

# eastparkpatter

Your newsletter for East Park



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## Welcome to eastparkpatter

### Helen Dunlop, Head of Education

East Park has a new Head of Education, Helen Dunlop joined in December and since then has been getting to know the young people, staff and families who make up the East Park community. Prior to taking up her post Helen worked as the Equalities Manager for a large Further Education college in Glasgow. Her many roles have included both teaching and managing Support for Learning; but she initially worked as part of multi-disciplinary teams in health and social work. Helen began her career as a home economics teacher, choosing that subject for its practical applications.

"When I was 12 my second cousin, aged 14, became a wheelchair user. It was then that I realised that if she could make herself some food and keep herself safe, then when she moved out of the house or if her mum went into hospital these would be important. At the time I was planning to teach English but realised that Home Economics had more application to independent living and I made up

my mind then that I would try to gain the qualifications and skills to work with people with additional support needs."

"East Park is a phenomenal place to be and for me it has felt like coming home. I've had great support from all the teams and East Park is all about team work." At the moment the East Park education services support 25 school pupils and a further 17 young people, up to the age of 25, through the Workmates day service. Helen is responsible for ensuring that East Park delivers effective and appropriate learning and teaching within the Curriculum for Excellence; and for the assurance of the quality standards associated with SQA National Qualifications.

"At East Park everything we do is tailored to the individual. This requires collaborative working and effective partnerships between the teachers, the families, staff in the residences and the young people themselves." It is this holistic approach that Helen believes makes East Park special but she also

recognises that if it is to fulfil this role in the future then there is no room for complacency. "It is my job, as Head of Education, to develop the potential of the organisation to grow and improve so that it continues to appropriately address the identified needs of the young people."

Effective communication is the key to a large part of what East Park delivers so well. At East Park robust communication systems are in place but Helen is now looking at ways in which these could be used to help evidence young peoples' achievements for inclusion in their assessment for National Qualifications. Whilst seemingly simple, Helen understands that any new initiatives are never as straightforward as they seem and that it takes patience and persistence to see results. Fortunately, in East Park, these qualities are found in abundance.

Helen says: "I am constantly learning something new, not just from my colleagues but from our young people as well."

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[eastpark.org.uk](http://eastpark.org.uk)



# East Park Training Centre



East Park is a Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) approved centre. Our Training Centre offers flexible training opportunities to individuals and other organisations, either within our own facilities or externally to suit your needs or those of your organisation.

East Park Training Centre recently made successful applications to become an approved provider with both the Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Students Award Agency for Scotland (SAAS).

If you are considering a qualification in Social Services and/or Health Care please get in touch with the Training Department at East Park to discuss various funding opportunities that may be available to you. Visit

[www.eastpark.org.uk](http://www.eastpark.org.uk) or call the Training Centre on **0141 946 2050**.



# East Park iPad Project



At the end of 2013 we secured funding which allowed us to buy a number of iPads for our young people to use. We were then in the fortunate position of starting a partnership with the research team DART (Development Autism Research Technology) from the University of Edinburgh. Working closely together, we undertook a project with the aim of studying the effectiveness of using this versatile technology with our young people. The results of the research are discussed in detail in the recently released report which is available to download online on the DART website.

As well as a number of iPads, we researched and bought specialised apps that help young people to further develop their skills in specific areas such as communication; literacy and language; visual and auditory processing, and fine motor skills, as well as supporting their learning

more generally.

East Park's young people are thoroughly enjoying having their own personal iPad to use throughout the school day. From our experience of using the iPads in school so far, we have found that they can be used to minimise the impact of The Dyad of Impairments in individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

An iPad can be a very useful tool in the classroom for personalising lessons, instant data recording, developing independence across the curriculum and choosing activities during free-choice times

They have the potential to assist with a young person's communication and speech development in various environments. An iPad can be a very useful tool in the classroom for personalising lessons, instant data recording, developing independence across the curriculum and choosing activities during free-choice times. Some young people use their iPads

to assist with self-organisation, timetabling and planning and the huge range of apps available ensure that the content is motivating, relevant, individualised and appropriate for each young person.

We are starting to send iPads home with some of the young people and hope this will provide chances for a wider variety of learning opportunities to occur out

with the regular school day. East Park is still in the early stages of integrating iPads into both the classroom and

the 24 hour curriculum but the results so far are very promising.



# A truly Scottish outing

Scottish Studies is this term's theme for Class 6 and 7. As part of their Social Studies environmental outings they visited the Glengoyne whisky distillery in Killearn near Glasgow.

Patti, a teacher at East Park, told us about their outing. "When we arrived, we received a warm welcome from our guide Anna. We looked at all the lovely shades of amber through to yellow in the room which was filled with enormous barrels made with different types of wood. We felt the barrels and smelled the unusual aroma of the whisky as it was

being made in huge copper containers that looked like fancy kettles. After exploring the beautiful grounds of the distillery we watched an interesting video about Glengoyne and whisky making. Anna gave us all goodie bags with warm beanie hats and soft cuddly haggis key rings to remind us of our exciting visit to Glengoyne Distillery."

Thank you to Anna and all the staff at Glengoyne who made our visit so enjoyable.



East Park pupil, David, admiring the display

## Christmas Celebrations

East Park's annual Christmas Concert was the usual very busy event it has grown into over the last few years. We were delighted to welcome family and friends of pupils and young people, friends of East Park and former members of staff.

Our new Head of Education, Helen Dunlop, welcomed everyone and started off with announcing the winner of the Christmas card competition. Congratulations to Malcolm Hollamby whose design was chosen for East Park's 2015 Christmas card.

Pupils from Notre Dame Secondary School played beautifully, adding to our signing and music making. We are grateful for their continued support.

The Nativity Story was told in word, picture and by some of our pupils dressing up as different

characters from the Bible story. We sang songs and carols which highlighted the story. East Park pupil Cameron led us in the singing of some of the songs by his use of Makaton (a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate) which everyone was encouraged to join in with. A number of pupils played instruments along with the Music teacher.

After the concert, everyone enjoyed Carol's famous tea and treats and an opportunity to meet with friends old and new. A visit to Workmates' Christmas Shop finished off the afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Concert. We really appreciate the effort you made to be with us.

## HEALTHY EATING COMPETITION

Last September our school pupils entered a Healthy Eating competition with the Food Standards Agency. Coming up with ideas for the competition was fun and we practised hand washing, food hygiene and discussed allergies during our weekly health session and home economics class.

Our art teacher helped the young people produce their posters promoting awareness of safe food and healthy

eating messages. Posters ranged from how and when to wash our hands to what we needed to do in the kitchen to prevent the spread of germs.

Although we did not win the competition we got some excellent feedback from the Food Standards Agency and hope to enter again next time.

In the meantime we will continue to practice our food hygiene and enjoy making our lunches safely.





## Fundraising & Volunteers

# Super SHELL



Our incredible Charity of the Year partnership with Shell Business Operations in Glasgow raised an unprecedented £9,530.13 for East Park. From bake sales to silly jumper days, and some serious competitive employee fundraising, they really gave it their all. Not only did they raise funds but they involved the children and young people from East Park in fun activities like their Family Sports Day, an educational Science Workshop and provided

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complementary seats at the Glasgow Rocks basketball games at the Emirates Arena (a big hit with the young people!). SBO Glasgow staff also volunteered their working day to painting one of our residential houses and the school corridors. So, on behalf of everyone at East Park we would like to thank Shell Business Operations Glasgow, and also their friends and families, for their valued support over the past year.

## A GRAND GESTURE



The Freemasons of Glasgow raised an amazing £7,500 for East Park as one of their chosen Charities of the Year. The Provincial Grand

Lodge of Glasgow presented the cheque to East Park's Executive Director, Judy Cromarty, at their Charity Evening in December.

## CHRISTMAS GENEROSITY

Concept Gallery Bearsden supported East Park in their Art of Giving Winter Charity Show and made a generous donation of £500. Thank you to Alex and Laura of Concept Gallery Bearsden, the artists and customers for their support.

Thank you to all our supporters who donated

gifts to the children and young people at East Park at Christmas. A special thanks to Dobbies Stirling, Lloyds TSB Maryhill and Blackadders Butchers and their customers for helping create a festive and memorable Christmas season for everyone.

## SANTA RUN



The children and young people welcomed riders from the Mercury Motorcycle Club as they finished their Santa Run parade at East Park. There was much excitement as the riders, dressed as Santa and his helpers, roared into the gates and let the young people sit on their motorcycles!

## Helping hands on Workmates allotment



A big thank you to the Vodafone Glasgow team who joined Workmates on a cold and wet Monday morning in November. The team building day was a huge success giving the allotment a good kick start

to the make-over it has been receiving lately. Staff from Vodafone Glasgow managed to overhaul the old weeds and bring new life back into the plot. Workmates are looking forward to the numerous outdoor learning activities that the allotment will bring in spring! The young people will be tending to a vegetable patch which will hopefully produce enough to supply a fruit and vegetable barrel to sell to East Park staff and the local community.

## OVER A CENTURY OF SUPPORT



The High School of Glasgow supported East Park through their annual Christmas Fundraising Campaign raising £2,074.27! The pupils from The High School of Glasgow visited East Park to learn more about the education and residential services we provide and to meet our pupils. Having

supported East Park since 1903, their continued generosity holds a special place in the heart of East Park. A special thank you to Primrose Nursery, Baldernock Primary School, Cadder Music Club and Middle Church Sunday School for raising funds through their Christmas fares, carol singing and festive collections.