

MEARNS ACADEMY

What a term this has been! It is hard to believe that we have completed term one and are going into our October break. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and that it gives you a small snapshot of just some of what has been happening across Mearns Academy. Please also follow us on [Mearns Academy Official | Facebook](#).

Thank you to all pupils, parents/carers and staff for your commitment and support this term. We hope that everyone manages to have an enjoyable October break and we look forward to seeing all pupils return to school on 1st November.

Smile, take care and stay healthy.

Gareth Campbell
Head Teacher

HOUSE POINTS - TERM ONE

Johnston:	227
Thornton:	179
Conveth:	161
Drumtochty:	155

COLOURS

Congratulations to the following pupils on achieving their colours awards:

Caitlyn Emslie	Full Colours	Academic
Thomas Blair	Full Colours	Sport
Grace Holtom	Full Colours	Academic
Sophie Clifton	Full Colours	Academic
Charlotte Hay	Full Colours	Academic
Mathilda Wolstencroft	Half Colours	Academic & Citizenship
Thomas Blair	Half Colours	Expressive Arts



MEARNS ACADEMY SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2021



MEARNS ACADEMY PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM 2021



ENGLISH

On the occasion of World Poetry Day (7th October 2021), the English Faculty at Mearns Academy was privileged to host a digital workshop for Higher and Advanced Higher students entitled, 'Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary' which featured three poets of international repute - Dr. Alvin Pang from Singapore, Arundhati Subramaniam from India and Fiona Bolger from Ireland in conversation with Shalini Pattabiraman on what inspires them to create poetry using everyday experiences and mundane objects.

The conversation explored a writer's process, their unique journey as a writer while sharing examples of their work and highlighting to the students on how they could similarly engage with ideas to stimulate their own writing. One of the things that came out of these conversations was the idea of how language even when it explores the most mundane or the most banal conversation, can be extremely political and a powerful tool to express extraordinary ideas.

This is one of the first in a series where we will be attempting to bring live literature closer to our students and giving them the tools for becoming expressive communicators. We hope to bring a diverse and eclectic range in the future and also welcome your thoughts on it.



A number of our BGE pupils have successfully been chosen for publication in Young Writers SOS Sagas. The subject was a short creative piece of writing with the title "Trapped". The successful published names are-

Kayleigh Herd	Katie Leslie
Alisha Simpson	Kacey Alexander
Iona Sanderson	Dylan Taylor
Jamie Watt	

Congratulations to those writers but also congratulations to all our S2 who entered.
Keep writing.



SOCIAL SUBJECTS

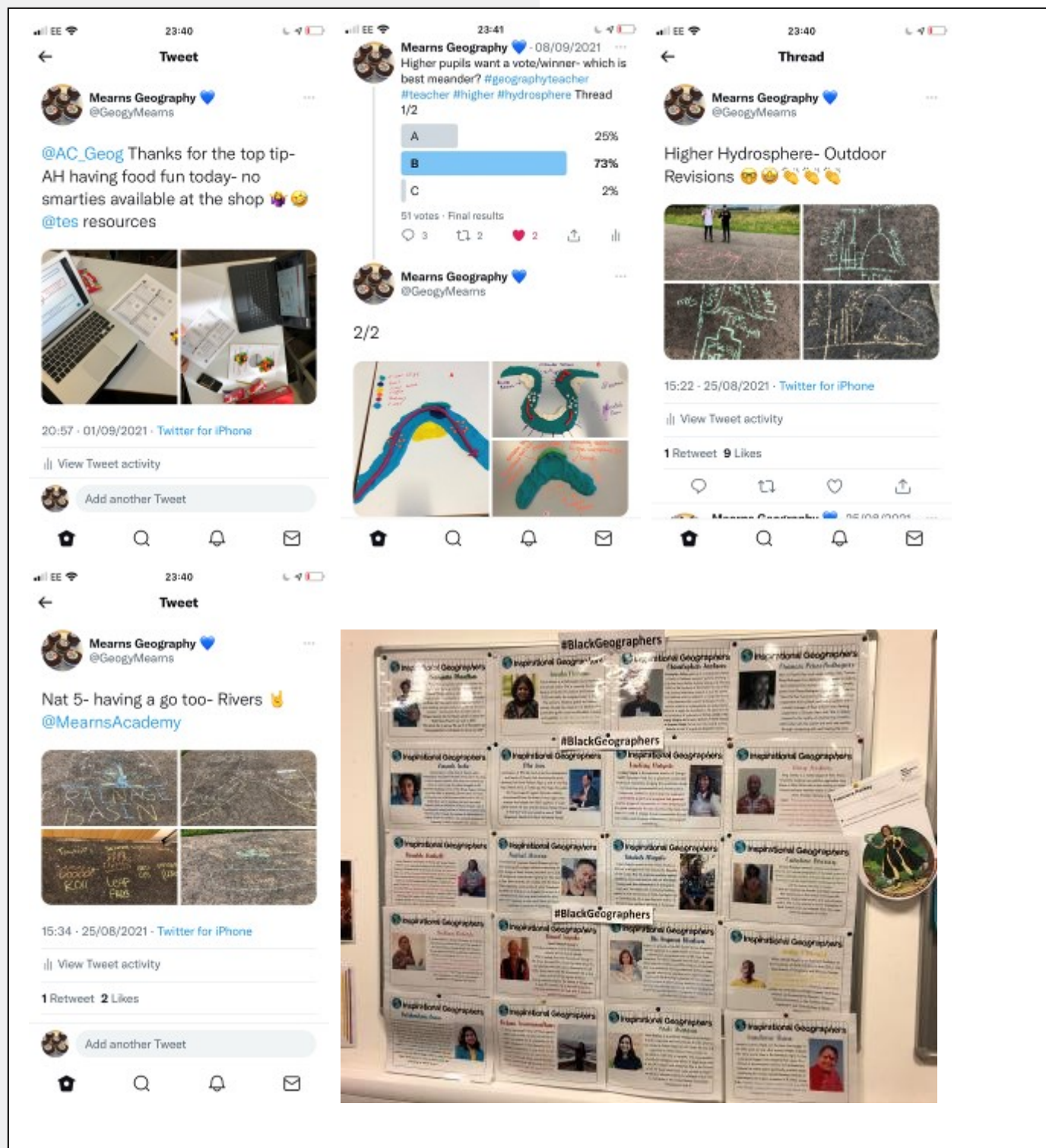
Modern Studies

It has also been a busy term within the Modern Studies department. National 5 pupils have learned about crime in the UK and created excellent resources on types of crime and the court system. Within Higher Modern Studies pupils have been studying political, social, and economic life in the US. S3 pupils have been learning about social and economic issues in Brazil.



Geography

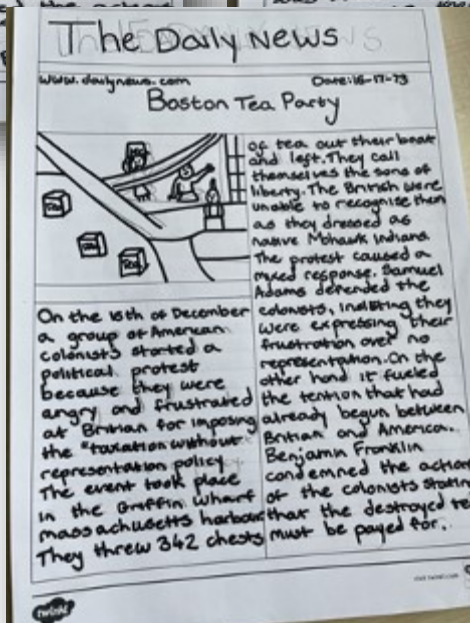
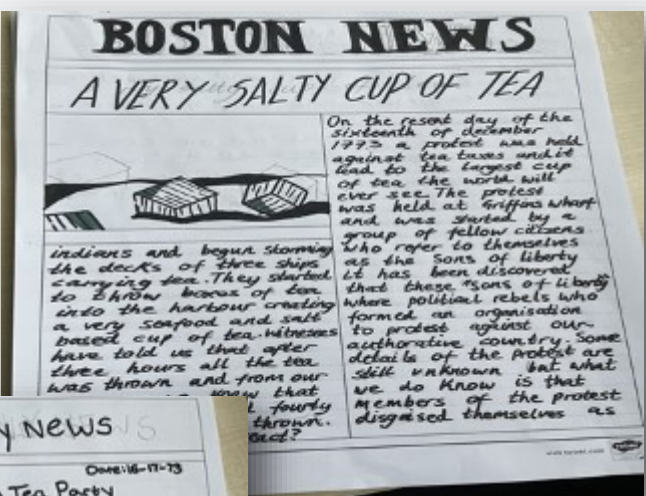
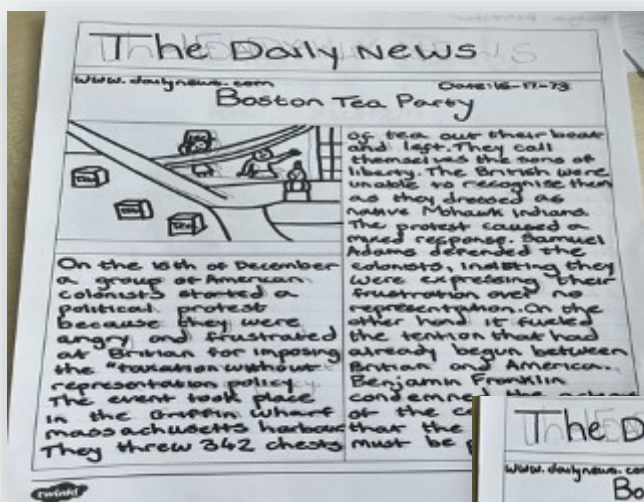
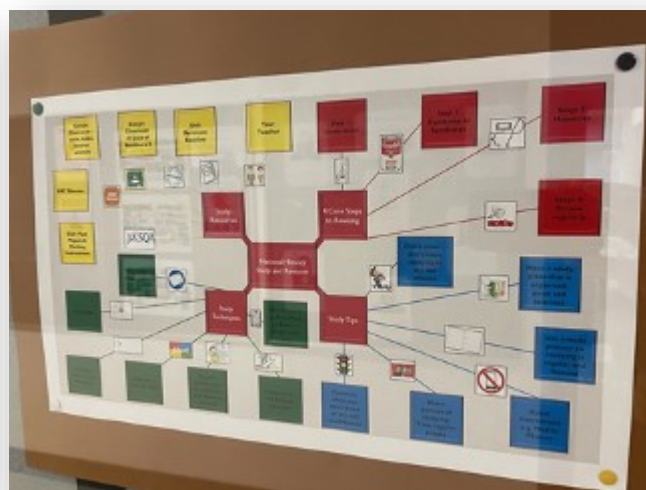
Learners within Geography have been given the chance to experience a range of exciting activities. Below is a summary of some of these opportunities. Twitter voted on the best Higher Mearns meander. The class also went outside to revise Hydrosphere. National 5 learners didn't miss out and revised rivers outside. October is black history month and Mrs Carlson created a display to highlight the impact of black Geographers.



SOCIAL SUBJECTS

History

The History department have produced a range of excellent revision materials for National 5 and Higher students. Learners have been studying World War One in National 5 and the Crusades/19th century Britain at Higher level. S3 pupils have learned about the American Revolution.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Aberdeenshire Council Instrumental Music Service

The Music Department is delighted to welcome back our full squad of instructors since the return to school in August. Mr Wallace (Brass) and Mrs Gove (Woodwind) have not been able to see our pupils face to face since the pandemic begun so this has been fantastic to have them back in the school building.

Both instructors and music staff have been busy with the recruitment process this term and this has seen lots of pupils getting the opportunity to learn a musical instrument for the first time. Thank you to the S1/S2 parent/carers that completed the necessary paperwork via the council website to register your child as being interested in this worthwhile opportunity. All parent/carers should have now received confirmation of a place with one of our instructors or an email to say that your child has joined a waiting list. The instructors are still working under different circumstances and restrictions which has meant that not as many pupils can be given the opportunity, for example – group lessons are not available at the moment due to COVID. When these restrictions are eased we hope to be in touch with those on the waiting lists to offer some more places.

Ukulele Group

Ukulele Group started up again this term and so far we have around 20 members. The group is open to all pupils and staff whatever your ability and new members are always welcome.

Fridays, room N1.07 at 1:20pm.

See you there!



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Drumming Group

The Music Department is delighted to have its extra-curricular clubs up and running again and we have introduced a new Drumming Group for all S1's and S2's. This new group is a fusion of traditional pipe band drumming and drum kit rhythms. We are pleased to have some experienced pipe band drummers within the group and Mrs Baker is putting them to good use coaching our new drummers. The group meets every Tuesday lunchtime and offers a fun and engaging space for the pupils.

This drumming group really is 'hard to beat'!

Traditional Music Workshop

Mearns Academy's Music Department were delighted to welcome two of Aberdeenshire's finest young musicians on Monday 27th September. Lucie Hendry (lever harp), a finalist in the BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician 2021 and Sally Simpson (fiddle).

Our string players were invited to join both musicians for a fantastic traditional music workshop which introduced our young students to the concept of traditional ensemble playing and improvisation. They were treated to a performance from both exceptional musicians at the end of the workshop.

String Group

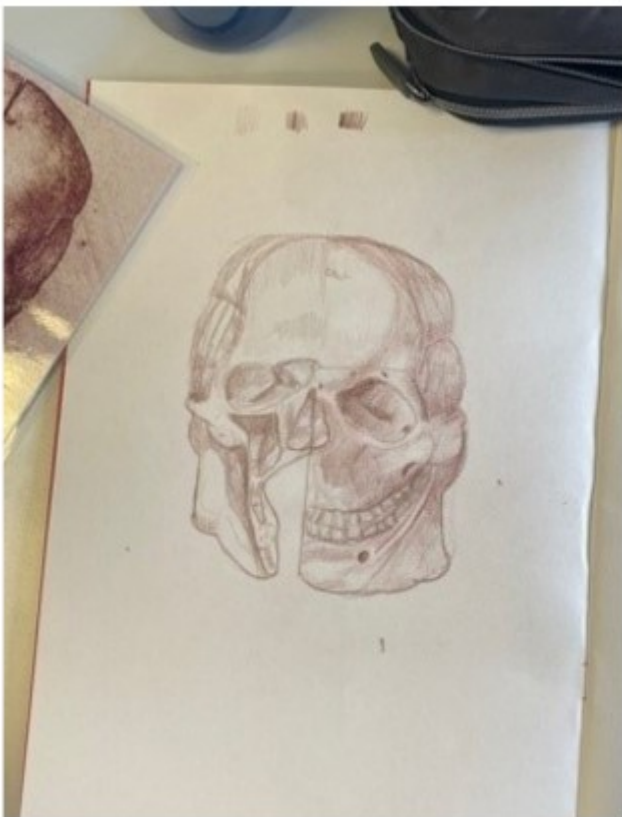
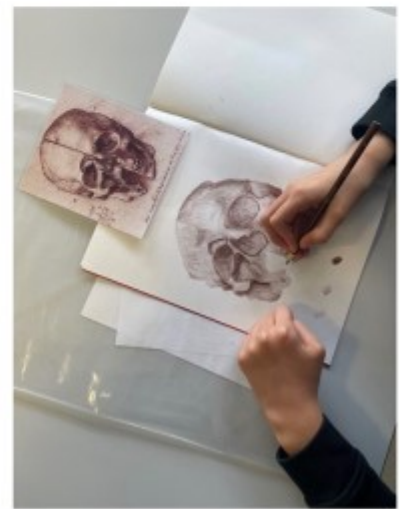
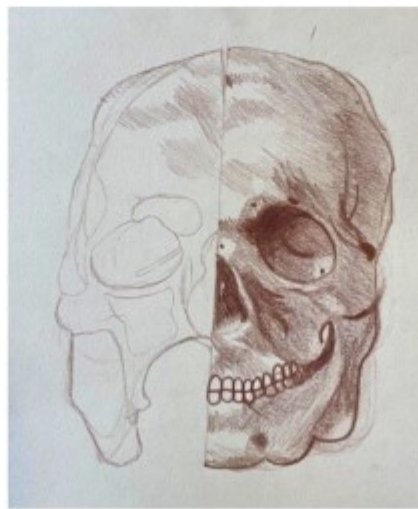
String Group, organised by our Upper Strings Instructor Mrs Kalitski, meets every Monday lunchtime and is open to pupils and staff of all abilities. The group currently comprises of violins, violas and cellos and play a mixture of classical and contemporary music. We are looking forward to providing some socially distanced live lunchtime concerts throughout the year in collaboration with our library here at Mearns Academy.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

S1 ART AND DESIGN

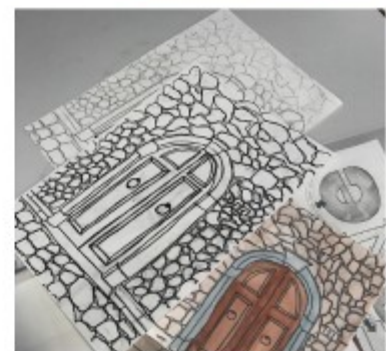
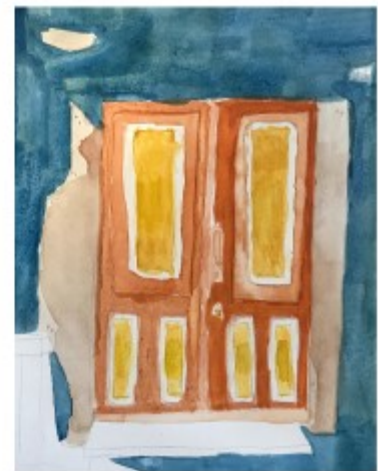
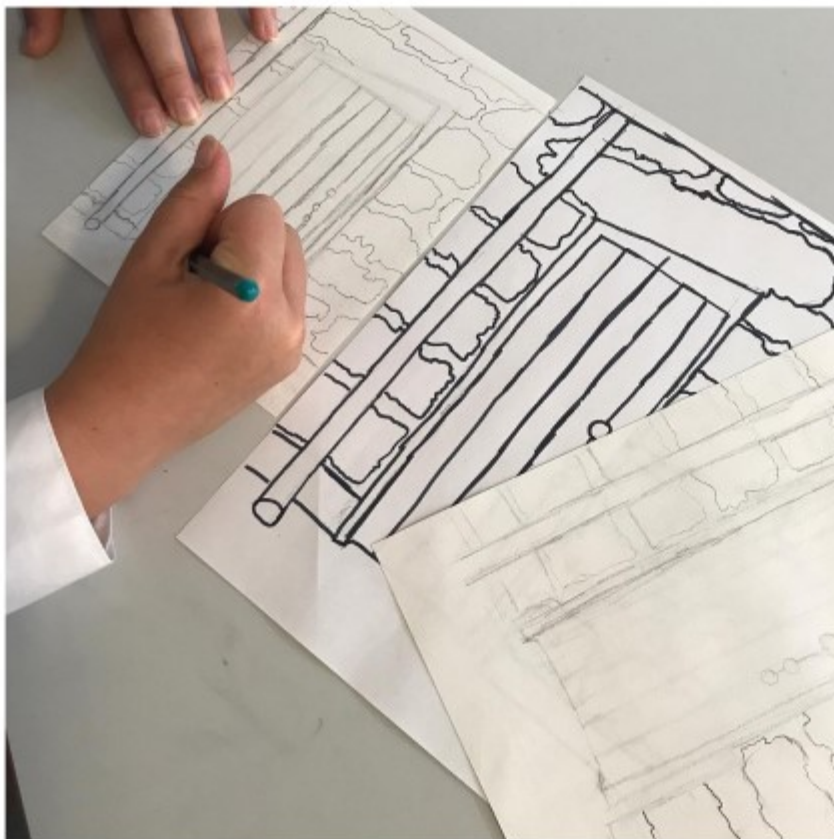
Pupils have been learning about Leonardo da Vinci. Pupils have been learning about tone and furthering their observational drawing skills.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

S2 ART AND DESIGN

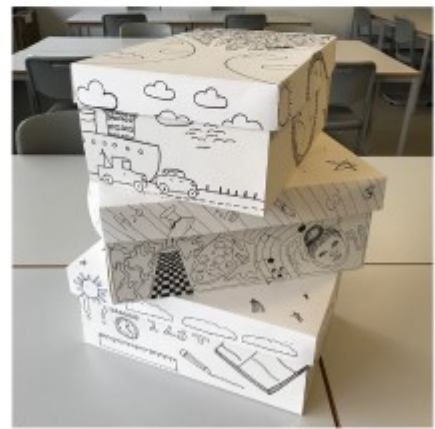
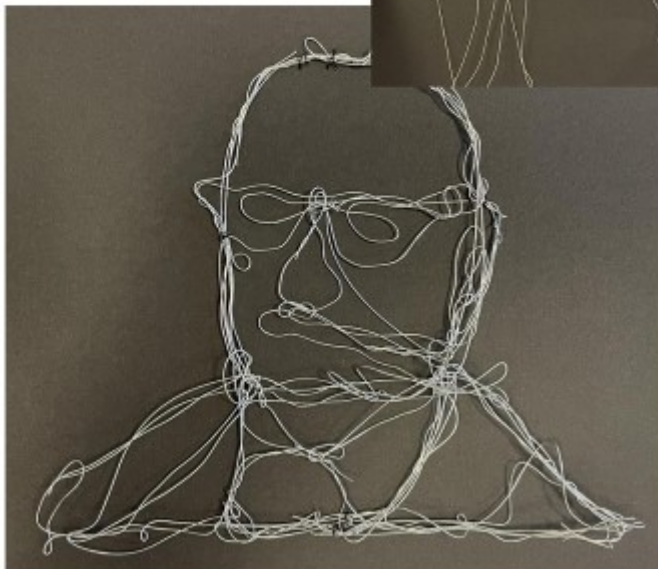
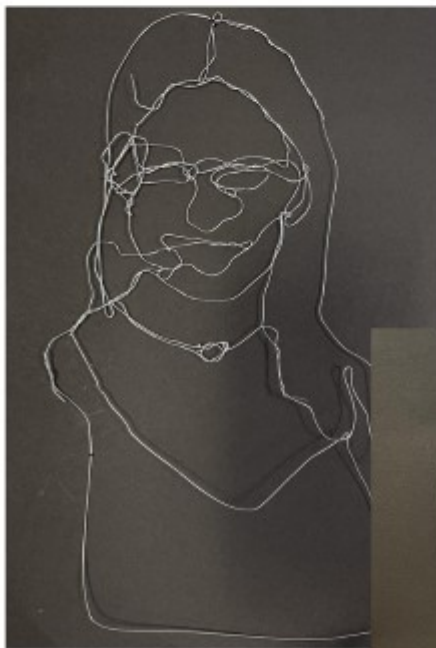
Pupils have been working on their built environment unit. Pupils have been experimenting with different scales and learning how to use watercolour paint.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

S3 ART AND DESIGN

Pupils have been working their design unit where they redesigned a Baby Box! Pupils have also started a portraiture unit where they have been working with wire and clay.



Mearns Academy Key Measures Attainment Overview September 2021

S4: 5+ Qualifications @ Level 5 (Nat 5)	S5: 3+ Qualifications @ Level 6 (Higher)	S6: 5+ Qualifications @ Level 6 (Highers)
Mearns Academy 2021 Attainment 65.04%	Mearns Academy 2021 Attainment 62.50%	Mearns Academy 2021 Attainment 52.21%
24% Above Mearns Academy 2014 attainment	22% Above Mearns Academy 2014 attainment	22% Above Mearns Academy 2014 attainment
12% Above National Average	15% Above National Average	11% Above National Average
12% Above Virtual Comparator School	9% Above Virtual Comparator School	8% Above Virtual Comparator School
3 rd successive year above 60%	Best 3+ Higher attainment ever	Best 5+ Higher attainment ever

S4: Numeracy Level 5	S4: Literacy Level 5
Mearns Academy 2021 Attainment 84.55%	Mearns Academy 2021 Attainment 83.74%
46% Above Mearns Academy 2014 attainment	38% Above Mearns Academy 2014 attainment
28% Above National Average	21% Above National Average
29% Above Virtual Comparator School	10% Above Virtual Comparator School
6 of last 7 years Above 80%	3 rd successive year above 80%



RESPECT ~ WELLBEING ~ AMBITION



CALENDAR DATES

15th October 2021	end of term 1
1st November 2021	start of term 2
4th November	S4-S6 tracking reports issued
10th November	S4 Parents evening
18th & 19th November 2021	In Service Days
25th November	S1-S3 Tracking Reports
Tuesday 21st December 2021	end of term 2
5th January 2022	start of term 3
10th & 11th February 2022	Occasional days
14th February 2022	Mid term holiday
15th & 16th February 2022	In Service Days
1st April 2022	end of term 3
18th April 2022	start of term 4
26th April 2022	SQA Exam diet commences
2nd May 2022	May Day
6th June 2022	Occasional day
7th June 2022	Change of timetable
16th June 2022	Sports Day t.b.c.
21st-23rd June 2022	P7 Visits
28th June 2022	Prize Giving
1st July 2022	end of term 4