

## John Mason MSP visits Falkland House School

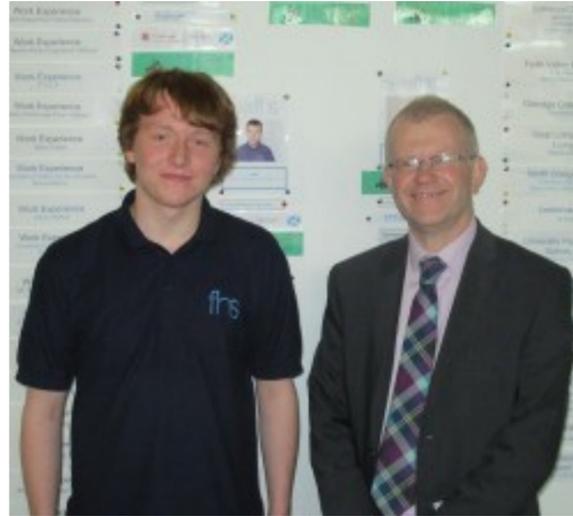
John Mason MSP visited Falkland House School to see first hand how the specialist school handles the different needs of its pupils.

The school which is in Fife caters for boys aged 8-18 with additional support needs especially those with autism.

Speaking on the visit John Mason MSP said :

“I have to say I was very impressed by my visit. From all I could see, the 22 boys attending are getting a great education as well as wider support in developing life skills.”

“It is important that every child on the autistic spectrum gets an education that is appropriate for their needs and Falkland House is a great example of this ethos.”



### Contact John Mason MSP directly...

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### Mental Health Week

Last month from 4-10 October was the Scottish Mental Health Awareness Week.

Alongside this it was the World Mental Health Day on 10 October. Each year there is a different theme to the WMHD and this year it was a focus on the dignity of those suffering with mental health issues.

John Mason MSP submitted a motion regarding the WMHD a section of which is included below :

“believes that it is everyone’s responsibility to help end mental ill-health stigma, and commends the wide network of community, voluntary and specialist care providers in the work that they do to support people living with mental health problems.”

### Community Clean-up

On 24 October John Mason MSP joined Councillor David Turner and some of the local residents of Barlanark for a community clean-up.

The event was organised due to the litter that had collected off Sandaig Road and since then the area has been looking much healthier!



### Trade Union Bill

John Mason MSP recently spoke in the Scottish Parliament debate on the Trade Union Bill.

The debate was on the negative impact the Trade Union Bill passing through Westminster will have on workplace relationships between employers and employees.

In his speech John Mason MSP noted the importance of preserving the right to strike and the positive impact that Unions have on the economy :

“Recent reports have shown that unions have a positive impact on the economy both by making sure that their workers are fairly paid and making workplaces are more efficient in increasing productivity.”

 The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba	<h1>Parliamentary Patter</h1>	Parliamentary Report John Mason MSP
		November 2015

### Living wage increase

John Mason MSP announced his support for this month’s Living Wage Week from 1-7 November.

During this week the Living Wage Foundation announced that the Living Wage would now be set higher at £8.25 an hour to reflect the rising cost of living for people across Scotland

Speaking on the Living Wage Week John Mason MSP said :

“It is great to see the Living Wage Week getting so much recognition. The newly announced Living Wage of £8.25 up from £7.85 last year will make sure that employees in accredited workplaces are paid a fair wage for a fair day’s work.”

“However I would like to see the Living Wage made mandatory rather than voluntary, as I believe that the minimum wage should be a wage that workers can live on. The only way we could see this would be if the powers over the minimum wage are devolved to Scotland.”

“We have seen time and time again the damaging effects that inequality has on the whole of society. It is damaging to those receiving low pay, it is damaging to businesses and it is damaging to the entire economy.”



### Newly refurbished house at Eastern Necropolis

John Mason MSP attended the opening of the newly refurbished lodge house at the entrance to the Eastern Necropolis on 21 October.

The house has been renovated by Parkhead Housing Association as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

All in all a very interesting place to live!

### Motions lodged by John at Parliament in October:

- ♦ **Motion S4M-14491: World Mental Health Day** —Highlighting the contribution those who work in Mental Healthcare provide and the need to combat stigma surrounding problems.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-14490: Scotland's Slavery Past**—Noting the large and often forgotten involvement Scotland had in the transatlantic slave trade.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-14516: Best and Worst Recyclers**—Acknowledging a report showing that while some areas in Scotland are doing well with recycling targets Glasgow City Council is missing targets and is one of the worst in Scotland.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-14542: Devolution of abortion law** —Highlighting the need to make sure that rights are protected with the devolution of abortion law to Holyrood.
- ♦ **Motion S4M-145423: Positive Impact of Land and Building Transaction Tax** —Noting that surveys carried out which show that the LBTT has had an overall positive impact.

The full text of all motions can be viewed at <http://www.john-mason.org/category/motions/>