Dalkeith High School

Summer 2017

Katie Slater, S4
As we move towards the end of term it is important to look back to see all that we have achieved as a school community this session.
The start of the new session brought positive news about SQA attainment with continued improvements seen in many key measures. This can be attributed to the aspirations that we encourage in all of our young people, the dedication of our excellent staff and, of course, to the support that we receive from our parental body. I am very hopeful that this August we will see further gains as we await the publication of the results that our young people have been diligently working towards throughout the session. Good luck to them all!
Dalkeith High School continues to offer an extensive range of wider achievement opportunities and you will see many examples as you read this edition of our school newsletter. Our very popular House Points Challenge was won by Lothian House this session with pupils being rewarded with trips to Blair Drummond Safari Park (S1-3) and Alton Towers (S4-6). The race is on for the coming year with points from Sports Day giving the scores an initial boost.
Our S1 pupils have now moved into S2 and have shown great promise as a year group since joining us last August. It has been very rewarding seeing them grow in confidence, make new friends and progress well in their learning. We recently welcomed the P7 pupils for their two-day visit and we look forward to them joining us after the summer break.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank our S6 pupils who have just left us. They were one of the best S6 cohorts that I have ever worked with. They showed great dedication to their academic studies, engaged fully in the wider life of the school and were extremely supportive. The recent S6 Leavers’ Ceremony gave us the chance to bid them farewell with their families and friends joining us for the event. They will be a hard act to follow but I can see that the new S6 are ready to step up to the mark.
Recently the school underwent a ‘mini inspection’ carried out by senior officers of Midlothian Council. We were delighted when our hard work was recognised through this process. The school was evaluated as being ‘very good’ in terms of Leadership of Change and ‘good with many aspects of very good practice’ in terms of Learning, Teaching and Assessment. Clear next steps were identified and will be incorporated in the School Improvement plan for the new session.
Members of the Scottish Parliament’s Education and Skills Committee visited us earlier in the year to seek the views of our young people and staff. The MSPs who joined us all commented on the warm, inclusive ethos of the school and for the thoughtful, considered debates that took place in the Focus Groups. It is reassuring to know that Dalkeith High School is contributing to the shaping of educational policy that will affect all in the country.
As is always the case at this time of year, a number of members of staff will be leaving us to take up new posts. We say a fond farewell to the following members of staff and wish them well in the future.

Mrs Harpur (Maths)
Ms Harvey (CDT)
Ms MacLeod (Maths)
Ms Milne (Music)
Ms Millar (RME)
Ms Webb (Geography)

Ms Davidson in the Science department will begin her maternity leave at the end of term and we look forward to hearing of the safe arrival of her baby later in the year. Mrs Stewart-Young, Principal Teacher of Science, began her maternity leave in May and we were delighted to hear the lovely news of the birth of her baby boy. The leadership of the Science department is currently in the safe hands of Mr Knight.

All that remains is to thank you for your support throughout the session. I firmly believe that Dalkeith High School offers a very good education to the young people of our community but I know that this is made all the better with your help. Enjoy the summer and I hope we all manage to find some sunshine.

Best wishes,

Allyson Dobson
Headteacher
S6 LEAVERS’ GALLERY

Class of 2017
Pupils at Dalkeith High School put their heads together to come up with potential solutions to a local problem – redeveloping the town centre. The Creative Dalkeith project removed the supervision of teachers and allowed second year pupils to work alongside professional architects D2 Architectural Design on a practical design and construction challenge, demolishing Jarnac Court and improving the centre of Dalkeith for the benefit of local people, after they had identified Jarnac Court as an area within their local community that they feel can be put to better use. Each group of pupils presented final 3D models to the D2 architects. The winning entry, by Zeynep Armut, Aislinn Melville, Leah Blackley, Beth Falconer and Connor Wright, was chosen in a vote by teachers and pupils from the other year groups. Aislinn said: “We thought it was important to make Jarnac Court appear more glamorous as it’s very grey and dark at the moment. There’s a lot of concrete and we decided to create a section that had a marble floor which we feel would help it stand out.

“Our big fountain in the centre would give Jarnac Court a proper feature and allow people to relax in calm surroundings as there’s nothing there at the moment. We also felt it was important to have some sort of park that would add more colour to Jarnac Court and also give it a more natural feel.

“The redevelopment of St Andrew’s Square in Edinburgh was our main inspiration and it would be great to have more of a café culture around Jarnac Court. People would be able to sit outside and enjoy a nice view of the water fountain and greenery. We also added a textured path that will help safely guide the blind and disabled to the bus stops and park. This will make accessing the buses much easier for them and help to avoid any accidents. We feel the people of Dalkeith would enjoy socialising in our version of Jarnac Court and we can’t wait to create our 3D computer version at D2 Architects.”

Art teacher Shaun Gordon instigated the challenge, which involved all 100 S2 pupils, split into 18 groups, using materials provided by Letts Dalkeith. Mr Gordon believes the project highlights the importance of the skills pupils have been developing. He said: “The pupils developed their knowledge of architecture in Art and Engineering Science, sustainability in environmental biology, model making in CDT and built upon their presentation skills in subjects such as English and Drama. It was building up to last Wednesday, the kids have been learning specific skills for this. In Geography they have been learning about town planning. And in Maths they were learning about checking the area mass.”

Revealing that the architects want to make this an annual event, Mr Gordon added: “They were taken aback by how creative and innovative a lot of the kids were.”

Article taken from the Midlothian Advertiser
IKEA COMPETITION

Well done to Cameron Cowie, Robert Cole, Jackson Rice, Hollie Hope, Lyndsay Ross and Zeynep Yildirim who represented Dalkeith High School in the 2017 Midlothian / IKEA Design Competition. The students’ entries were on public display at the IKEA Store, Straiton, on the 24th May and it was clear to see the standard of this year’s work was extremely high, with the judges being very complimentary to all those who participated in the competition.

For more images of pupil work please follow @dhs_cdt on twitter

This picture shows Cameron Cowie’s National 5 work.

SALTERS’ INSTITUTE FESTIVAL OF CHEMISTRY

Four pupils with a passion for science were selected at random to represent Dalkeith High School at the Salters’ Institute: Festival of Chemistry. Esme Nelson, Matthew Cartledge, Michael Corris and Rebecca Robertson were accompanied by Miss Mackay to Herriot Watt University for a day of science. Activities consisted of practical challenges where pupils were tested on their ability to work together to solve problems, with their lab safety being tested too. There was also a guest speaker who did an interesting talk on lowest and highest temperatures in the universe and various chemical demonstrations to accompany this. Team DHS sadly missed out on first prize but they all agreed that they had enjoyed themselves, formed a good working team and had lots of fun!
The Easter Bush Campus welcomed eleven school pupils from Midlothian secondary schools for a week long work experience programme, focusing on the business side of the Campus.

The Business Insights programme is thought to be the first of its kind in Scotland, offering an integrated and holistic approach for local secondary school pupils to learn about the world of business.

Emily Doherty, Sean Bentley and Kaitlin Morton from Dalkeith High School attended the programme along with pupils from St David’s High School, Lasswade High School, Beeslack High School, Penicuik High School and Newbattle Community High School. Eleven pupils from across Midlothian were given the opportunity to spend a week at the Campus.

The programme was designed to introduce high school pupils to the wide range of roles that are available to support a large organisation, such as The University of Edinburgh. It seeks to provide first-hand experience of working in a real business environment, with the young people learning directly from those who are doing the jobs.

Across the week, sessions were offered by many of the functional areas on the Campus, including Finance, Marketing and Communications, Health and Safety, Human Resources, IT, and Facilities. The pupils were also taken on tours of the many buildings on Campus, so they could directly link their learning to actual business environments.

The pupils were also given the chance to tour one of the buildings currently under construction on the Campus, visiting the Campus Hub and Roslin Innovation Centre, with representatives from the Facilities team and McLaughlin and Harvey, who are constructing the new building.

As well as the presentations, there were sessions on team-building, with tasks designed to promote critical thinking, while also having fun.

The final day of the programme focussed on presenting future opportunities for study and development. The pupils received talks from The University of Edinburgh’s Widening Participation team about applying to university, from Edinburgh Colleges to discuss current and future College opportunities, and from representatives of Skills Development Scotland to talk about Modern Apprenticeships.
The enhanced Duke of Edinburgh Award group carried out their qualifying Expedition in May to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. This was a two day expedition out in the Lammermuir hills in East Lothian which involved a 14k walk each day whilst carrying all their camping equipment and food in their rucksacks. 

The group of 5 boys (Conner Willis, Ronan Archibald, Blair Ewing, Jospeh Stapleton and Charlie Simpson) who completed the expedition had a fantastic time and some are expected to go on and do Silver DofE next year! The boys created a timelapse video of their experiences which can be shown to future Enhanced DofE groups to educate them on what they have to do during an expedition.

Each successful pupil had to complete a minimum of 3 months taking part in a physical activity, a skill and a volunteering activity. After this period, the pupil had to upload their evidence and reflect on what they had learned through the year. Many pupils are continuing to take part in their activities beyond the time period, including volunteering in the community.

Any pupils who are keen to take part should see Mr Carruthers or Mr Duncan for more details as spaces are filling up for next year already.
The whole of S2 took part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) during RME. Each S2 group campaigned on behalf of a charity to win £3000 for the charity. It was a close call between the five finalists who all did brilliant presentations about why their charity should win. In the end, Louise Patterson, Abby Pearson, Millie Scally & Nain Tara Raja, secured £3000 for Guide Dogs Edinburgh. The girls have established lifelong connections with the charity and have become young ambassadors for Guide Dogs Edinburgh. The money won by the girls, means another puppy will go through guide dog training and make an invaluable difference to a blind person’s life, as well as sponsoring a class of three puppies. The girls now have the difficult task of naming their own guide dog puppy! The school will get ‘Pupdates’ and a visit from the sponsored dog.

A big well done to everyone who took part in YPI for raising the profile of their charity and showing the DHS spirit #DeterminedHappySuccessful

The Junior Awards Ceremony took place on the 13th June to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our S1-S3 pupils. Prizes were awarded for academic excellence, personal progress and wider achievements. This year also saw the introduction of a new award based around the school’s key visions and values, ‘#DeterminedHappySuccessful’. These were given to pupils who are determined (in other words resilient, resourceful and ready for a challenge), happy in their learning and successful in their studies.

The night also recognised two young men who are recent additions to Dalkeith High School. Miftah Aman and Hamza Kalifa came to us from Ethiopia in difficult personal circumstances. They came unaccompanied and spoke very little English and the school wanted to recognise their determination, resilience and strength of spirit.

Other awards were given for pupils involved in Duke of Edinburgh, ASDAN, S2 Creative Dalkeith, Construction and Built Environment Challenge, Junior Maths Challenge, Children’s University, S3 Enterprise, Midlothian Spellmasters, Coalfileds Community Future’s Project, Model United Nations, Midlothian Teen Award, the Kilt Walk, Midlothian Athletics and many other sporting achievements.

We cannot wait until our Senior Awards Ceremony, which will take place in September!
This year has been another successful year for the Paired Reading Programme at Dalkeith High School. S6 mentors enjoyed spending time reading with their buddies each week, to help improve reading skills. At the end of the programme, everyone enjoyed the Award Ceremony and S1 and S6 pupils were presented with their certificates by Mr Kelly. Well done to all involved!

Pupil Voice underwent some significant improvements in 2016-17 to better represent the views of young people at Dalkeith High School. Every pupil in the school is now automatically a member of the Pupil Voice Forum and invitations to attend meetings are issued on a rolling basis to ensure the widest possible engagement from all year groups. Ably led by our S6 Senior School Representatives (John Archibald, Poppy Church-Olney and Erin Thomson) and Mrs Stewart, the group discussed challenging and significant topics such as the requirements for quality learning and teaching, the design of the curriculum and how we can support health and wellbeing. The S6 representatives attended meetings with both the Senior Leadership Team and Parent Council to discuss the views presented and were instrumental in moving the School Improvement Plan forward. New members of the Pupil Leadership Team are already in place for 2017-18 and we look forward to further opportunities for DHS pupils to lead the learning in our school.
Kames Capital is a specialist investment management firm who manage around £45 billion. They run a free RedStart programme for secondary school pupils to participate in to help them become more financially literate and able to make better decisions with money. Kames ran their programme specifically for 25 of our S3 pupils. The day consisted of learning about budgeting, borrowing, taking risks with money and concluded with their Money Challenge which saw pupils trying to earn and invest £300 to see who could gain the most. The day allowed pupils to get more of an insight into how they will have to manage their money as young adults and as they become more independent. They were also able to see into the world of business and how a large office operates with board rooms, open plan offices, etc. All pupils had a fantastic time at the event and came away with a better understanding of how to deal with money – and thoroughly enjoyed the free lunch!

On Friday 24th March some of the first year pupils went on a trip to Musselburgh Racecourse. In what was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all, we got to see maths in action in a workplace. We spent some time on the track and were shown the fences and hurdles. Here we estimated heights and distances that the horses jump and many of us were surprised at what we were shown. We also were given some insight into the history of imperial measurements and did some calculations converting race distances into metric measurements. The pupils got the chance to run the last half furlong of the track, in a race to the finishing post. Thankfully, a photo finish wasn’t necessary. We had VIP behind the scenes access and were shown what happens on race day, including seeing where jockeys are weighed, and we were taught about the handicap system. We also got to see the clothing that jockeys wear and tried some on for ourselves. Finally, before watching the first race of the meet, we learned how to read a race card and went to watch the horses being paraded before the race. Having all picked a horse, we took up prime position to watch the race. This was a really exciting end to the day as we cheered on our selections, or in my case, watched helplessly as it fell further and further behind.
Midlothian Schools Athletics Championship 2017 took place on Tuesday the 30th May. Our S1-S3 pupils performed their socks off over a variety of different run, jump and throwing events. They finished up 3rd by only 5 points. Our Gold medal winners were:

- Jodie Finlay - discus
- Scott Hutchison - Javelin
- Patryk Mosiek - Hurdles
- Ryan Clellands - High Jump
- Aimee Weekes - Javelin
- Anastacia Moore - Shot putt
- Amy Kristoffersen - High Jump
- Robyn Bain - Long Jump

Our S1 pupils were competing against S2 and S3 pupils so this was a massive achievement for them and a brilliant experience to take forward to next year’s competition.

Sports Day took place on Friday the 16th June this year. We were very lucky that the weather was on our side and it stayed dry for the entire event. All houses did themselves proud with a whopping 14 records broken! Buccleuch came out the victors on the Day showing great house pride - filling all their team events certainly helped add to their tally. New records are now held by:

- Courtney Hogg - S1 Girls’ Hurdles
- Robyn Bain - S1 Girls’ Long Jump and Shot Put
- Ethan Steele - S2 Boys’ Discus
- Lewis Inglis - S2 Boys’ High Jump
- Rachel Cartledge - S3 Girls’100m
- Jodie Finlay - S3 Girls’ Discus and Shot Put
- Jordan Bathgate - Senior Boys’ 200m
- Rachel Eddie - Senior Girls’ Discus
- Sam Heasman - Senior Boys’ Shot Put
- Megan Waugh - Senior Girls’ Shot Put
- Ruth Gorman - Senior Girls’ Javelin
- Craig Gallagher, Melvin Muturi, Zac Scully, Jordan Bathgate - Senior Boys’ Relay
Amy Kristoffersen, S1, won a silver medal at the Trampoline and Tumbling Regional Team Final and NDP (National Development Plan) at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham this month.

Congratulations Amy, we are very proud of you!

It’s a busy time in the garden at the moment, with lots of things happening.

In March, we planted potatoes and they are growing really well. Our strawberries are all flowering and it looks like we are going to have a bumper crop this year.

We recently planted cauliflower, lettuce and broccoli, so look out for pupils coming round to sell our produce soon.

This week has been a busy one with the planting of hanging baskets, which have now all been sold.

A great big thank you to Christine, who supplied us with lots of plants and who came to visit us in our school garden.

We are now on the lookout for jars for our jam making. If anyone has any to spare, can you please hand them in to the SFL Department.

Finally, a big thanks to the pupils who work so hard in the garden - you are all stars!

Miss Tranent
We are pleased to present the Dalkeith High School smartphone application. If you are a parent, pupil or member of staff, or have links to the Dalkeith High School community, then this app will ensure you keep up to date with all the latest news and activities surrounding your school. Discover a new and convenient way to engage with the school 24/7. Download the app now and be part of our new multi-media experience.

http://dalkeith.mgfl.net