



# Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Friday 15 December 2023

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by Alexander Sneddon, S3



Mrs E. Ormerod  
Head Teacher

# Head Teacher's Update

## Dalkeith High School Curriculum Pathways Evening

Our inaugural pathways evening took place on 21 November alongside the campus careers fair. Both events were very well-attended and the feedback from visitors was extremely positive. For those who could not make the evening, the materials shared on the night are now available on the school website (link below). A Frequently Asked Questions document will follow some time in January, following the Authority curriculum consultation due to take place after the holiday.

<https://edublog.mgfl.net/dalkeithhs/curriculum-pathways-evening-november-2023/>

## Nurture Group Fundraiser

One of the S3 Nurture groups ran a fundraiser to raise money for the Breakfast Club and Nurture Base. They sold milkshakes, cakes, candy canes and ran a sweets in a jar competition. The money will go to helping pupils be ready to learn in the morning by providing free breakfasts.

The pupils did an amazing job and showed great organisation and responsibility skills.



Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the past two weeks, the pupils have really impressed me with their enterprising skills, creative work and ideas to help develop our school. Our S2 nurture class presented a new idea to me last week about the benefits of a Therapet for our students. It was a very well researched and thought-out presentation. We are now looking at ways we can incorporate a Therapet into our nurture provision. Although it is early days, we are doing further research to ensure this idea comes to fruition.

Our S3 Business classes made, marketed and sold a number of Christmas gifts to the school community over the past week. The amount of work and effort that has gone in to developing their enterprising skills has been excellent. A huge well done to the whole class and to the Business department who supported the pupils in their endeavours.

The Christmas concert last night was a brilliant showcase of the talents and creative energy that pupils have in this school. I was blown away by the musical ensembles, dance performances, poetry from around the world and of course our Drama aficionados. A huge thank you to Guy Ward and Georgia Bain who led the entire evening. Thank you to everyone involved, it certainly got me in the Christmas mood.

Well done to our senior pupils who have been completing their formal assessments over the past two weeks. The pupils have been very focused in their revision, and it has been lovely to see so many of them quiz one another in preparation for the assessments. I look forward to seeing the results in the New Year. A reminder that pupils can download the SQA My exams app, which will help them build their SQA timetable and a revision timetable, to continue preparations for the final exam.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye and farewell to Nicola Riddell, Curriculum Leader Humanities and Sara McDermott, Pupil Support Leader. Ms Riddell moves into her new role as Depute Head Teacher at Galashiels Academy from January and we wish her the best of luck in this new chapter of her career. Mrs McDermott leaves us until March 2025, into her new role as Head of House at Lasswade High School. The best of luck to Mrs McDermott in this new role.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter we have been holding a number of interviews this week to fill new and existing roles within the school. See the new appointments below:

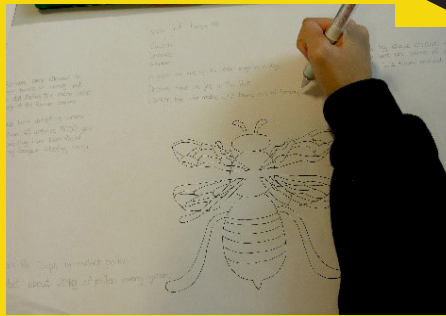
- Kirsty McCole has been appointed as pupil Support Leader to Melville house. She will replace Mrs McDermott while she is on her secondment.
- Rosemary Kane has been appointed as Teacher of Enhanced and Complex Needs for 3.5 days a week.
- Jake Nicholson was appointed as Teacher of History, on a fixed term contract until June 2024.
- Daniel Holligan has been appointed as Acting Curriculum Leader Humanities until June 2024.
- Norma Paterson was appointed as our new Home Link Practitioner. This is a new role for the school and one which we are very excited to establish.

It has been a successful round of recruitment and I am looking forward to working with all of the staff members mentioned above in the new year.

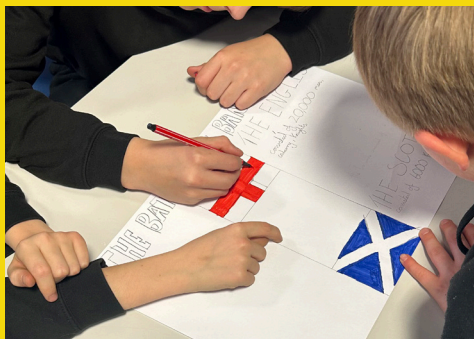
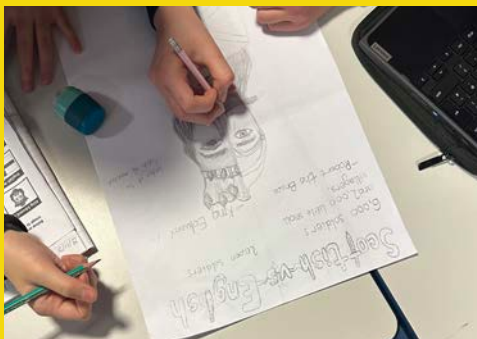
Finally, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2024.

*Emma Ormerod*

# In the Classroom ...



S1 have been learning about the Scottish Wars of Independence in History. As a part of their studies they have researched the Battle of Bannockburn, including the leaders, the weapons and events of the battle - which spanned over two days. Pupils have taken this knowledge and created wonderful posters to present their learning on one of the most famous battles in Scottish history.



The S3 PDA class have been studying bees. They visited Mr McGlade's class where he told them about honeybees, the history of honey and the school hives. They then made beeswax candles. Over the following weeks they learned more about bees during PDA lessons and then created a poster using some of this information. There was evidence of some excellent artistic skills and the class worked really well on this topic. Hopefully they now all appreciate how important bees are!

S5/6 classes had lots of fun with the return of Social Dancing! They ran through a number of Ceilidh dances to get them in the festive spirit and it was a great way to unwind in the middle of their Formal Assessments.



# Active Schools Spotlight Award

*Active Schools*  
**SPOTLIGHT AWARD  
2023-24**

**FINLAY GORDON**

Finlay has been an excellent addition to the Active Schools volunteering workforce. He initially came on board to gain volunteering experience as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award.

So far Finlay has supported Basketball at King's Park Primary School, Athletics at Dalkeith High School and is currently supporting Ju-Jitsu after school sessions at Dalkeith Campus.



*Active Schools*  
**SPOTLIGHT AWARD  
2023-24**

**THANK YOU!**

Finlay is really proactive and is always looking to develop. He is very organised, efficient and uses his initiative. He also engages really well with the young people and is very supportive of the coaches and children he works with.




## Amazing Grace!

Huge congratulations to Grace Sharp, 3L1, who won a silver medal as part of team Scotland at the British classics final in Guildford for Gymnastics. This was her first time competing for Scotland. Well done Grace what a fantastic achievement!

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS



Sat	23 <sup>rd</sup>	December	Open as normal
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Closed</b>
Tues	26 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Closed</b>
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>		Open as normal
Thurs	28 <sup>th</sup>		Open as normal
Fri	29 <sup>th</sup>		Open as normal
Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>		Open as normal
Mon	1 <sup>st</sup>	January	<b>Closed</b>
Tues	2 <sup>nd</sup>		<b>Closed</b>
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Normal opening hours resume

The Mobile Library will not run from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December and will resume on Monday 8th January

You can renew and request items online. Go to [www.midlothian.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/libraries)

Midlothian  our library

## FAMILY LEARNING



CLLE in Partnership with Dalkeith Library

### FAMILY GAELIC LEARNING



Starting Friday 26th January 2024 - for 6 weeks

2.30pm-3.30pm

Come along to our Family Gaelic Learning on a Friday afternoon  
at  
Dalkeith Library

Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-gaelic-learning-tickets-769583534067>  
For more information email [Heather.Ferguson@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.Ferguson@midlothian.gov.uk)  
Or call Heather: 07824342238

COMMUNITIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND EMPLOYABILITY  
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Midlothian 

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**language**  
today with  
 **Transparent Language® Online** Ciao   
Привет  Hallo   
안녕하세요! 

# Are you interested in learning a new language?

Midlothian Libraries offers access to over 100 language courses with Transparent Language. All you need to start learning is a library card. Find out more via:

[https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/1594/using\\_the\\_library/389/eresources/6](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/1594/using_the_library/389/eresources/6)

Students in the Hive were learning about Advent last week and made these beautiful Christingles for their Christmas tables.



### ***S1 3km run!***

All s1 classes completed a 3km run challenge over the last couple of weeks. They all pushed themselves to complete the distance in as quick a time as possible. Some had to endure some pretty cold wintery weather but dug deep to find some 'mental toughness' to keep them going. Well done to all who completed the challenge!



### ***Rookie Lifeguard!***

Huge well done to Cody Bryson in s1 who has recently completed the "Rookie Lifeguard" course. He also received a medal for completing a 500m swim! Excellent achievements Cody!



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