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As we move towards the summer break it is important to look back at the successes of the session coming to an end. We were delighted to find out that we are the top-ranked Midlothian school in the list published by The Times of all state schools in Scotland. The list has been produced using attainment statistics and is testament to the strategies that we have put in place to raise attainment for all of our learners. Dalkeith High School is also in the top third of all schools in Scotland in terms of attainment. Well done Dalkeith High School; we hope to replicate this success in the August when results are published by SQA.

In February, the school underwent an inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). The report published following the inspection recognises the many strengths of the school and provides us with a clear indication of our next steps as we continue on our journey as an improving school. The strengths highlighted by the inspectors include strong leadership, committed and enthusiastic staff, a rich curriculum that meets the needs of learners and an extensive range of wider achievement opportunities. Our school website provides a link to the report.

More recently the school welcomed a filming unit from The University of Edinburgh who filmed examples of the excellent learning and teaching that takes place across the school. The films will be used as a resource with student teachers and those returning to teaching after a period of time away from teaching. It is pleasing to think that Dalkeith High School will be setting the standard for those coming into, or returning to, the profession. The team reported to us that they received a very warm welcome and perceived Dalkeith High School as ‘a great place to be’.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Council for their unstinting support throughout a very eventful year. I recognise that the strong partnership that we have with the Parent Council brings about benefits for all in the school community. This was also highlighted in the HMIE inspection report. The PTA, which is the fund-raising arm of the Parent Council, have been very active in their fundraising events throughout the year with money raised being put to good use across the school to enhance the learning experiences for our young people. 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 that the sun continues to shine throughout July and August.

Best wishes,
Allyson Dobson
Headteacher
MELVILLE - HOUSE CHAMPIONS 2018

[Images of people enjoying ice cream and a trophy with the text 'MELVILLE 2018']

[Images of people on water attractions and two individuals posing in a park]

[Images of a group enjoying a picnic and two individuals with ice cream cones]
S6 LEAVERS’ GALLERY

Class of 2018
Creative Dalkeith was launched in May 2017 and due to the success of last year’s event, D2 Architects and Dalkeith High School were keen to work together for a second time. S2 Pupils worked collaboratively to come up with potential solutions to a local public space, redeveloping and improving Jarnac Court for the benefit of the community. Jarnac court was the selected location for two consecutive years as the pupils identified this area within their community which could be put to better use and could be modernised.

The Creative Dalkeith project removed the supervision of teachers and allowed second year pupils to work alongside professional architects D2 Architectural Design. Collaboratively, pupils responded to a given design brief to construct 3D models to represent their imaginative and contemporary design solutions. Using limited resources provided by local company ‘Letts, Dalkeith’ further challenged the young people to be inventive and resourceful.

Art and Design teachers Eilidh Zielinski and Sharon Kyle organised the event with the valuable support from other members of staff. Creative Dalkeith involved all 160 S2 pupils, split into 31 groups working on designs over the course of the day. Mrs Zielinski and Mrs Kyle consider the event “a hugely valuable experience for our young people as it develops a range of transferable skills”.

Over the course of their S2 year, pupils developed their knowledge and skills of architecture and model making in Art and Design, Engineering Science and CDT. In addition they built upon their communication and presentation skills in subjects such as English and Drama. The skills which pupils have developed were combined and applied to the Creative Dalkeith project.

Each group of pupils presented their final 3D models to the D2 architects and the following day an exhibition of work was on display to celebrate success and showcase the fantastic work. In order to determine a winning team, staff and pupils were encouraged to vote for their favourite contemporary and innovative design. The response was overwhelming and it was a very close result for the top three designs resulting in a tie for first place. The first winning entry was by Luke Cormack, Amy Kristoffersen, Bailey Paterson and Emma Paul and the second winning entry was by Becca Forrest and Jodie Telford.

On reflection of the event Mrs Zielinski and Mrs Kyle said “working alongside professionals enabled the pupils to discuss employability skills and career opportunities within the architecture and Structural Engineering field. The architect team from D2 Architects were once again very impressed with our young people and the range of creativity presented was of a very high standard. The architects were an invaluable contribution to the event and we hope we can continue with the collaborative project into the future”.
MIDLOTHIAN IKEA DESIGN COMPETITION 2018

Well done to Gregor Hutchison, Corey Watt, Yasmine Yorke, Alasdair Murphy, Cameron Cowie, Jayme Conway and Judy Jiang who all represented Dalkeith High School in the 2018 Midlothian/IKEA Design Competition. The students’ work was on public display at the IKEA Store, Straiton, on the 30th May. The standard of work produced by the schools for the different competition categories was extremely high and the judges were very complimentary to all those who participated in the event. Congratulations to:

Cameron Cowie - 1st place in the Higher Design and Manufacture category
Alasdair Murphy - 2nd place in the N5 Graphic Communication category
Judy Jiang - 3rd place in the Higher Graphic Communication category
Yasmine Yorke - 3rd place in the N5 Graphic Communication category

The Office staff took a call from a lady from Dalton, North Berwick recently. She came across about a dozen of our older boys in Ikea, waiting in a queue for food. She wanted to pass over how impressed she was by these nice and polite boys - they ushered her to the front of the queue ahead of them and were very nice to her, chatting away. She asked them which school they were from. Well done boys!

DALKEITH SENIOR BOYS MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION IN IKEA!

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SCOTTISH CUP SUCCESS FOR TWO DALKEITH PUPILS!

Lewis Inglis and Jack McDonald (S3) were part of the team that lifted the Scottish Cup recently. Their team, Longniddry Villa, beat Falkirk FC 2-1 in the final. The match was held at Excelsior Stadium – the home of Airdrie FC. The match report can be seen using the link below.

http://www.youthfootballscotland.co.uk/component/k2/item/20403-last-gasp-walsh-goal-seals-scottish-cup-for-longniddry-in-thriller-against-falkirk.html
All six Midlothian secondary schools took part in the event which took place on the 30th May at Dalkeith Schools Campus. The track event included 100m, hurdles, relays together with shot put, javelin and long jump making up some of the field events. All participants from Dalkeith High School performed very well and represented the school values. All schools were gathered together and a winning school was awarded a trophy to keep for the year. Dalkeith High School placed 3rd with a number of 1st places in many events.
The event is supported and officiated by Scottish Athletics, Lasswade Athletics Club and school PE staff.

As part of the S1 SCQF Level 3 Health and Wellbeing Award in school, all pupils participated in a 5km running/walking event around the campus. The award included pupils undertaking intensive fitness tests, setting targets to develop their fitness levels and devising their own training plan to achieve their 5km goal. The event was a great success and took place over one morning.

All pupils showed extreme levels of commitment and enthusiasm. Well done everyone!
Congratulations to Dylan Sharp in 2L, who won Gold at the Clydebank Grand Prix in Judo recently. Well done Dylan - we are all very proud of you!

Sam Sutherland competed in the Scottish Taekwondo Championships this month and received a bronze medal for sparring.

Daniel picked up two club gold medals and a silver in the Scottish bowhunter champions. Amie-Louise picked up two club gold medals and gold at the Scottish bowhunters as well as getting her first Scottish record (which she is being surprisingly modest about!).

Well done to you both. We are all very proud of you!
During the senior exam leave 30 pupils worked with Mr Robertson and Mr Wilson for 5 weeks and took part in the school’s Employability Summer School programme. This included working with various local employers from a variety of industry sectors.

During the employer visits pupils were invited to take part in the company’s employment induction scheme, run through interview techniques, build CVs, work with employees serving customers and team building.

At the end of the programme the pupil feedback was excellent with a number of pupils gaining employment using the skills they have learned - giving them confidence applying for jobs.

A special thank you to all employers and businesses involved:
FLB, B&Q, IKEA, Marks and Spencer, Recruitment and Skills Centre, Lamborghini, Ferrari, Mark Greenaway, Scottish Parliament, Hibernian Football Ground.

This year’s award ceremony took place on Wednesday 13th June to recognise the achievement of our S1-S3 pupils. Awards were given for academic excellence, personal progress and wider achievements. These included the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, Duke of Edinburgh, Children’s University, STEM achievements award, Trailblazer Award, musical excellence, sporting excellence and much more. Pupils and families were also given the opportunity to explore the achievement village to see what departments have been up to over the course of the year. Congratulations to all those who were recognised for their hard work and continuing dedication. A great night was had by all.

Please note that the senior awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday 5th September to recognise the achievements of our S4-S6 pupils. More details and invitations to follow.
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 Mrs Fraser. Well done to all involved!

As part of the S2 course ‘Historic Edinburgh’ the History department led a trip to the city centre of the capital city in order to allow learners to see the changes that History has made over time, especially Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile. Pupils were led around the Castle in order to build on their knowledge of Old Edinburgh. The S2 pupils then visited Edinburgh Dungeons for some excitement, as well as learning more about the Historic city. Pupils gained a lot from their trip to the city and enjoyed some distance learning outside of the classroom.
This year, the Maths department took 35 of our S4 pupils to Broomlee Outward Bound Centre, West Linton for Maths Camp. The aim of the weekend was to kick-start their Maths revision while receiving support from teachers and some of our advanced higher students. The weekend started with staff and students meeting at the school early Saturday morning before getting a coach to West Linton. Once there we were straight into activities. Pupils were split into two groups which rotated between sharpening their maths skills and attempting some outdoor activities (including tree climbs, archery, rope walks, or generally getting muddy!). We all had a break around dinner before getting back to some more Maths with a Treasure hunt! We then finished off the day with Mr Hoyland’s ‘DHS Pub Quiz’ where pupils worked on their non-maths knowledge!

Sunday was a similar idea to Saturday with pupils splitting between outdoor activities or more maths. For the maths, pupils worked in small groups on past paper questions with targeted support from staff helping them look at strategies for exam technique and revision. Then, before we knew it, we were back on the coach to Dalkeith – the bus was definitely quieter on the way back!

In April, some pupils in first and second year participated in this year’s United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Mathematical Challenge. They achieved 1 gold, 3 silver and 15 bronze certificates. Over 260,000 pupils from across the UK sat the challenge with roughly the top 6% receiving a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze.

Approximately 8200 of the top students are invited to sit a follow-on competition, the Junior Mathematical Olympiad or the Junior Kangaroo. One of our pupils, Mia Delaney (S2), was invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo and we wish her further success in that when it comes.

We are delighted with the success of our pupils in this major competition. Many of those who haven’t achieved a certificate were close to the cut-off mark and so we hope they are encouraged to try again next year.

If you are interested to see the types of questions that pupils were answering, you can find past papers at www.ukmt.org.uk and they also post questions regularly on their twitter account.
On Friday 20th April our 9 NPA Musical Theatre students presented their ‘Night at the Musicals’ end of year showcase which featured songs such as ‘When I Grow Up’ from the musical Matilda and ‘This is Me’ from the Greatest Showman. Not only did this musical showcase demonstrate the sheer talent present in this year’s class, but also played a big role in the final assessment of their NPA level 6 qualification, which they all passed.

Students worked exceptionally hard all year developing the skills necessary to present such a diverse show, and even came in during their Easter Holidays to rehearse!

Night at the Musicals was, without doubt, a show-stopping event, and I am very proud of the class for all that they achieved this year. A massive well-done to all those involved!

Last month, Miss Wood’s S3 Drama classes were busy putting together performances to be shown to P1 and P2 pupils in the surrounding schools. A total of 40 pupils went out into either Danderhall Primary, Woodburn Primary or Tynewater Primary. The performances were based around the stimulus of ‘Fairy Tale’ and had to contain a message or lesson which was suitable for young children. All pupils took on the challenge brilliantly and represented Dalkeith High School well on their visits. The primary school children all loved the performance, with some of the Woodburn Primary pupils even creating their own thank you posters.

We look forward to visiting more primary pupils next year with the new S3 classes!
This year the School of Rock organisers have been busy creating lots of new and exciting events to raise money for the show. Last month we had two big events, the Staff vs Pupils quiz and Dalkeith Has Talent.

The Staff vs Pupils quiz was a great success and lots of fun was had by the teams who entered. The overall winning team was ‘Mental Maths’ who won a giant chocolate hamper (which was very kindly then shared out to all teams!). On the day, our results showed that in this case, the staff were the most intelligent overall, despite the pupil teams putting up a very good fight! The rematch is scheduled for April 2019!

Dalkeith Has Talent was another hugely successful event which was a sell-out event! Pupils from S1-3 were invited to take part in the show. In the end we had a variety of singers, dancers and musicians. A huge amount of talent was on display and the audience had the tough job of deciding the winners, who were as follows...

In third place was S1 pupil Mia Linn who sang ‘Pulled’ from The Adams Family Musical. Second place went to Kimberley Devlin and Ellie Adams who sang ‘Supermarket Flowers’ by Ed Sheeran. The winners, with an impressive lead in the votes, were Aimee Pottinger and Katie Lomax for their dance duo act.

Dalkeith Has Talent will be returning in 2019 at a slightly earlier time in the year so we can use the Assembly Hall to allow us to make the event even bigger and better!

1st

2nd

3rd
Congratulations to Ruth Gorman who won the Heriot-Watt University Award for Leadership at Dalkeith High School. Ruth attended a ‘Celebration of Leadership Event’ at Heriot-Watt University where she was presented with her award. Congratulations Ruth! #DeterminedHappySuccessful

‘Not a weak link in the chain,’ said Jim, the fire officer in charge of a week long training course for seven of our pupils at the end of May. All the boys attended for a full week at the local fire brigade and all did supremely well. They were polite, disciplined and effective. Jim, who runs the programme, described the team as the best he has worked with in 5 years. In fact, when thanked for working with our pupils, Jim said it was not like work at all because running the programme with our pupils was all just so easy. The boys were drilled just as trainee firefighters are and to see them in action was like watching a slick, well-oiled machine. Well done to the seven boys.

The boys to be commended are:

Zak Beattie 3B1
Conor Hay 3D1
Robert Martin 3L2
Robbie McCormack 3L2
Dylan Mitchell 3L2
Ethan Steele 3B1
Blake Willis 3L2
Science club have had an interesting year solving crimes, debating the possibility of zombie apocalypse and mixing special effect chemicals for alien movies. Next year’s Science club will be open to S1 and S2 with a new robotics theme coming to the club. To try and encourage more participation, Mr Craig and Miss MacKay will be running the same science club at the same time. Club members will have the choice of which club to go to and both clubs will compete against each other in the robotics challenge. Those club members with the most enthusiasm and innovative ideas will get the chance to compete in a National competition.
We look forward to welcoming new members to Science Club next year!

S1 learners were given the opportunity to attend an educational day trip to the Seabird Centre in North Berwick. They were greeted with a brief introduction to the organisms that live on the local shoreline and were then challenged to find as many of them as possible when rock pooling on the shore. In the afternoon, the learners were given an environmental crime to solve in groups using various audio, visual and physical clues. They all got stuck into their collaborative task and asked the education officer some great questions. To conclude, they were able to visit the actual centre and use the equipment to spot various birds on several islands.
A brilliant day out for learners and staff. Looking forward to next year!
Sports Day was a great success this year, with both teachers and pupils getting into the spirit of the event. Congratulations to Lothian House who came out winners this year and now stand at the top of the House Points Challenge.