

After-school Philosophy classes at The Glasgow Academy: for S1, S2, S5 and S6

Dear Parent,

Following the successful introduction of after-school Philosophy during this current academic year, I am writing to let you know that we are extending the offer of after-school Philosophy to include S1 and S2 in the next academic year (2009 – 2010).

The Philosophy class gives pupils the opportunity to have fun thinking about the classic questions and issues in philosophy, and to develop their own critical and creative thinking abilities. Pupils are introduced to the practice of 'Community of Philosophical Inquiry' [CoPI], through which they engage in reasoned dialogue about Philosophical themes and questions that interest them and apply in everyday life.

The CoPI practice benefits both academically able pupils who find their thinking challenged and stretched, and also those less confident pupils who develop both skills and confidence that transfer into other academic subjects. (See responses attached.)

The class will be of interest to pupils who enjoy thinking about questions such as:

- How do we judge what is right and wrong?
- What is the difference between knowledge and opinion?
- How do we know what is real?

Pupils relish the opportunity to reason about these kinds of philosophical issues with their peers under the guidance of a Philosopher.

The Philosophy classes will meet in The Glasgow Academy once per week for an hour after school in term-time, 4.00 – 5.00 pm on Wednesdays (S1/2) and Fridays (S5/6), and are offered as private tuition by Dr. McCall with the support of The Glasgow Academy. All enquiries about this should be directed to Dr. McCall at the email address below.

Registration is for each term. Fees are £15 per week, to be paid directly to EPIC (the European Philosophical Inquiry Centre).

If you are interested in your son/daughter attending a Philosophy class, please complete the slip below and email it to [c.mccall@strath.ac.uk](mailto:c.mccall@strath.ac.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Catherine C McCall BA (Hons) MA MSc PhD FRSA

**After-school Philosophy classes at The Glasgow Academy**

**Name**

**Address**

**Phone number**

**e-mail**

I would like my son/daughter ..... tutor group/class.....  
to attend the after-school Philosophy class during the 2009 –2010 academic  
year and agree to paying Dr McCall the appropriate fee.

Signed .....

Date .....

### **Unsolicited comments from parents' e-mails (anonymous)**

1. "... was hugely motivated and engaged by them [Philosophy lessons] . It was the only part of the school week that he volunteered information on what he was doing and, critically, challenged us to keep up with the discussion! He patently enjoyed the sessions and was sad that they were stopping. ... was suggesting that he and ... could make posters and put them up around the school to encourage other children to sign up!"
2. "... thoroughly enjoyed studying philosophy, and I'm hopeful she'll resume her studies next term."
3. "... enjoyed Philosophy classes immensely and wishes to return for the summer term."
4. "... much enjoys the classes, which clearly are very helpful."
5. "... would love to continue philosophy classes both this term and next year in ... if the time and day is suitable. Many thanks for making the classes so enjoyable."
6. "... The kids really enjoyed the classes..."
7. "...was quite tired when he got home and we didn't hear a great deal about the class but it was obvious that he had had to think. Excellent!"

### **Parents' feedback (direct)**

8. "Dear Dr McCall,  
... regarding feedback: in addition to enjoying the classes through finding them stimulating, a particular effect that I have noticed is the development of an interest in thought and reasoning processes. This is an important aspect of a broad education and is of clear value. As regards discussing the subjects of the classes, this is something we do regularly; it is another important aspect of the project and of embedding the benefits of the classes."
9. "As you know [my son] really enjoyed the classes and would have preferred them to have continued for longer!  
He is seriously considering studying it at Uni, and this taster confirmed his interest in the subject."