

WHAT'S GOING ON AT CDHS?

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Meet Mr Prentice:

Mr Prentice recently joined the management team at CDHS as Principal Teacher of Humanities. We asked him a couple of questions about how he was settling in.

How are you settling into CDHS?

I've loved my first few weeks back at CDHS. I'd like to thank all of the pupils and staff for being so friendly and welcoming - it's been such a massive help.

What's your favourite thing about Geography?

Its diversity - Geography has something for everyone. It provides pupils with the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the rapidly changing world around them. Oh, and the maps!

How has the school changed since you were a pupil?

I left in 2005 so there has been lots of staffing changes but it's been nice to see a few familiar faces (I won't name any names). The building itself hasn't changed but the school feels a lot more vibrant - there's so much on offer for pupils and they are getting a fantastic experience.

What extracurricular things will you be involved in?

I've always been a keen footballer, so I'd definitely like to be involved with school football. Other than that I'm planning to participate in as much as possible both within the school and wider community. Although I am happy Mr Oswald has retired and can't force me to do any more 'Stars In Their Eyes' performances!

Room 6

We are really excited to introduce Room 6 as our new Nurture space. As well as being used for targeted group work Room 6 is also being used by a number of pupils who need some additional support with managing their school day. Room 6 is staffed at different times throughout the week by Mrs Dingwall, Mrs Davies, Mrs Clayton, Mr Davidson and Miss Sellers. Here is some information which will explain why we think it is so important to have a Nurture space at CDHS.

Nurture groups are founded on evidence-based practices and offer a short-term, inclusive, focused intervention that works in the long term. Nurture groups assess learning and social and emotional needs and give whatever help is needed to remove the barriers to learning. There is great emphasis on language development and communication. Nothing is taken for granted and everything is explained, supported by role modelling, demonstration and the use of gesture as appropriate.

As the children learn academically and socially they develop confidence, become responsive to others, learn self-respect and take pride in behaving well and in achieving. Nurture groups have been working successfully for more than 40 years in the UK and have been praised, supported and recommended by organisations such as Education Scotland.



What has been happening in the school?

Learning conversations have been taking place with all S4-S6 pupils. Pupils should now be aware of their targets and should have agreed on their target grade.

Senior Geography pupils have been out collecting data at the River Urr to help them with their upcoming assignments.

S1 and S2 classes have been visiting the town's library.

Dates for your diary

20th September – Some S2 pupils are visiting Dumfries House for a STEM Event in Cumnock

20th September – Alistair Jack is meeting N5 and Higher Modern Studies pupils

25th September – Fox and Hound theatre production for S1-S3 pupils

26th September – How to Pass SQA Exams session 7pm

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