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**WINTER 2017**

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HEADTEACHER’S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that we have arrived at the Christmas break already. Where has 2017 gone? The term that is coming to a close has been a busy one as ever, with many wider achievement opportunities for our pupils to take part in. This newsletter will give you a flavor of what we have been up to.

We recently underwent a School Review led by a team of senior officers of Midlothian Council. The purpose of this was to evaluate how good our school is and to establish next steps in order for us to be even better. I am delighted at the positive report that we received following the review and I will publish it on the website in January when quality assurance procedures have been completed. The report is confirmation of the good work that I know takes place in many different ways across our school community.

Although we are approaching the holiday, this is a good time for me to remind you of important events that will be taking place on our return to school. The prelim exams for pupils being presented for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses will take place from Monday, 15th January to Friday, 26th January inclusive. Pupils will be issued with their prelim timetables prior to the end of term. It is important that pupils work hard in the lead up to the prelims and take advantage of the study support/revision classes that most departments offer. Our school website provides further information about the range of classes on offer and the days/times that they take place during the school week. The prelims can give a good indication of likely performance in the SQA exams in May. They also provide pupils with feedback on their strengths and areas requiring attention in preparation for the final exams.

The new term will see our pupils in S2, 3, 4 and 5 making decisions about their learning pathways. The Coursing Information Evening takes place on Wednesday, 7th February and I would urge parents/carers of those pupils to attend this important meeting. Further information regarding arrangements for this event will be sent out in January. Our Careers Convention will be held on the same day to allow parents/carers and pupils to find out more about possible career routes.

Please note that school closes for the Christmas holiday at 12 noon on Friday, 22nd December and will reopen for pupils on Tuesday, 9th January.

I would like to finish by thanking all parents/carers for their continued support throughout the year. I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas break and look forward to working with you in 2018.

Allyson Dobson
Headteacher
The PTA is always working away in the background making sure that our fundraising efforts come to fruition. We would like to thank each and every one of you who has donated, promoted and supported us this year. We have managed to raise £5,000 in only 9 months! We hope to raise the same or even more in 2018!

The pupil voice has asked for musical instruments and new P.E equipment, which is what we will be working towards next year. We cannot do this without your help and support, so please get in touch via our Facebook page if you have any ideas or would like to help. Should you wish to make a donation into the PTA account, you can use the following details: Sort code 80-06-29 Account 06 00 50 93 ensuring you put your name next to the payment.

Christmas Tree Appeal

Unfortunately, after approaching lots of places, we were unable to secure a free tree, so we decided to put out an appeal on Facebook asking parents to help us raise funds to buy one. After raising a whooping £160.00 we approached a local company called Dalmeny Christmas Trees and after the generosity of parents, had sufficient funds to purchase 2 trees -one for the main hall, and one for the School corridor. The trees were delivered on December 1st. After a house points competition to ‘Bring a Bauble’ the trees have been decorated and are looking beautiful. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Tombola

Thank you to Sam Hedlund and Scott Sutherland for holding another Tombola. It raised a total of £184.30 and always goes down well with the pupils.

Dalkeith High School PTC & PTA

SOCIAL BITE’S SLEEP IN THE PARK

On Saturday 9th December - the coldest night of the year so far- 12 senior pupils and 2 teachers slept in Princes Street gardens for Social Bite’s campaign to end homelessness. Temperatures reached -6 and everyone got a shocking insight into the conditions that homeless people suffer every night during the winter. 3.6 million pounds has been raised by the campaign to date. The school has raised £1900 so far and there is still time to donate!

http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/dalkeith-high-school
Five pupils from DHS are participating in the ZEST programme run by Edinburgh Zoo. Pupils work with staff at the Zoo as part of a work experience programme. They also conduct research on specific species.

Dylan McKenzie and Findlay Dixon are pictured outside the Drill enclosure after successfully designing and implementing an enrichment device made up of cardboard and vegetables. The other pupils involved in the ZEST programme are Connal McQuade, Bekki Graeme and Georgia Waugh.

Dalkeith High School pupils are the 2017 winners of the annual Midlothian Spell Masters Competition for all secondary schools located in Midlothian, organized by the school librarians and the English Departments.

The event took place at Lasswade High School Library and in a hotly contested competition the pupils spelt words like ‘contraire’ and ‘superfluous’.

The winning team received the Midlothian Spell Masters shield for their school and individual prizes of Amazon vouchers.

On Sunday 12th November Max Cumming 2L1 attended a Lothian Chess competition and came 2nd place to win a trophy (see picture). If more pupils would like to join the chess club it runs on Wednesday lunch times in Miss Steele’s room.
Dalkeith High School Girls embarked on their journey north to play a first round Scottish Cup match against last year’s runners up and contenders once again, St Mungo’s High School. With some sub-standard music but fantastic enthusiasm the girls set off from the school after Lunchtime. Upon arrival at St Mungo’s the girls gathered around the coffee table in the school reception to discuss tactics and a game plan to take into battle. The game commenced on the Astroturf surface under the lights on a very cold Tuesday afternoon in Falkirk. Quickly, it was evident that the opposition had played together and were into their stride after a couple of quick-fire goals. However, the resilience shown by the Girls in black and yellow was there for everyone to see with Ruth Gorman leading the charge, scoring a superb effort from 25 yards out into the postage stamp (top left hand corner). Half Time: 1-2

After the encouragement of that late first half goal the girls were quickly into stride in the second half creating more chances and controlling possession. Against the run of play DHS Girls went 3-1 down after some miscommunication. Almost instantly, the girls responded again with one of the youngest members in the squad, Lucy Ferguson, weaving through their defence and curling an outside of the foot effort into the far corner, off the post – nestling into the back of the net. 3-2! Buoyed by this goal, the girls continued to press and create chances. With 10 minutes left of the game there was still only one goal in it. For a team put together one week prior to the fixture being played and to be within one goal of taking it to extra time against last year’s runners up was a fantastic achievement. Tiredness and fatigue took its toll in the later stages of the game with St Mungo’s running out eventual winners, 6-2.

Art and Home Economics arranged an interdisciplinary project that allowed S1 pupils to design Christmas/Winter themed cakes for the National 5 Cake Decoration class. The whole of S1 took part and there was an impressive range of imaginative ideas but unfortunately there could only be three winners. The winners of the S1 cake decoration project were Freya Milton, Rachel Grant and Josh Herkes. Well done! The winners were given the opportunity to put the finishing touches to the Nat 5 cakes and the final outcomes look, and no doubt taste, absolutely fantastic!
CELEBRATING SOME OF OUR CHAMPIONS IN SPORT!

Robby Bain, S1, is a dedicated gymnast training over 21 hours a week with West Lothian Gymnastic Club. Robby’s tough training schedule means that he spends most of his evening and weekends in the gym or competing in various competitions. Robby was selected to represent Scotland. He was placed in the top three in Scotland and at the British Men’s final and was placed 13th overall in the country. This is an outstanding achievement for Robby. Most recently Robby was selected to take part in a three day intensive Men’s Artistic Performance Pathways Camp in Largs.

Ethan Mowat, 1M1, won the Borders Mountain Bike Downhill Series 2017 (formerly Scottish downhill series) and qualified for the Fortwilliam World Cup, where he took 2nd place.

Sam Sutherland, 2L2, won a gold medal and silver medal at the ITF World Taekwondo Championships.

You are all amazing!

THE JUNIOR CONSERVATOIRE

Taylor Clark, 6D, is a junior transitions student studying Musical Theatre at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, while Leah Blackley, 3D1, has been accepted into the Junior Conservatoire for contemporary dance. Taylor will take to the stage next June as one of the leads in our school show, ‘School of Rock’.

#DeterminedHappySuccessful
We have just completed yet another very successful Sumdog Challenge with S1 pupils in Maths. All pupils participated both in class and at home to see who could get the most points in the online games. It was a tight race, but Mr Colston’s class managed to fight off all other contenders and claimed the top spot! Special praise also goes to Josh Cuthbert in Mrs Wright’s class who was the second place individual out of all the schools in Midlothian.
The Maths Department are in the midst of organising their annual Maths Camp weekend (for S4 National 5 pupils), which includes outdoor team challenges and intensive study support. The camp is from 24th March – 25th March 2017 at Broomlee Outdoor Centre in West Linton. All National 5 pupils in S4 have received letters and places are beginning to fill up. If your child would like to go but has not handed in their deposit and parental agreement form please contact the Maths department to see if there are still places available. Those who have secured a place, please remember that the second instalment of £30 is due by the 12th January.

A group of pupils from Dalkeith High School were invited to attend a meeting at Midlothian House to discuss the new budget proposals with the Director of Education, Mary Smith, Council Leader, Derek Milligan, and Depute Council Leader, Jim Muirhead. As members of the Pupil Council, Zeynep Yildirim, Beth MacDonald, Mia Linn, Darah Hay and Kyle Nelson represented the young people from DHS. The five pupils met with representatives from other local secondary schools to discuss the Proposed Savings in order to address ‘Midlothian’s Financial Challenge’. The discussion was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to voice their opinions on the budget proposals and how this may impact the young people in their community. The pupils confidently contributed to a lengthy discussion and explained their points clearly in relation to topics including; Charging for Instrumental Tuition, Reducing Learning Assistants in Schools and Increasing the Let Charges for After School Clubs from 5-50%.

Following the meeting the Pupil Voice representatives felt they should gain further feedback and opinions from a wider range of pupils at DHS. As a result they will be discussing the council’s ‘Proposed Savings’ at their next Pupil Voice meeting this month. Feedback from this meeting will be collated and shared with the councillors to further express how they feel money could be utilised within Midlothian.
Dalkeith Rocks 2017 was held in November and was a huge success. Dalkeith Rocks saw four bands, made up of pupils from Dalkeith High School, ranging from S1 – 6, perform in front of a packed audience and staff judges. The winner of the evening, pictured right, was ‘Girl Band’ made up of S5 pupils: Daisy Morrison, Amy Wilson, Abby Thomson, Jessica Napier, Erin Stevenson (S6) and Calum Rafferty (S1).

Over £500 was raised from this event to support our summer show, ‘School of Rock’.

On the 14th of November, ten pupils from S1-2 went to the Omni Centre in Edinburgh by public bus to the Vue cinema. We saw the spine-chilling and fear inducing film ‘Goosebumps’ after reading the book.

The film and book is about two boys and one girl, who turned out to be a figment of R.L Stine’s imagination (who was also present in the movie) who he brought to life pretending she was his daughter to provide him some company. To save her friends and the town she also got sucked into the book that was created specially to capture all the bad creations after Slappy the dummy had burned the monster’s separate books. In the end R.L Stine wrote one more book bringing the girl back to life and burnt that book. All the monsters had been captured. All except for the invisible boy...

The group clearly enjoyed going to see the amazing ‘Goosebumps’ film. Not many things from the books took place in the film as it was nearly a whole new storyline. The movie was, all in all, great to watch. Depending on who the person is, we would recommend it to horror/ Goosebumps lovers even though the movie for some isn’t really scary.

R.L Stine has made 13 Goosebumps books and has sold over 400 million copies of them with the most popular being ‘Night of The Living Dummy’ (came out May 1993). He was born on the eighth of October 1943 and the first book was released in 1992 and it was called ‘Welcome to the Dead House’.

A big thank you to Mr. Orr for taking us on this fun trip!

We are looking forward to many more book-related trips that may come our way in the future!

By Bria Mackay and Rosie Reed (S1)
On Saturday 18th November, Miss Wood’s Advanced Higher Drama class, along with a few extra Higher S6 pupils, attended the matinee performance of ‘Trainspotting’ at the King’s Theatre in Edinburgh. This was an excellent, 5 star performance which will give all pupils plenty to write about in their upcoming prelims! This was an excellent opportunity for the pupils to see how a small cast can work together to bring such a famous story to life on stage.

The next theatre opportunity for senior pupils will be ‘Warhorse’ in April 2018 at the Festival Theatre.

In order to decorate our new Christmas trees that were kindly provided by the school’s Parent Teacher Association, we decided to run a competition to see which house team could bring the most baubles to school. After 2 weeks, we had ample baubles to decorate both trees and enough left over to open a shop! Melville House came out winners - to the delight of Ms Preston who had been campaigning hard.

We also ran a ‘decorate a bauble’ competition, which drew some fantastic, creative entries. The winner was Ami Gilbertson, S2, and our runners up were Kiera Green, S1, and Murray Robertson, S1.

Ryan Johnson, Rachel Bowen and Matthew Simpson were awarded certificates for participation in The Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclasses at a ceremony on Saturday 2nd December. They attended a series of Saturday morning masterclasses in Edinburgh at Heriot-Watt and Napier Universities over October and November. The masterclasses were interactive and hands-on, designed to stimulate and encourage young people in the art and practice of mathematics. All three pupils showed a fantastic attitude, going above and beyond what was expected of them, and committed to the Saturday mornings in order to further their maths learning. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and represented Dalkeith High School with distinction.
Dyslexia Awareness Week was celebrated at DHS from Monday 6th–Friday 10th November with this year’s theme being “positive about dyslexia”

• We are positive about the skills and talents of children and adults with dyslexia.
• We are positive that with the right support, children and adults with dyslexia can reach their full potential.
• We are positive that children and adults with dyslexia can be successful in education, work and life.
• We are working to help turn the negatives into positives.
• We are #positiveaboutdyslexia

Throughout the week, staff and senior pupils wore their Blue Ribbons in order to help raise awareness in class. Resources were made available for staff to use during lessons, to highlight some of the challenges and strengths associated with dyslexia and Moira Thomson from Dyslexia Scotland delivered a very informative and motivational presentation called “Positive about Dyslexia” to all S1 pupils.

To end Dyslexia Awareness Week, pupils and staff took part in a Dress Down Wear Blue Day, as well as a Bake Sale in support of dyslexia awareness. S3 ASDAN Pupils and senior PDA pupils volunteered to bake cakes, set up tables and helped sell cakes during the Friday morning Bake Sale. Pupils queued up to purchase the delightful homemade cakes with the total money raised being a fabulous £383. Dalkeith High School will donate the money to Dyslexia Scotland.

A Great Big Thank You to staff and pupils for all their support and efforts.
Mrs Fraser
Support for Learning Teacher
On the 4th of October 2017, 5 Dalkeith High School pupils flew to Barcelona, Spain, on an international student exchange. They stayed with families of students from the local high school, who themselves had been to Dalkeith in March 2016.

The Scottish students were very productive during their stay in Barcelona, from visiting famous landmarks like la Sagrada Familia to experiencing life in a Spanish school. They integrated into daily Spanish life in their free time, visiting local shops and attending Spanish dance classes.

Furthermore, a variety of other activities was organised such as visiting the famous “Las Ramblas” in the centre of Barcelona and a trip to the “el Tibidabo” theme park, where all pupils agreed that the ride called “The Haunted Hotel” was absolutely terrifying. There were also trips to lesser known sites such as local small towns and a monastery.

It was undoubtedly an incredibly eye-opening and educational experience; the students increased their knowledge about the local language and culture. It allowed pupils to improve their Spanish skills, and despite obvious language barriers, students from both countries made deep friendships and fitted in well with the Spanish lifestyle.

When the time came to leave on the 12th of October, everyone was reluctant and sad to have to say goodbye. Unfortunately, the flight was already booked so everyone came home. Scottish students did feel better when gifts (ranging from cold meats to pillows) were given from the Spanish families. After this unforgettable experience, the students were welcomed back to Scotland with the traditional “gift” of pouring rain.

Last October, as in previous years, a group of pupils from Dalkeith visited the French town of Jarnac and were hosted by French students and their families. They all had a great time and a first-hand experience of French culture. We are now in the process of organising the return visit to Dalkeith in April 2018, when we will be welcoming youngsters and adults from Jarnac.

Taking part in such an exchange not only enriches pupils’ language abilities but also contributes to increasing their self-confidence, lifelong learning and developing their awareness of their roles as citizens, not only of Scotland, but of the wider European community.

Next year we are looking for approximately 30 families to host a French student. Exact dates are yet to be confirmed but they are likely to be arriving on Saturday 14 April (2 days before the end of our Easter holiday) and leaving on Saturday 21 April. I am aware this is during the last few days of our Easter holidays, however, this is outwith my control as the students can only come during their school holidays.

By hosting a French student, pupils don’t commit to going to Jarnac next September. However, it gives pupils an insight of what the experience would be like and if they decide to take part, they will have the opportunity to stay with someone they know.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the exchange, or require any further information, please contact Ms Guesnier directly at school.
It has been a busy session for S1 Outdoor Learning. This is such a big year group that groups have been going out to the Pentlands every Thursday since September and will still be going out until at least the end of January. We have been lucky with the weather on most days, but recently have had some cold and windy days. We have been really impressed with the resilience and good humour displayed by almost everyone this year and hope they have learned something from their days out.

Mrs Tait

Senior phase pupils helped organise and deliver a successful festive community event in the assembly hall. This was a collaborative event organised by two departments, who are giving pupils wider achievement opportunities; this involved Community Development Award pupils and Hospitality Skills for Work pupils. The Midlothian Ageing Well new age kurlers came from all over Midlothian. Pupils joined in to play kurling across the hall floor. Fun was had by all, followed by mince pies made by Skills for Work pupils and a hot drink. Thanks to the S1 choir for singing some great festive songs and getting everyone in the mood for the Christmas holidays.

The third year pupils, who are working towards a wider achievement award, had an informative and successful trip to Torness nuclear power station. They found it exciting having to go through security. The tour guide showed the pupils the vast workshops which involve many employees doing various trades, all collaborating to keep the power station functioning efficiently. It got the pupils thinking about future opportunities for apprenticeships within the energy industry. At the end of the tour everyone, including staff, had to answer questions about what they had just learned about nuclear fission within the reactor and how fission is controlled safely to allow the generation of vast amounts of electricity. Pupils excelled themselves in this task proving they had good listening and understanding skills. Well done to all.
The conference I attended on 13 November 2017 was very informative in showing the different paths I could choose when looking for a job after school. The many different speakers were very helpful and good at motivating me to strive for a good future career.

The DYW activities we took part in were very interesting. We listened to lots of ideas on how we could get younger people more involved in deciding what they wanted to do as a job, like encouraging school involvement with local businesses and getting them to talk to younger pupils about possible career paths or the option of an apprenticeship instead of going to college or university.

We attended different talks from people in both the construction industry and the hotel industry. They told us about the employment opportunities that each given industry had to offer and got us involved in a discussion about them.

I found the conference has opened my eyes to the world of employment and has given me lots of ideas about what I could do when I leave school.

By Holly Brown

On Thursday 9th November, two pupils from Dalkeith High School were given the amazing opportunity to visit Auschwitz for a day, as part of the LFA project run by Holocaust Educational Trust. Emma Corris & Nicole McCormack, along with Miss McIntyre, travelled to Poland to join other pupils and teachers from across Scotland. One week before the visit, Emma and Nicole had attended a seminar in which they were educated on pre-war Jewish life across Europe. On the 9th, they travelled to Poland and visited Auschwitz. As part of the last event in the LFA project, Emma and Nicole now have a responsibility to deliver their experience of Auschwitz to pupils at Dalkeith High School. They must prepare a project of their own in which they can show other pupils what Auschwitz was really like. After being on the visit however, this is near enough impossible. Emma and Nicole were overwhelmed with emotion on this day as they took in the horrors of the Holocaust. Emma and Nicole were encouraged by educators to consider Auschwitz from the perspective of the individual Jew, as opposed to trying to remember six million as a whole. This only made the experience that little more harrowing as Emma and Nicole witnessed the horrendous treatment, conditions and experiences of the Jews who died under the final solution of the Nazi regime.

Emma and Nicole are hopeful that they will be able to convey their experience well and encourage other pupils to visit Auschwitz if they are ever given the chance. They plan to prepare several sessions to Dalkeith pupils near Holocaust Memorial day next year, but will continue to update the school on their plans.
VISIT TO MARK GREENAWAY’S RESTAURANT

Pupils from the National 5 Skills for Work Hospitality class enjoyed a very informative behind the scenes visit which included a tasty treat to Mark Greenaway’s restaurant. Mark spoke to the pupils about employability skills and customer service and what it takes to get ahead in the industry.

During the visit, Mark prepared dishes from his tasting menu - Pan Fried Scallops, Belly Pork with Toffee Apple Sauce & Knot Chocolate from his winning dish on the BBC Great British Menu TV programme.

The pupils will be using this valuable information to produce a two-course Christmas lunch for 40 members of staff!

SPORT & RECREATION CLASS

Pupils from the Sport and Recreation class went to Mayfield Leisure Centre in October to help out at the Midlothian Special Olympics.

Each and every one of them chipped in and was a fantastic help to the participants.

They also visited Danderhall Primary School to teach golf lessons to the pupils there...
Ingredients

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<th>Large bowl 1</th>
<th>Large bowl 2</th>
<th>Plate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500g Mixed Dried Fruit</td>
<td>175g Butter</td>
<td>175g Plain Flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25g Almonds</td>
<td>25g Caster Sugar</td>
<td>5ml Mixed Spice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50g Glace Cherries</td>
<td>150g Soft Brown Sugar</td>
<td>2.5ml Grated Nutmeg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50g Mixed Peel</td>
<td>Grated rind and juice of 1 Orange</td>
<td>Pinch of Salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grated rind and juice of 1 Orange</td>
<td>15 ml Brandy</td>
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Small Bowl

4 eggs

Plate

175g Plain Flour
5ml Mixed Spice
2.5ml Grated Nutmeg
Pinch of Salt

Method

1. Light oven 160°C / Gas 4.
2. Line a deep cake tin.
3. Check fruit for stalks.
4. Chop almonds.
5. Cut each cherry into 8 pieces.
6. Grate zest of lemon/orange and squeeze juice.
7. Put all fruit and nuts into large bowl with the brandy and lemon juice.
8. Cover with cling-film and marinate (soak) overnight.
9. Adjust shelves to just below middle of oven.
10. Sieve flour, mixed spice and salt onto plate, grate nutmeg on top.
11. Chop up butter with a table knife and cream butter and sugars in a large bowl.
12. Beat with electric whisk until light, fluffy and pale in colour.
13. Break eggs into a small bowl before adding to the mixture one at a time and beat well. If the mixture shows signs of curdling, add a spoonful of flour along with the eggs.
14. Mix marinated fruit with sieved dry ingredients to coat fruits thoroughly — this helps to stop the fruit sinking in the cake.
15. Fold (incorporate) fruit mixture into creamed egg mixture.
16. Deposit the prepared mixture into the lined tin. Smooth the top leaving it slightly concave (dipping down in the middle).
17. Wrap and tie a further layer of brown paper around the outside of the tin.
18. Bake for 1 hour and then turn down the oven to 140°C / Gas 3 and bake for another 1 hour until light brown and firm to the touch.
19. Test with a skewer, which should come out clean when inserted into the centre of the cake i.e. no mixture sticking to it when it is removed.
20. Remove brown paper and allow the cake to cool in the tin sitting on a cooling tray.

NOTE: Pouring a little brandy over the cake while it is still warm will improve its keeping qualities.
Remove from the tin when cold - leave the paper on.
Store cake wrapped in a layer of greaseproof paper and tin-foil/cling film until ready to coat with marzipan and icing.
Wishing you all a Happy Festive Season

@official_DHS

#DeterminedHappySuccessful

Dalkeith High School
2 COUSLAND ROAD
DALKEITH
EH22 2PS
TEL: 0131 654 4701