



Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Thursday 28 March 2024

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DHS welcomes a flock of eight chickens!



Mrs E. Ormerod
Head Teacher

Head Teacher's Update

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 three 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 schools LGBTQ+ group (self-named 'Prism') held the event last year it was a huge success and pupils wanted to get involved by fundraising once again. We held a very popular bake sale and a raffle to raise funds. In total, the school raised an amazing £228.44 for LGBT Youth Scotland and the group are hoping we can build on this success once again in the future. If any pupils would like to join the group, Juniors meet on a Thursday lunchtime in F108 and Seniors on a Tuesday in G113, everyone is welcome!



Dear Parent/Carer,

Well, we have come to the end of term, and what a great term it has been.

Since I last wrote to you all, I attended the Youth Philanthropist Initiative final with our S2 year group. It was brilliant to see how confident our young people were while presenting their charities to their year group. Congratulations to all the finalists but especially the winning group, which included, Freddie Campbell, Edie Green and Alex Kerr. Their success on the day resulted in them winning £3000 for their charity MYPAS, a mental health charity.

We have also had a number of Drama performances over the past two weeks. A huge well done to all the pupils and staff involved in arranging these evenings. We appreciate everyone who attended, to show support to our talented young people.

At the weekend, I had the absolute pleasure of attending the National Portrait Gallery to see the exhibition opening "Before and After Coal". Our S3 pupils were involved in this project and the work they produced is hanging on the walls amongst some the most famous portraits in Scotland. The exhibition is free of charge and runs until September. I would encourage you all to take some time to visit the gallery to see the brilliant and thought provoking work our young people created.

Over the past two weeks, we appointed a new Drama Teacher, Ms Dunion. Pending pre-employment checks Ms Dunion will join our team permanently from August 2024. The long leet interviews for the Acting Head Teacher post took place last Friday. The short leet interviews will take place on 28th March 2024. I hope to be able to communicate with you straight after

the Easter holidays about who the successful candidate is for my maternity post. As a reminder, the maternity role will start from mid June 2024 until the start of May 2025.

We are now fast approaching SQA exam season and I hope that all of our senior pupils are preparing well at home for these final exams. A reminder that there is an Easter revision programme for pupils while we are on holiday. This has been sent out to pupils via google classroom and to parents/carers via email. I also wanted to remind parents of the brilliant resource the school has access to – the ACHIEVE website. This is a great revision tool for all pupils from S4 – S6. Within this website is a new section called SUCCEED. This is a toolkit, which sets out advice on revision, and tools pupils can use to support their learning. Please encourage your young person to access this over the holidays, in preparation for their SQA exams.

Finally, please follow the link below on information on how to access free school meal entitlement over the holidays.

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants/2

Happy Easter to everyone. Enjoy the break with family and friends.

Emma Ormerod



Since November, S2 pupils have been taking part in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). This project enables learners to understand real life social issues and engage with local charities who work to make a difference to the community, while developing their own values and skills for work. Pupils have worked together in groups to create a 'pitch' on which charity should receive a £3,000 grant.

Over the 10 years of YPI at Dalkeith, £30,000 has been granted to local charities. We hosted our 10th YPI final on the 21st of March this year and are delighted to say Freddie, Edie and Alex won the grant for the charity MYPAS. They produced a brilliant presentation which demonstrated their knowledge of mental health, the charity and the impact the money will have. Well done!

All of our finalists were amazing and deserve recognition for the hard work they have done. Many talked about their personal connections with their chosen charity and their visits to the charity. Our other finalists represented CHAS - Robyn, Callie, Alizey, Tiana and Isla. Bright Sparks Playgroup - Niamh, Zoe, Eve and Freya. The Thistle Foundation - Ava, Myrinn, Ashley and Yan. Lothian Veteran Centre - Finn, Quinton, Tim, Laiton and Adam. Alzheimers Scotland - Lily, Trudi, Fiona and Sophie.



EfL Parent/Carer Survey

The Equipped for Learning project has now supplied every pupil in our school with a device for learning and helped staff and pupils make the most of these new devices. We would really love to hear your views on what has gone well, what has not gone well, and how we can prioritise planned actions to best support learning for your child. The survey will take no more than ten minutes to complete. Please use the link below to get started:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnsRiya0UDZUfUuwB3mLqR1ZI9QaWD65_Yiv9a36B-GjdhNDQ/viewform

Read&Write Free for Families: Information for Parents/Carers

You may be aware of the literacy toolbar Read&Write. We use this toolbar in school to support learning and it is installed on all pupil iPads and Chromebooks. Midlothian Council was part of a video case study on the positive impact of Read&Write. You can watch the videos and find out more here:

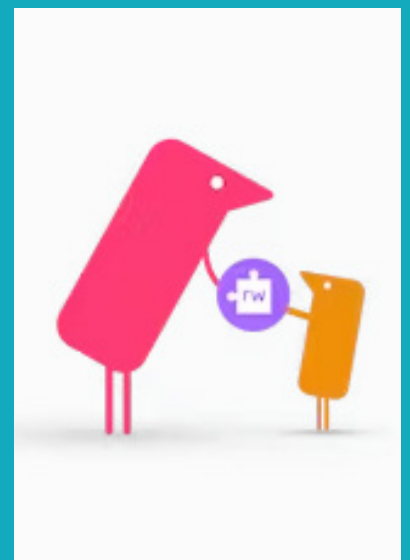
<https://www.texthelp.com/en-gb/lp/education-for-everyone-midlothian/>

The very exciting news is that Midlothian has negotiated a world-first deal that means you can now download the Read&Write toolbar at home, on up to 5 devices for free! Please use this link to download:

<http://text.help/midlothian-families>

You will be asked for the school's postcode and then be given instructions on what to do next.

Have a look at this feature tour to see all the things Read&Write can do and ask your child to show you how they use Read&Write in school!



Students in the Hive are enjoying being back in the workshop with Mrs Kane this term. They are currently making 'Peg Boards' and were drilling and sanding last week.



Cross Country Gold for Conor!

Conor Cocksedge (2D1) competed in the annual SDS Cross Country Championships in Glasgow, on Thursday 14th March. He raced against a high quality field of athletes, winning a gold medal with a fantastic performance, in a very fast race.

Conor pushed his limits to win gold in his first ever Cross Country race, huge well done!



Pupils from The Hive participated in the East of Scotland Parasports festival at Winchburgh Academy recently. They were able to try various different Parasports led by some elite parasport athletes! They had great day.



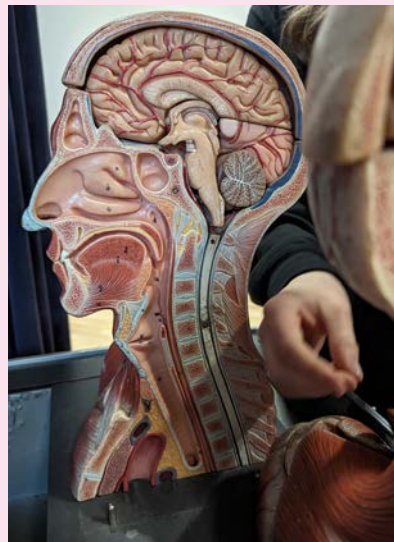
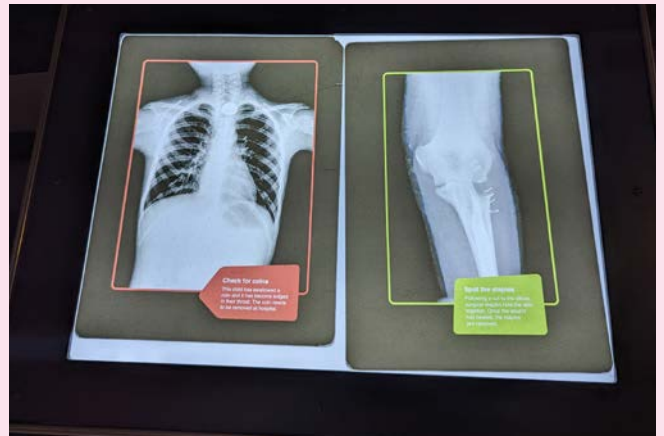
Wing and a Prayer Hen Rescue!

Over the weekend DHS welcomed a flock of eight chickens to join our bees in the grounds of the apiary garden. This was a project entirely conceived by a small group of pupils who (against his better judgment!) convinced Mr McGlade to add to our smallholding so that pupils can work towards a SQA level 4 qualification in animal care. The group did all the research that would be required for their care, costed out and selected the equipment and built their coop, run and made sure the garden was as safe an environment as we can make it. The hens came from “Wing and a Prayer Hen Rescue” who collect hens who are past their prime laying years from farms and save them from slaughter. Ours are about two years old and came from a free range farm in Midlothian and so we will be replicating the good conditions they are used to as they will have the whole garden to range over during the day and will be looked after by young people who really care about them. Many thanks to all who have been involved in making the project happen.



Science Centre Visit DHS!

On Tuesday, Glasgow science centre came for a visit with the S2's where they unpacked the biology behind getting active. After this they were given the opportunity to get hands on with some of the interactive stations that were brought along including memory games, anatomy puzzles and heat sensors! Fun day had by all involved.



‘Before and After Coal’ Community Engagement Project

You may recall in a previous bulletin that Mrs Zielinski shared information about her S3 Art and Design class being involved in a Community Art Project. Eight weeks of practical workshops led by a practising artist and staff from the National Galleries Scotland, explored current cultural trends and influences, including the impacts within their local community past and present. We are delighted to share with you all that the work by pupils is now featured in an exhibition within a prestigious Art Gallery in Edinburgh.

The work by Shireen Ahmad, Cal Archibald, Kiera Brown, Millie Chalmers, Scott Crew, Holly Gilmour, Taylor Mackenzie, Eva MacMillan, Christopher Martin, Megan Maxton, Jay Melrose, Hallie Mortimer, Victor Pazos Neira, Hossam Shalah and Millie Stewart can be seen in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh. The work is part of the wider exhibition ‘Before and After Coal’ which includes banners, photographs, clothing and video interviews. Together the work tells a story of de-industrialisation and change following the aftermath of the mining strikes in 1984. To mark the fortieth anniversary of such strikes and the impacts felt across Scottish communities, school students and community groups have reflected upon the values of former mining communities and the young people who live there today.

The large scale banners on display by pupils from Dalkeith High School and Beath High School express their views and feelings towards the world they live in. This work, alongside the historical photographs and accounts from former miners, showcase a narrative about the gap between the young people and their mining forebears.

Mrs Zielinski attended the official Exhibition opening event on Saturday 23rd March. The celebration started with a parade of banners circulating St Andrews Square, led by former miners and their families, before returning to the Portrait Gallery. Priority access to explore the exhibition and the opportunity to meet other people involved in the wide scale project allowed attendees to engage with the immensity and diversity of the project which has been ongoing since 2021. Speeches followed by a minute’s silence to respect all those impacted in the strikes forty years ago was a heartfelt and fitting tribute.

Mrs Zielinski thoroughly enjoyed being part of this opening celebration and is looking forward to taking her pupils to explore it in the coming weeks. She would highly encourage everyone to make a visit to the Portrait Gallery to see the work by S3 pupils but also the wider exhibition that highlights the hardship, resilience and spirit of survival amongst mining communities.

“The eight week project which my S3 pupils have been involved in has offered them freedom to explore their creativity, views and opinions in a safe and respected environment. Seeing their artwork on display in the Portrait Gallery was a very emotional moment for me as I am so proud of what they have achieved. They have fully immersed themselves into this creative project with maturity, respect and consideration for each other and the local mining communities, resulting in outstanding outcomes being created.”

‘Before and After Coal’ runs from 24th March until 15th September 2024 at the National Portrait Gallery, Queen Street, Edinburgh. Admission is free and the gallery is open daily from 10am - 5pm.

Scottish
National
PORTRAIT
Gallery

‘Jenny Johnstone’ by Dalkeith High School S3 pupils

This invented character - surrounded by dilemmas about friends, social media, vapes and alcohol - represents the student’s alter ego, Jenny Johnstones. They said; *“She’s a good footballer and her boyfriend is a boxer. She is ambitious but she lives in a tough estate where the gangs and the drugs might drag her down. She wants more.”*



Scottish
National
PORTRAIT
Gallery

'Rough Life' by Dalkeith High School S3 pupils

A day in the life of the young people as they negotiate school life, friendship groups, the pressures to achieve, junk food and powerlessness.



'Ice' by Dalkeith High School S3 pupils

What is solidarity in a corrupt world where you "Dont trust no-one"? Where digital media and mobile phones feed bullying and racism? These young people know there is something more ... but can they unite and do the right thing?

'Fashion Crisis' by Dalkeith, Newbattle and Beath High School pupils

Pupils personalised and decorated overalls and safety helmets to express their feelings about the world they live in and the gap between them and their mining forebears. Even so, every time they put them on, they transformed into proud, outspoken activists.





Easter Study Timetable 2024

Subject	Level	Teacher	Date	Time	Room
Engineering Science	Higher	Mr Ambrose	29/3/2024	09:00-12:00	G202
Graphic Communication	Higher / National 5	Mr Young	29/3/2024	09:00-12:00	G212
Photography	Higher	Ms Kyle	1/4/2024	09:00-12:00	G302
Art and Design	Adv Higher	Ms Kyle	1/4/2024	12:30-15:30	G302
Art and Design	Adv Higher	Mrs Zielinski	1/4/2024	09:00-12:00	G303
Music	National 3-4	Mr Pyper	1/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F303
Music	National 5	Mr Pyper	1/4/2024	12:30-15:30	F303
History	National 5	Mr Holligan	3/4/2024	09:00-12:00	G112
History	Higher	Mr Holligan	3/4/2024	12:30-15:30	G112
Biology	Higher	Ms Macpherson	4/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F234
Chemistry	Adv Higher	Mrs Mackenzie	4/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F223
Chemistry	Higher	Ms Mackay	5/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F224
Biology	Higher Human / Adv Higher	Miss Miller	5/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F221
Mathematics	National 5 Maths	Mr R Stirling	8/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F123
Chemistry	National 5	Mrs Lawson	8/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F225
Physics	National 5	Mrs Lawson	8/4/2024	12:30-15:30	F225
Drama	Higher	Miss Thomson	8/4/2024	12:30-15:30	G771
Drama	NPA	Miss Thomson	8/4/2024	09:00-12:00	G771
Drama	National 5	Miss Dunion	8/4/2024	12:30-15:30	G770
Dance	Higher / National 5	Mrs Gatti	8/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F706
Mathematics	Adv Higher	Mr Gibbs	9/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F120
Mathematics	National 5 Application	Mrs Harcourt-Gill	10/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F114
Biology	National 5	Ms Macpherson	11/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F234
Mathematics	Higher Maths	Mr Gibbs	11/4/2024	09:00-12:00	F120



Leavers: RETURN YOUR CHROMEBOOK IN 6 EASY STEPS

- 1** Download any files you want to keep from your device
- 2** Log out of the device and power it down
- 3** Remove any stickers/labels and clean with an antibacterial wipe
- 4** Put the charger in the case with the device
- 5** Return the device, case and charger to school
- 6** Sign out of your school Google account on all personal devices

Gymnastics

british-gymnastics.org

Congratulations to MA Gymnast Maesyn in S1 who competed in his first ever British Championships in Liverpool this month. Well done! Maesyn in action above.

Focused on Maths

As exams draw near, some pupils in the Maths Department have been honing their skills with some focused carousel activities.



S1 Debating Success in English

Congratulations to Ellis Arneil, Ollie MacIntyre and Isabella Diffley who won their debate- *This House Believes that the Death Penalty should be brought back*. The 2 teams were selected after a series of class debates and everyone put forward excellent arguments, points of information and rebuttals. The pupils put a lot of time and work into their speeches and it was a very lively debate. Congratulations to all pupils and Madonna the mascot!




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