

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 May 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Celebrating the Success of Young People and Employees
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise of the range of achievements and success of our young people, schools and services throughout South Lanarkshire

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the achievements and success of young people, our schools and services during 2019 be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. A key priority for Education Resources is to raise attainment, close the equity gap, improve health and well-being, develop the skills of young people and to recognise and celebrate the achievements of young people and employees.
- 3.2. Whilst there will always be a focus on literacy, numeracy and exam results, it is also important to recognise the wider achievements of young people and staff in our schools and services.
- 3.3. The achievements and participation of young people across our establishments and services in a wide range of social enterprise and citizenship programmes, neighbourhood related projects (supporting children's appeals, local charities), and through sport, the arts, music and drama deserves to be recognised.
- 3.4. Nurseries, schools, youth learning centres and other services are actively involved in celebrating the achievements of children and young people on a regular basis through assemblies, award ceremonies, social media, the press and other means. This helps to build the self-esteem, aspirations and motivation for learning of children and young people.

4. Celebrating Success 2019

- 4.1. There is a lot to be proud of in the achievements of young people throughout South Lanarkshire and in this 'Year of Young People' we want to recognise the amazing things they do.
- 4.2. Children, young people, employees, schools and services have achieved success in a wide variety of highly prestigious national and local awards.

4.2. Below are some examples of the range of achievements during 2019:-

♦ **Scottish Education Awards 2019 - Nominations**

- ♦ Blackwood Primary School – Raising attainment in literacy

♦ **COSLA Awards - Nominations**

- ♦ **Aspire** – supporting young people to achieve positive destinations
- ♦ **Gypsy Travellers** – Education Scotland have recognised the excellent work of **Larkhall Academy and its community** in supporting gypsy traveller families and have now featured this as a case study which they have made available via the their learning hub.

♦ **Music Awards**

♦ **2019 Scottish Concert Band Festival Finals**

Yet another impressive haul of shining awards was amassed by around 200 young concert band musicians and their musical mentors at this national event. The Platinum Award presented to the South Lanarkshire Orchestral Society (SLOS) Senior Concert Band was one of only two awarded to youth music populated bands during the finals:-

♦ *Achieving School Band Class Final*

- ♦ Calderglen High School Senior Concert Band – Gold Plus Award
- ♦ Duncanrig Secondary School Concert Band – Gold Award
- ♦ Larkhall Academy Concert Band – Silver Plus Award

♦ *Advanced Youth Band Class Final*

SLOS Senior Concert Band – a second consecutive Platinum Award

The Clyde Wind Ensemble (East Kilbride) achieved a stunning Platinum Award in the Community Band Class Final.

♦ **South Lanarkshire Orchestral Society Spring Showcase**

300 young people performed in the concert band and string orchestra community musical concert on 25 March 2019. The event was a true celebration of an effective and developing community musical partnership.

♦ **Rotary Young Musician of the Year 2019**

Ben Finlayson, Strathaven Academy S4 pupil and saxophonist, was recently crowned 'Rotary International Region 1: Scotland & N.E. England Young Instrumentalist of the Year' (expertly accompanied on piano by Mrs Heather Blades).

♦ **Glasgow Music Festival 2019**

Congratulations to all SLC musicians who participated in the 2019 Festival. As in previous years, glowing adjudications were received! Special mention to Hamilton Grammar School's Vocal Ensemble and Lesmahagow High School's Brass Ensemble who performed exceptionally well and received certificates of excellence for their performances.

♦ ***By Royal Command***

A group of young strings performers, and their teachers, from Bothwell Primary School, Muiredge Primary School and Uddingston Grammar School provided the musical entertainment for HRH The Princess Royal during her visit to Bothwell Parish Church.

♦ **Police Scotland Excellence Awards**

Brenda McLachlan, Head Teacher of Stonelaw High, Rutherglen has been nominated to receive a Lanarkshire Division Excellence Award.

♦ **Rutherglen High (Sustainability)**

Pupils from the school are participating in the John Muir Environmental Award and were commended for their participation in the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' survey which features on BBC TV.

♦ **Bridgeton Burns Competition**

A number of children from schools in the Cambuslang/Rutherglen area received awards at the prestigious Bridgeton Burns Competition.

- Cairns Primary won the overall best school award (for the third time)

♦ **Duke of Edinburgh Awards 2019**

Over 300 young people from schools across South Lanarkshire received their Duke of Edinburgh award at a ceremony on 16 April 2019, in recognition of their personal achievements.

♦ **Road Safety Calendar 2019**

Annessa Mohammed won the SLC Road Safety Calendar competition for her excellent artwork.

- 4.3. The publication of the achievements of young people in the Education Newsletter and Council publications such as The Works Magazine, and social media through Twitter and the web, all help to highlight many examples of the success of young people in both academic and non-certificated activities.

- 4.4 Education Resources will continue to promote the success of young people and encourage them to participate in a wide range of active learning activities where they have the opportunity to further develop their skills and talents.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Financial implications are met from within existing budgets.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for sustainability or risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

- 8.2. Education Resources will continue to support establishments and services to recognise and publicise the achievements and success stories of children, young people and staff.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

17 April 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 27 November 2018

List of Background Papers

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Des Dickson, Education Operations Services Manager

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