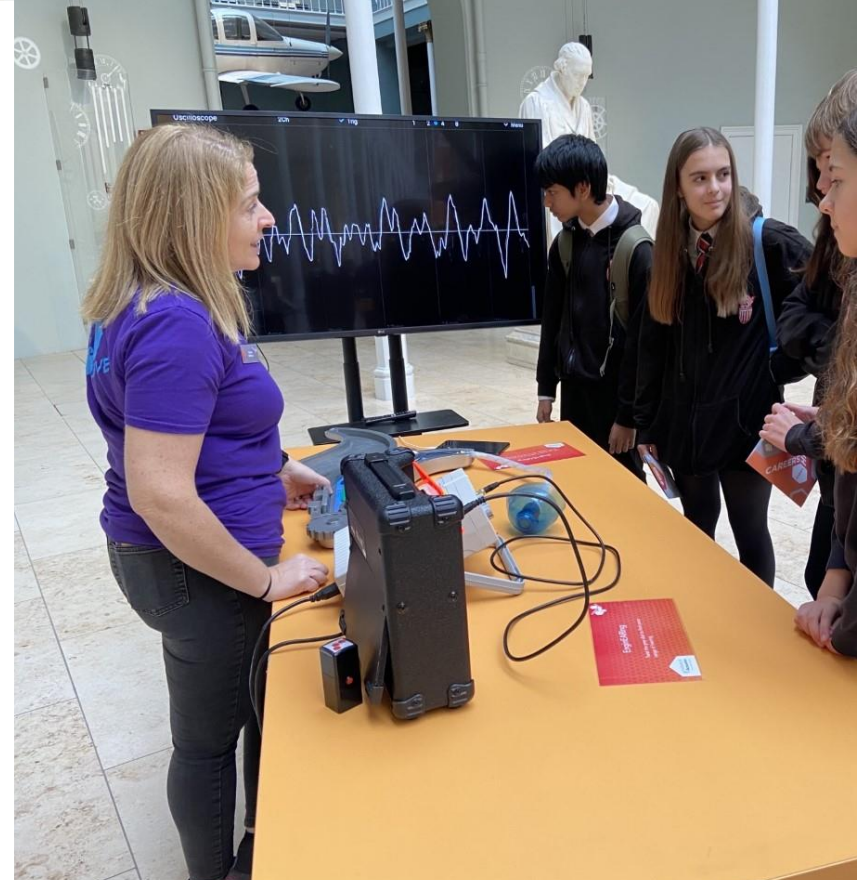
Our associated primaries continue to benefit from weekly lessons in French with Mrs Rocke from St Thom

Volunteering

Some of our pupils spent their Saturday volunteering at Butterflies café (part of Marchmont St Giles Church). They were absolute stars – got thrown into the thick of things and dealt with it brilliantly!

“Please pass on a huge thank you to the pupils from St Thomas. They were absolutely brilliant. We’ve never had so many volunteers before and it was such a massive help.”





SCIENCE

S2 went to the Careers hive this term at the National museum.

Science

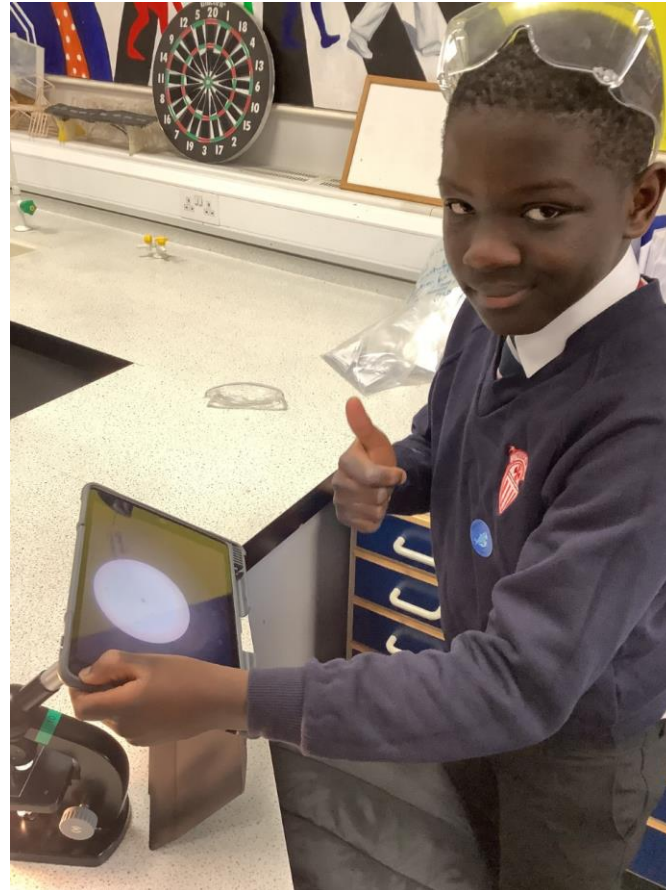
Summer Zoo Science projects:

Carmela Sartore and Isabelle Roe completed an intense research placement at the Royal Zoological Society during the summer. Carmela focused on the new giraffe's and Isabelle studied the penguins. They then presented their data to scientists and staff at the society. They were both commended for their efforts.

Roslin Institute Lab camp:

Isabelle Roe, Marysia Bilda, Ammna Hussain and Jade Miller have all been successful in gaining a place at the Easter Bush Science Centre where they will develop their experimental laboratory skills. There were only 40 places assigned across all of Scotland so to get 4 of our Advanced Higher pupils in is excellent. They will be using PCR and gel-electrophoresis equipment to analyse DNA at the gene level.



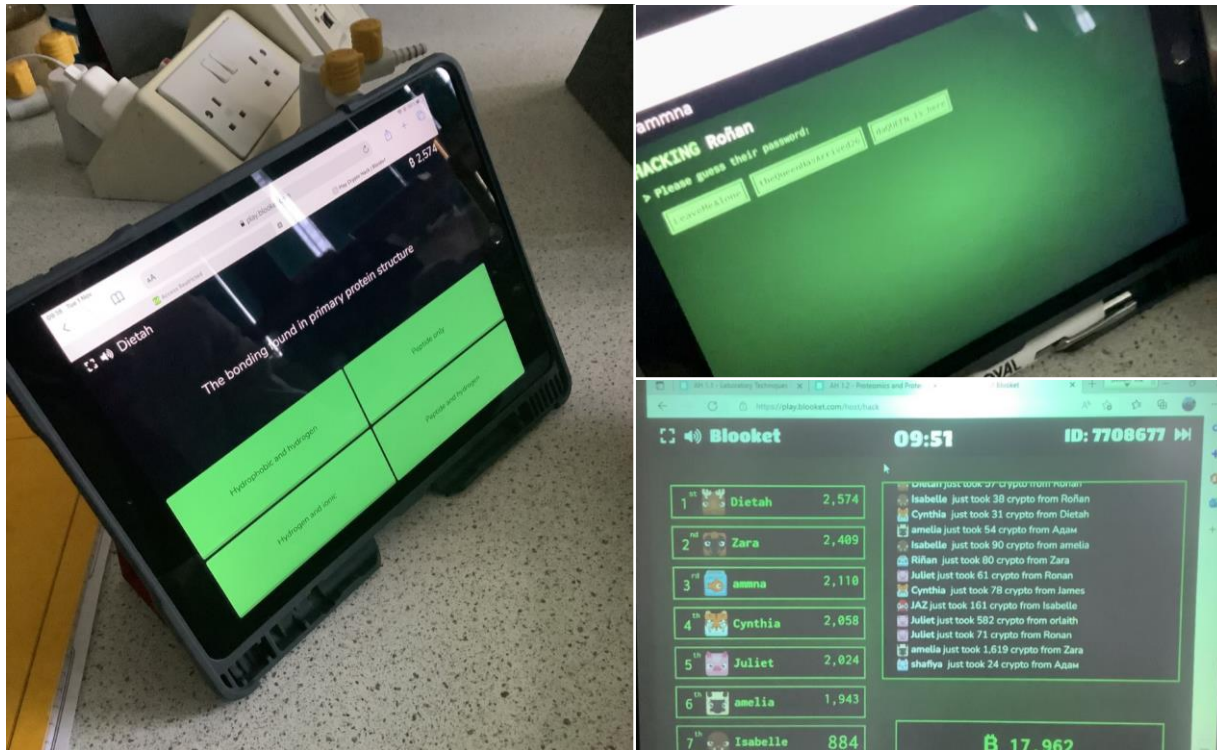


Science

Fun iPad work with S1
Science

Looking at cells under the
microscope then
uploading on teams and
peer assessing everyone's
microscope focusing skills

Science



Since the introduction of the iPads this term Science have been busy making full use of them as an engaging and exciting learning tool.

Advanced Highers loved blooket this morning using their iPads to answer questions and steal fake bitcoin!

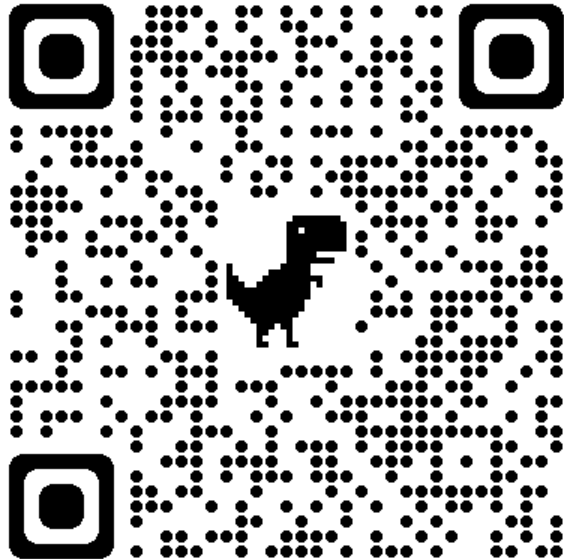
Equalities group



Our Equality Group is pupil led by three S6 Captains. Bibi, Heloise and Juliet have a shared vision of celebrating diversity at our school whilst also raising awareness of local and global issues.

In support of the charity, 'Show Racism the Red Card' pupils organised a very successful Wear Red Day. Staff were issued with posters to raise awareness and pupils took part in activities during Key Adult.

Dyslexia Awareness week



“This term we marked Dyslexia Awareness Week (31st October - 6th November) by distributing blue ribbons and making a presentation about dyslexia that was shown in Key Adult. The theme this year was Breaking Through Barriers, and we tried to embrace this by sharing facts and information, with the aim of removing some of the stigma surrounding dyslexia. This was an important week to mark at St Thomas' as we feel that in order to create a productive learning environment, all learners should feel secure in their capabilities.” Juliet S6

- For more information on how you can support your child at home:

Equalities- thrift shop

St Thomas of Aquin's is a school community that aims to meet the needs of all our young people, no matter who they are or where they are from. At the heart of the Equality Group is pupil equity and the aim to close the poverty related attainment gap. Our Equality Captains alongside the S6 Leadership Team have set up a very successful 'Thrift Shop.'

This thrift shop is open to all pupils every Wednesday afternoon to browse and pick up free resources to support their learning.





Equalities

- The wonderful efforts of Julia Broadwood (S4) and Coral Cresswell (S2) for our school Equality Group were recognised this term at the Saroj Lal Celebration and Awards ceremony. Please congratulate both pupils on their poetry entries if you see them.
- Our Equality Captains, Bibi Barker, Heloise Towler and Juliet Boardman (S6) are keen to nominate our school again this year. The themes of the award are, Proud to be me, How prejudice makes me feel and Activism.

Equalities group

As an equalities captain at St Thomas Of Aquin's I have participated in lots of events to set the foundations for future captains in this role and solidify the importance of this role in our school environment. I attended the play 'James IV: Queen of the Fight', a play about historical discrimination and the role of a moorish women in royal court in Scotland with the school and teachers from the equalities group. Additionally, I attended other extracurricular activities, such as the Saroj Lol award ceremony with the school, an award ceremony celebrating a race relations activist and one of Scotlands first BAME teachers.

I was key in organising 'show racism the red card' and collected donations and raised funds via a red themed bake sale. Following Dyslexia Awareness Week, I met with the Support For Learning team and discussed how to support pupils with dyslexia.

I have participated in a focus group review led by City of Edinburgh Senior Managers with my other equalities captains, where we met and discussed ways forward in ways of eradicating inequality within our school.

As someone who is not neurotypical and faces discrimination because of this, I believe in what I am representing in a way that others can't. My role comes easily. I discuss with faculty members ways to improve understanding and how the school can impact and help pupils facing inequality. I have a different approach to many adults since I am a pupil; I am able to see it from a perspective many adults can't and also have the ability to see things others wouldn't.

Saw 'James IV: Queen of the Fight' with equalities group members.

Attended Saroj Lol award ceremony.

Organised show racism the red card and subsequent fundraiser.

Participated in focus group review led by City of Edinburgh Senior Managers

Religious Education



Some pupils participated in a pilgrimage to Carfin where Archbishop Cushley celebrated Mass for Catholic schools in the presence of the relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes.

Carfin Grotto

29 September



- Visit of the relics of Saint Bernadette at the National Marian Shrine of Scotland and Mass with Archbishop Cushley.

Life Voice Drama and Workshop

21-23 November

- Drama about crisis pregnancy, followed by workshop on the development of life in the womb and Catholic teaching on the sanctity of life.
- Part of the Called to Love relationships programme for S4-6.



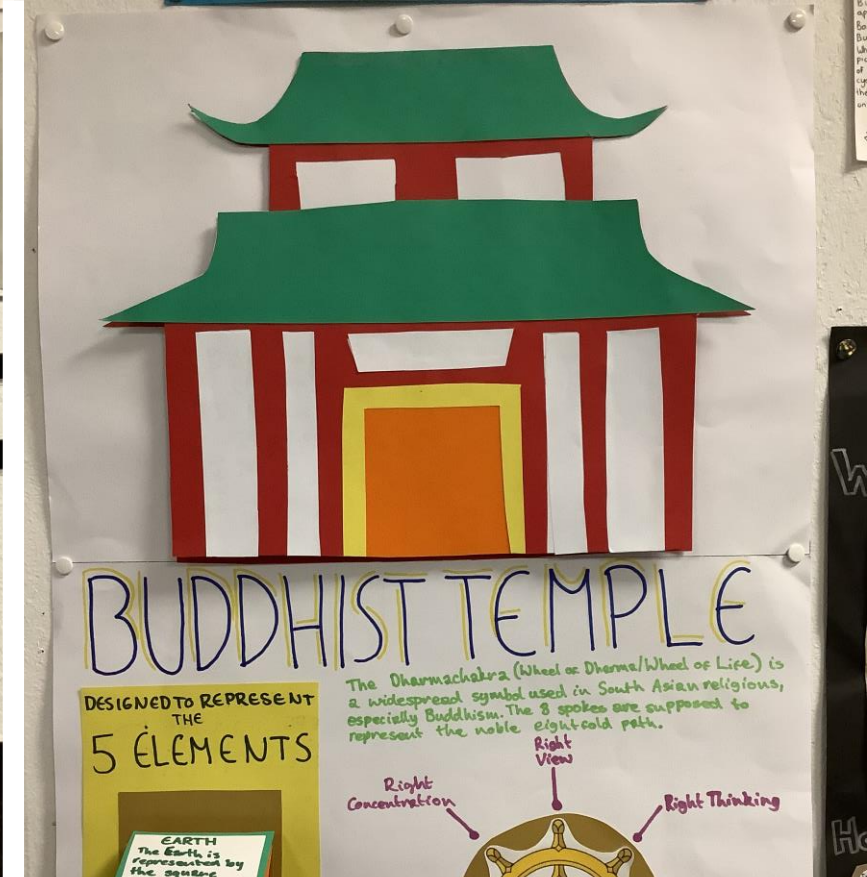
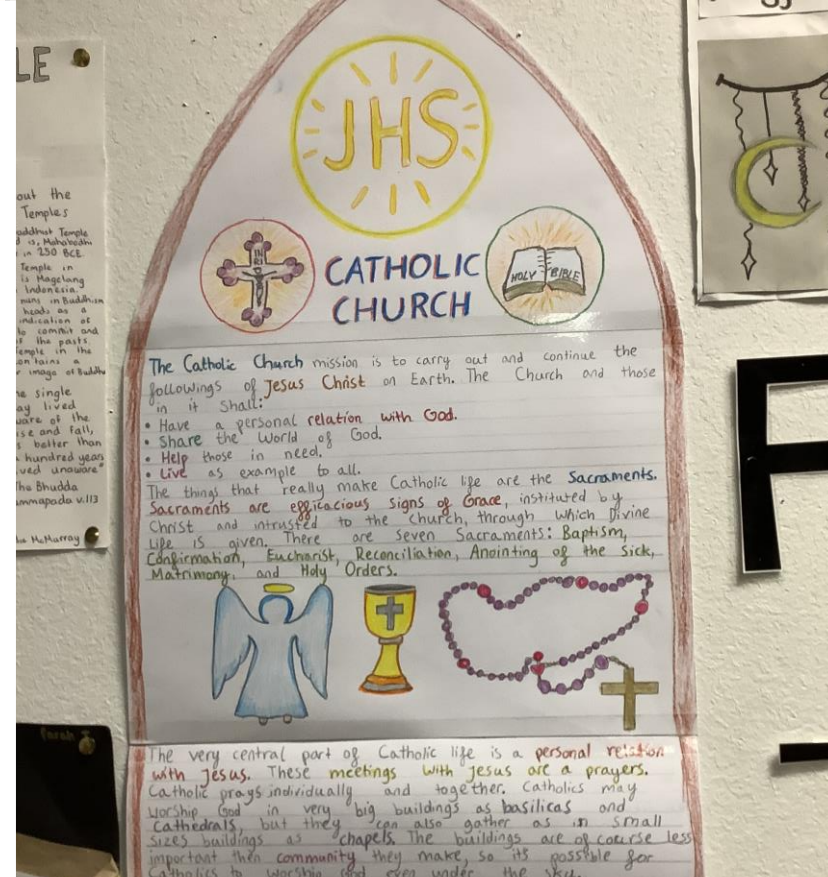
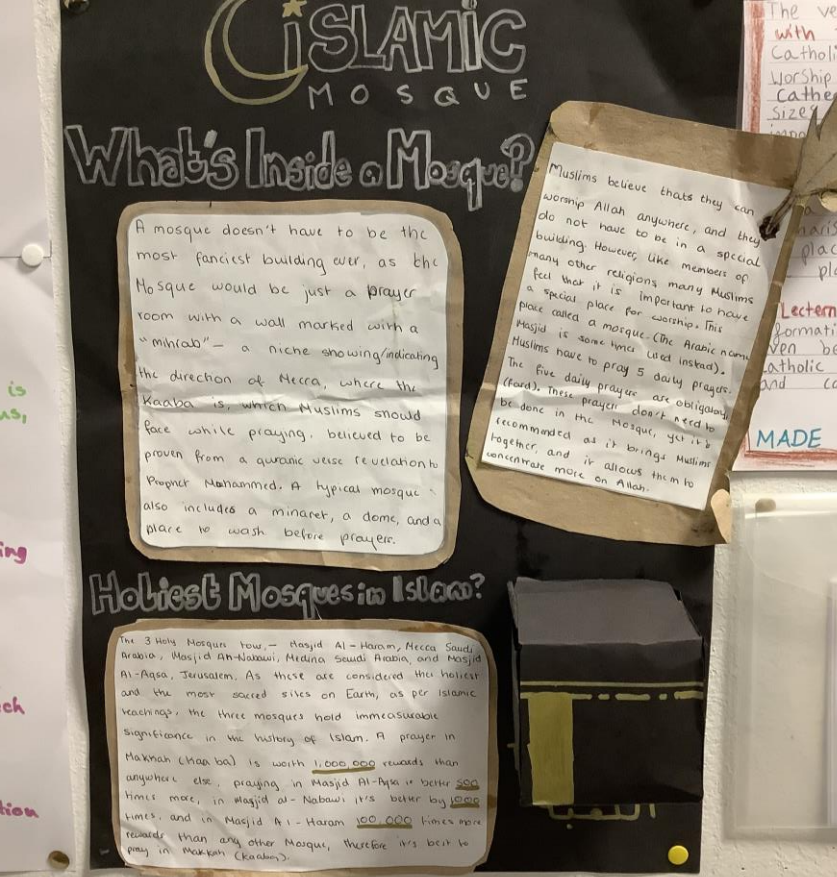


Assembly on Saint Andrew



Remembrance Services Throughout November

- Mr Wotherspoon and Ms Luncanu led remembrance services for pupils in the Oratory. Pupils and staff were invited to pray for the dead and include their names in our Book of Remembrance.



Places of Worship Unit

S2 pupils produced some fantastic project work on Places of Worship in RE.



The Ten Commandments

S1 have been learning about God's covenant with Moses on Mount Sinai



Religious Education

In December we had assemblies for S1 & 2 pupils, delivered by David Wright and Esther Dangata of Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons UK). Pupils were then offered a free copy of the New Testament and Psalms to take home.

S1 cinema trip



- Our S1 pupils enjoyed a trip to the cinema to see The Bad Guys this term. This was a lovely treat for our youngest members of the St Thomas community.



St Margaret's feast day

Our S6 house captains organised a day of celebrations to celebrate the feast day of Saint Margaret. This included handing out over 500 scoops of ice cream at breaktime to the school community.

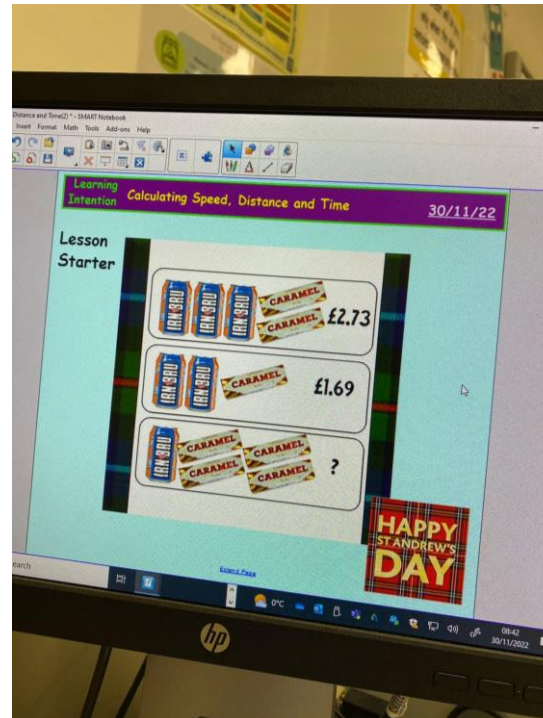
A special thanks to Eimear and Rona for their hard work as House Captains and brilliant presentations this morning.

St Andrew's Feast day



St Andrew's Feast day

- St Andrew's day was filled with fun activities including a piper playing to welcome pupils and staff in the morning as they came to school, a foodbank collection, a Scottish tuck shop and Highland dancing at lunchtime! Pupils also took part in Scottish themed lessons.





Minecraft competition

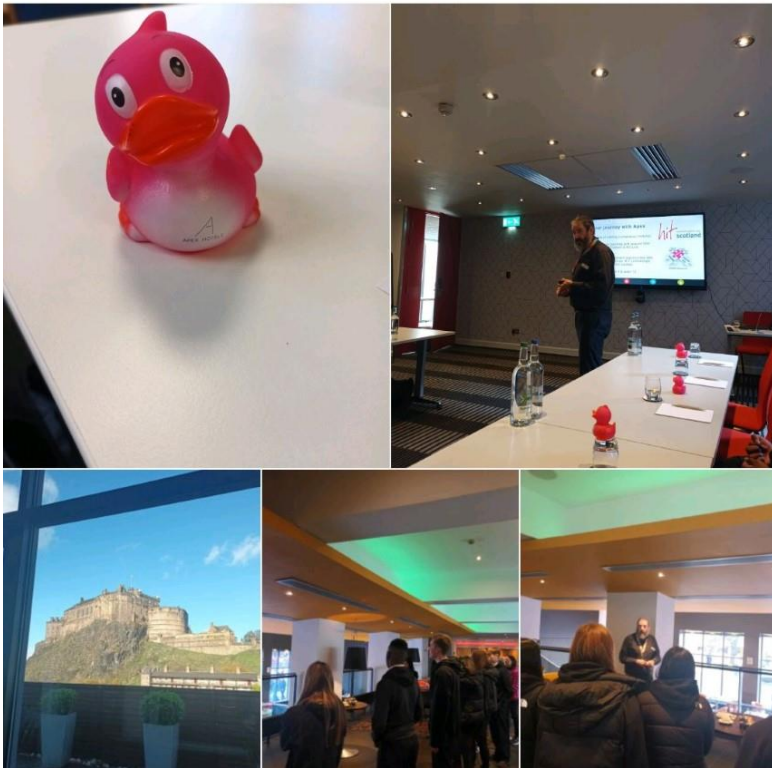
Rose Hui in S3, won the council wide competition for creating the best Minecraft snowman.



Caroline Rosie Assoc. CIPD · You

Developing Young Workforce (DYW) School Coordinator
now · 🌐

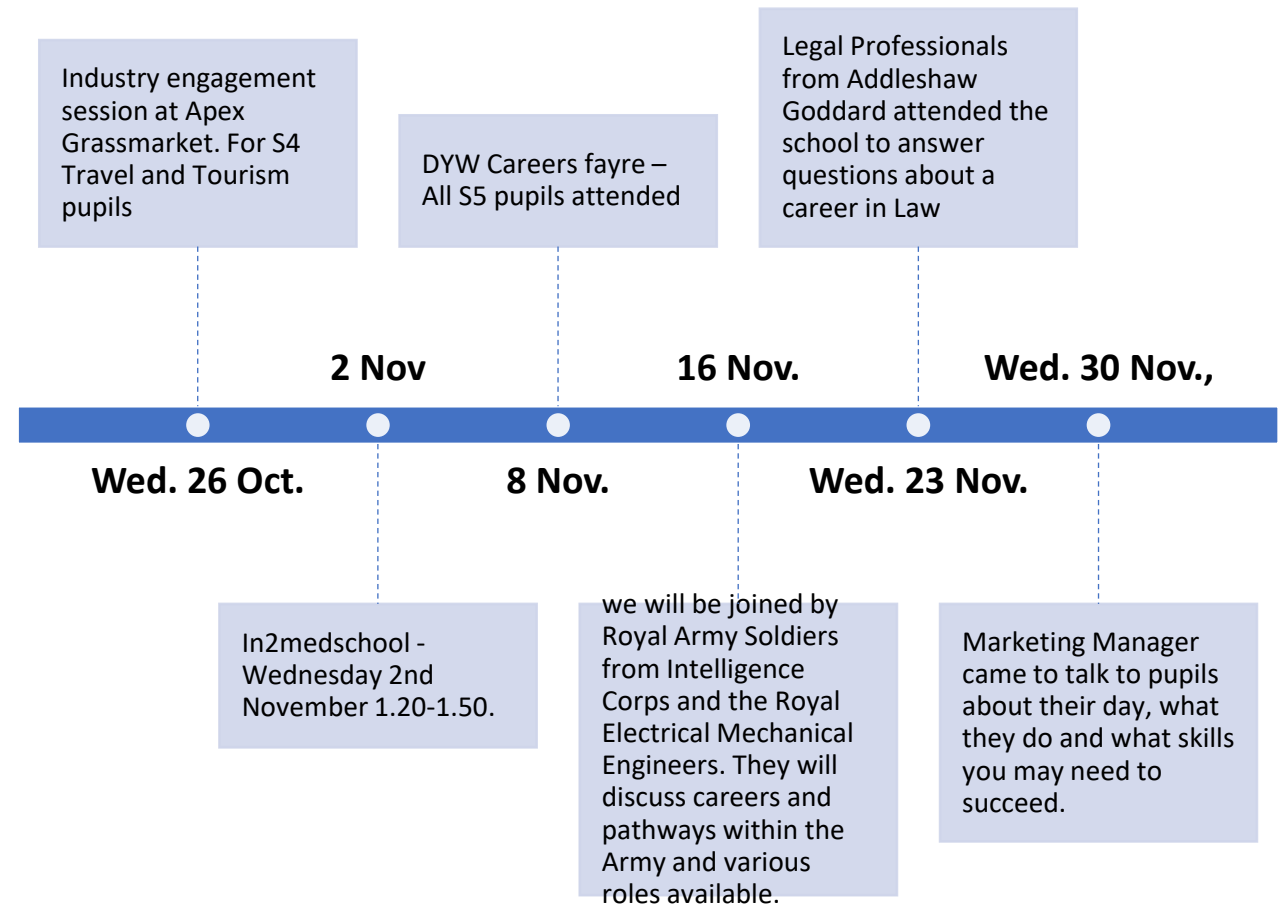
Thank you [Christopher Fox Assoc.CIPD](#) for hosting a wonderful industry engagement session at Apex Grassmarket for a group of S4 travel and tourism students. What a wonderful setting for them to see and be immersed in. They also like their ducks 😊 [#students](#) [#engagement](#) [#DYW](#)



Developing the Young workforce

- Over the last term we have welcomed many employers into the school to deliver presentations on potential careers to our senior pupils. Employers included-
- Tuesday 27th September 1.20-1.50 in library- Sandra Dailidyte from Brown Shipley is coming in to discuss her career and pathway to wealth management.
- Wednesday 28th September - Callum Maloney Offer Type: STEM workshop / practical activity
Aim: To help promote maths and the other STEM subjects to school pupils
- Screen Education Edinburgh - Thursday the 29th of September at 8.50-9.35am. Our guest for the talk will be Clare Kerr, Clare has extensive and wide experience of all areas of film and TV production in drama, comedy, and factual programmes.

Developing the Young workforce





Career ready

Career pupils have had a very busy term attending a conference at Blackrock in November. They have also taken part in a conference in the EICC in Edinburgh where they met their mentors and were introduced to the wonderful career ready program. Pupils also had the opportunity to meet with their mentors online during our in-school career ready launch.



Highland dancers

Congratulations to Theresa Leigh Motion and Emily Rockett who flew to America for three weeks in July to take part in the American Championships in Wisconsin and the Grandfather Mountain Championships in North Carolina. They were both placed in the Highland, Nationals and Choreography sections. The girls both competed in the World Championships at Cowal in Dunoon, both girls performed extremely well, with Theresa picking up an 8th place!





Support for Learning

Support for Learning raised awareness during the Dyslexia Awareness Week and wore Elli's blue ribbon.

The S3s are still exploring the outdoors and working towards their John Muir Award Discovery Award.



Support for Learning

Some of our S1-3 pupils have been enjoying their morning literacy intervention which has included paired reading, spelling and comprehension. They have been supported by our amazing senior Peer Mentors to engage in their activities. Thank you to all of the Support for Learning team and Senior pupils who have been supporting this great initiative.



Literacy

It was wonderful to meet some of our new S1 parents at the Literacy and Numeracy engagement event! We shared some top tips for practicing spelling, reading, writing and speaking at home - we even had some exciting gift bags up for grabs!

Our paired reading before school is proving to be a great success. This is a lovely opportunity for our younger pupils to get to know our senior volunteers and work on their literacy skills at the same time.

The school also enjoyed celebrating Banned Books week, and it was fantastic to see many of our staff joining in on the fun! We were stunned by some of the reasons novels have been outlawed and had some brilliant discussions around censorship both in the past and present day.



English



Book Festival

Last term, Ryan Van Winkle, a writer, worked with a huge range of pupils at St Thomas on an exciting range of activities. He worked with an S1 and S3 class to create their own planets. The Book Festival commissioned artists to create installations inspired by the planets created by the pupils. We were fortunate to get exclusive access to these installations during the Book Festival this year. We are also grateful that the Book festival donated these installations to the school, and they now form an intriguing and colourful display on the mezzanine.

S4 Pupils were also involved in shadowing the YA Book Prize and were invited to see some of the nominated writers speak at the Book Festival.

English

Bookstagram Reviews

To celebrate Scottish Book Week, Miss Farrell's class wrote book recommendations for imaginary Instagram accounts. See some of our Bookstagram reviews below!

Many of our students submitted entries to the Scottish Book Trust 50 word fiction competition. November's theme was umbrellas. Here are some of the fantastic and creative responses from our BGE students.

'Pitter patter, pitter patter, down falls the rain happy days and sunshine come back again.' that was what she sang looking at the grave. "Father please come back I promise I'll behave!" Downtrodden and broken there she stood, under her umbrella and her funeral suit. I wish she could see...

Lewis Burton

Cha cha cha!!!! People were dancing in the rain. Enjoying it like it was a hot summer day, the leader pulled me in and said, "if you ain't dancing you ain't having fun, grab an umbrella and join us lad." I grabbed an umbrella and danced to my hearts content.

Robin Longino

Bookstagram Book Recommendations



Scottish Book Trust - Can you write a story in just 50 words? We'll provide a prompt to get you started, but where the story goes from there is entirely up to you.

November 2022
Write a story featuring an umbrella.



- POW! And just like that my parents are dead. Sobbing in the rain my grandmother pulls me close And says "not to worry little one you will be safe with me" holding the umbrella over us. I gripped her hand in fear while wondering what ever will happen to me?
Mariyam Shazad

I put on my jacket, grab my umbrella and step into the land of wild, I look out my door, and what foul creatures are those? ZOMBIES!?! They had a putrid odour, the umbrella is my weapon, I whack, I stab and, Thomas! dinner's ready. the imagination of an umbrella.
Paulina Mazur



Performing Arts

Music and Drama ran a trip to the Lyceum on Thursday December 1st to watch 'An Edinburgh Christmas Carol'

A fantastic start to the Christmas Season, thoroughly enjoyed by S2 pupils and other pupils from the Drama Club



"I wasn't the best at Maths and I struggled a lot but Anna helped me with division, times tables and lots more." **Joe S1**

"My tutor is very kind and she helps me if I need help." **Marcel S1**



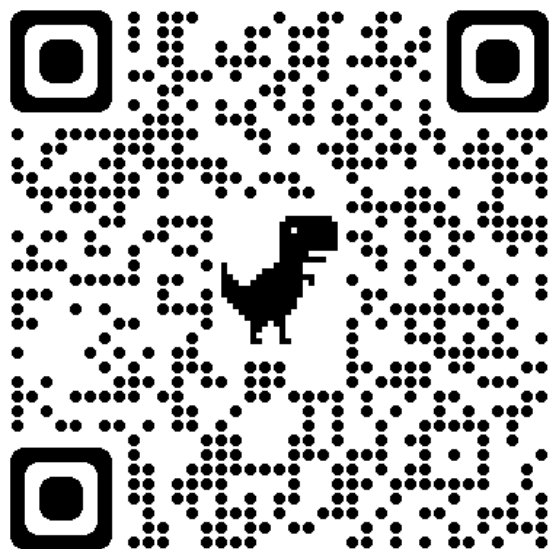
Numeracy

- Senior pupils have taken on the role of peer mentors for our Numeracy Support Program for S1 pupils. Every Tuesday afternoon, seniors act as tutors to provide assistance in building required numeracy skills. A huge thank you to our S5 tutors!

Maths week

- **Maths Week Scotland** is a celebration of the importance of Maths in our everyday lives. St Thomas' celebrated with daily puzzles, competitions, and a focus on Maths based careers. Many thanks to Sandra Dailidyte from Brown Shipley for her talk on Wealth Management. Pupils were given an insight into the industry and possible pathways from school. S4 pupils also experienced a workshop on Electrical Engineering by industry professionals. Pupils investigated how a career in engineering could lead to a more sustainable Scotland. S3 pupils investigated how Maths can pave the way to their dream careers.





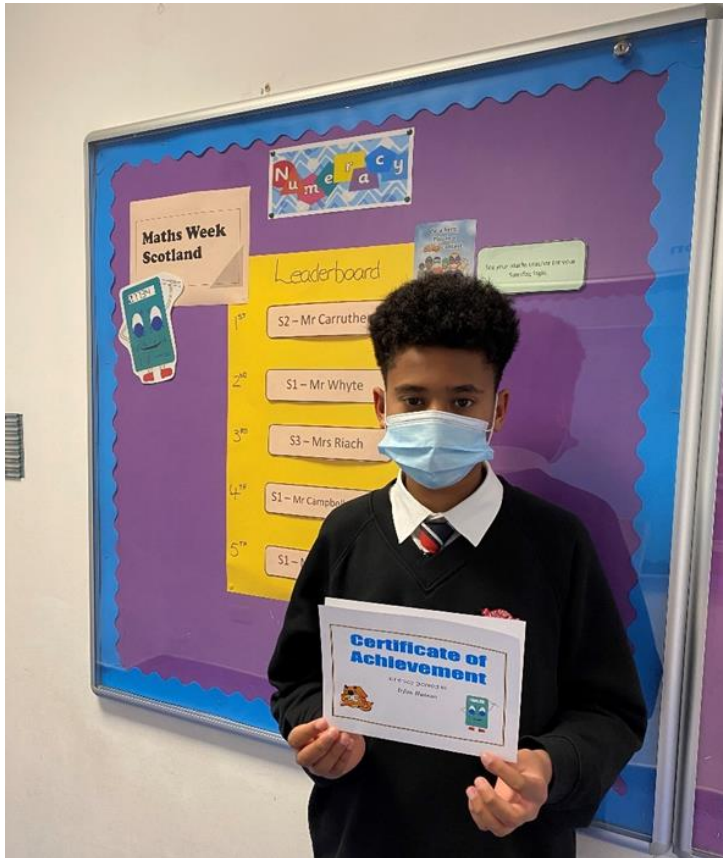
Maths competitions

Congratulations to our S6 pupils who represented St Thomas' in the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge.



The question paper is now open to the public if you would like to challenge yourself!

Maths competitions



FRIENDS	SCHOOL	WORLD
Irfan H	1000	↑
Ahad R	909	□
Ayub S	878	□
Dev R	861	↓

NEXT →



- S1 – 3 pupils competed against their peers across the City in an **Edinburgh Sumdog Winter Wonderland Maths Competition**. A huge congratulations to Irfan, S2 who finished in first place!

- A team of S3 and S4 pupils represented St Thomas' at Enterprising Maths in the Lothian's competitions. Our pupils worked collaboratively on a series of puzzles and relay races. Finishing in an impressive 4th place!

"I really enjoyed the competition as I got to work with others and use my knowledge in a strategic way." Kirstin, S4.



Outdoor learning in Maths

- Maths is everywhere, and so, St Thomas' pupils have been taking their learning outdoors to gain a more in-depth understanding of Measurement, Statistics and Finance. Learning excursions have included the National Museum of Scotland, local bank branches and a trip to the Fringe Festival!

Support for Learning



Some great photos of the Literacy Intervention Christmas Breakfast Party. As you can see, the junior pupils are supported by their senior mentors to either focus on Paired Reading, Spelling or ESOL. Today, however, was devoted to party games and just a few doughnuts!



Geography

Pupils in S5 &6 studying National 5 and Higher Geography went on a fieldtrip around Edinburgh to investigate housing and transport problems and solutions across the city. This built on knowledge that pupils developed in class, providing real-life experience of the areas, problems and solutions that they will be required to write about in their exams.



Pupils said:

"I had a good time asking the public questions about cycling on Edinburgh's roads."

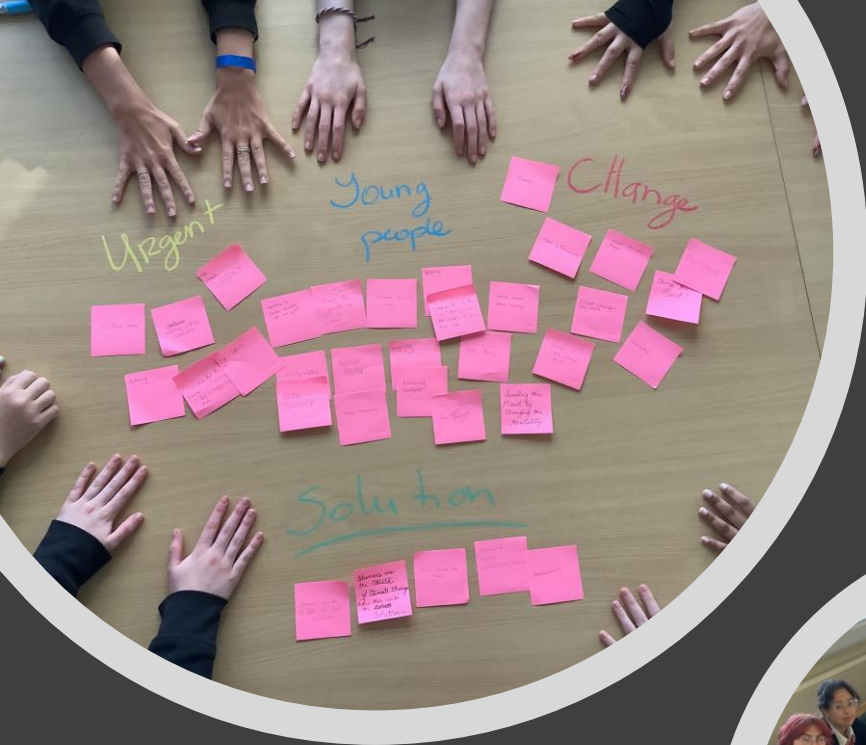
"It was interesting to see how many cars are on the road."

"It was very fun and productive."

Geography

S3 Geography pupils have been putting their knowledge of natural hazards to the test Bear Grylls style. The winning team that showed a super speedy ability to make the right decision and survive almost every deadly scenario thrown at them are: Cara Dunbar, Caitlin Lawlor, Maggie Cudlipp and Jake Heap. They are now the proud owners of the "survival badge"





Climate Action group

Climate Action Group has been working really hard to establish and promote a new recycling scheme in our school (link to Sway: <https://sway.office.com/3G4lrSkrOyrwzypP?ref=Link&loc=play>). The Social Media team of the group has been diligently coming every Wednesday after school working on our eco flag application as well as launching our twitter account (@SttAction).

The group has also organized for our school to take part in the three-day **Climate Change conference 1.5MAX**, along with schools from Malawi and Nepal. Sixteen pupils took part and embarked on a fantastic learning journey that culminated in a collective pledge - a project to not only plant one tree per pupil in Scotland (as part of a forest restoration project) but also to mirror that effort and donate trees to a school in Malawi that has been impacted by deforestation. A group of pupils have also created a short animation to educate primary school pupils on the importance of afforestation. They have begun working with a graphic designer to help them do that. It was fantastic to see their project evolve and grow as they had a chance to communicate and see what life is and climate change impacts are for pupils from other corners of our world. They have now a year to turn their dream into a reality.

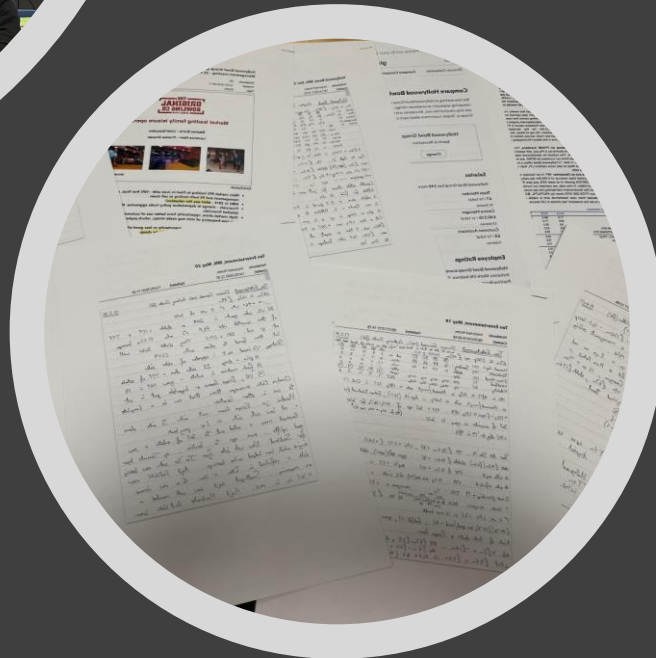




Business Studies

Higher Business Assignment Workshop

The Higher Business class were fortunate to have Mark from Artemis Funds in to support with their SQA assignment. Mark discussed how they would tackle their assignment and in particular looked at public platforms where pupils could access market research. The Higher seemed to enjoy Mark's old school presentation with zero technology and asked very interesting questions.



Practical cookery





Ski team

The ski team recently took part in the Boyd Anderson Ski Competition at Hillend. This competition is open to schools in Edinburgh & the Lothians. The senior team of Elena Muyo De Bonorostro, Adam Smith, Lewis Lam and Ethan Burns came 2nd overall. Elena was 2nd fastest female of the day.

The Junior boys Team in their first ever race placed 3rd, congratulations to Alec Smith, Daniel Burns, Peter Murphy and Louis Foggan.

Our next race will be next term and will be on snow in the Scottish mountains. If you are interested in taking part please speak to Mr Carruthers





MODERN STUDIES

Modern Studies

Higher Modern Studies: On Wednesday 14 November our class went to the Scottish Parliament. We learnt about the different roles MSPs have and we also got to meet Scottish Conservatives MSP, Jeremy Balfour (an MSP for Lothian region) We asked him questions about his role as an MSP and he also helped us with the course too. After that, we got to observe a live debate in the Debating Chamber which was very exciting. Finally, we did a workshop about holding the government to account which helped our understanding. **Charlotte Mackay**

Advanced Higher Modern Studies: On the 28th of October, our Advanced Higher Modern Studies class visited the high court on the Royal Mile to learn about the current and historical features of the Judicial System in Edinburgh. We experienced a guided tour of the building which allowed us to learn the ins and outs of how the courts operate and the differences between criminal and civil courts. Additionally, we got to see various cells in which infamous Scottish prisoners were kept prior to their trial. This gave us a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system overall which will be an essential component in our modern studies essays. **Orlaith Joyce and Keira Mooney**

Advanced Higher Modern Studies: On the 28th of November, our second trip was to George Watson College along with various other school from Scotland, to take part in the crime and justice conference. In the morning we listened to keynote speaker Niven Ronnie (the director of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit). This informed us on the different initiatives taken to prevent and reduce crime at the root causes. Throughout the day we were given the opportunity to take part in numerous workshops such as families inside which gave us an insight into how families are affected by imprisonment. Another workshop we attended was Navigators which work in collaboration with the violence reduction unit to support people affected by violence and better their lives. All the workshops were extremely informative and helpful for our dissertations and gave us a better understanding of crime/ crime prevention in Scotland. The day ended with final keynote speakers which included a lawyer, a psychotherapist and a violence reduction project manager who shared their experience and knowledge regarding trauma aware law. This conference was insightful and interesting and was an amazing opportunity for our whole class. **Orlaith Joyce and Keira Mooney**



Financial Education workshops- PSE

Financial education workshops which have been taking place for S6 in PSE this term.



BIOLOGY

The Advanced Higher Biology class went to see a talk on radiography - by Dr Michael Jackson. He discussed the different forms of radiography and some of the practical uses of them, such as how each form is applied differently depending on what the radiographers/doctors are looking for. Some examples of the types of radiography shown are CT scans, ultrasounds, MRIs and X-rays. The lecturer made sure to keep us on our toes by giving the chance to use some of the equipment that he had talked about and by telling us about some of the interesting cases he had seen.

We enjoyed the talk and found it intriguing

Computing

- On November 9th 30 S3 pupils were involved in BIMA's Digital Day. Lloyd's banking group came into the school and acted as our digital partners helping our students through the day. The S3 students learnt about the Lloyds banking group job roles and what a day in the life of their jobs would include learning about digital careers. They were then set two challenges one by Primark and one by the Royal Mail to create a digital design that would support sustainability within their companies.

Our winning groups for each project were:

1st Place - Royal Mail

- Ruby Chambers
- Princess Owiafe
- Rumaisya Hisshomuddin
- Caitlin Lawlor

2nd Place - Primark

- Luke Allan
- Gregory Chan
- Sasha Leymarie
- Nathan Romero
- Bartosz Wojnar





Digital Day 2022

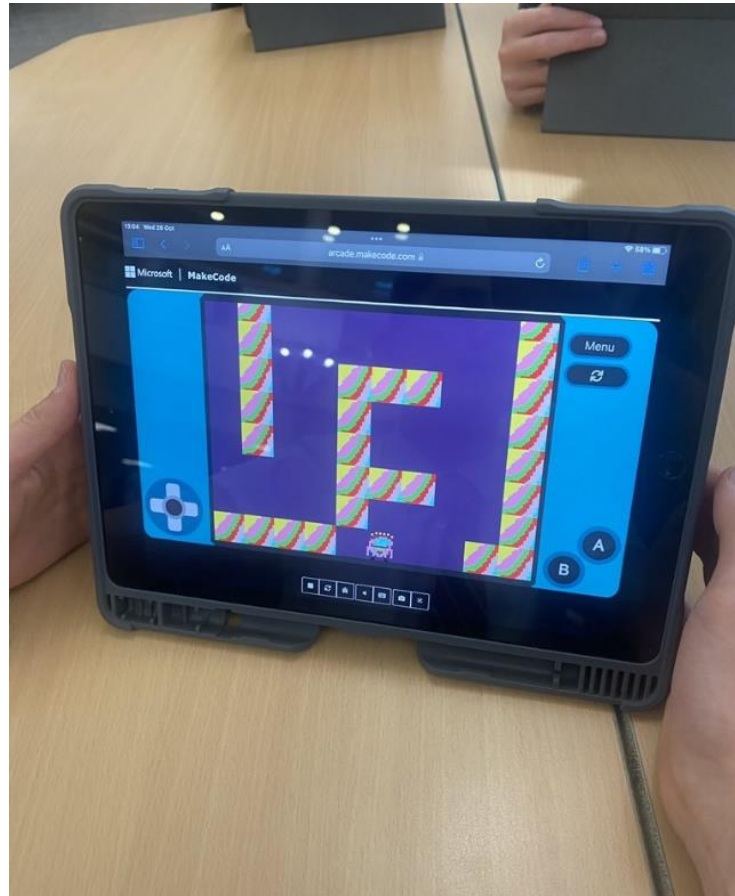
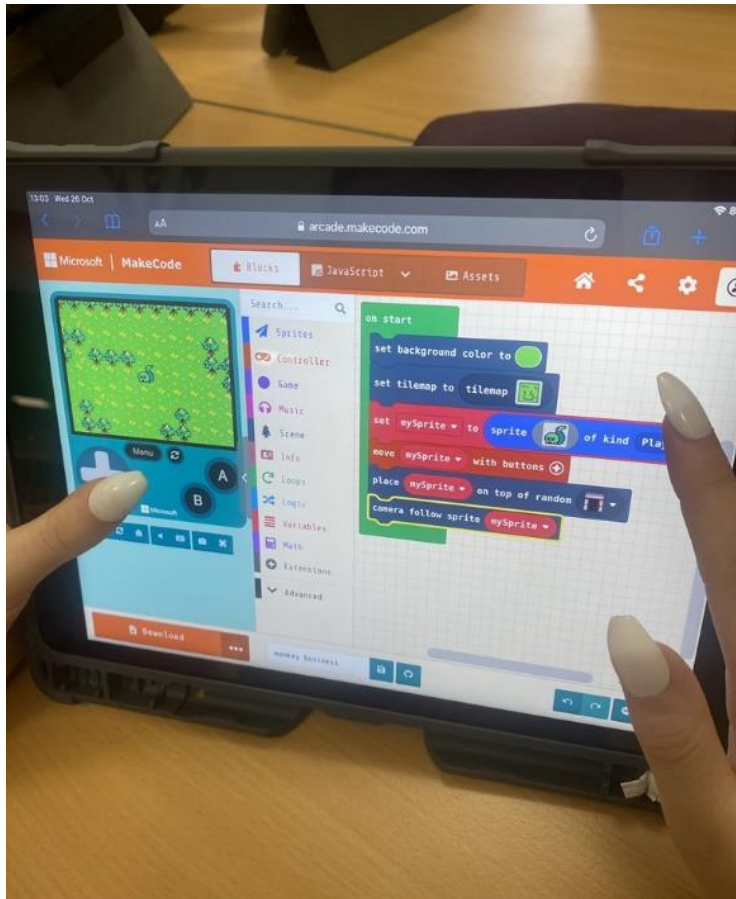
- Well-done to all pupils involved in the day as many other teams produced great ideas for the Royal mail and Primark Project. Miss Stalker, Mr Lodge, Mrs Zafar, Miss Baxter, Madame Jean Pierre & all the digital partners were very impressed with all the hard work that went into the presentations. The designs have been entered into the national competition which will be announced in January 2023.



S3 Skills Development Scotland Virtual Cypto hacking session

S3 Students had an online meeting with David from Skills development Scotland to learn about cryptography and used programs to encrypt and decrypt messages whilst exploring careers in cyber security.

S2 Computing Games Design Skills Development Scotland Virtual session



Using Microsoft MakeCode the whole of S2 programmed and created their own short video game, learning basic programming skills whilst learning about careers in games design. This was a successful activity which allowed pupils to all use their iPads and be creative in coming up with their own game ideas.

Minecraft Edinburgh School Challenge

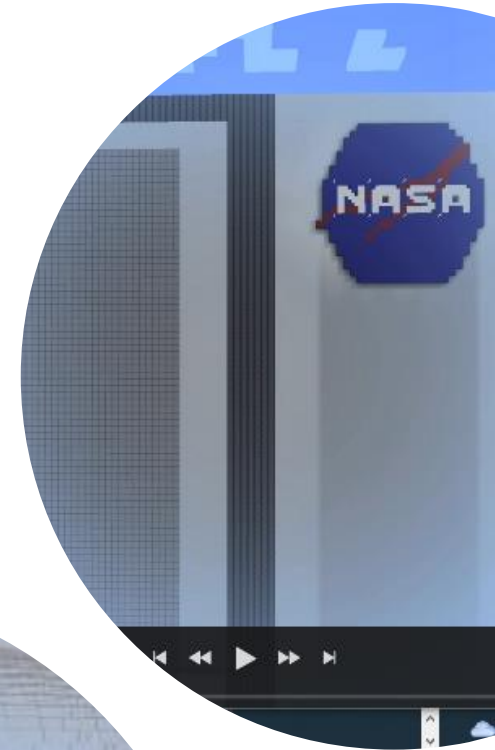
S1-S3 pupils have been working on creating their own minecraft worlds in groups or on their own which was based on creating a world that shows you could live on the moon.

Judged by Mr Lodge, Miss Stalker and our Space Specialist Mr Kennedy (Physics) and entered into the council wide competition were:

1st Place : Sasha Leymarie

2nd Place: Timon Wozny, Coral Cresswell & Malachy Groom

3rd Place: Daniel Munro, Masha Ivanova & Robina Harding





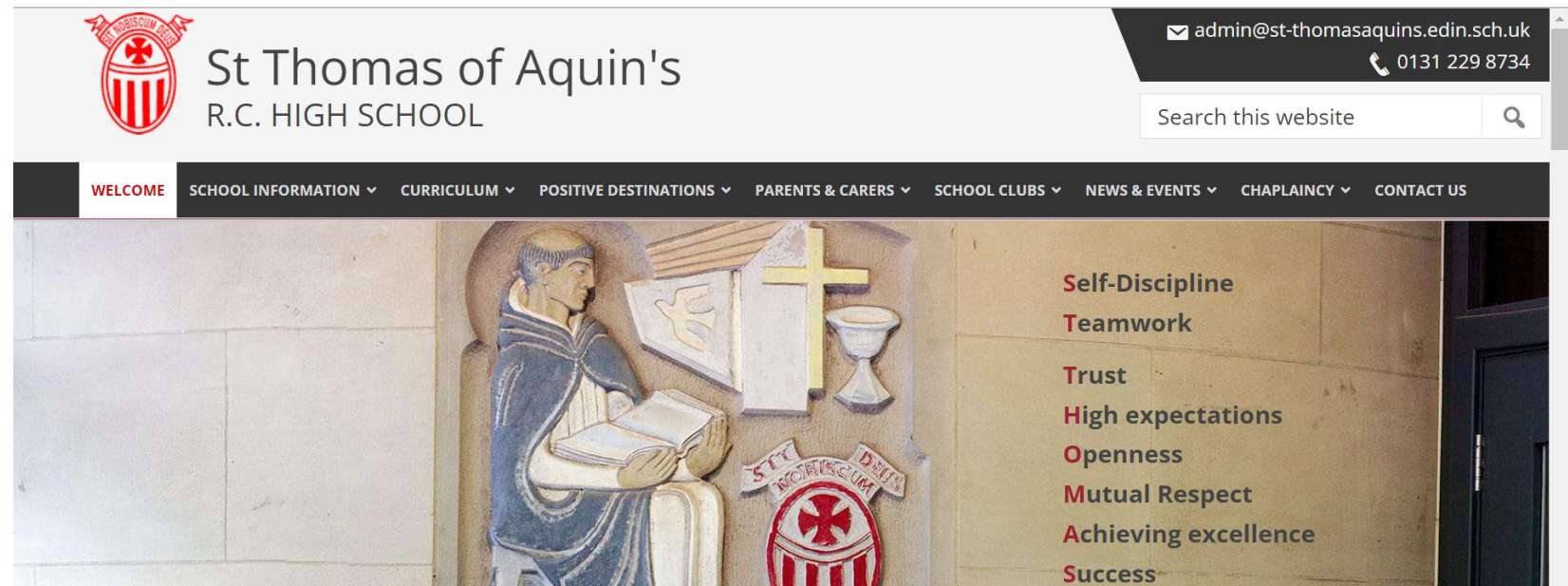
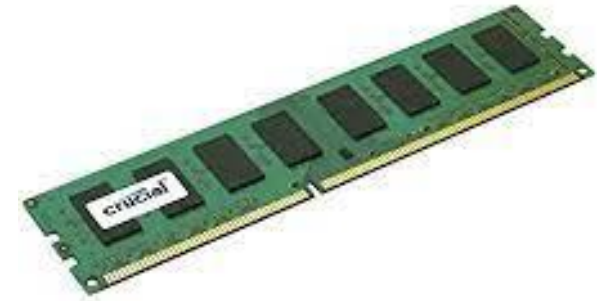
Idea award S2 and S3 Computing Science

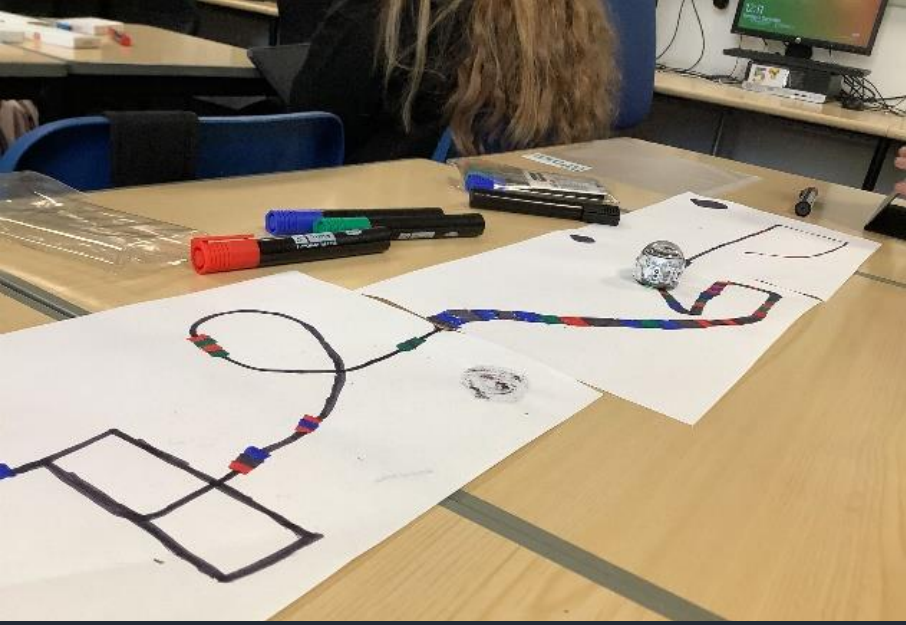
Many pupils are still working hard to gain the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA is an international award-winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills.

Our amazing S6
Senior Tech team
has been involved in

- creating videos to support pupils in using the iPads
- Learning about upgrading computers

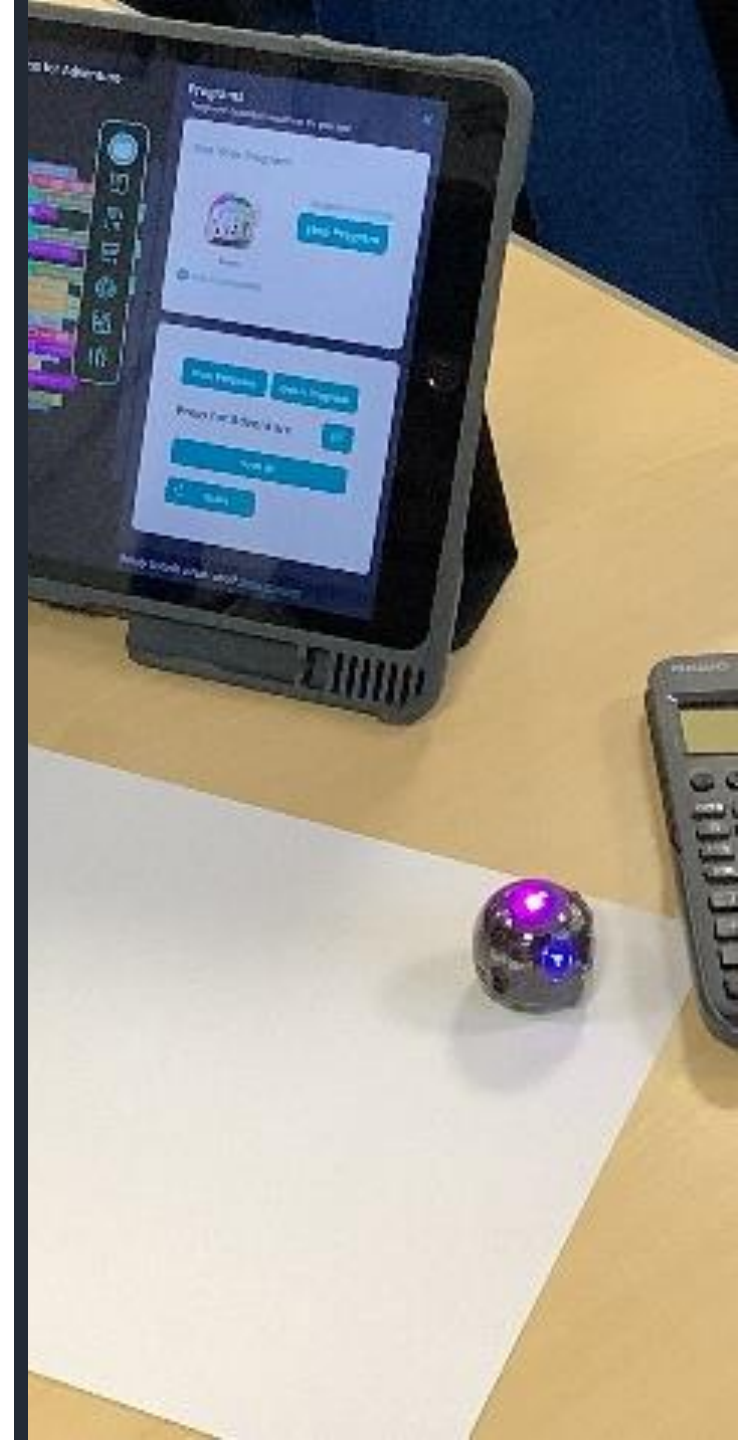
Editing and updating the school website

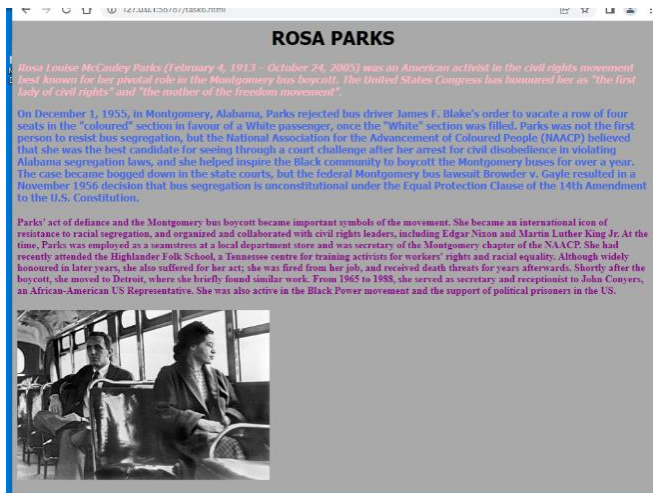
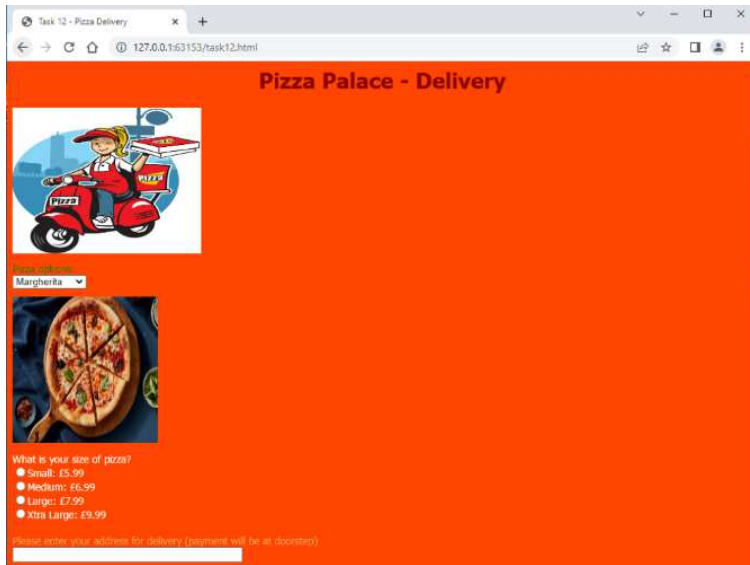




S1 Computing

- Our S1 Computing classes have been working on internet safety, staying safe online, creating websites and have now moved on to the robotics unit learning about the importance of sequencing when programming our robots. They have explored using both line following code and some students used the iPad's to control the robot using block code using numeracy skills to get the robot to move the correct angles.



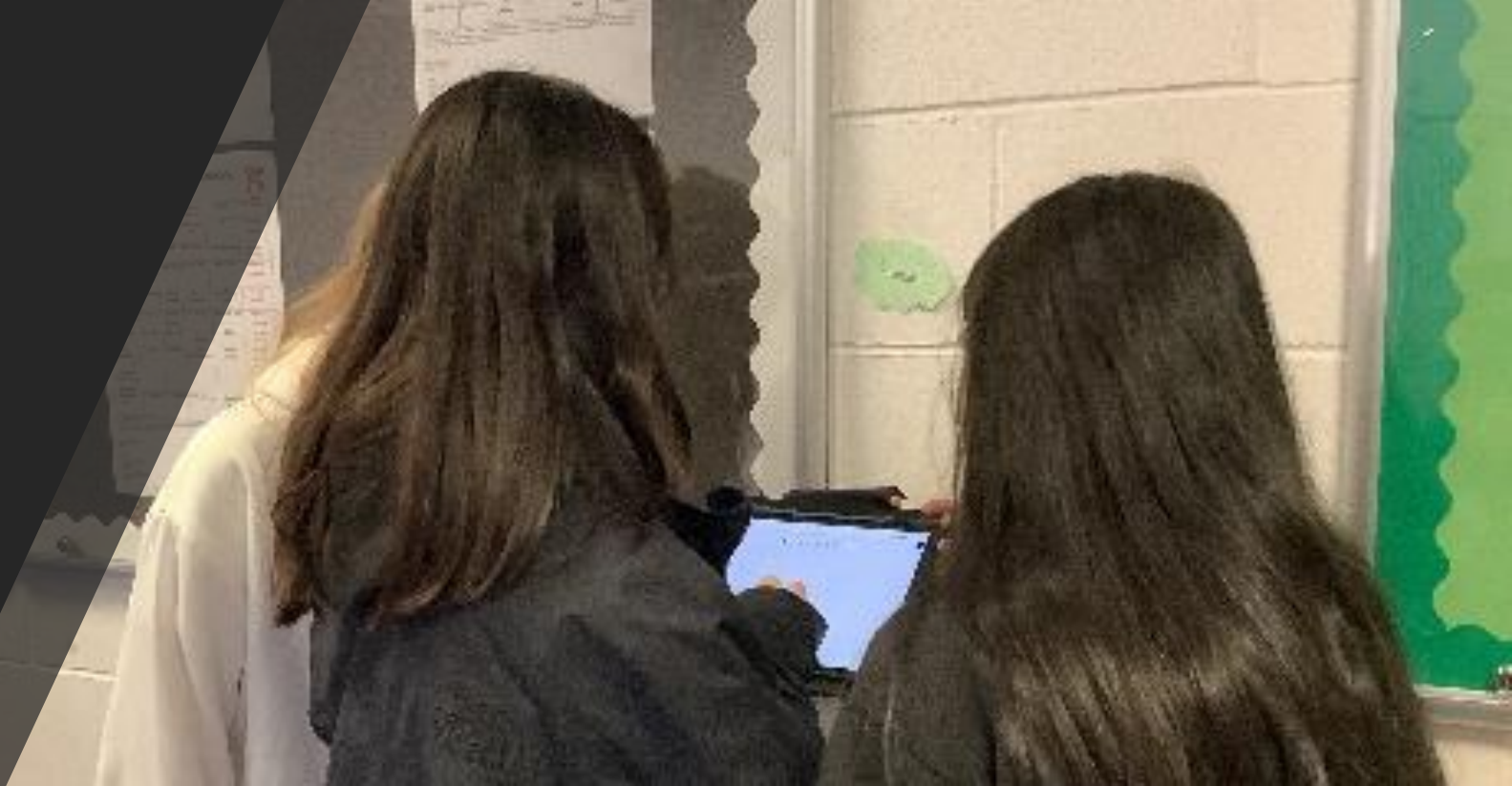


S2 Computing

- S2 Computing have been working on developing their HTML skills, to understand what each of the individual tags do and how to create both visually pleasing and working websites.
- They have had the choice to choose lots of different things about their websites, including the colours, content and look of the website.
- Here is an example of some really good websites created by our S2's

S3 Computing

- S3 Computing students have been working on perfecting their binary conversations by completing a binary treasure hunt around the school.
- They have also been working on developing their understanding of computer security & precautions they should be taking.
- Researching real life security threats and completing challenges where they can act as a cyber specialist to solve crimes for Police Scotland.



National 5 Computing

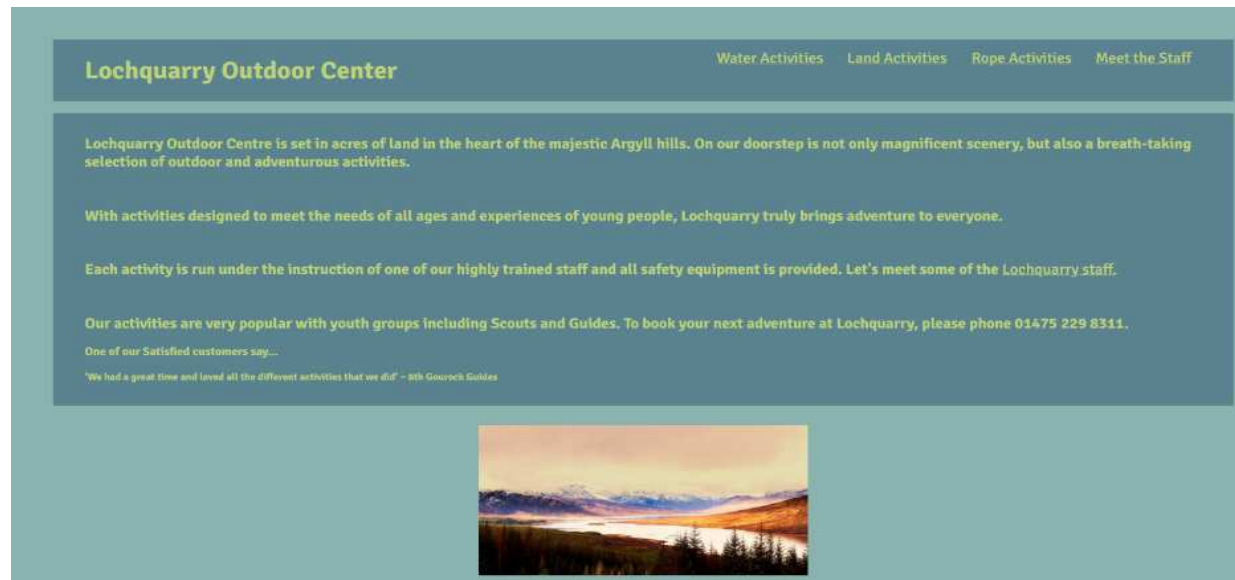
Within S4 Computing we have been focusing on our three units. Computer systems, Web design & Development and Software Design and Development. We have been using the iPads to learn how to write exam type coding questions using the whiteboard.

1. Create the code for an audio tag to display the following sound file FunkyMusic.mp3

```
<Audio controls>  
<Source Src = "FunkyMusic.Mp3" type = "audio/mpeg">  
</audio>
```

2. Create the code for a video tag to display the following video crazyBats.mp4

```
<Video controls>  
<Source Src = "crazyBats.mp4" type = "video/mp4">  
</video>
```



- Some of our National 5 Students have been working so hard they have achieved part of the NPA in Web Design and Development as well as covering the National 5 Computing. Here is an example of a website created for the NPA.



Computer Games Design

- Within Computer Games Design our class are now working on creating their final games either using Unity, Construct 3 or Game Maker as its important that they have had choice about what platform they prefer. They have all learnt how to program in all of the languages above and then choose to specialise in one more. We have been looking at 3D Design using blender and here is an example of Jack McCrae's 3D Character in his game "Top hat Duck".
- All students create a portfolio that documents the whole process of making their final games that will then be tested by others in the school.

Higher Computing Science

- Within Higher Computing we have been focusing on our three units. Computer systems, Web design & Development and Software Design and Development. We have been focusing recently on programming in Python programming.
- All Higher students have created modular code and have learnt the process of working for a software company to work through all of the required stages to meet the needs of a client.

```
class City():
    def __init__(self, name, country, population, language):
        self.name = ""
        self.country = ""
        self.population = 0
        self.language = ""

def createCitiesArray(num):
    citiesArray = []
    for counter in range(0, num):
        citiesArray.append(City("", "", 0, ""))

    return citiesArray

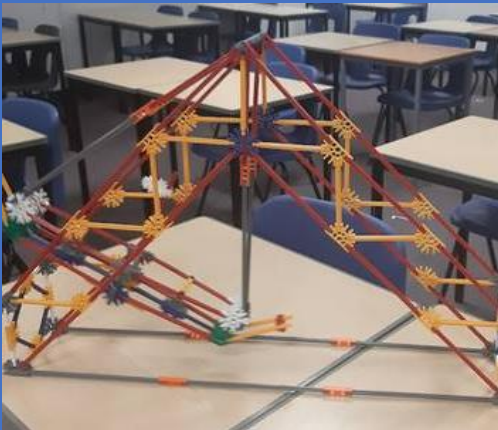
def populateCitiesArray(citiesArray, num):
    for counter in range(0, num):
        print("Please enter your cities name")
        citiesArray[counter].name = str(input())
        print("Please enter your country")
        citiesArray[counter].country = str(input())
        print("Please enter your cities population")
        citiesArray[counter].population = int(input())
```

Cheerleading Club

- St Thomas's Cheerleading team has been working really hard to come up with a routine for next years Scottish Schools Cheerleading Competition.
- At Cheerleading we work on perfecting dance routines, stunts, tumbling and also working as a team.
- Our S4 team leaders Imani and Carrie have been doing an amazing job coreographing dance routines and teaching important skills to the rest of the team.



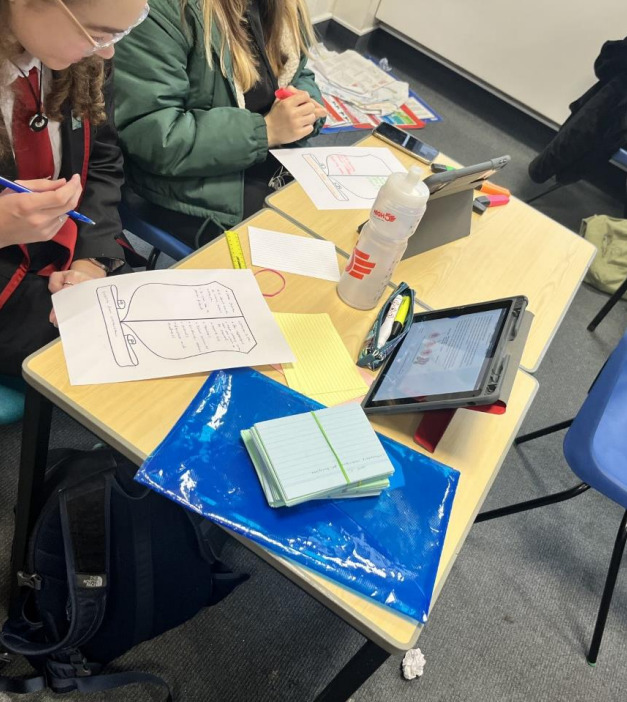
Engineering club



Thanks to a grant from the Parent Council an education set of K'nex was purchased to begin an Engineering Club. It runs every Monday after school. It has grown from 2 S1 pupils to 5 now and the pupils excitedly build various models from instructions.

So far we have built a mechanical carousel ride and a pirate ship ride. We have nearly completed the mechanical roller coaster!

Next term we will move on to building and designing structures (weight bearing bridges, earthquake proof towers, etc.).



Rights respecting schools

"On Friday 16th December pupils from all years participated in St Thomas's Day of Rights, focusing on a selection of rights from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) that were chosen by the Pupil Rights Respecting Group. The aim of this day was to learn more about Children's Rights and the different rights of the CRC. If parents or carers would like to learn more about the UNCR and their responsibility in relation to children's rights you can access The "Children's Rights Booklet" available via this link: <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/money-rights/childrens-rights>"



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

