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As we move towards the long summer holiday
I would like to take this opportunity to thank
families for their support throughout the session.
Dalkeith High School offers a very good standard
of education to all of our young people. Attainment
is once again better than our comparators and we
have been very successful throughout the year in
recognising and rewarding the wider achievement
of our pupils. This would not be possible without
families in our community working with us to do so.
The Parent Council has been instrumental in raising
funds to purchase equipment that benefits pupils.

For example, our highly successful S1 outdoor learning experience is only possible
due to the generosity of the Parent Council in terms of the purchase of walking boots,
rucksacks, fleeces and waterproofs. I thoroughly enjoyed the day that I joined one of the
groups, even if we had the worst weather experienced by any of the groups. Horizontal
rain adds to the sense of adventure!
The support of the Parent Council will be invaluable as we face challenging years ahead
with regards to budget constraints. All parents/carers are automatically members of the
Parent Council and the dates for the meetings are published on the school website at the
start of the session. It would be super to see some new faces at the meetings as we move
forward – there is always a cup of tea and biscuit on offer, too.
All that remains is to wish you a happy summer; I hope that the sun shines wherever you
may be.

With very best wishes,

Allyson Dobson
Headteacher
After another extremely competitive House Points competition at Dalkeith High School, this year has seen the closest finish we have ever had with Lothian House emerging triumphant. Lothian finished the competition with an amazing 4184 points just ahead of Melville House who finished just 3 points behind on 4181. Dalhousie placed a close 3rd with 4094 points and Buccleuch not far behind with 4070.

This year, pupils across the school were able to gain merit points based on their performance within lessons as well as being recognised for the myriad of achievements taking place outside of school. We have had pupils representing their country at sporting events, achieving excellence in the expressive arts, fundraising for various charities, volunteering in the community and one pupil even passed his private pilot’s licence! We were able to gather information about some of these achievements through the ‘Share an Achievement’ form on our website and through our ‘Achievement Tuesday’ points drive.

As well as awarding merit points in their respective classes, teachers highlight a Junior Learner of the Month and a Senior Learner of the Month by displaying a certificate with the pupils’ names outside their classrooms.

Once again we were delighted to celebrate our pupils’ success by rewarding the juniors in the winning house with a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park and the seniors with a trip to Alton Towers Theme Park. The ‘Top Achievers’ from each of the other Houses were also invited along to celebrate! Well done to Lothian House for winning this year and good luck to all when the competition starts again with the end of term Sports Day!
S6 LEAVERS’ GALLERY

Class of 2019
Creative Dalkeith was launched in May 2017 and due to the huge success of the last two years, D2 Architects and Dalkeith High School were keen to work together for a third 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 their local community.

The Creative Dalkeith project once again removed the supervision of teachers and allowed second year pupils to work alongside professional architects from 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, Sharon Kyle and Hilary Mackay organised the event with valuable support from other members of staff. Creative Dalkeith involved 155 S2 pupils, split into groups working on designs over the course of the day. Pupils were encouraged to apply approaches and techniques developed throughout the year including skills of architecture, model making and problem solving from Art and Design, Engineering Science and CDT. The level of team work and communication evident across groups was the most positive to date. Pupils shared ideas openly and sought solutions to design and construction problems, applying transferrable skills from all subject areas.

Following the construction process, each group reflected upon their final design solution by carrying out a written evaluation, this evaluation was presented alongside their final 3D models during an exhibition of work. The exhibition was not only a way for staff and pupils to vote for their favourite contemporary and innovative design, the display of work also enabled the school to celebrate the success of all S2 pupils and showcase their fantastic work. The response was overwhelming and it was a very close result for first, second and third place winners being identified. First place was awarded to Alisha Jannat, Innes Campbell, Jay Landels and Freya Milton for their innovative and sustainable design. Second place was awarded to Taylor Redpath, Denis Costache, Sophie Peters and Rebecca Greig for their unique design. Third place was awarded to Taylor Kelly for her independent and creative design.

On reflection of the event, the Art department staff said “over the past few years we have had an invaluable contribution from the fantastic team at D2 Architects, this year was no exception. Their input was highly valued by pupils as they were able to work alongside professionals for the day. Our young people responded positively to the creative input from D2 which resulted in a range of design elements being considered. The architect team challenged the thinking skills of our young people thus resulting in design solutions of a very high standard”.

Staff and pupils would like to offer a huge thanks the team at D2 Architects for another successful Creative Dalkeith project. The involvement of D2 resulted in another excellent event which was of great value to all our S2 learners.
Back in November, a number of junior pupils took part in the Young Writers Mission Catastrophe competition. This involved writing a mini saga of 100 words about a catastrophe such as: a flood, a hurricane or a volcanic eruption. Mrs McCabe was delighted when 22 DHS pupils’ stories were chosen for publication.

Pupils from S1 at Dalkeith High School celebrated the completion of this year’s Accelerated Reader reading programme on Monday 27th May with an awards ceremony in the library.

The awards given out by Mrs Dobson ranged from the Accelerated Reader Star Reader of the Week to the most books read in a year. The pupils really enjoyed being recognised for their hard work and commitment this year to read for pleasure.

An amazing 5 million words were read by the S1 group this year that helped improve their reading skills which will benefit them in every subject in the school. Can the future S1 next term beat this total next year?
All six Midlothian secondary schools competed in the Midlothian Athletics Championships which took place at Dalkeith Schools’ Campus last month. Athletes from Dalkeith High School upheld our school values of Determined, Happy, Successful securing 2nd place in the team competition behind Lasswade High School. Our individual Midlothian Champions for 2019 are: Peter Tye (85m Hurdles), Daniel Lanni (100m), Leah Harvey (300m), Reece Downey (400m), Joe Davies (Javelin) and Jamie Currie (Discus).

Mr Craig and this years S1 pupils have been working in partnership with environmental charities to help clean up litter around the school. The young people have been out to the local Sainsburys to do their bit for the local community and the environment by picking up litter.

While the young people are happy to help there are concerns that more bins should be in place to help reduce the amount of litter, with better designs so that birds can’t get the litter out. The young people will be continuing their work by discuss these issues in PSE and promoting respect for the environment in the school.

In order to ensure we are able to continue to build on the success of school football that has taken place this year, Dalkeith High School is looking for assistance to help support teams moving forward. If any parents or family friends would be interested in coaching or supporting a school team in the next academic year, please contact Miss Maclaine in the PE Dept for more information.
Chloe Kean travelled to Barcelona this month to compete in the Barcelona Girls Cup with her football team Hutchison Vale Girls u15s. The girls played in very hot temperatures which isn’t typical of a Saturday morning game in Scotland. Playing against opponents from Catalonia and Norway, Chloe’s team finished 9th in their age group.

Early summer has been a great time for Highland Dancer, Lisa Ferguson. She was 5th in the Gourock Championship, overall winner at Trinity Edinburgh competition and runner up at Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games. Congratulations also to Lisa for becoming a Highland Dance Ambassador. Lisa was chosen from hundreds of dancers which is a massive achievement.

Amy Kristoffersen represented Scotland in the Trampoline and Tumbling Regional Team Finals in Birmingham on the 8th & 9th June. Amy won the gold medal for DMT (double mini trampoline.) and Team Scotland were the overall winners in this discipline.

Congratulations to Daniel Cousins, who has won two Gold medals in outdoor archery already this season.

Kara Stuart has passed her grade 4 RAD ballet exam with a merit and passed her UKA Hip Hop and Jazz exams at Laurel level with Distinctions!

Congratulations to Amie-Louise Cousins who picked up another medal in June– Silver in her Archery Field Round!

Congratulations to Murrin McLean who won the Scottish and Open Level 4 Junior (under 15) Championship in Rhythmic Gymnastics in Aberdeen on Saturday 25th May 2019.

Jamie Rae and Sam Sutherland have been competing in the Lothian Schools Rugby 7s Tournament with their team Ross High RFC. They made it through to the finals in the U15s league but were beaten in the last game. The winning team was their only defeat in the full tournament.

Congratulations to Jamie Macleod who won the Willie Bauld Memorial Trophy with his football team Hutchison Vale. The game was played at Tynecastle and Jamie scored the winning goal!
Pupils in S4 took part in the Employability Summer School in May working alongside Mr Wilson. This included working with local employers from a variety of industry sectors. During the visits pupils were invited to take part in a range of activities including employment induction schemes, interview techniques, creating CVs, customer service and team building. A special thank you to all employers and businesses involved: FLB, B&Q, IKEA, SFA, Recruitment and Skills Centre, Lamborghini, Royal Navy, Scottish Parliament, Hibernian Football Club, British Army, Amazon, Scottish Prison Service, Historic Environment Scotland, Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College.

The Science Department at Dalkeith High School took 12 of their dedicated pupils to visit the Roslin Institute, Easter Bush Campus, for a DNA extraction workshop on the 16th May. Upon their arrival, the keen scientists discovered that they were at the scene of a crime! One of the local farmer’s sheep had performed a Houdini-like escape and the pupils’ task was to solve the crime by identifying which sheep was guilty. The first activity involved visual analysis of sheep fleece which had been collected from all of the suspects, and also from the crime scene, to make a hypothesis. DNA was then tested from each suspect and from the samples taken at the crime scene for comparison. Our young scientists worked very well together as they learned about DNA separation techniques. The pupils used special enzymes to cut the DNA up and then they ran the samples on gel electrophoresis. The samples were then examined under ultra violet light and were compared to those from the crime scene, allowing a clear match to be made. All the groups managed to conclude correctly that the culprit was suspect number 2! Our young scientists had an amazing experience at the workshop and were all a credit to Dalkeith High School. Thank you to the Roslin Institute for having us and for providing the exciting opportunity to learn new techniques in the science industry.
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.

Both learners and staff had a brilliant day out. Looking forward to next year!

Miss Mackay, Olivia Henderson and Jessica Clegg travelled to Glasgow on Friday 31st May to take part in the ‘pH of Scotland’ challenge as part of the ‘Celebration of STEM Scotland’ event. The girls took part in a number of STEM challenges, gaining almost full marks for their team work and performance scores. Their water filter device produced the cleanest water of the day (praised by the judges), but there wasn’t much water coming through the filter, so they were sadly pipped to first place by another school. The girls worked hard on their design and for the whole year in STEM club. The science department recognised this by rewarding the girls with the STEM award at the Junior Awards Ceremony.

All S2 pupils have had the opportunity to participate in team building and leadership activities at Musselburgh Lagoons with their Pupil Support Leaders. The day involved a number of activities including raft building and canoeing. The young people showed excellent communication and leadership skills, and had a fantastic time in the process.
On the 2nd of April 60 students from S1 and S2 took part in the International Junior Mathematical Challenge. This is a prestigious competition where students have to apply their mathematical knowledge in new and creative ways to solve as many puzzles as they can in an hour. Their results are then compared to students from all over the world and certificates awarded to the top achievers. This year we are delighted to announce that not only did we receive 18 certificates, but, we also have had one student invited to take part in the second round of the competition. The certificate winners are as follows:

Gold:   Murray Robertson  
Silver:  Rebecca Greig, Elena Morgan  

This is a fantastic result and all in the school are proud of you! Congratulations!

Dalkeith High School’s My World of Work Ambassadors have received an award from My World of Work for their hard work and contribution, resulting in significant improvements in registration rates for My World of Work throughout DHS this year. The Ambassadors are Eva Baigrie, Ryan Johnson, Fraser Flynn, Charlotte Ellis-Lawson, Maya Pearson, Michael Orme and Abby Pearson.

Ambassadors volunteer to act as champions for My World of Work, Careers and Employability, helping spread the word of Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce to their friends, fellow pupils, teachers and parents.

Melissa Reidie gained some valuable work experience with ex-Dalkeith High School pupil and Scottish Labour MP for Midlothian, Danielle Rowley. Melissa attended a surgery and also looked at the horrific waste which is polluting the water in Newbattle’s Mary Burn. Melissa, shocked by the waste, agreed that there are some items that should never be flushed, even when the package says flushable.
Several pupils from Miss Wood’s S3 classes visited both Woodburn and Tynewater Primaries to perform fairy-tale inspired pieces of devised drama to P1/2 target audiences. Our S3 pupils had a fantastic time and enjoyed the opportunity to perform to the children. Thank you to Woodburn and Tynewater for being so welcoming!

Huge congratulations to all of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants who completed their assessment expedition in the Lammermuir Hills. All of the pupils showed excellent team work and communication and were able to demonstrate the navigation and camp craft skills that they have been learning. The pupils have also been taking part in a physical activity, a volunteering placement and learning a new skill as part of the award. The pupils who fully complete the Bronze Award this year will now have the opportunity to move onto the Silver Award in S4.
Dalkeith High School took part in WW100 Scotland’s programme of remembrance and commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War. WW100 Scotland aimed to inform people about Scotland’s contribution to World War One and help them discover the effects of the war on their local communities and its lasting impact on life in Scotland today. As a school, our contributions to this effort consisted of an interdisciplinary approach to learning we called DHS Remembers. This provided our young people with the opportunity to lead their own learning into the significance of the war for themselves and their families, for their community and for Scotland. We held pupil led remembrance assemblies which focused on the significance of the war for Scotland and why remembrance was still relevant today and accompanying this, pupils laid a wreath at our memorial to fallen former pupils and staff and learned about some of their stories. Each faculty in the school offered lessons on the war that used their own subject expertise to shed light on a different aspect of the war for Scottish soldiers: Science looked at the causes of disease in the trenches and the nature and impact of the use of chemical weapon; PE and Home Economics used The Great War as a theme for dance choreography and sold poppy cakes to raise funds for Erskine Veterans Care Homes; Social Subjects focused on how the map of Europe changed between 1918 and 2018 and why the war was a catalyst for this as well as comparing the treatment of soldiers suffering from “shell shock” in 1914-1918 to the experiences of modern day veterans diagnosed with PTSD; the English department studied war poetry while Humanities looked at conditions in the trenches and the circumstances surrounding the war’s ending. Pupils and staff also researched their own relatives’ involvement in the conflict and produced family trees and posters detailing their experiences for a wall of remembrance. In recognition of the school’s efforts, Sir Robert M Clerk Bt OBE, Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian visited the school on Wednesday 29th May to meet some of our pupils involved in the commemoration and see what they had achieved for himself. The visit culminated in Sir Robert presenting our school with a WW100 certificate which was officially awarded to our pupils at our Junior Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 11th June.