

# NEWSLETTER



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Dalkeith High School  
*Spring 2018*



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SPRING 2018

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## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



This term our senior phase pupils have been working hard to complete their assessments for the National Qualifications, with preparation for exams being a feature for those pupils working towards National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications. The school will be running a programme of revision classes during the Easter break; information about the programme can be found on our website and I would encourage pupils to take advantage of all that is on offer to help to boost grades in the final exams.

Study Leave begins for those who are entitled to it on Monday, 30th April with Friday, 27th April being the last day on which pupils will be expected to be in school. Pupils being presented for more than three SQA exams (National 5/Higher/Advanced Higher) will be given the full exam leave i.e. they will begin exam leave on Monday, 30th April and return to school for the start of new timetable on Monday, 4th June. Any pupil sitting three or fewer exams will be granted two days leave for each exam that they are undertaking in the lead up to the date of the individual exam. This is in accordance with the guidelines issued by Midlothian Council.

A series of Masterclasses is being arranged to allow pupils to receive additional support from staff during exam leave; further details will be issued on return from the Easter break. Teaching staff will also be available at other times during this period for support for individual pupils.

The National 4/3 qualifications do not have an external exam and pupils being presented for those qualifications are expected to attend school throughout this period. An Employability Summer School, with the aim of developing employability skills working with a range of partners, is being organised for the pupils. Successful completion of the programme can lead to an additional qualification from SQA. Further information regarding the Employability Summer School will follow. Pupils sitting three or fewer exams will be able to join the programme of events when they are in school.

We recently welcomed colleagues from Education Scotland who inspected the work of the school. The report of inspection finding is currently going through quality assurance processes and will be shared with all in our school community as soon as it is available.

I would like to finish by wishing our senior phase pupils the very best of luck as they complete their courses and work towards success in the exams.

### **Benches**

As a result of our fundraising efforts last year and with thanks to Tesco Dalkeith, DHS students are now enjoying their new benches in social areas.



### **Christmas Trees**

Thanks to the efforts and contributions of many parents/carers – DHS benefited from two beautiful Christmas trees in December. Thank you to all that contributed.

### **Digital Signage**

Our fundraising efforts have also allowed the new digital signage to be installed – students will be able to keep up to date with DHS news and updates via the latest state of the art screen!

### **What Next?**

We have consulted the Pupil Voice to understand what the pupils/students now need. ... the answer is sports equipment and musical instruments. Total cost of project = £2062

The breakdown of costs are:

£ 672 for Sports Equipment

£1,390 for Musical Instruments

### **Tombola week commencing 26th march 2018**

We have arranged a Tombola in the school – this will run every day for a week at lunchtimes.

Please encourage your youngsters to take part. .... You've got to be in it to win it!

### **Bag Pack in Morrison's Dalkeith – Saturday 9th June 2018**

We will be looking for volunteers to assist with this event.

(All students taking part will be entered into a prize draw to win a voucher of their choice!)

### **HELP, HELP, HELP!**

We are always looking for new people to help out – there are currently only a few parents on the PTA.

Please come and join us. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising, or if there are any businesses out there that could provide funds – please let us know.

# humanutopia®

Putting People First

To kickstart our focus at DHS on Positive Relationships, each year group from S1-3 had a day with humanutopia, a company which focuses on enabling young people to be the best versions of themselves they can be. Dale and Stevie ran a packed day of team building exercises, discussions and reflection time. Our young people spoke honestly and openly about how disrespectful or bullying behaviour might affect them, and about times where they have engaged in those types of behaviours themselves. Most strikingly, there was a shared commitment to continuing to ensure that no young person's education is disrupted by the thoughtless conduct of others.



Miss Wood followed up the workshops with Drama activities focusing on forum theatre techniques, in which the audience make decisions about what characters can or should do and look at the possible consequences of their choices. The key message, 'don't fill someone else's bin with your rubbish' has already been referenced in PSE classes and through pupil voice as a shorthand way of reminding ourselves that every interaction we have matters. The whole school community looks forward to building on this very worthwhile input to keep the focus on consistently #DeterminedHappySuccessful learners.

## S1 OUTDOOR LEARNING

As this year's S1 had nearly 200 pupils in it, the S1 Outdoor Learning days continued into February. A few of the later trips went out in really snowy weather! Almost all of the S1 pupils took part and rose to the challenge. An S1 assembly on 19th March gave them the opportunity to see some of the photos of their days on the hills. Bria Mackay and Jonathan Adams of 1M2 did a brilliant job of putting the photos and music together for the presentation. Every pupil who participated receives a certificate which goes towards the JASS award. The Outdoor Learning Department has been such a valuable resource to us over the years.





## ZEST - ZOO & ENVIRONMENTAL SKILLS TRAINING

Connal McQuade, Georgia Waugh, Findlay Dixon and Dylan MacKenzie have successfully completed the ZEST programme which takes place at Edinburgh Zoo. The programme offers work experience in a range of placements that include animal husbandry, teaching children, presenting talks to the public, gardening and maintenance, marketing and hospitality and digital awareness and ICT. It is a programme that has been devised to provide more than just a working experience. It also trains pupils in job searching, CV making and interview skills as well as providing environmental based projects that promote leadership and communication skills.

All 4 pupils have achieved the ZEST Award and an SQA Employability Award at Level 4. In recognition of their hard work, dedication, commitment and enthusiasm, the staff at the Zoo will be taking them on a trip to Kingussie Wildlife Park.

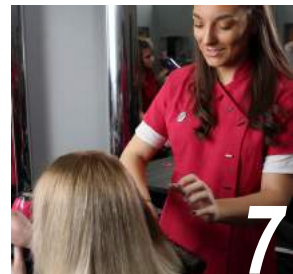


## DHS HAIRDRESSING & BEAUTY SALON - OFFICIAL OPENING

On the afternoon of Tuesday 6th February the Salon at DHS had its official launch. The event was attended by pupils, staff, members of the public and representatives from local businesses. Pupils were able to demonstrate their skills on clients and staff.

The Salon offers qualifications in Beauty Skills and in Hairdressing Skills. In Hairdressing we have Skills for Hairdressing SQA National 4 and National 5. Beauty Skills qualifications include SQA NPA in Beauty Skills Level 5 and Eye Enhancements SQA Level 6.

Our thanks go to Dawn Douglas of the Serenity Beauty School and Michelle Mowat for their help, advice and support. We would also like to thank our Hairdressing Tutor, Natalie Watson and our Beauty Tutor, Heather Gibson.



## SCHOOL SHOW FUNDRAISERS

Our summer show, 'School of Rock' is now only a matter of a few months away! We have the biggest cast we have ever had who are all busy fundraising for the show. Pupils are undertaking a range of challenges from sponsored silences, to 'stay-awakes' and fitness challenges. Miss Wood is also taking on a fundraising challenge by competing in this year's full 'Tough Mudder' event on the 16th of June. If you would like to sponsor Miss Wood you can do so by going to: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chantelle-wood>

Another event taking place in school is 'guess the monkey's birthday' (win a GIANT monkey teddy by correctly guessing his birthday). The competition opened on 19th of March and the winner will be announced on the last day of term - £1 per entry.

We are also organising a Quiz and Curry night (date tbc), which parents and teachers are all invited to.

Donations for the school show were also gratefully accepted at the Expressive Arts Evening on the 20th of March where those who attended were treated to a preview of one of the big show numbers!

If anyone would like to get in touch about sponsoring the show or supporting us in any way, please email [c.wood2@mgfl.net](mailto:c.wood2@mgfl.net). Let's make this the best show ever!



## ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN 2018



Congratulations to Taylor Clarke, S6, who won the vocal category in the regional round of the Rotary Young Musician Competition which took place in Lasswade High School.

The competition was open to all Midlothian Schools, so it was a fantastic achievement for Taylor who won the category for the second year running. Taylor performed 'Beautiful City' from the musical 'Godspell'.

All DHS competitors gave amazing performances and we are very proud of them all!



## LAUREN TO TEACH IN INDIA FOR A YEAR

Dalkeith High School pupil, Lauren Pearson, has been chosen to take part in a scheme run by the charity Project Trust. She will spend a year in India from August, teaching English to local school kids. During her trip Lauren will complete a Certificate in Global Citizenship.

She said: 'I'm ecstatic. It will be a culture shock but it will be amazing.'

'One of the national languages there is English so mostly I will be teaching kids with a basic grasp of the language, and setting up various extracurricular clubs involving music and sports.'

Before she goes to India Lauren will be busy raising the money needed to go, and she is looking for local businesses to sponsor the online blog she will keep on the trip.

She said: "I need to raise £6,200 to cover training, travel, board and lodging, insurance and support while away. In order for me to raise this money I will be doing various things: applying to charitable trusts seeking donations, approaching local businesses for sponsorship. I will also be running various events throughout



the next six months such as bake sales, concerts, raffles, cinema nights and bag packs.

'Previous people on this project have kept a blog which was sponsored, so I'm looking to do that and would like to hear from local businesses.'

After her trip to India, Lauren hopes to study International Development, before starting a career in the human rights sector.

Businesses can contact Lauren on [www.facebook.com/laurensyearinindia/](http://www.facebook.com/laurensyearinindia/) or give to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LaurenPearsonProjectTrust>.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST



During the week of the HMIE Inspection some of Mr Robertson's Nat 5 Skills for Work pupils provided a well-deserved pancake breakfast for staff and the visiting inspection team, who all thoroughly enjoy the various fillings on offer. Special thank you to the following pupils: Caroline Allan, Chloe Ferguson, Hollie Hope, Hannah Souter, Jayme Conway and Richards Palens who provided all with a very professional and tasty breakfast.

## EXPRESSIVE ARTS EVENING

The DHS Expressive Arts Evening was another huge success this year. We managed to raise £270 for the Faculty and this will help provide resources for pupils to continue their development in each subject. The range of talent we have across the Expressive Arts was on display throughout the entire evening and the pupils' work and performances were an absolute joy to behold. Pupils from S1 to S6 were involved in performances across each subject and the high quality art/photography work, dancing, singing and dramatic performances were commended by all who attended. All staff from the Expressive Arts Faculty were extremely proud of every pupil for their commitment and hard work in the build-up to this event. The Expressive Arts continue to provide opportunities and challenge for our young people to ensure they continue their journey towards excellence.



## BOOK FAIR

The Library recently held a Book Fair where pupils were able to purchase books from authors such as David Walliams and Nicola Morgan. Pupils from both Dalkeith High School and St David's High School really enjoyed the opportunity to use their £1 World Book Day tokens to purchase their books and secured £90 of free books for the school library.

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A team of six pupils represented Dalkeith High School at the F1 in Schools Scottish Finals in February 2018 and walked away with two awards in their class!

‘F1 in Schools Ltd’ is a not-for-profit company that provides an exciting challenge in which teams of secondary school students across the world collaborate, design, analyse, manufacture, test, and then race miniature, compressed air powered F1 cars.

The team, named Dalkeith Hyper Speed and made up of three S1 and three S2 pupils, worked through their lunchtime twice a week from October and the hard work clearly paid off. Their car, which is required to cover the 20 metre track as quickly as possible, won ‘Fastest Car in Entry Class’ with a time of 1.478 seconds. The teams are also required to present their work to a panel of judges. The hard work carried out by Dalkeith Hyper Speed resulted in the team walking away with their second award of ‘Best Presentation in Entry Class’.

In order for the team to be able to compete, it was necessary for them to raise money to cover the development and manufacture of the car, the team uniform and travel costs to and from the competition. Dalkeith Hyper Speed would like to thank all who contributed to the team’s success, with special thanks to their three sponsors, Fleet Management Services UK Ltd, Broom Services and Any Level Window Cleaning. The team are already working hard on progressing their skills in order to enter ‘Development Class’ in the 2019 competition. Success in the Scottish Finals within Development Class would earn them a place to compete in the UK Finals in Silverstone. Dalkeith Hyper Speed have their sights set high! If you would like to become involved and support the team, we would love to hear from you.



## FOREST SCHOOL

The Forest School at Dalkeith High School works with pupils within the natural environment, led by Mr Gray and assisted by Mr Tilley. The focus is on developing personal, social and emotional lifeskills through pupil-led, nature-based learning.

The group are currently working on ideas and designs for a Forest School logo which captures the fun and valuable experience that outdoor learning can give pupils.

The last few weeks has seen exciting activities such as shelter building, outdoor tool skills, fire-making, cooking popcorn and bread, plus environmental art and design - all aimed at personal development as well as introducing practical and intellectual skills for all the pupils involved. The woodland and natural environment is inspiring trust and self-confidence for all who take part and is an invaluable addition to the school curriculum at Dalkeith High School.



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 seven finalists who all did brilliant presentations about why their charity should win. The presentations were so great that some teachers were moved to tears at how open and mature pupils were with dealing with difficult social issues and how much effort they put into their presentations. In the end, Amy Kristoffersen, Reece Howarth and Maddison Burnett secured £3000 for Lothian Veterans' Centre. The charity are overjoyed at winning the money!



A big welldone to everyone who took part in YPI for raising the profile of their charity and showing the Dalkeith High School spirit #DeterminedHappySuccessful



## THE PUPIL VOICE

It has been another very busy and active term for the Pupil Voice Team. The team have led a range of meetings to gain the views and opinions from across the school as well as meeting with outside agencies to discuss the potential introduction of communication apps.

The company 'Toot Toot' presented their communication app to the Pupil Voice Team which was received very positively and an in-depth discussion was had. 'Toot Toot' is a communication website and app which can be used on both mobile and computer devices. It allows pupils to anonymously contact a team of staff members at their school if they have any worries, problems or concerns. The primary use would be to encourage the young people at DHS to share concerns and report issues of bullying in a confidential way. 'Toot Toot' is not designed to replace the already existing methods of communication but to allow for an alternative way which can be accessed at any time including out of school hours.

Following the presentation, all Pupil Voice members were in agreement that the app was a fantastic idea to allow pupils to communicate anonymously, safely and securely. They also thought it could be used to communicate positive feedback and ideas as well as issues related to bullying. The next steps were to share the information and feedback with the Senior Leadership Team. Kyle Nelson (S2) attended a meeting with SLT and provided an in-depth and informative overview of 'Toot Toot'. He answered questions and concerns with confidence and with a great degree of knowledge.

SLT were very impressed with the information shared and are keen to go ahead with implementing the app. We are nearly ready for the introduction of 'Toot Toot' across DHS. Watch this space for more information to follow!



tootoot)))



## THE REAL BALLERINA

We were delighted to welcome Olive McMillen back to Dalkeith High School recently. The ‘real ballerina’ was accompanied by her husband and friends to see our cherished sculpture.

The bronze sculptured ballerina, which held a prominent position at the main entrance of the old Dalkeith High School, was relocated here so that future generations of pupils can continue to appreciate this excellent work of art.

The bronze figure was commissioned when Dalkeith High School was extended in 1960. Artist Thomas Whalen was asked to create something that should be “on traditional lines and be completely novel and attractive in its conception, also that it would symbolically represent all cultures, the teaching, and the learning which are the prime and essential functions of an educational building.”

Thomas Whalen, 1903-75, was born in Leith and was a student at Edinburgh College of Art in about 1928-31.

Whalen produced many large reliefs, bronzes and stone carvings for churches, power stations and other public buildings, of which the Ballerina at Dalkeith High School is just one. He was also commissioned to make a sculpture for the 1938 Empire Exhibition in Glasgow.

Following the school’s brief, Whalen decided to produce a prima ballerina which symbolised someone who, from a very early age, has the will and extraordinary ability to dedicate herself to hard training and concentrated study. The image also encompasses art, music, drama, poetry, physical well-being as well as the obvious poise and grace of controlled ballet movements.

Having decided on the subject, Thomas then needed a suitable model to achieve the exact pose of a ballerina and his son’s friend, Olive McMillen, agreed to pose so that Thomas could make sure the limbs were exactly equivalent to a ballerina. Olive has since played principal roles in many operas and musicals and spent 15 years running a musical production company with her husband.

Speaking of his father’s work, Carrick Whalen said: “My father was excited about receiving this commission and I can remember Olive sitting for him in the studio in Dean village as he sculpted the clay model. This was then cast in bronze by my father’s friend and renowned bronze caster, George Mancini, who had a studio at Fountainbridge.”

The ballerina has grown to represent our emblem, harmonising perfectly with the ethos of our school #DeterminedHappySuccessful.



(Olive - 2nd from the right)



## CAREERS CONVENTION 2018

Each year Dalkeith High School, in partnership with St David's High School, hosts an evening Careers Convention at the joint schools campus. This year we moved the date to earlier in the session so that the event came before the coursing of juniors and seniors making the evening very useful to everyone. Indeed, Dalkeith High School managed to arrange the event to coincide with a coursing information evening and so ensured a healthy turnout of parents and pupils for the Careers Convention. This is always an excellent opportunity for pupils to pick up information that will help in forming their future plans; pupils (and parents) always leave weighed down with prospectuses and information handouts – not to mention free pens and, this year, free chocolates.



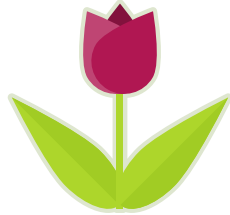
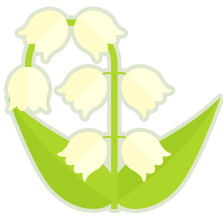
The event was held in the dining-hall this year, giving everyone more space than previously. We had representations from most Scottish universities and from local colleges, as well as from the Army, the RAF and the Royal Marines. Companies including Mactaggart Scott and Crummock are always keen to support the school and attended the event as regulars. Training for Care and EDF energy were also there, as was Volunteering Midlothian and Skills Development Scotland. Numbers were certainly up this year and the evaluations from parents and pupils were very positive.

It is hoped that we can build on the success of this event next year and attract more local business. If you are a local business and want to be represented, please get in touch with the school offices of Dalkeith High School or St David's.

## ASDAN

The S3 ASDAN group had the opportunity to make Easter celebration cakes decorated with chocolate eggs as part of their Beliefs and Values unit in their Bronze Award. Mr Robertson, Principal Teacher of Home Economics, was impressed with the skills and effort that pupils displayed in the kitchen.





# Dalkeith High School

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