



Maryhill High School

A Media Arts College



Christmas Newsletter 2009

Dear Parents,

Student achievements

Once again our students have excelled themselves in the classroom, on the sports field and elsewhere, and the achievements of students in your child's year group are attached to this newsletter.

Attendance

Thank you for your support for our drive to improve attendance. The overall rate for the school now stands at 93% at the end of what is usually the worst term for illness. Our target for the whole year is 94%. Awards for excellent attendance will be given to students this week and those who continue to show 100% attendance will receive a special award later in the year.

Governors' news

One nomination was received for the vacancy of parent governor, and so Mr Richard Gibson has been elected unopposed. He has children in year 7 and year 10 and says that he would like to be involved so that they make the most of their life at school.

Disability Equality Scheme

The school has a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act to take account of any disability which may affect the members of our community. We want to make sure all needs are being met, and need to think about how people get around school, how we give out information and whether everyone feels involved in all of our school's activities. If you or any members of your family that use the school feel that they have a disability then please complete the enclosed questionnaire.

Termly Tongue

This term's edition will be placed on the school website this week. It will also be displayed on notice boards around the school. We do not print copies for every student in order to save on resources and to help the environment. However, we recognise that not all parents have access to the internet so if you would like a printed copy please **put a note in your child's planner this week.**

PACE Day 2 - 17 December

You may remember that Maryhill's first PACE day took place just before half term. Feedback from students shows that this was a different and successful way of learning. The next PACE day is Thursday 17 December, the day before we break up. I would like to draw your attention to a couple of key points. As before, we will be collecting money for charity so it is a non-uniform day where students pay £1. The money raised will be split between the NSPCC and Children in Need. There will be other fundraising activities on the day organised by Year 10 students, to raise money for charities of their choice and to reflect the fact that this is the season of goodwill. If

possible, please encourage your child to bring a small amount of money for these activities.

Most importantly, the day is an integral part of the way we teach this aspect of the compulsory National Curriculum. There will be a variety of themed learning activities for all year groups, based on the Every Child Matters outcomes of Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Future Economic Well-being.

For part of their day Year 11 students will be watching a presentation delivered by the Fire Service, called 'Crash Course'. This explores the issues surrounding young people driving, and it is purposefully hard-hitting. Even older students sometimes find the content of the presentation a little disturbing, so you may wish to talk to your son or daughter about this before the event.

Friday 18 December

This will be a Christmas activities day. This is an important part of our year, following a term of hard work in lessons. Students will be taking part in form activities organised by their tutor and year leader. There will then be a final assembly. **School will finish at about 1pm.** The dining hall will be open at break for a full range of snacks, and students entitled to a free lunch should collect it then. If these arrangements cause you any difficulty please send a note to your child's form tutor and we will make arrangements for supervision until 3.05pm if necessary.

Community Partnership Day and Review Meetings

Please note that all students are involved in reviews on the same day. **Please note the date, Friday 12 March, in your diary.** You will receive more information on the arrangements next month.

Mr John Arkell

Mr Arkell is retiring at Christmas after 36 years' of teaching design & technology at Maryhill. He has also over the years introduced hundreds of young people to the joys of mountain walking, often in his free time at weekends. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Please write a note in your child's planner to indicate you have received this newsletter.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Dr A Jones
Headteacher

Name: _____

Name of child/children: _____ Year group/s _____

Tick the box or boxes that will show your disability, your child's disability or the disability of any other person visiting school for any other reason (this could include a grandparent, friend, helper or other).

	Parent	Child/children	Other visitor/visitors to school. (please tick for each person)
Physical Disability (Example: wheelchair user, uses crutches, cerebral palsy)			
Learning Difficulty (Example: dyslexia)			
Medical condition (Example: diabetes, asthma, eczema, mental illness)			
Sensory (Example: blindness, if you wear a hearing aid) Please do not include if you wear glasses or contact lenses (for short sightedness etc.)			
Speech Difficulties			
Behavioural and Emotional Difficulties (Example: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)			

Completed questionnaires should be returned in an envelope to the school office. Please return by 8 January so we can assess the extent of any need. The information you give to us will be treated in the strictest confidence.