



Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Friday 31 March 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

ypi[®]
YOUTH AND
PHILANTHROPY
INITIATIVE
SCOTLAND

YPI Scotland
. 3 .



Young Musician
. 5 .



Sports Update
. 8 .



Bronze DofE Group



Mrs E. Ormerod
Head Teacher

Head Teacher's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

The past six weeks have been a whirlwind. It's hard to believe that this time last year I was being interviewed by staff, pupils and parents for the Head Teacher post at Dalkeith High School. It has been an absolute pleasure to be welcomed into this school community and I have relished the challenge and opportunities presented to me every day. In fact, the past couple of weeks have reminded me why I am in education. I have had the absolute privilege to watch our young people in S2, present to their peer group about their chosen charity, for the chance to win them £3000 through the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. I was blown away by the creativity and confidence displayed on the day. This week our music pupils have been showcasing their talent at a range of different concerts. I attended the Young Musician of the Year and was delighted to see Mia Linn awarded with second prize for her performance on the night. As many of you will also know our U15 Girls Campus football team had their final league fixture last Wednesday. They won 9-1 which means they have won the league and kept their unbeaten run intact. Well done to all!

Last Friday we welcomed 15 Norwegian teachers to our school. They were given a real Dalkeith welcome with Lewis Allison piping them in to our school. They were blown away by our broad curriculum which offers something for everyone. They loved taking part in lessons across the school and commented on how engaged our learners were in their lessons. It was great to share our experiences and learn from our Norwegian counterparts. We hope to welcome them back soon.

As we draw to the end of term 2 we are starting to think about next year and the improvements we want to make for next session. We want to ensure our expectations of pupils and staff are high and

as such we are improving some of our policies across the school. Our mobile phone policy was presented to parent council on Tuesday evening after a one year pilot within two faculties. Pupil and parent feedback has been positive. We hope to finalise this policy by June 2023 in time for the new timetable. As mentioned in previous communication to you, we are in the middle of our uniform consultation. Pupil and Parent Council have engaged in focus groups to help us shape our new dress code policy. I am now welcoming input from our wider parental body and would encourage you to fill in the survey which will be sent to all parents via email next week. This survey will be open until the 17th of April.

We have some staff moving on to pastures new after the Easter holidays. Rachel Hamilton, Maths teacher leaves us to join a school in England. While Jason Moncrieff, Physics Teacher, is also leaving us to relocate to Ireland. We wish them both the best for their new roles. Please be reassured that our faculties have plans in place to support all classes from S1-S6. Supported study sessions are planned for the run up to the exams and as such no pupil should be disadvantaged as a result of news above. Interviews for these posts are imminent.

After the holidays our focus will be on our SQA exams. Study leave will start on Monday 24th April and I hope that pupils use the time between now and the start of the exam diet to focus on their revision. I would encourage pupils to take part in the Easter revision classes that are taking place across the two week break to support them in their preparation.

Finally, Happy Easter to all and enjoy the break. I hope it's a sunny one for everyone!

Emma Ormerod

League Champions!

A huge congratulations to our U15 Campus girls football team on winning the league! Our girls from S1-S3 have competed in the league against eight other teams from Midlothian and East Lothian. The girls managed to win every game which is a remarkable achievement in their first year and something that every player should be proud of. We are hoping that there will be a cup competition between now and the end of the year that the girls will also be able to compete for. We must also say a big thanks to our local community after we had reached out to try and get new strips for the team. Dalkeith Thistle Community Football Club kindly sponsored the team and we are very grateful. The strips are excellent, thank you!



Thank you!



Berlin Trip

The History department will be running a trip to Berlin on the 24-27th June 2024. Any S3-S5 pupil interested in this tour will be invited to a short meeting in Ms Riddell's room where they will be given a letter for parents with more detailed information. Time and date of the meeting will be shared with pupils on their return via posters and tannoy announcements.



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YOUTH AND
PHILANTHROPY
INITIATIVE
SCOTLAND

The YPI Final took place on 23 March and we are delighted to announce that the following group won £3000 for their chosen charity CCLASP - Children with Cancer and Leukaemia Advice and Support for Parents.

Sara Frandsen, Molly Buchan, Mariya Mohammed and Ruby MacDonald.

Massive congratulations to the girls and to all S2 pupils who delivered presentations. They all did themselves proud!



Bronze DofE

This year we have the largest S3 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award group that we have ever had, a total of 35 pupils! The group have recently completed their practice expedition in the Pentland hills where they walked for two days carrying all of their own supplies and camping equipment. The group camped at Bonaly Scout camp and really enjoyed cooking marshmallows on the bonfire! During the expedition the pupils were practicing their navigation and map reading skills in preparation for their assessment expedition that will take place in May. Good luck to all the pupils involved!



Easter Study Timetable 2022/23

Subject	Level	Teacher	Date	Time	Room
Maths	Higher Mat	Mr Shaw	3/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.18
Music	Higher	Mr Pyper	3/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F303
Music	Advanced Higher	Mr Pyper	3/4/2023	12:30pm - 3:00pm	F303
Music	National 5	Mr Carvel	3/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F305
Drama	National 5	Miss Thomson	3/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	Drama Studio
Drama	Higher	Miss Thomson	3/4/2023	12:30pm - 3:00pm	Drama Studio
Art and Design	Advanced Higher	Mrs Zielinski & Ms Kyle	3/4/2023	9.00am - 12.00pm	G303
History	Higher	S. Wilson	3/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	G109
Classical Studies	Higher	R. McGlade	3/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	G111
Engineering Science	National 5 / National 4	Mr Ambrose	3/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	G2.02
Graphic Communication	Adv Higher/Higher/N5/N4	Mr Young	3/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	G2.12
Maths	National 5	Ms Shankland	4/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.21
Maths	Advanced Higher	Mr Gibbs	4/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.20
Maths	Higher	Mr Gibbs	4/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.20
Application of Maths	Higher	Ms Shankland	4/4/2023	12:30pm - 3:00pm	F1.21
Chemistry	Higher / Advanced Higher	Mrs Lawson	4/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F2.25
Modern Studies	Higher	Ms O'Brien	4/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.08
Modern Studies	National 5	Ms O'Brien	4/4/2023	12:30pm - 3:00pm	F1.08
Dance	National 5	Mrs Gatti	5/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	Assembly hall
Dance	Higher	Mrs Gatti	5/4/2023	12:30pm - 3:00pm	Assembly Hall
Practical Cookery	National 5	Ms Pascolini	5/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F 2.14
Practical Cake Craft	National 5	Mrs Jarvis	5/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F 2.10
Maths	National 5	Mr Stirling	6/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.23
Application of Maths	National 5	Mr Stirling	6/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.23
Maths	Advanced Higher	Mr Gibbs	6/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.20
Biology/Human Biology	National 5 / Higher	Miss Miller	6/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F2.21
Application of Maths	National 5	Miss Hamilton	11/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.23
Chemistry	National 5	Ms Mackay	11/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F2.24
Biology/Human Biology	National 5 / Higher	Mr Craig	11/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F2.20
History	National 5	D. Holligan	11/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	G112
Engineering Science	Higher	Mrs Kane	11/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	G2.02
Biology/Human Biology	National 5 / Higher	Miss Macpherson	12/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F2.34
Geography	Higher	Mr Duncan	12/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F109
Modern Studies	Higher	Miss McDougall	13/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.13
Modern Studies	Advanced Higher	Miss McDougall	13/4/2023	12:30pm - 3:00pm	F1.13
Politics	Higher	Miss McDougall	14/4/2023	9.00am – 12.00pm	F1.13

Some in-school Study Sessions will operate during the Easter holiday. Details of the sessions on offer can be found on the timetable above. Pupils are not required to book a place on these sessions however teachers may gauge interest in order to prepare. Please note that no new content will be covered during these in-school sessions, instead they will provide an opportunity for young people to ask questions and consolidate previous learning.

As these sessions are running during the Easter Break, no school transport will be available and it will be a young person's responsibility to make their way to and from the school. If transport is causing difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In addition to the Easter Study Sessions, teachers will also be available during some periods of normal class time during the exam diet. Staff will share this information regarding these sessions via google classroom.

More information will follow with regards to study leave and SQA arrangements.

Craig Knight (Depute HT)

In the Classroom...



SfL Lunch Club pupils enjoyed a fun time Easter cake decorating with Mr Robertson. The Lunch Club encourages all types of activities. We will have an Easter Egg race plus an Easter Egg Hunt. The pupils all enjoy the social interaction.

Midlothian Young Musician of the Year

The final of the Midlothian Young Musician of the Year took place on Monday the 27th of March, at which Dalkeith pupils Maggi Boyd and Mia Linn took part along with 13 other finalists from the six Midlothian secondary schools. Mia came in second place after a wonderful performance of her chosen song, 'Little Miss Perfect'. The standard of all 15 performers was exceptionally high and both Mia and Maggi's performances were a testament to the hard work and dedication they have put into their singing over the years. Well done to Mia and Maggi!



The Essentials Hub

Essentials





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WELLBEING EVENING

Promoting Positive Wellbeing Information Evening – Thursday 20th April, 7pm -8pm.

At Dalkeith High School we strive to promote pupil self-care and positive wellbeing. Building on the success of previous wellbeing information evenings we invite you to join us once again. This will be an opportunity for parents and carers to hear from professionals regarding some of the most relevant current concerns around young peoples wellbeing.

Speakers include:

Eilidh MacIver – Educational Psychologist

Nancy Burns – Therapeutic Service Manager, Midlothian Young Persons Advice Service (MYPAS)

Sharleen Muir - Relaxation and Massage

Positive wellbeing is fundamental to enable young people to thrive and we look forward to working together to support this.

Information regarding booking a place has been emailed to parents and carers. Places are limited. If you require any further information regarding this please contact Mrs McDermott.



Social Security Scotland's Local Delivery service in Midlothian are now holding drop in 'information sessions' across Midlothian on a monthly basis. The next session at Dalkeith Library is 11th April 10:00 – 13:00 and subsequently the second Tuesday of every month going forward. These sessions aim to raise awareness of the benefits Social Security Scotland deliver and also offer advice on how to apply. Please go to <https://edublog.mgfl.net/dalkeithhs/2023/03/29/social-security-scotlands-local-delivery-service/> or scan the QRcode on the right to take you to more information on the Dalkeith High School website.



SQA Update

The main SQA examination diet will run from Monday 24th April to Wednesday 31st May inclusive. Arrangements for Study Leave this session are as follows:

- S4 Pupils with 3 or more National 5 Examinations and all S5/S6 pupils will have full Study Leave running from Monday 24th April to Wednesday 31st May Inclusive. Young people do not need to attend school unless they have an examination or wish to attend a study session confirmed by their teacher through Google Classroom. Other times should be spent productively completing home study.
- S4 Pupils with 1 or 2 examinations will be entitled to the 2 school days prior to each examination as Study Leave. Young people who fall into this category should attend the Employability Programme being offered in the school at all other times. More information regarding this programme will follow in due course.
- S4 Pupils who do not have any formal exams should follow the Employability Programme. During the examination period these pupils will also be able to complete any remaining coursework/assessments to allow these qualifications to be achieved.

Exceptional Circumstances

In the event that a young person is unable to attend an exam in exceptional situations, contact should be made to the school on the day of the exam before 8:40am. In some cases the Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS) will support young people who are unable to attend an exam. This service will be available for young people in the exceptional situations listed below:

- A young person has been unable to attend an exam, or prevented from completing the exam, due to a personal circumstance beyond their control (such as a medical issue).
- A young person has been impacted during an exam by a disruption or another exam circumstance reported by the chief invigilator.
- A young person's performance in the exam was impacted by a personal circumstance, or an unplanned incident on the day which was beyond their control.

A request to this service must be submitted within 10 days after the exam therefore absence or other disruption must be reported to the school on the day of the exam. We will then provide alternative assessment evidence to the SQA. SQA examiners will review this along with any exam materials that a young person completed to decide a grade.

Appeals

Appeals 2023 is a free service that a young person can use if they have genuine concerns about a grade. This year's appeal service will have a different process to the one used last year as alternative assessment evidence will not be looked at. This year if a young person appeals against their grade, a senior marker will carry out a marking review of their SQA-marked assessments. Please note, this is not a re-mark.

A marking review checks that:

- All parts of an assessment have been marked.
- The marking is in line with national standards.
- The marks given for each answer have been totalled correctly.
- The correct result has been entered on SQA systems.

A young person should discuss their decision to appeal as soon as possible after getting their results. Please note that after being reviewed, result could stay the same, go up or go down. More information is available at www.sqa.org.uk/appeals. Please note that a letter confirming this information along with a copy of your young person's timetable and other SQA information will be sent to you the week beginning the 3rd April.

Craig Knight
Depute Headteacher

BOXING

Dylan Jones, S6, competed in the Golden Gloves championship under 71kg category against a fighter from Dundee University and came out number 1. This is his first ever Scottish title. Exciting opportunities coming his way, so watch this space. After winning his Golden Gloves Scottish title at the beginning of March Liam Flynn, S4, was selected for Scotland, so headed to train in France and fight against the Dutch. Good Luck Liam.



HANDBALL

Our Sport and Recreation pupils were very lucky to be given the opportunity to receive a Coaching the fundamentals of Handball Qualification this term. This was a fully funded opportunity by Handball Scotland. All pupils are now qualified to deliver coaching sessions to the younger pupils in the community.



TRAMPOLINE & DMT

Harvey Houlston, S4, has had a long list of successes so far with his trampoline and DMT career. He was selected this year to be part of Scottish Gymnastics Performance Program and this term he has managed to secure a spot to compete at the Nationals. Good luck Harvey.



SWIMMING

Congratulations to Anna Lawson, S2, and Ava Marco, S2, who both competed in the East District Swimming Championships 2023. Ava won a silver medal in the Fly stroke and Anna won bronze in the Breast stroke. Well done girls!

GYMNASTICS

Grace Sharp, S2, competed at her first ever Scottish Championships this term for Gymnastics with Edinburgh City Gymnastics Club. Please go to the PE Instagram (@pe_at_dhs) for some videos of her amazing performances. She narrowly missed out on medals in two of her events. What an achievement. Well done Grace.



CROSS COUNTRY



After his Bronze medal win at the Scottish Schools' Cross Country Championships at Hopetoun House, Andrew McWilliam, S4, was selected to represent Scotland in the British Schools' Championships. The race took place in Liverpool and Andrew's 6th place finish against the top runners in the UK helped secure Scotland a second place team finish. Well done Andrew.



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