



# Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Friday 3 March 2023

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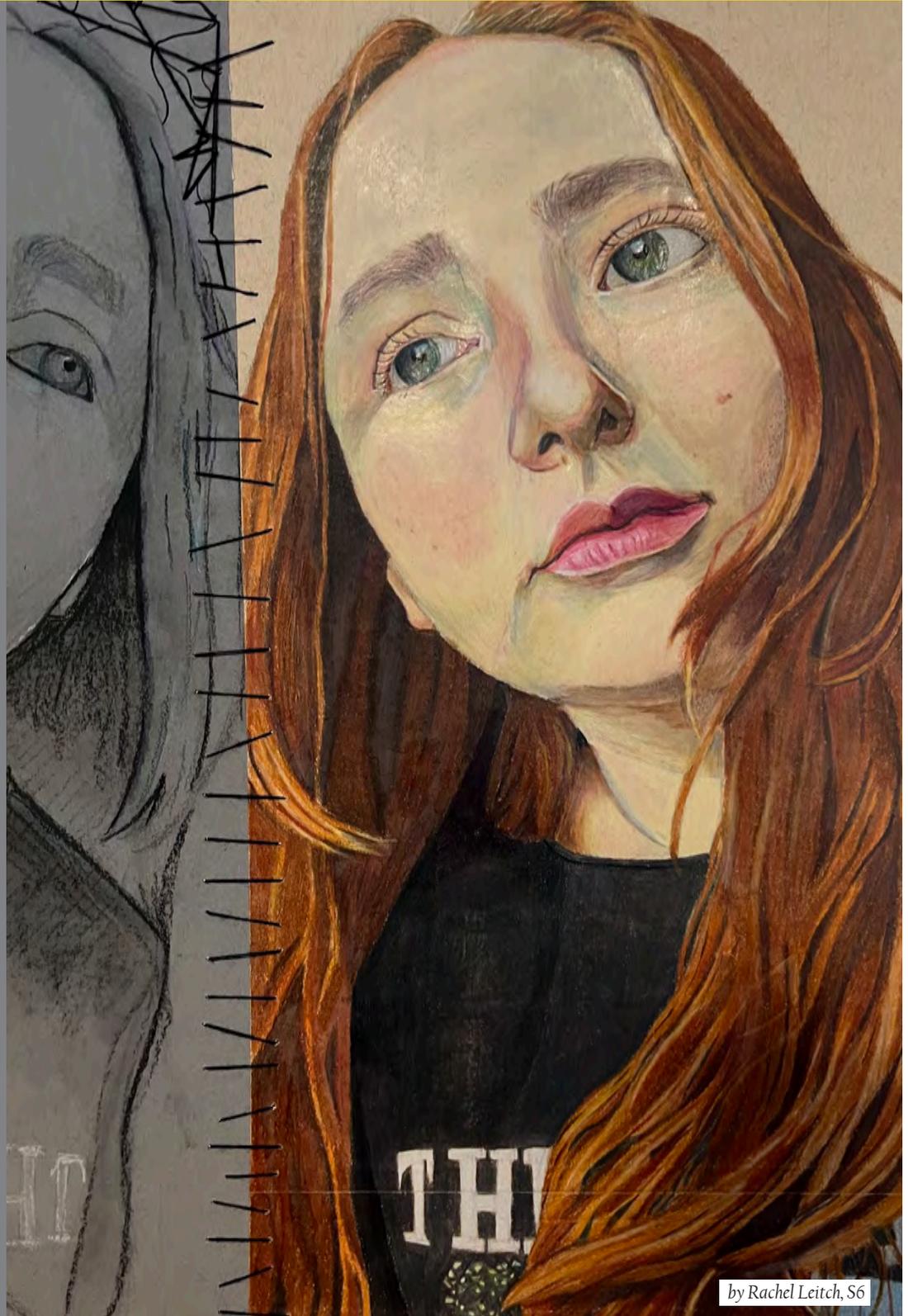
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by Rachel Leitch, S6



Mrs E. Ormerod  
Head Teacher

# Head Teacher's Update

## **Bronze DofE**

The S3 Bronze DofE group have had their first training walk in Dalkeith Country Park ahead of their practice expedition taking place later this month in the Pentland Hills. This is by far the largest Bronze group we have ever had. It's great to see the Duke of Edinburgh's Award growing from strength to strength at DHS. Hopefully some of these young people will make it through all the way to completing their Gold Award! Good luck everybody and have a great expedition when it comes!



Dear Parent/carer,

I hope you all had a lovely February break with your young people and managed some time together to relax.

I want to start this newsletter by thanking all of our parents/carers for their continued patience regarding the ongoing strikes. I understand how difficult this has been for all families and young people. We hope the online learning opportunities have helped our pupils to continue to engage in their learning while at home.

Last week, our Senior School and House Captains took part in a pupil deputation to Council regarding the recent budget proposals. They wrote a well-researched letter, and along with other Midlothian Secondary schools, presented this at Council. Thankfully some of the proposed budget cuts relating to teaching staff were removed before being presented to Council. Nevertheless, cuts have still been made, the most significant of which will be a 1% budget reduction in all schools next session. As always we continue to work alongside our education counterparts to ensure planning is robust for next session given the circumstances.

Over the past two weeks we have welcomed back some whole school and pupil events to our school. Last Friday, our LGBTQ+ group organised a range of events and raised £300 for charity. Well done to the whole working group who displayed some excellent leadership skills throughout the planning.

The S1 disco was also a great success and so nice to see the pupils have fun with their peers! We saw some brilliant dance moves from pupils and staff. A big thank you goes out to our Senior School Captains for arranging this, especially Jessica Inglis who was on hand all night for our S1 pupils.

I spent time last week interviewing for a permanent Drama teacher and for an Acting Pupil

Support Leader post. I am pleased to say that Rebecca Thomson, NQT Drama, has been appointed permanently as our Drama teacher. This role will start in August. Kirsty McCole, English teacher, has been appointed as the Acting Pupil Support Leader post, which will start in May. Congratulations to both members of staff!

On Tuesday our whole school leavers' data was released. This is the data that relates to our young people in the Senior Phase who left school at the end of session 2022. I am pleased to report that across the national benchmark measures of Improving Attainment for all and Literacy and Numeracy we have exceeded that of our virtual comparator schools. Positive destinations for Dalkeith High School sits at 96.55% which is in line with all comparators. A positive outcome for our pupils but one which we will continue to strive for excellence.

Over the next two weeks the school will be making preparations for our next quality assurance visit which will focus on Learning, Teaching and Assessment. This takes place on Thursday the 16th of March. The following day we also welcome a Norwegian delegation of teachers who will also be interested to review our approaches to learning and teaching.

Finally, I would encourage you to review the consultation paperwork for the proposed new primary school in Easthouses. The proposal outlines a realignment of our school's catchment area. The consultation opened on Monday 27th February and closes on Sunday 23rd April 2023.

Midlothian Council are seeking the views of our school community. You can copy the link below:

<https://midlothiancouncil.citizenspace.com/education/easthouses-education-consultation/>

I hope you enjoy the weekend when it comes.

*Emma Ormerod*

# Library Book Fair

The Library recently held a Book Fair. Pupils were able to purchase books from authors such as David Walliams and Liz Pichon. The pupils from both Dalkeith and St David's High School really enjoyed the opportunity to use their £1 World Book Day tokens to purchase the books and raised £80 towards books for the school library.



# Athletics Success!

On the 31st of January and the 1st of February a group of our talented athletes took on Schools from all over Scotland at the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Competition 2023. Over the two days we saw fabulous results with some pupils running personal bests and making finals at their first ever indoor competition! Andrew McWilliam secured a bronze medal in the 1500m and Beth McWilliams competed in her first Scottish schools indoor event and placed top 6 in the 800m. Well done to all of our athletes and keep your eyes peeled for more successes to come at the up and coming Cross Country Championships, Midlothain Schools Outdoors and Scottish Schools Outdoor Championships. Any pupils interested in competing or training for athletics should make themselves known to Mrs Wilson in PE.



# Purple Friday!

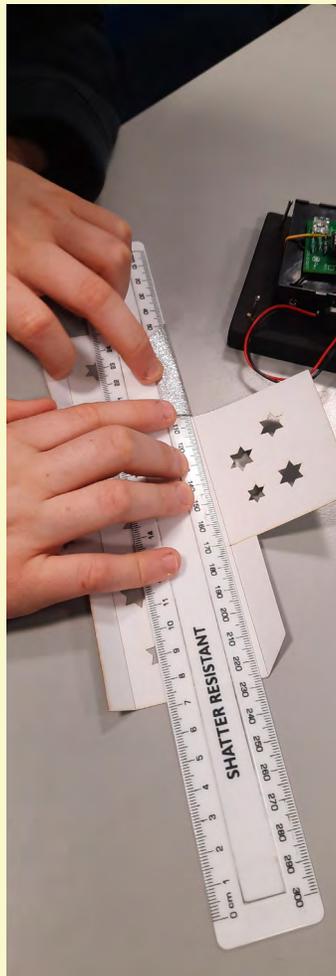
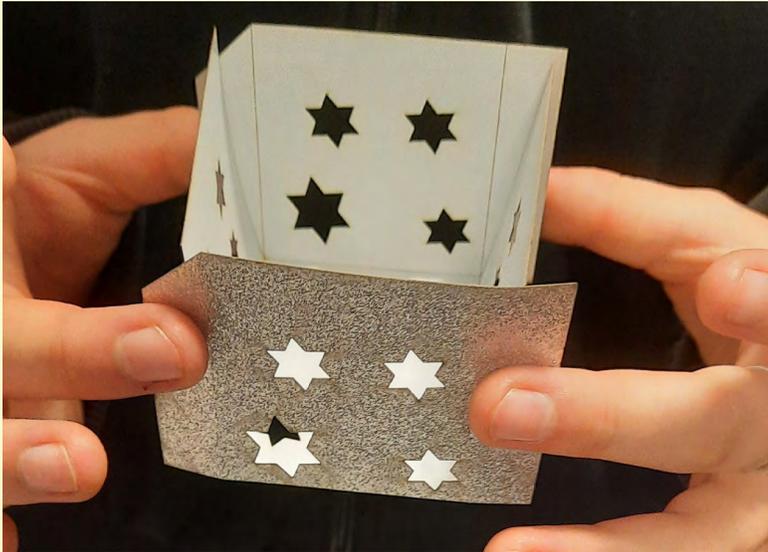
Since 2004, LGBT History Month is celebrated every February in the UK. It is an opportunity to connect and reflect on the past and present of the LGBT community, celebrate LGBT culture and explore what the lessons of history can teach us for the future. Like all high schools across the country, Dalkeith High School has its own LGBTQ+ community, made up of teachers and pupils. Over the last two years we have seen our LGBTQ+ group grow and flourish into a group committed to creating a more equal and inclusive school environment. As a part of LGBT History Month, LGBT Youth Scotland organises a fundraising event on the last Friday of February to raise money for their vital work called 'Purple Friday'. When the school's LGBTQ+ group (self-named 'Prism') heard of the work LGBT YS do, helping young people with support groups, advice and education, they were keen to get involved with this year's national event. We held a very popular bake sale, guess the number of sweets in the jar and a staff Pride flag signing to raise funds. Everyone, was encouraged to wear something purple or colourful as a part of the dress down day and it was a wonderful atmosphere around the school. In total, the school raised £300 for LGBT Youth Scotland and the group are hoping we can build on this success in the future. If any pupils would like to join the group, Junior and Seniors meet at lunchtime every Wednesday and everyone is welcome!



# Supported Study Timetable 2022/23

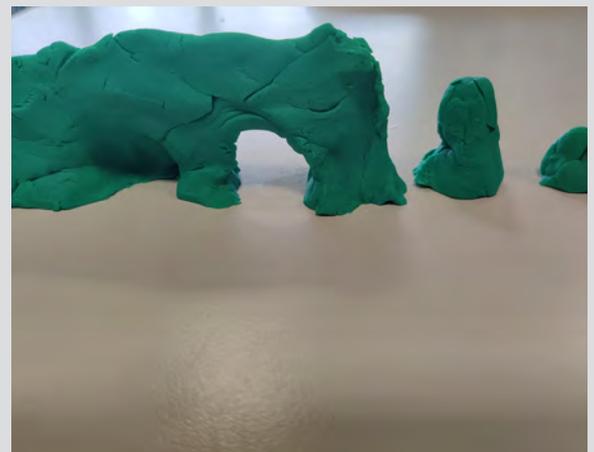
Day	Time	Subject	Level	Room	Teacher
Alternate Mon & Tues	15.15 - 16.15	Classical Studies	Higher	G111	Mr McGlade
Monday	15.15 - 16.15	Biology	Higher (N5 & S3 welcome)	F228	Mrs Kellagher
Monday	15.15 - 16.15	Physics	N5/Higher	F227	Mr Moncrieff
Monday	15.15 - 16.15	Chemistry	All Senior levels	F225	Mrs Lawson
Monday	15.15 - 16.15	Biology	Higher Human and N5	F221	Miss Miller
Monday	15.15 - 16.15	Maths/Apps	All levels	F114	Mrs Harcourt-Gill
Monday	15.15 - 16.15	PE	N5 and Higher	F219	Mr Agnew
Monday	15.15 - 16.15	Maths	Nat 5 (S3)	F120	Mr Gibbs
Monday	15.15 - 16.15	Maths. Apps higher apps	All	F117	Mr King
Monday & Tuesday	13.05 - 13.35	Biology	All levels	F220	Mr Craig
Monday & Tuesday	13.05 - 13.35	Chemistry	National 5	F224	Ms Mackay
Tuesday	15.15 - 16.15	Chemistry	All Senior levels	F223	Mrs Mackenzie
Tuesday	13.05 - 13.35	Maths	N5	F122	Mr May
Tuesday	15.15 - 16.30	Art and Photography	All levels	G306	Miss Banks
Tuesday	15.15 - 16.15	Design & Manufacture	N5	G216	Mr Tams
Tuesday	15.15 - 16.15	Spanish	Advanced Higher	G224	Mrs Heggie
Tues (every 2nd week)	15.15 - 16.15	Modern Studies	Higher & Adv Higher	F113	Miss McDougall
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.15	History	N5	G112	Mr Holligan
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.15	Drama	All Senior Levels	G770	Ms Thomson/Mrs Watson
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.15	Maths	All levels	F122	Mr May
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.15	Engineering Science	Higher	G202	Mrs Kane
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.15	Engineering Science	N5	G202/G239	Mr Ambrose
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.15	Graphic Communication	All Levels	G212	Mr Young
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.15	Mathematics	N5, Higher	F118	Mr. Shaw
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.30	English	N5, Higher	G117	Mr Johnstone
Wednesday	13:05 - 13:35	Biology	N5 and AH	F233	Miss Maitland
Wednesday	15.15 - 16.15	Geography	Higher	F109	Mr Duncan
Wed (every 2nd week)	15.15 - 16.15	Politics	Higher	F113	Miss McDougall
Thursday	15.15 - 16.15	Maths/Apps	Nat 5 and Higher	F112/F1.21	Miss Shankland
Thursday	15.15 - 17.00	Art and Photography	All Senior levels	G303	Mrs Zielinski
Thursday	15.15 - 16.00	PE (Practical Performance)	N5 and Higher	GH1	Mrs Gatti
Thursday	15.15 - 16.30	Art and Photography	All Levels	G302	Ms Kyle
Thursday	13.05 - 13.35	Maths	N5 Apps	F123	Miss Hamilton
Thursday	15.15 - 16.15	Maths	AH	F120	Mr Gibbs
Thursday	15.15 - 16.15	Geography	N5	F111	Mr Cormack
Thursday	15.15 - 16.15	English	N5, Higher	G114	Miss Falconer
Thursday	15.15 - 16.15	French	Higher / Advanced Higher	G227	Mr Zirnheld

# In the Classroom...



This S1 CDT class have been completing a star shade that covers an electronic circuit that they have soldered. Pupils were delighted to be taking home their 'Rainbow Light' project!

In S3 and S4 Geography we have been creating models out of Play Doh to demonstrate what we have learned about Glaciation and Coastal erosion. This will help pupils visualise their learning and they enjoyed the competition of making the best model.



## SCHOOL CAPTAINS' NEWS

In recent news regarding the council budget, myself (Eve Sneddon), my fellow School Captain Andrew More and House Captain Eve Davies attended a deputation at Midlothian council to discuss budget details. We went in support of our two speakers Mollie (Lasswade High) and Callum (Newbattle High), who spoke with purpose and conviction regarding our thoughts on the council's plan to cut essential parts of our education system. As soon as we were informed about the deputation, we were all keen to participate and represent pupils from all schools who would be deeply affected educationally. To prepare, we brainstormed points to deliver in the speech so that Dalkeith as a school was represented as well as every other one. We also took part in a Google meet where we discussed with our fellow students how to approach such an important issue and prepared the speech.

On the day, we made our way up to Midlothian House with hope of change in mind. We met up with everyone and headed up to the meeting room, a large, wooden plated room with a circular desk at which each councillor sat. We, with the exception of the speakers, sat in the seats at the side and enjoyed showing our support. It was a valuable experience, one we will learn from and appreciate. To hear our wants and needs projected in a room where change happens was wonderful and we feel what was said reflected our concerns exactly. We are proud to have stood up for our school.

Prior to the previous events that demanded priority, we planned a disco for the S1 year group exclusively. The disco was supported by many staff for which we are thankful. Snacks and juice were prepared for those in attendance. We hope our juniors had an enjoyable night. Photographs can be seen on the right.



## FANTASY FOOTBALL

The manager of the month award for the school fantasy football league for January goes to Alex in 4B1!

Alex made 229 points last month.

Make sure you keep updating your teams to try and knock Mr Gordon and Mr Galbraith off of the top spots!

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023

On Thursday 2nd March the School Library celebrated World Book Day by holding a lunchtime reading, continue a story competition. Staff were photographed with their favourite books and a book swap took place.

Pupils were given a World Book Day token that can be spent in any retailer that sells books!



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@official\_DHS

Dalkeith High School PTA & PC



@DalkeithHighSchoolParentCouncilandPTA



## February 2023 Newsletter

We have been very busy since coming back after Christmas and have been working hard, settling back into routines and engaging with learning across the curriculum. We are all looking forward to it getting a little bit warmer for our daily walks though!

### STAFFING UPDATE

Currently working in The Hive are:

Mrs Sutherland – Monday to Friday

Mr McConnachie – Monday to Thursday

Miss Wilson – Tuesday to Thursday

Miss Munro – Monday to Friday

Mrs Henderson – Monday to Thursday

Mr Peden – also works in the mainstream school so is not based in the Hive full time

Mrs Baselala - also works in the mainstream school so is not based in the Hive full time

We are so very lucky that Miss Wilson joined us just before Christmas. Miss Wilson teaches in the Hive Tuesday to Thursday and is expected to be with us until the end of June.

We are also very lucky to have Miss Howie who is continuing to work with us for 4 periods each week.

We are still recruiting for an additional full time learning assistant. We will keep you informed of any developments.

### THIS TERM

This term we have three topics: Transport, Myths & Legends and Mini Beasts.

In our transport topic we will be learning about different modes of transport both past and present.

We are going to look at myths and legends across the world to develop an understanding of how important these are within different cultures.

In our mini beasts topic we will be learning how to categorise mini beasts scientifically as well as learning about mini beasts both here and in warmer climates.

We are also going to be learning how to use the 'Fix It Folder'. This is a resource designed to support pupils to think about their own and others actions, as well as ways to 'feel better' if they are in the red, yellow or blue zone. We will also be revisiting the 'Zones of Regulation' to support with this.

## NEWS FROM LAST TERM

### ART

We learned about Jon Burgerman, an artist that was born in the UK and now lives in New York. We looked at lots of his artwork and recreated some of his pieces. We had lots of fun doing this as he uses humour to create his work which makes it quite funny to look at! Here are some of our pieces of work that are up on the wall in the classroom.



PIC•COLLAGE

## OCEANS OF THE WORLD

In our oceans of the world topic we learned about the five oceans and looked for them on the globe. We learned about the different layers in the oceans and about the weird and wonderful creatures that live in the different layers. We discovered some very strange looking sea creatures as we went deeper down to the ocean floor! We used a variety of art

techniques to create some of our own sea creatures and learned different facts about them each week. For example, did you know that an octopus has three hearts and blue blood and live in oceans all around the world?



## THE ROMANS

The students really enjoyed discovering lots of different facts about The Romans and produced some fabulous work last term.

We made these amazing Roman Standards using sticks!



Other activities that we worked hard on included our Roman Soldier Mosaics. We made these by sticking helmets onto portraits of ourselves and backed them on beautiful patterns that we had created using cut paper. We also dressed and labelled our own Roman Gladiators so that they were ready for battle. However, we probably had most fun creating sumptuous starters, marvellous mains and delectable desserts for our own Roman Menu.

These included dishes like duck stuffed with snails, goose stuffed with dormice, goat's head and brains... yuck!

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter holiday - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Please be aware there are further industrial action days identified by Unions – once dates are confirmed Dalkeith High School will be in touch using the regular channels to advise of these. Please keep an eye on your emails from the school. If anyone does not receive emails or texts directly from Dalkeith High School please contact the school office directly on 0131 654 4701.

### COMMUNICATION

We are delighted to be using Seesaw again and hope you are enjoying the daily updates. As you are aware, after the temporary suspension of Seesaw last year, the private messaging facility is no longer available. You may of course continue to comment on posts that your youngster or Hive staff make. Alternatively, you can add a note which will appear on your youngster's page using the  button.

Alternatively, feel free to continue to communicate with us via email or phone call. If your message is urgent please phone the school office as staff may not be able to access emails during the teaching day.

If you are reporting pupil absence, please continue to do so by phoning the school office on 0131 654 4701 and leaving a voicemail.

As you are aware, we use Twitter as another way of sharing the wonderful learning experiences we have in The Hive. We are planning to use this more often so if you are able and haven't already, then please follow us @TheHiveDHS