Wee Beasties

Widening Participation in combating Climate change

The Wee Beasties Project

- P7 – S2 pupils in Scottish schools.
- pupils will invent their own ‘Wee Beastie’ and learn about climate change,
- Pupils will then come to the University of Glasgow on a mission to discover how university study and research could help combat climate change.

Step One: Inventing your Beastie

- Draw your beastie and cut them out.
- Find a place in your local area where your beastie lives. Take your beastie there, and take their photo.
- Write about your beastie, explaining how they live, what they do, and what their life is like.

Creativity:
Inventing your Beastie

- Engaging young people's imagination and creativity, while exploring the impact of climate change on their imaginary creature
- Increasing knowledge and emotional engagement with an issue that can seem too complex, too distant, or too overwhelming
- Building confidence as pupils see their own creative and intellectual work celebrated through inclusion as part of a website.

Step Two: Researching your Beastie

- Find out about your beastie's environment. How is it changing?
- How does climate change affect your beastie?
- What problems does your beastie face?

Independence: Research Skills

- Research skills are important for all - for highly able young people they can be a key to progress
- Teaching skills is vital, but it can also help to know about available resources
- Our project will support teachers and young people by providing some web-based resources

  Example: https://www.moredun.org.uk/foundation/outreach/animation-series

Wee Beasties in Practice!

The following slides showcase work by some S2 pupils at Coatbridge High School, as they tackled Steps One and Two.

Wee Beasties

Beastie: Rainbow Fish

Habitat (where it lives): Dunbeth Park

Diet (what it eats): Tiger Fish whiskers

Typical behaviour (aggressive/ docile): docile

Climate change issues (how will your wee beasties be affected): Rainbow Fish sleep in water but there is a lot of litter and rubbish in the water now and due to global warming the water in the park is drying out.

Name: Hannah Mugyenyi

Class: 2L1

School: Coatbridge High School

Drawing of Wee Beastie:

Photograph of Wee Beastie in its natural environment:

Wee Beasties

Beastie: River

Habitat (where it lives): Summerlee

Diet (what it eats): Worms, bugs, leaves.

Typical behaviour (aggressive/ docile): Calm, Playful

Climate change issues (how will your wee beasties be affected): Trees are being burned down and River loses it's home where its family lives.

Drawing of Wee Beastie:

Photograph of Wee Beastie in its natural environment:

Name: Millie Potter

Class: 2T6

School: Coatbridge High School

Wee Beasties

Beastie: The great Duck

Habitat (where it lives): in the grass in dambeen park

Diet (what it eats): Any thing it can steal from tomms tanges

Typical behaviour (aggressive/ docile): is aggressive and likes to chase toddlers in danbeen park

Climate change issues (how will your wee beasties be affected): because people wont go out in danbeen park and cant will se it can't steal from tomms tangss or chase toddlers in the park

Name: Oliver carwin
Class: 2U Miss Kerr
School: coat bridge high

Drawing of Wee Beastie:

Photograph of Wee Beastie in its natural environment:

Wee Beasties

ie: cheeky zebra bird

itat (where it lives):

ees at the Lochs

Diet (what it eats):

Letus, carrots, worms, flys, watermelon rasberrys

Typical behaviour (aggressive/ docile):

Likes to do front and backflips and big sleeps. ([redacted] aggressive)

Climate change issues (how will your wee beasties be affected):

the water use, less leaves on trees, rubbish abart the paths and roads. (if someone comes up to touch it, it will use its two fists and punch them in the face.)

vie Grant

m2/1T8

bridge high

Drawing of Wee Beastie:

Photograph of Wee Beastie in its natural environment:

ee Beasties

eality Tiger clown fish

(where it lives): Drumpellier lochs
also sleep out at weekes)

(what it eats): Birds / People / other
sh

pical behaviour (aggressive/ docile): very
ggressive

limate change issues (how will your wee
easties be affected):
t the trees die it won't
e able to eat humans
ecause it won't be able
s breathe

on Bell
2
dge high School

Drawing of Wee Beastie:

Photograph of Wee Beastie in its natural environment:

asties

ives): Clocky

eats): (birds, bees)

ehaviour (aggressive/ docile):

sive

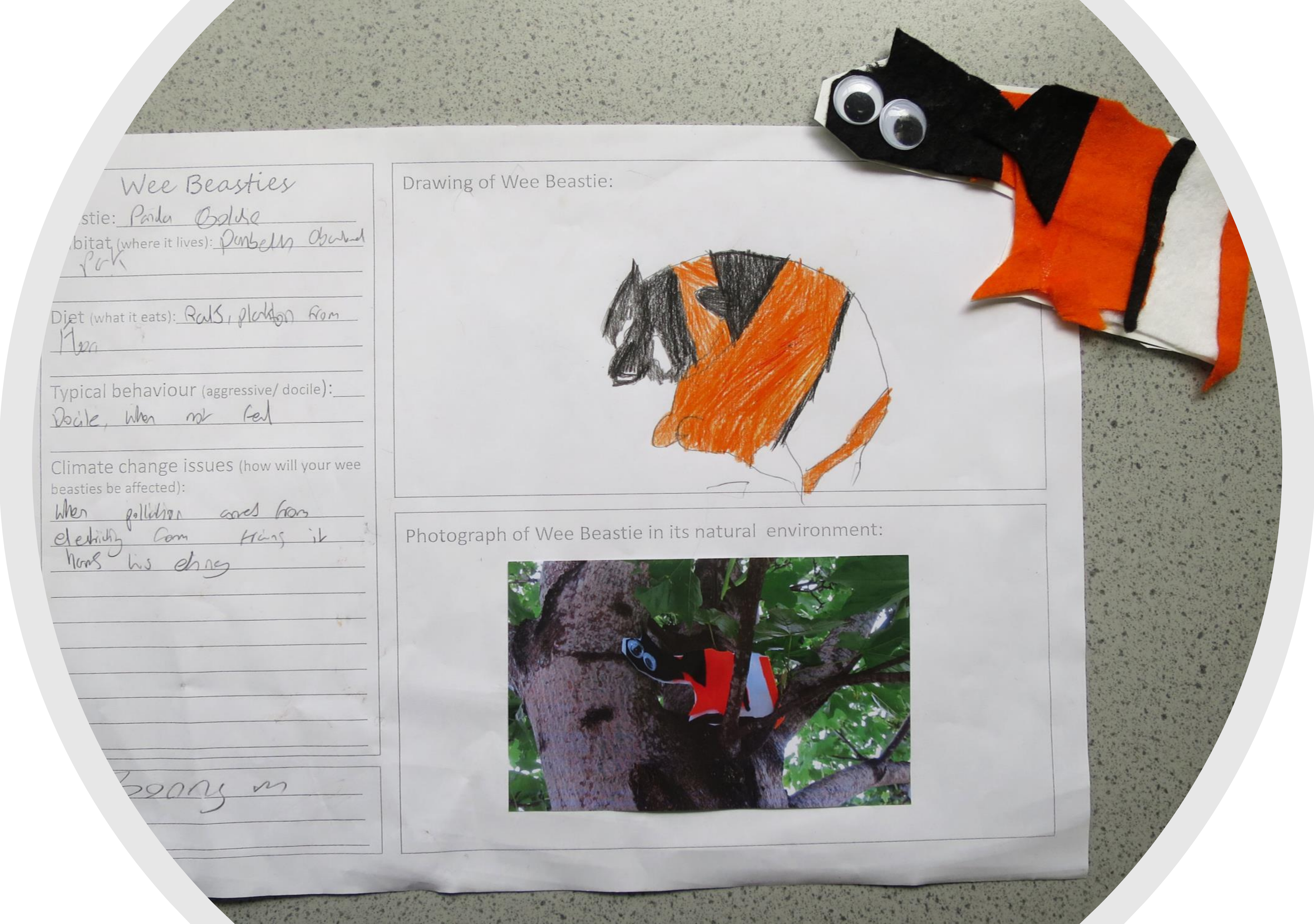
change issues (how will your wee
e affected):

get to hot and die

Maxwell

Drawing of Wee Beastie:

Photograph of Wee Beastie in its natural environment:



Wee Beasties

stie: Panda Goldie

bitat (where it lives): Dunbells Orchard Park

Diet (what it eats): Rats, plankton from Moon

Typical behaviour (aggressive/ docile): Docile, when not fed

Climate change issues (how will your wee beasties be affected): When pollution comes from electricity Com things it harms his ch...

Beany m

Drawing of Wee Beastie:

Photograph of Wee Beastie in its natural environment:

Wee Beasties

Bird Fly

t (where it lives): Creeds

t (what it eats): meat dogs cats

Typical behaviour (aggressive/ docile):

aggressive

Climate change issues (how will your wee beasties be affected):

food and if it does not eat it will get more aggressive and grow bigger and will kill

Drawing of Wee Beastie:

Photograph of Wee Beastie in its natural environment:

Step Three: Going to University

- Your beastie wants to learn what they can do about climate change. So, you can show them round the University of Glasgow
- Pick what your beastie should learn about to help them deal with climate change
- Write about what your beastie will do and why it will help

Widening Participation

- Many Scottish young people from areas of deprivation do not consider university, no matter how able they are or what their potential might be
- Many young people are unclear about what actually goes on at universities or how they might be involved
- Helping young people to imagine their beastie – and themselves – at university could support them in considering university for the future

On Our Way to University!

6 Wee Beasties and their S2 pupils travelled from Coatbridge High School to the University of Glasgow!

Travelling Mindfully

- We decided to travel by public transport
- As well as being good for the environment, this demonstrated for pupils how straightforward the commute from Coatbridge to Glasgow can be
- Glasgow has many universities and colleges – all good options for pupils who are confident about the journey!

Wee Beasties in the Cloisters

One of the most striking features of the Gilbert Scott building is the beautiful Cloisters. Our beasties enjoyed exploring! We also found out a bit about the history and organisation of the university.

The Wee Beasties were astonished to find such a strange new habitat! We had fun exploring... but were disappointed to discover there are no flats to rent in the Gilbert Scott building.

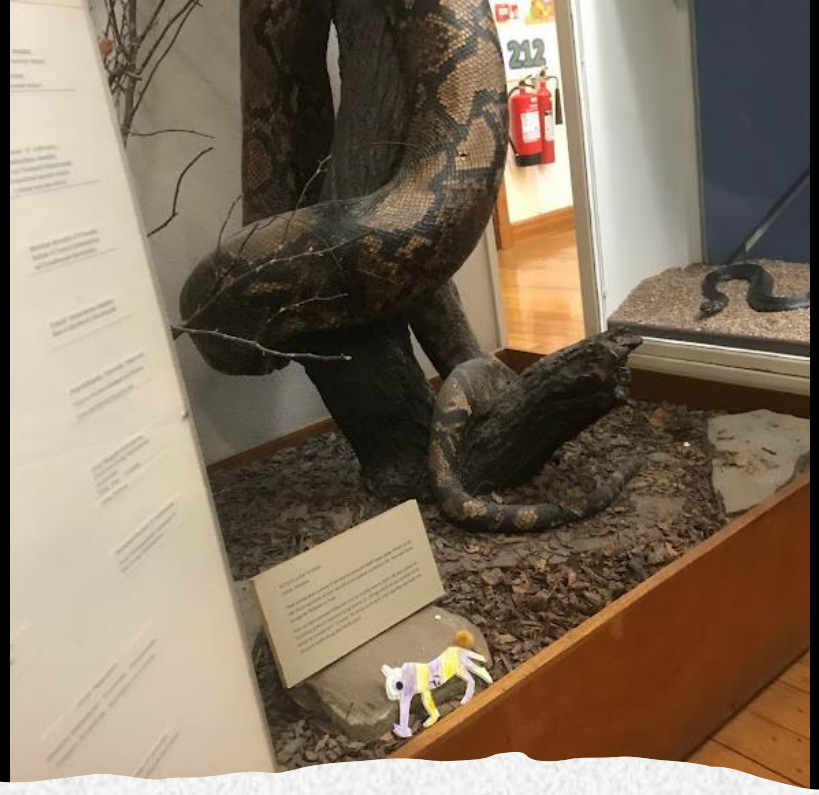
Adam Smith building

The Wee Beasties travelled next to the Adam Smith building where they met their first student.

Irene Libelli (SRC School of Social & Political Sciences Rep) met us and told the Beasties all about how politics and social sciences can help combat climate change. Our Beasties were a bit scared by the building, but we loved meeting Irene!

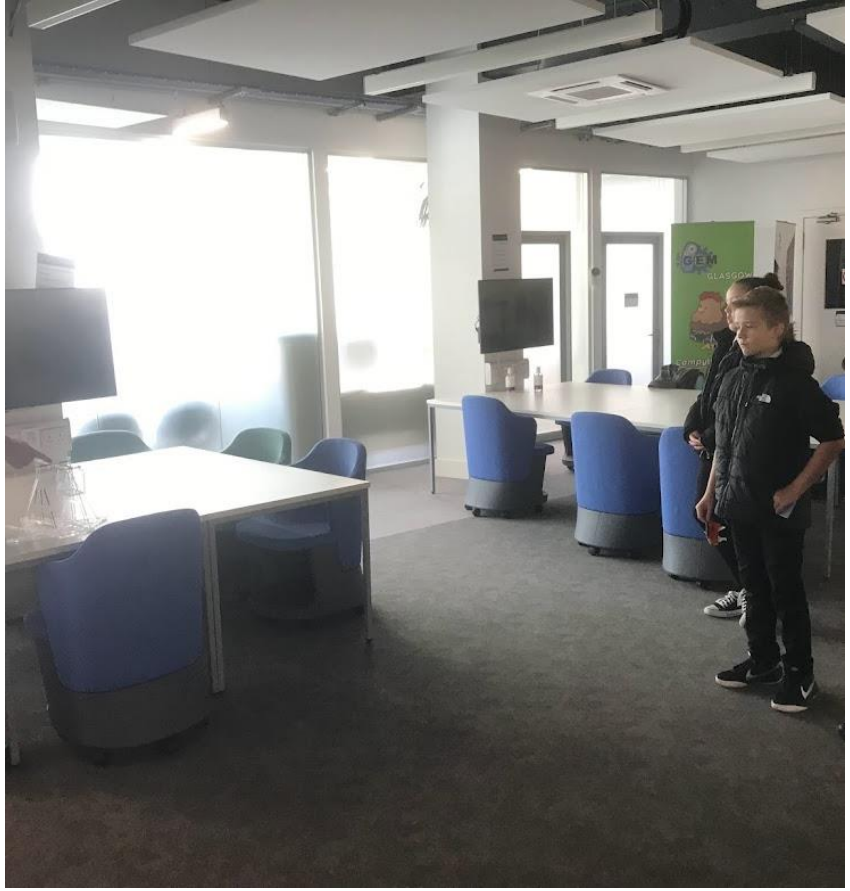
Zoology Building

Our next stop was Zoology! We were looking forward to meeting Denver Corrreia (SRC School of Life Sciences Rept) but we took some time first to explore the lovely gardens...



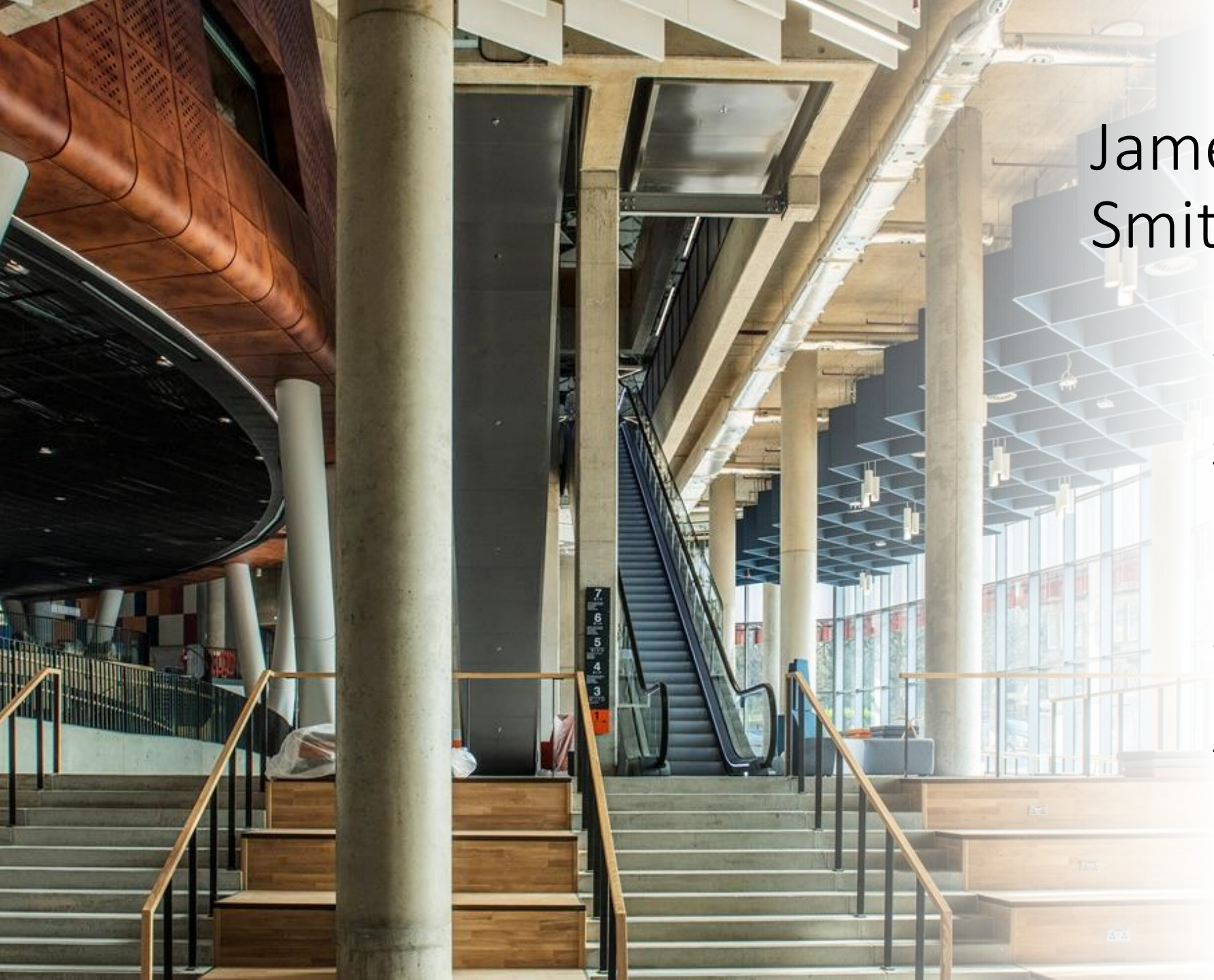
Zoology Museum

Denver took us to the museum! There were all sorts of cool and dangerous looking creatures – some of the Beasties were a bit nervous... It was fantastic to hear about the work being done on parasites – do you know that head lice are parasites too?



James Watt and James McCune Smith

Next, we walked all the way down to the James Watt building, where Hugh Southall (SRC School of Engineering Rep), met us and introduced us to Dr Scott Roy – a real live professor! All the Beasties got excited about engineering!



James McCune Smith

We then walked all the way back to the James McCune Smith building to meet Heriberto Busquier Cerdan (SRC School of Physics and Astronomy Rep) who showed us the lovely new James McCune Smith building and told us about science.

(The Beasties in our photo felt shy, so we have used a photo of the building instead)

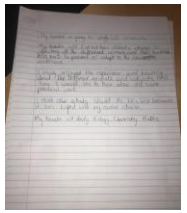
Coming home

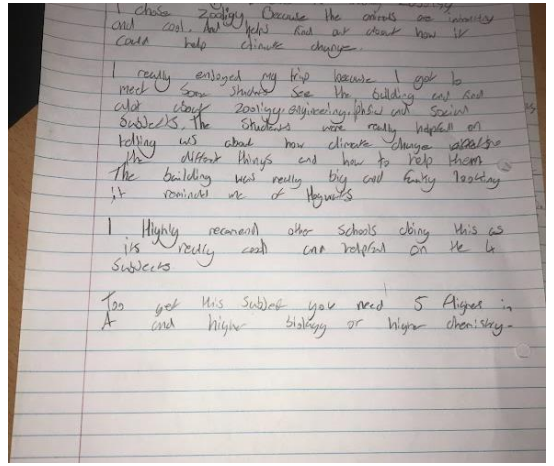
The Beasties were still in the mood to explore Dunbeth Park on their way home!

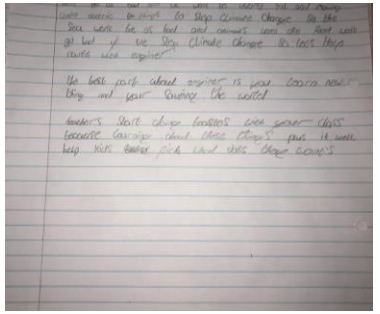
Our trip made us think about all the ways we can combat climate change, through scholarship and innovation.

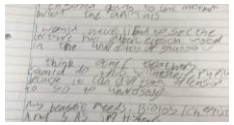
It also made us think about the qualifications we might need if we (like our Beasties) wanted to study at University of Glasgow.

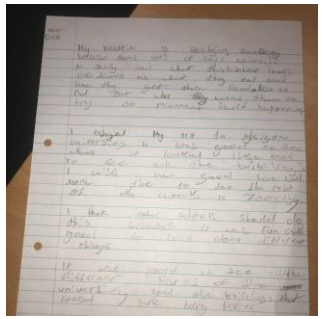
Four beasties decided they wanted to help through Life Sciences. One beastie decided to be an engineer. All the Beasties could see themselves at Glasgow!

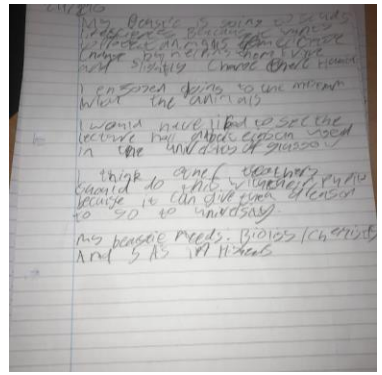












Tired Wee Beasties!

With thanks to:

- Coatbridge High School and especially Mrs Creaney (HT), Mrs Kerr (Art Dept) Ms McLaughlin (SfL) and Mrs Battersby (SfL) whose support for this trip made it possible.
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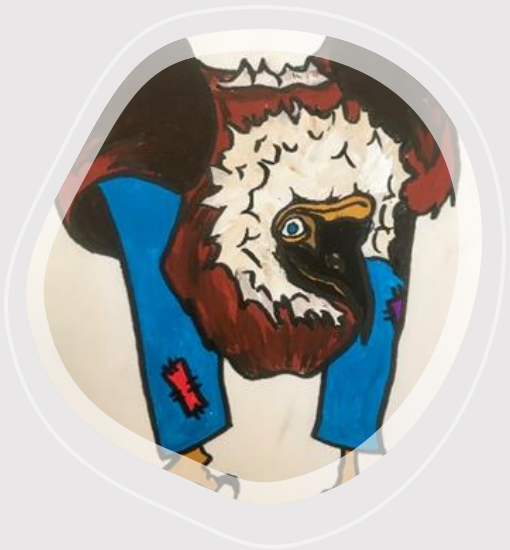
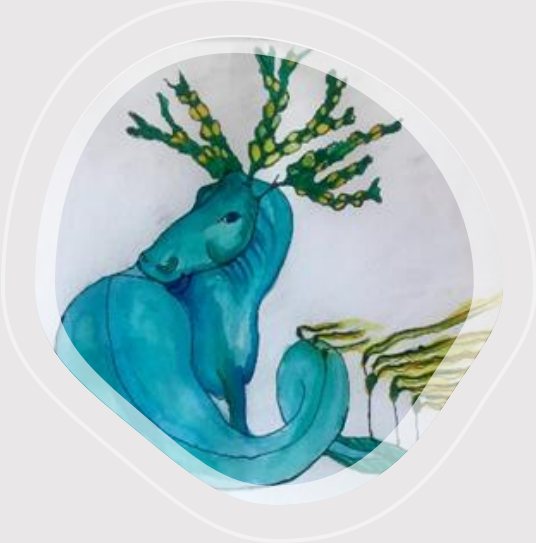

If you would like to know more about this project, email: Catherine.Reid@glasgow.ac.uk @catlaughing

We would love to hear from young people, parents and teachers!