

St Andrew's Academy

A Community of Faith and Learning

[@StAndrewsLandT](#)

The purpose of this newsletter is to share excellent practice across our school.

Twitter

Follow [@RenEdInclusion](#) Renfrewshire Education Inclusion Support Team who promote inclusion and equity for our Children and Young People.

Podcasts of the month

[Episode 21 – In conversation with Mark Prestley](#)



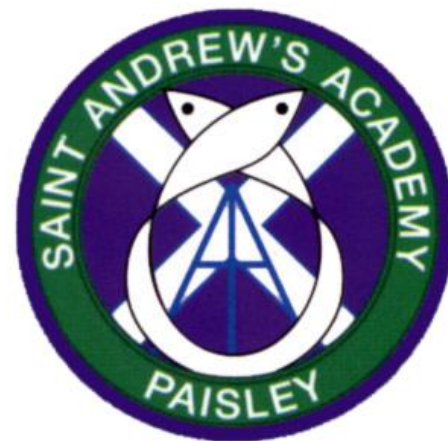
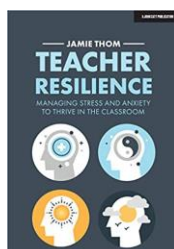
Changing conversations Mark Prestley is Professor of Education at Stirling University and a leading voice on school curriculum. Mark discussed his recent review of how SQA qualifications were delivered in 2020 and wider issues related to teacher agency and curriculum change.

Recommended Reading

Teacher Resilience – Managing stress and anxiety to thrive in the classroom by Jamie Thom

Resilience is ultimately the difference between being overwhelmed by stress and anxiety, to finding calm, purpose and joy in the work we do with young people. Teacher Resilience explores how we can build a more resilient mindset, and what practical actions we can take to be the best version of ourselves in the classroom.

Copies are available in our CLPL Library.



Upcoming Events

December 18

Teams Christmas Service

Focus on Feedback

This month the Professional Reading Group discussed an article on "The Flipside of Comfort Feedback". We had a brilliant discussion about different strategies used around the school to ensure that feedback is timely and meaningful for pupils. It was highlighted that feedback which is "strategy focused" is far more effective than that which simply praises the learner's efforts on that day. Phrases such as "Have you tried to use flashcards to test yourself in..." is much more effective than "well done, you did your best". From a pedagogical point of view, we should really see feedback as "feedforward" or "feeding up".

An excellent publication on enhancing motivation in the classroom is "Motivate the Unmotivated" by Rob Plevin.

Sharing good practice

Dyslexia Awareness Week

This year Dyslexia Awareness Week took place from Monday 2nd November. We were proud to see many pupils and staff wearing their blue ribbons in support of raising awareness. We had some great poster displays around different departments in school with different facts and stories of various inspiring people. Pupils in Personal Learning held their own poster competition displaying information they learned about dyslexia. John Mullen PT SfL encouraged colleagues to read the GTCS publication on [Meeting the Needs of Dyslexic Learners – A professional guide for teachers.](#)



Digital Learning

During November our digital learning continued with some Live Lessons and pupils participating in lessons from home. We introduced virtual supported study across the senior phase. The online response from student has been great. Year Group DHT's have held weekly well-being check in sessions on Teams across all year groups for pupils who are at home.



Learning and Teaching Idea of the Month

Shades of Meaning – Patricia Giverin

Miss Giverin's idea to explain vocabulary caught the attention of Delux on Twitter and they posted some paint sample cards out for her class. This idea could be used across different subjects to chart vocabulary or as a visual aid to assist recall.



In-house CLPL

December

Staff Onenote & class notebook

02/12/20 3pm

ICT 6

Supporting Children & Young People's Mental Health

9/12/2020 3pm

ICT 7

Professional Reading Group

TBA