

NEWSLETTER



Dalkeith High School

NEWS SPRING



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SPRING 2016

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Term 2 has been a very busy one at Dalkeith High School. Our senior pupils have been working hard towards completing coursework and assessments for their National Qualifications, supported as always by our committed staff. In addition to the assessments being completed in classes, pupils being presented for National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher qualifications will also be sitting SQA exams in May. The school will be running a programme of revision classes during the Easter break; information about the programme can be found below and I would encourage pupils to take advantage of all that is on offer to help to boost grades in the final exams.

I recently sent a letter regarding study leave during the SQA exam period based on Midlothian Council Policy. Study Leave begins for those who are entitled to it on Wednesday, 4th May with Tuesday, 3rd May being the last day on which pupils will be expected to be in school. A series of Masterclasses will be 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.

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 Wednesday, 4th May and return to school for the start of new timetable on Tuesday, 1st 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.

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 concerned. 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.

The new timetable will begin on Wednesday, 1st June for all of our pupils, with an initial induction programme for those pupils entering S5 and S6. The first part of this term involved pupils currently in S2 to S5 making choices about their learning pathways for the coming session.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents/carers for supporting the school in terms of reinforcing messages about the school dress code. It is important that all of our pupils adhere to the agreed dress code to promote identity with Dalkeith High School, both on the campus and in the community. All pupils should wear either the school polo shirt (black or white) embroidered with the school logo, or shirt (black or white) with the school tie. Black trousers or skirts should be worn and pupils should refrain from wearing tracksuit bottoms. Black shoes should also be worn.

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Allyson Dobson, Headteacher

THE PARENT COUNCIL

Joining Parent Council meetings enables you to be an active participant in the life of the school. It gives you a platform to express your views about the school and about education generally. We have good attendance at meetings and always like to welcome parents who have not come along before. Every parent of a child at DHS is automatically a member of the Parent Council. The meeting dates are listed on the school website along with copies of the minutes of previous meetings so you can find out what is discussed. If you would like to receive email alerts about the Parent Council then please contact Deborah Slater (dfloorsham@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list. School uniform is on the agenda for our next meeting.

Parent Council dates:

12 April 2016

17 May 2016

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your views.

DHS Parent Council



CENTENARY STAINED GLASS PANEL IS INSTALLED!



Our Centenary stained glass panel has been installed in the school and looks stunning!

Alasdair Murphy , Bailli Reid, Katrina Bruce, Lewis Wilson, Emily Docherty, Penny Andrews , Rachel Cartledge, Niamh Clelland, Vlad Kurnosovs and Adin Carlisle all helped with the final design and each received a certificate for their contribution.

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS UPDATE!

After raising £540 from our recent Dyslexia Awareness Week, Dyslexia Scotland has been in contact with the school to let us know how they are proposing to spend the money raised.

Dyslexia Scotland are keen to work with Support for Learning staff, along with some pupils, to develop a Secondary School ‘study kit’ for pupils with dyslexia, with the aim being to create a transition pack for pupils moving on to high school. We are delighted to be involved in such a challenge and look forward to working with Dyslexia Scotland in developing this pilot project.



YPI - Junior charity champs are a knock-out

The sole male team of Jamie Roseburgh, Raja Khaliq, Murray Thomson and Finlay Blackie speak about the wonders of the Midlothian Amateur Boxing Club. Two of them – Murray and Jamie – have hands-on experience as they are the Eastern District Champion at 66kgs and the Scottish Novice Champion at 60kgs respectively. Their presentation packs a punch: the delivery might be that of any teenage boy, but their knowledge and enthusiasm for boxing comes through. The clincher might just be the video of themselves in action in the ring.

All teams impress the judges – which include head, Allyson Dobson, and her deputy, as well as a handful of their fellow pupils. The rest of the third year, who are watching it all intently, also seem engaged enough not to be surreptitiously texting each other.

The judges depart and the tension grows. After a musical interlude by teacher Miss Milne, they return, accompanied by Jane Clifford of the YPI and her large £3000 cheque. The winners are announced. And while Mrs Dobson says the other five charities will get support, the big winner is Midlothian ABC. The boys are dumbfounded. Well, all except Murray. “I was really confident we would win,” he grins. “There

are a lot of boys in the school who are involved with the club. To be honest without it I don’t know what we’d do . . . probably just roam the streets.”

The full article by Gina Davidson for the Edinburgh Evening News can be found here:

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/junior-charity-champs-are-a-knock-out-1-4040214>



Erin raises £504 for 'Together for Short Lives' charity!



Erin Gilbertson, 21, single-handedly organised a charity raffle to raise funds for 'Together for Short Lives', which is the leading UK charity supporting children with life-threatening illnesses and the people who support and care for them. Erin wrote to local businesses asking for donations for her raffle. She collected some fabulous prizes and managed to raise a total of £504 by selling raffle tickets.

Erin is planning a Cake Sale on the 26th of March in aid of 'Together for Short Lives'. She's been working really hard on her events and already has a confirmed donation of 60 cakes from Greggs, the bakers, for the event and after that it's a sponsored Inflatable 5K in Edinburgh!

Here is the link to Erin's 'just giving page' should you wish to donate to her chosen charity:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Erin-GilbertsonMissJuniorTeenGreatBritainSemiFinalist2016>

Erin is also one of the beautiful semi-finalists for Miss Junior Teen Great Britain 2016. The winner of Miss Junior Teen Great Britain will receive an incredible prize package – including £500. This is in addition to having an amazing year as Miss Junior Teen Great Britain 2016! The contests were created to be a positive and confidence-building experience for young girls and teenagers and the interview section counts for 50% of the final score.

Vote for Erin here:

<http://www.missteengreatbritain.co.uk/semi-finalists/erin-g/>

Well done Erin, we are all very proud of you!



HIGHER DRAMA VISIT THE LYCEUM

The Higher Drama class visited the Lyceum Theatre on Wednesday 9th March to watch a performance of *The Crucible*. This play tells the story of the Salem witch hunts which, although an historical drama, is directly relevant to modern day issues such as the use of scapegoats, personal morality and mass hysteria. As part of their written exam in May, SQA candidates must analyse a performance they have experienced, demonstrating an understanding of the ways in which decisions about acting, directing and design influence our interpretation of the key themes and issues in a text.

ENHANCED CURRICULUM UPDATE

Pupils at Dalkeith High School are still very much enjoying the variety of additional courses which they have been fortunate enough to access through the Enhanced Curriculum.

HAIRDRESSING – Pupils are enjoying working and training in a salon environment and are now preparing for their practical assessment.

BEAUTY SKILLS – Pupils have worked with both staff and parents as clients and are now preparing for their assessment which takes place on 11 April.

CONSTRUCTION CRAFTS – Pupils have now finished their unit in electrics and are now learning basic bricklaying skills.

HEALTH & WELLBEING – Pupils are enjoying working with the various outside agencies and youth workers that help to facilitate this course. They are experiencing jewellery-making, gardening, art therapy and outdoor activities. It is also now hoped that the pupils in this course will soon be able to work with Cameron Manson who works with Dalkeith Country Park.

BABYSITTING – A parent/carer evening was held and pupils were able to demonstrate what they had learned. Here pupils have passed their first assessment and are now preparing for their next.

SKILLFORCE – Pupils on this course are now preparing for 2 assessments. The first is the Princes Award, which is being held with Edinburgh Schools. This takes place on 14th and 15th of April at Vogrie. The second award is the National Navigation Award and this takes place on 11th May.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH – Currently pupils are carrying out voluntary work in the community. They will shortly be preparing for their overnight expedition. The practice expedition takes place on 19th and 20th May in the Pentlands; the assessment expedition takes place on 22nd and 23rd June in the Lammermuirs.

JOHN MUIR – This week pupils experienced a morning out at Beecraigs Country Park in Linlithgow.

HOSPITALITY - These pupils have been involved in a number of catering activities – they made and supplied soup for lunch to staff. Last week they prepared and organised a baked potato lunch.

SPORT AND RECREATION – These pupils have been involved in coaching S1 pupils in various sporting activities.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the successful running of these courses – in particular to outside agencies and volunteers from the community:

- Skillforce
- Ambition Centre for Training – Hairdressing and Beauty Skills
- McSense – Construction Crafts
- Children and Families – Babysitting/John Muir
- Outside volunteers – Rev Keith Mack, Elizabeth Watson, Mike Weaver, Elaine Grant, Wendy Adam, Christopher Anderson, Philip Meldrum, Roddy Davidson.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!



This is the time of year that most of us consider to be the start of the growing season. However, our intrepid Horticulture students have been actively growing crops throughout the winter and we are actually due to harvest some of them over the next few weeks!

One thing this time of year definitely does herald is an increase in pests. The course is pesticide free so we have just completed putting up insect netting to protect our growing crops from the ravenous hordes. We will be sowing spring crops soon and working hard to complete our SCQF 5 Horticulture assessments before the end of May.

MODERN LANGUAGES IMMERSION WEEKEND

Like every year, S4 to S6 pupils are required to sit their oral exams in French and Spanish. A key revision technique to which the department attributes its academic success is the annual French and Spanish Immersion Weekend.

This year saw 31 pupils and 9 members of staff retreating to Stirling youth hostel from the 26th to 28th of February for a full weekend immersed in French and Spanish.

Whilst revision time with lots of individual support to prepare for the Speaking assessment was the main focus of the weekend, pupils were also given many varied opportunities to develop their Speaking and Listening skills in context. They cooked crêpes and tortilla, read French stories to Miss Maupetit's baby daughter, visited Stirling castle with a guided tour in French or Spanish and of course took part in Mr Valdera's famous salsa dancing class...

Pupils returned home tired but happy and a lot more confident that they will be able to do well in their Speaking assessment.



S3 ASDAN PUPILS REACH FOR THE SKY!



ASDAN pupils went to Ratho Indoor Climbing Arena to learn how to do Bouldering and various Graded Climbs with Bill Stephen the Outdoor Education instructor. They learned life skills along the way. They listened carefully to Bill's

instructions, making sure they had put their harnesses and climbing shoes on correctly. Quite tricky! In addition, he explained to them how to climb safely. Team-building skills were being practised. Pupils supporting a peer climber had to ensure that they worked as a team to support the climber. They had to belay correctly, give out instructions to their climber, listen to the climber and talk reassuringly to them to build up trust so the climber felt safe enough to climb up and then abseil down. Some of the group were not sure about trying out climbing at first, but nevertheless had a go, which was tremendous. Some pupils climbed pretty high! Being brave enough to tackle new and different learning opportunities is a great skill to have in today's changing world. Staff were very proud of how much effort the pupils put into engaging in the activity and all came back having had a fantastic experience. Well done to all.



S1 OUTDOOR EDUCATION

An assembly was held for all S1 pupils on 3rd February to show them the photographs which had been taken on their days out and to celebrate their achievements with certificates from the Outdoor Learning Department. These certificates can be used as evidence for the JASS award which pupils work for in PSE classes. It is hoped that the Outdoor Education days, which pupils go on in first and second year, will encourage them to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award when they get into third year. At the very least we hope these taster trips encourage them to get out and about a bit more in the countryside! The programme will start again in September when the new first years come up to high school.



STEM - SCIENCE CLUB

Every Monday, at lunchtime, the science department welcomes some of the most enthusiastic young minds of first year to have fun doing experiments and taking part in investigations. Since it began running we have done a variety of activities, from creating methane bubbles and setting them on fire in our hands, to learning how to write in invisible ink, to designing and creating the best paper aeroplanes and racing them down the corridor. The past few weeks we have been busy focusing on 'Go Forth', a nationwide bridge building-competition, and have been practicing our engineering skills by creating marshmallow towers and testing the strength of straw structures we've built. Our young people have worked together to come up with lots of possible bridge designs, deciding which would work best and support the most full water bottles. Their hard work and problem solving skills have really shone and construction has already begun on the road which must span a huge 2.6 metre gap, using nothing more than lollipop sticks, cable ties and string! With help from the CDT department, pupils are also putting their artistic skills to good use, designing and creating cars from old plastic bottles which they can drive across the bridge to prove just how strong it will be. There is then the chance for these pupils to showcase their efforts at Glasgow Science Centre in June, where schools from around the country will gather to compete for 'best bridge'.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

With British Science Week taking place from the 11 – 20 of March, the science department has been on the lookout for new and innovative ways to engage our pupils in the many scientific issues facing us today, both in our subject and on a larger scale. As part of this, we have organised scientific demonstrations to generate excitement and inspire learners about new concepts, and have challenged learners with quizzes. As well as this we have become involved in 'The Crunch' – an exciting year of activities, experiences and discussions about our food, our health and our planet. This UK-wide initiative hopes to help young people think about their relationship with food and how it affects us and our world, and start to address some of the bigger issues associated with feeding our growing population. There are potentially lots of things our students can do, such as exploring bee health and why it's important for us, looking at alternative protein sources, and debating issues around genetically modified food. These are just some of the many opportunities we as a department offer, and we are hoping to bring even more to our young people as this session continues.

DHS SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

The Ski and Snowboard Club has been running lessons at the ski slope each Wednesday after school. They meet up and join in the lessons with pupils from all across the Midlothian schools. Lessons are on offer to cater for all levels, from beginners in skiing and snowboarding, race training, freeskiing and foundation instructor courses are also on offer.

The ski team took part in the Scottish Schools Championships Qualifier at Glenshee recently.

Harry Spence skied brilliantly and a special mention goes to Lorna Barron for competing

in her first snow race. Zoe Winthrop continued her good run of form collecting 3rd Individual.

Zoe and Alfie have both achieved their Level 1 BASI qualification. They traveled out to Pila

in the Valle d'Aosta in Italy in December for one week. They have both completed First Aid

courses and have each spent seventy hours shadowing ski instructors in order to prepare for their next level of qualification in Easter, when they travel back out to Pila for two weeks.

Zoe really enjoyed learning about the different styles of teaching. She didn't realise that there were so many ways you could teach something.

Alfie found the technical breakdown of each step in the learners progress very interesting. He learned that there are numerous different physical movements required to perform each task.

Any pupils wanting to take part in ski or snowboard lessons should see Mr Carruthers to collect a form. Approx £60 for a 6 week block. Transport, lessons and equipment hire all included.



Robbie Mitchell (S5) landing a backflip!

GIANT HEPTATHLON

Earlier this year 13 of our S1 and S2 students took part in the regional Giant Heptathlon event. This indoor athletic event is designed to challenge students in running, jumping, throwing and endurance events. Each team of boys and girls compete in 7 events to collect points for their school.

This year our team was led by our S3 Young Ambassadors Ruth Gorman and Rebecca Cawkwell. The girls' organised lunchtime training sessions and assisted with scoring on the day.

Dalkeith High School competed well, finishing in joint 2nd place with Lasswade taking the crown.

The PE dept look forward to the start of our outdoor athletics season and the build up to the school sports day.



RAMBERT ELEMENTS CHOREOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

Our 2 wonderful groups of S3 dancers have been very busy lately working away on their Rambert Elements Choreography Challenge. We applied to be a part of this challenge in September with a written application and a video application and out of hundreds of schools in the UK we were successful. The girls then received a masterclass workshop with one of the Rambert professionals in order to introduce them to the choreography and themes which they had to work to. The girls have worked so hard this term creating small motifs and larger group sequences to show at The Studio at the Festival Theatre. The music composed by Michael Torke (Adjustable wrench) is 11 minutes long and is quite a challenge for our groups both in terms of length and content. The theme is mainly based on flocking and murmuration of birds.

The Lead choreographer, Mark Baldwin, believes that “if you can skip, you can dance” For this reason the girls are required to choreograph lots of travelling skipping motifs. The pupils performed on the 28th of January at the Festival Theatre. If they are selected from the North of England and Scotland group they may be asked to perform in London. The pupils were given the star treatment with their own professional changing rooms to relax in and prepare for their performances. This was some of the pupils first experience of a performance in a theatre. They were required to take part in technical rehearsals and warm-ups with dance companies and colleges. In between their hard work they were treated to a showing of a live Rambert technical rehearsal and a question and answer session with a Rambert Dance professional.

The Rambert team sent a huge thank you to our students for such commitment and enthusiasm to the Rambert Elements Choreography Challenge. The Edinburgh platform was the first of the regional performances and set a very high standard for the challenge, leaving us blown away by the talent of all the young dancers. The artistic team at Rambert had to choose only one group to invite to the London performance and there were a number of factors they had to consider when choosing a group, such as transferring the work to a much larger venue and how well groups might respond to working with a live orchestra. Unfortunately, on this occasion we were not selected. However, we were congratulated on the work of the dancers at Dalkeith High School as they performed a very well structured and intelligent piece of choreography with a particularly exciting and impressive opening to the work. It was evident that the dancers had taken the time to fully engage with and embody a good understanding of the themes explored in the toolkit. The dancers performed well as a group and should be extremely proud of what they have achieved.

Rambert are waiting for the final edit of the filmed performance and will be in touch once we have further details of how we can access a copy.

FOOTBALL UPDATE!

The Senior team are doing very well this season.

They have currently won the Edinburgh and Lothians A- league and will play the winners of the B-league, James Young HS in a playoff final on April 15th.

In addition, the boys will play in the Lothian Cup semi final against James Young HS on Friday 22nd April.

Finally, they reached the last 16 of the Scottish Shield but unfortunately lost 3-1 against Bannerman HS.

GeoBus



On Thursday 4th of February the entire Second year were given the opportunity to attend the “Earthquake Proof Building Challenge” workshop run by GeoBus. GeoBus is run by St Andrews University’s Earth

Science Department and tours schools across Scotland offering science and geography related workshops. The workshop that our pupils experienced saw pupils create their own earthquake-proof structure using K’nex and Blu Tac. Each structure was then tested on the earthquake table to see if the building would stand or collapse. There was also a seismograph sensor in class which allowed the pupils to create and record their own earthquake (this involved synchronised class jumping!) It was great fun, interactive, and a fantastic way for the pupils to learn about earthquake-proof buildings. We hope to arrange many more workshops and activities with the GeoBus team in the future.

SCOTLAND STREET MUSEUM

The Art and Design department arranged a visit to the Advanced Higher Exhibition in The Scotland Street Museum in Glasgow. Fifteen pupils, both Higher and Advanced Higher, took part in this trip and were overwhelmed by the quality of work on show. The exhibition displayed work produced by some of last year’s strongest candidates from across the country with a mixture of Design, Painting and Fashion folios on show. The pupils described this experience as inspirational and increased their motivation towards their own personal projects.



CHILDRENS UNIVERSITY

This year Edinburgh Zoo are running a Spring School and have offered a small number of FREE spaces for Children’s University Passport Holders to targeted young people. Ciano Cerchiari, Josh Clark and Finlay Alexander have been successful in being picked to take part in this event through Children’s University.

During Spring and Summer School in 2016. The boys will discover the amazing animals, habitats and cultures of different places around the world. As well as investigating RZSS’ work on animals and habitats across the globe, the week culminates in them exploring local biodiversity projects.

All of this learning will happen through a range of fun activities such as zoo trails, games, arts and crafts, animal handling, building enrichment devices and much, much more!

Maths

MATHS CAMP

This year's Maths Camp took place in March at Broomlee Centre, West Linton. 24 S4 pupils enjoyed a mixture of outdoor activities, maths sessions, a treasure hunt and a quiz



night. Despite the cold temperatures, all pupils participated enthusiastically, displaying their skills in the Mohawk Walk, Pole Climb, Archery and Problem-Solving challenges.

The teachers involved (Mrs Harcourt-Gill, Ms Macleod, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Nicoll, Mrs Harpur, and Mr Carruthers) were particularly impressed by the pupils' motivation to undertake a maths treasure hunt on a Saturday night and the lack of grumbles whilst studying maths on a Sunday morning! Pupils even continued working on every maths sessions past the allocated time.

All in all the pupils were enthusiastic and appreciative of the opportunity for supported study with most requesting more maths time and even another night away! We await the exam results with baited breath!



PUPIL VOICE



Dalkeith High School has a very active Pupil Voice and new members are always welcome. At the last meeting we discussed course choice forms and feedback has been passed onto management. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 24th March at 1:15 in Mr Knight's PSE room where we will be discussing assessment and looking at the ways pupils revise. The parent council have also asked the Pupil Voice should any monies become available what the pupils would like it to be spent on. See Mr Knight, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Preston or Lucy Walkingshaw / Kirk Kennedy for more information. Your school, your voice and a time for you to be heard.

THE LIBRARY!

Scottish Book Trust Book Awards 2016

When we went to the Scottish Book Trust Book Awards in Glasgow last week, we had a lot of fun. Some students from both Dalkeith and St David's High Schools, as well as others around Scotland, attended.

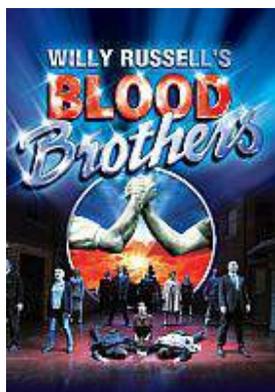
We got to see the authors of the three nominated books and hear what they had to say about them. The book 'The Piper' by Danny Weston, won the award. Afterwards, the authors signed our books and we went home.

By an S3 pupil

World Book Day and Book Fair

To celebrate World Book Day on the 3rd March the Campus School Library held a book fair with the help of some pupil volunteers. All S1/S2 classes at both Dalkeith and St David's High Schools popped up to the library during their English periods to look at and buy the books on sale.

Thanks to these sales the school received £75 in free books for the school library, so happy reading.



BLOOD BROTHERS

Having studied 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell as part of their National 5 English course, a group of S4 pupils attended a production of the musical on Thursday 11th February at the Edinburgh Playhouse. They were accompanied by members of the English department as well as Mr Hamilton who was seeing the show for the 12th time. The musical tells the story of Mickey and Edward, twin boys who are separated at birth and brought up by different families. Mickey is raised by his biological mother, the

working-class Mrs Johnstone, whilst Edward is given away to the middle-class Lyons family. Although their mothers try to prevent it, the two boys meet and become friends. Unfortunately, this only leads to jealousy and tragedy for all involved.

All of the pupils were excited about seeing the musical live, having previously only experienced the performances through grainy Youtube clips displayed in class. They agreed that seeing the production on stage brought it to life for them and helped them to appreciate aspects of the story which were lost on the written page. Hopefully this will help them in the exam hall in May!



Model United Nations

Dalkeith High School took part in our sixth annual MUN at George Watson's College – along with 600 other pupils from schools from all over the UK, Germany, Norway, and Turkey and Iran. Our team this year comprised Imogen Preston, Shannon O'Donnell, Erin Stevenson, Frances Hutchison, Poppy Church –Olney, Judith Scott, Lauren Pearson and Danny Watson. The team prepared over several months, and acquitted themselves extremely well over the weekend. We chose to be the People's Democratic Republic of North Korea, and Judith Scott represented the team in General Assembly, taking the Dictatorship nature of our country to heart. As ever, the Ceilidh was the highlight of the entire weekend, with our team dancing every dance. For many in the team, this was their first ever Watson's MUN, and they have well and truly got the MUN bug! The team's next appearance is at Earlston High School in June.



Professors & Students from River Falls University, Wisconsin, USA.



In early February 20 students studying Social Subjects at River Falls University, Wisconsin, visited the school for the day. The main purpose of the visit was for them to discover in more detail the work of the Scottish system of government, and to discuss with our pupils human rights issues in Scotland compared to the USA. The visiting Professor leading the group, Professor Geoffrey Scheurman, delighted our pupils when, during a lunch with both sets of students, he commented that this visit was the highlight of their tour.



HANGING BASKETS

Due to the success of our hanging basket sale last year, we were able to purchase a cold frame for the garden. We will be selling hanging baskets again this year and are taking orders already! Hanging baskets are £5 each and profits go to the school garden. Thank you to everyone for their continuing support.

Linda (SFL)



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

hairspray

On Wednesday the 24th February, 68 of us, (yes 68!) headed along to the Edinburgh Playhouse to watch 'Hairspray' the musical. Pupils were super excited to watch the cast of the show, especially now that ours is truly underway. We all had a great time singing along to the songs of the show. A superb night was had by all and the cast was fabulous. Everyone left feeling uplifted, happy, and ready to shine in our own production.

School show

Rehearsals are well and truly underway now! Pupils are working hard and fighting through the tiredness for two hours after school every Tuesday night without fail! We have a giant cast this year, totaling 74 pupils. No matter how tired the pupils or we are, the uplifting songs and witty script of 'Hairspray' ensures we leave each rehearsal smiling! Following the success of 'Rent' last session, we are adding a fourth night to our show run this year. We will keep you updated for tickets etc! The countdown is now on for showtime!

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Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert was one of the best yet! We had the School band start the night, with performances from the brass ensemble, the junior ensemble, duets, solos and choirs. The night was filled to the brim with Christmas music. The standard of musicianship was high and pupils showed their musical talents in a number of ways. The audience left smiling and the pupils left beaming with pride following another successful event!



Theatre Trip

After a busy period in December of performing in a number of venues, it was time to let our hair down and take some of our music pupils for a well-deserved treat to the theatre. We went for a stroll around the German Markets, went for a bit of dinner and then carried on down to the playhouse to watch the latest production of 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert'. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the lively, up-beat show and were once again a credit to the school. A group of very sleepy pupils disembarked the bus back at the campus that night, the Christmas holidays clearly in sight!



Rotary

The annual Rotary competition was held in February at Lasswade High School Centre. Once again the standard was particularly high from all of the participating schools. Dalkeith entered five vocalists this session: Erin Munro, Bethany Legge, Anna Fitzpatrick, Anna McInnes and Catherine Thomson. The girls were great representatives for Dalkeith High and performed to a very high standard. Catherine Thomson was awarded second place in the vocalist category with her heart wrenching performance of 'Out Here on My Own' from Fame. All of the pupils did a fantastic job, once again showing the talent we have in Dalkeith High School.

Christmas Lights

The Choir was asked for the 4th consecutive year to perform at the annual switch-on of the Christmas Lights in Dalkeith Centre. We went to the church where they performed a stunning version of ‘Oh Holy Night’ followed by the theme song to the latest ‘Scrooge’ movie called ‘What If’. The songs went down incredibly well with the congregation. Due to bad weather, Santa was delayed, so the choir was asked to sing another. They sang ‘Ave Maria’ which they sang beautifully. When Santa arrived, we walked with the parade down the street and went to the community centre where there were sandwiches and hot drinks. The choir then led the carols whilst the local brass band played. It was another enjoyable festive outing for the choir.

Letts

The Dalkeith High School Choir were once again asked to perform at the annual ‘Letts’ employee Christmas Lunch. The pupils entertained the 150 Letts staff with a mixture of musical theatre numbers and festive Christmas tunes! The pupils had great fun, as did the employees. We performed for 45 minutes and were asked to perform for longer – a task the choir took in their stride! Each pupil left with a bit more confidence, a selection box and a gorgeous diary. They are already talking about next year’s songs to perform!



STUC

Dalkeith High was invited to submit entries for the STUC songwriting event to be held in Hillwood High School in Glasgow. The event was once again based on the theme of social justice. We submitted three entries from Dalkeith. These were songs written by Bethany Legge, Anna Fitzpatrick and Erin Munro. The pupils wrote the songs in Higher and Advanced Higher music after studying songs and lyrics by Bob Dylan and Sam Cooke around the idea of social justice. ‘Lucky Pennies’, ‘They Belong’ and ‘Fair Share’ were all received well by pupils from other schools and the panel of music industry specialists. The feedback from the panel was particularly strong and very encouraging. The girls came home with a beautiful glass plaque, which is now proudly displayed in the head teacher’s office. Another proud moment for the music department! Well-done girls!



EASTER REVISION PROGRAMME

Tuesday 29 March

Study Club	Teacher	Level	Time	Room
Modern Studies	Miss Harris	Nat 5	9.00-12.00	G108
Business Man	Mr Hamilton	Higher	9.00-12.00	G218
History	Mr Wilson	Nat 5	9.00-12.00	G109
History	Miss Harris	Higher	9.00-12.00	G108
Biology	Miss Smith	Nat 5	9.00-12.00	F233
Chemistry	Ms Davidson	H/Adv H	9.00-12.00	F223
Art & Design	All Staff	N3-Ad H	9.00-3.00	G307
Maths	Mrs Harcourt-Gill	Adv H	9.00-3.00	F114
History	Mr McGlade	Adv H	9.00-3.00	G111
Health & Food Tech	Miss Stenhouse	H/N5	12.00-3.00	F214
Admin & IT	Mr Hamilton	Higher	12.00-3.00	G218
Maths	Mrs H-Gill/Ms Nicol	Nat 5	12.00-3.00	F114
History	Mr Nisbet	Nat 5	12.00-3.00	G112
Biology	Miss Smith	Higher	12.00-3.00	F220
Chemistry	Ms Davidson	N5	12.00-3.00	F223

Wednesday 30 March

Study club	Teacher	Level	Time	Room
History	Mr McGlade	Higher	9.00-3.00	G111
Biology	Mrs Stewart-Young	Focus on Nat 5 All levels welcome	9.00-12.00	F233
Human Biology	Mrs Stewart-Young	Focus on Higher All levels welcome	12.00-3.00	F233

Thursday 31 March

Study club	Teacher	Level	Time	Room
Engineering Science	Mrs Kane	Nat 5	9.00-12.00	G212
Graphic Com	Miss Harvey	Higher	9.00-12.00	G202
Graphic Com	Miss Harvey	Nat 5	12.00-3.00	G202
Engineering Science	Mrs Kane	Higher	12.00-3.00	G212
Design & Manufacture	Mr Tams	N5/Higher	9.00-3.00	G205
History	Mr McGlade	Higher	9.00-3.00	G111

Tuesday 5 April

Study club	Teacher	Level	Time	Room
Geography	Miss Webb	Higher	9.00-12.00	F108
Modern Studies Social Issues/Sources	Mrs Ryan	Higher	9.00-12.00	F111
Maths	Mrs Harcourt-Gill	Adv H	9.00-3.00	F114
Modern Studies Africa/Sources	Miss Harris	Higher	12.00-3.00	G108

Wednesday 6 April

Club	Teacher in Charge	Level	Time	Room
Physics	Mr Jack	N5-Adv H	9.00-3.00	F221

Thursday 7 April

Club	Teacher in Charge	Level	Time	Room
Maths	Ms MacLeod/Mrs Harpur	Higher	9.00-3.00	F123

The English Department will run several clubs during the Easter holidays. Teachers will pass information of dates and times onto pupils during the last week of term.



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



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