



# Coltness High School Closer Contact



## SUMMER 2009

Dear Parent/Carer

It is now approaching an important change-over time in school and I write to keep you informed of the important events which still lie ahead in the last 4 weeks of term. You will see from the diary dates listed overleaf that we have a full calendar with something extra almost every day.

Standard Grade exams are almost over and S4 pupils return on Monday 1 June for an induction day as preparation for senior school. Full timetables begin on Tuesday. Similarly S5 pupils are nearing the end of Higher and Intermediate exams and will return to S6 on 8 June. All other year groups are moving on with coursework as we try to complete units of work, round off projects and cover necessary practical activities and exercises. A good example is a cross-curricular task which will involve all S1 pupils across the school beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Working to the theme 'Celebration of a Nation' all departments have developed a programme exploring facets of the life of Scotland.

We have also been heavily involved with the P7 transition programme. Still to come are a P7 Parents Evening, P7 Activity Evening and a 'Play in a day' cooperative venture culminating in performance on the evening of 11 June.

You will also find attached to this newsletter the results of the Parent Survey conducted in March. We think it is representative of the school community as a whole although the return rate (15%) was lower than previous years. We aim to have a more regularly maintained web-site from now on and would encourage parents to view it as a point of reference as often as possible. We would also welcome suggestions as to content. Hopefully a system of text messaging to parents with alerts on various dates and events can also be put in place, although the renovation and remodelling work over the next 2 years and more could affect our systems.

Graham Construction have now submitted a planning application for the major upgrading of Coltness High and we have a clearer idea now of what will be involved. Phase A (60 weeks) will involve the building of a new block on the present hockey pitch, a new car park and the demolition and re-building of the gyms, music area and administration wing. Phase B (45 weeks) will follow on with the 'stripping back' and remodelling of the present main teaching block and demolition/re-build of the present canteen and technical areas. Different temporary decant arrangements will accommodate the 'lost' classrooms during the rebuild and should be of a high quality modular type. Although the campus will have major construction under way from late summer 2009 for 2 years we are looking forward to this long-awaited development.

All parents/carers should have received a copy of the HMIe follow-through report at the beginning of May. I am delighted that many of the very good aspects of the education we provide in Coltness High have been acknowledged, including the very effective links we have with our associated primaries. It is also pleasing to read that the particular strengths of the school include parental involvement. The strengths as listed are:

- High quality care and support for young people
- Engagement of all staff in improving the school
- Using tracking procedures effectively to improve young people's performance
- Partnerships with parents

I continue to be surprised at, and proud of, the range of talents which Coltness pupils display on a weekly basis. In recent weeks we have had groups of musicians perform in North Lanarkshire ensembles and choirs, public speakers have addressed the local Rotary, senior pupils in Mathematics have performed well in local and national competitions, individuals have excelled in different sports (badminton, Tae Kwan Do, athletics, Karate and more), charity fund-raising continues for various deserving causes with amazing energy and ingenuity, and we have teams of enterprising pupils showing determination and a healthy 'can do' approach to competitive challenges.

To cap things off for up-to-date news I can report two firsts for Coltness High School. Sixth year student Hamzah Iqbal has been offered a Fulbright Scholarship to attend the 2009 Summer Institute for Outstanding European Students, one of only 8 from across the UK who will attend a US university for 5 weeks in July and August.

On 28 May at the new Toryglen Arena Coltness under 13 Boys football team won the Scottish Plate by 5 goals to 1 against Duncanrig Secondary. This was the first appearance in a national final at 11-a-side and our first national success.

Finally, congratulations to our new joint dux prize winners this session Fiona Parkin and Jamie Meechan.

I hope to see many parents/carers at some of the upcoming events.

Yours sincerely,

*Donald Fergusson*

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Headteacher

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**U13 Football Team – Scottish Plate Winners 2009**



**Joint Dux Winners**

**Free School Meals and Footwear/Clothing Grants:**

Applications for next session may be submitted to Area Registration Offices from this week (1<sup>st</sup> June) onwards. Forms are available from the school office. Further information please contact:

Irene Smith  
Learning & Leisure Services  
Kildonan Street  
COATBRIDGE  
Tel: 01236 812263.

**Tanzania Sponsorship**

In January this year we launched our Coltness for Tanzania initiative whereby our S2 pupils engaged in a co-operative learning morning learning about life in Tanzania. Our guest speakers who have worked in Tanzania discussed a number of factors that make life there difficult for young people to succeed. This was followed by lessons where pupils researched Tanzania and compiled presentations from Power Point to T.V documentaries. Pupils were then set a challenge to improve the lives of children in Tanzania. At the moment a number of fundraising activities are taking place including a sportathon and sponsored silence. All monies raised will go towards buying equipment for a local school in Tanzania. We will track where our money goes and get the chance to see the difference it really makes!

**Yearbook 2009**

You can now place your order for a Yearbook at lunchtimes and intervals in Hut 3. Please bring a deposit of £5, total cost of the book will be £12. This year's book looks fantastic, including pantomime, talent show, discos, dances sports events andraft pictures galore! Limited supply – hurry up!

**Dates for Diary**

Monday	1	June	S4 into S5 Induction Day Academy Uniforms Evening
Tuesday	2	June	S1 Parents' Evening 7.00 – 9.30 pm
Wednesday	3	June	Academy Uniforms Evening
Friday	5	June	School Golf Championships
Monday	8	June	S6 Induction Day P7 Parents' Evening
Thursday	11	June	P7 'Play in a Day', 7.00 pm
Friday	12	June	Inter-house Softball S6 'Formal' at Cartland Bridge
Tuesday	16	June	P7 Activity Evening
Thursday	18	June	S2 Enterprise Showcase S-Grade Biology Study Visit
Friday	19	June	S-Grade Biology Study Visit S1/2 Trip to Lightwater Valley
Monday	22	June	Staff v Pupils Golf
Tuesday	23	June	Prizegiving
Wednesday	24	June	Awards Ceremony
Thursday	25	June	Church Service
Friday	26	June	Close 1.00 pm