



# Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Friday 19 May 2023

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*Jessica Clegg, S5 Photography*



Mrs E. Ormerod  
Head Teacher

# Head Teacher's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

The school feels very empty without our senior pupils, but we know this revision time is invaluable to them. I have been very impressed by the level of commitment our senior pupils have shown during their exams. It is lovely to see so many of them testing each other with their study cards before exams start. I hope that revision time at home has been going well and everyone is managing to get some rest in between exam prep.

Recruitment continues as we prepare for next session. Our newly qualified teachers have been allocated to our school and that has helped us consider fixed term vacancies for the year ahead. Currently, the posts we have on myjobscotland are:

- Permanent Teacher of Maths – Replacing Ms Hamilton, who left before the Easter holiday.
- Fixed term, Teacher of Geography – replacing Mr Cormack as he takes up his post in our new nurture hub

Unfortunately, we have not yet secured a computing teacher for next session. We are working with our colleagues in neighbouring secondary schools to ensure that no pupil misses out on the opportunity to study computing in the senior phase. Digital literacy and computing will continue to be taught by our CDT staff, who are busy preparing resources for next session.

We are delighted to be able to develop and put resources into a new nurture provision. This provision will support young people with social and emotional needs. We hope to better support our young people by offering more interventions like this across the school. Mr Cormack, is excited to put his stamp on this new provision and will be working closely with some of our S1 – S3 pupils from August.

We are now in improvement planning season and thinking ahead to next session. All staff will engage in setting improvement priorities during the May in-service day. Next week pupils in the BGE (S1-S3) will engage in focus groups to share what they believe should be our improvement priorities around learning, teaching and assessment, curriculum, wellbeing, raising attainment and inclusion. There will be parental focus groups to discuss the same topics, which we hope many of you will attend. I will send an email to parents about this separately.

Planning is under way for our S6 leavers' graduation on the 1st of June. We are looking forward to celebrating formally with our outgoing pupils and their families. On the same day, we welcome back our new S6 cohort who will be taking part in an induction day which will focus on aspiration and leadership, while also setting expectations for the year ahead.

It was a delight to see so many S1 parents/carers at our S1 Parent consultation this week. It was a very positive evening from staff, pupils and parents point of view. Well done to all our S1 pupils for their hard work and perseverance over the past year.

Our dress code consultation has now come to a close. There will be a separate email sent to all parents which will contain the consultation paper and the draft policy. I want to thank the whole school community for their invaluable input in this consultation. We hope that this new policy will build on, and strengthen our school's ethos and culture.

Finally, don't forget that Monday the 22nd of May is an in-service day for staff and as such the school is closed to pupils, unless they are sitting an SQA exam.

Have a lovely weekend.  
Emma Ormerod

## Golf Champions 2023!

A massive congratulations to the DHS Golf team on winning the 2022/23 Midlothian Golf league.

Tristan Tiley, Adam Bowen, Ben Inglis, Andrew McWilliam, Josh Huton and Lewis Brown represented the school very well this year. r

### Final League Standings

- Dalkeith 23 points
- Beeslack 19 points
- Newbattle 14 points
- Penicuik 11 points
- Lasswade 6 points
- St David's 0 points



## BGE AWARDS

The BGE Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday 15th June @ 7pm. All S1-S3 pupils who have been nominated for a prize will be notified by 25th May. Letters will be sent home to parents of all the prize winners and a notice will be put up at the ballerina for pupils to check.

This is always a wonderful event where we get an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our S1-S3 pupils.

# Berlin in 2024

The History Department will be running a trip to Berlin from Monday 24th June to Thursday 27 June 2024 during the last week of term. This trip is offered to current S3-S5 pupils.

The trip will aim to deepen understanding of life in Germany during the Third Reich and to the background and tragic events of the Final Solution. These are topics that are studied at both National and Advanced Higher History level. A variety of educational visits will include a walking tour in Berlin with highlights including the Reichstag, Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Soviet Memorial and Checkpoint Charlie. We also plan to visit the House of Wannsee where the 'Final Solution' conference was held. We will also visit Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp which is situated north of Berlin where political enemies of the Nazi state were sent from 1936. We will be travelling with National School Travel, a professional tour company ([www.nstgroup.co.uk](http://www.nstgroup.co.uk)). The cost of the trip will be £680 per pupil

In order to secure a place deposits must be submitted by 26th May. Ask Ms Riddell for more information.


# Bronze DofE Expedition

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh have now completed their assessment expedition in East Lothian using sections of the John Muir way and wild camping on Tynninghame Beach. The group were lucky to have some nice weather for the expedition and really enjoyed watching the sun set over the beach with bass rock in the back ground. This year has seen the largest every Bronze group at DHS and many of the pupils are already looking forward to the challenge of taking on the Silver award.

Applications for current S2's to take part in the award will begin at the start of June. Mr Gibbs will be sharing with pupils some information about the award and will issue application forms during maths lessons.



## Steps to Wellbeing


 **be active**

Being active makes us feel good. Choose an activity you enjoy. Dance in your bedroom, skip in your garden, throw a frisbee with a friend or try an exercise video at home. Do whatever activity makes you happy.

*"The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."*

Confucius

Background image by Holly, Higher Photography

 **connect**

Being connected makes us feel good. Text a friend or family member. Say "hi" to an old friend. Set up a group chat with people who have similar interests or join a club. Talk to a teacher. Making connections is just one of the steps you can take to improve your wellbeing.

*"Small steps can help people make big changes to achieve what they really desire. That wish isn't going to go anywhere unless you do something about it. Every day, just do one thing. At the end of six months, you'll be somewhere."*

Marlo Thomas

Background image by Katrina, Higher Photography

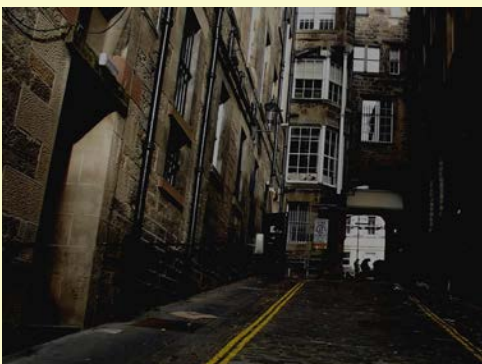
# Photography Competitions

Well done to the pupils who entered the Photography competitions run by “The Scottish Civic Trust” and “Edinburgh College”. Both competitions welcomed Photography students from across Scotland to explore and capture images linked to specific themes.

The Scottish Civic Trust 'My Place' Photography competition encouraged pupils to explore The Built Environment including buildings, architecture and archaeology in the places they live. They were encouraged to experiment with photography as a means of investigation and creative expression. Congratulations to the following S4 pupils; Jeen Ahmad, Jessica Glen, Rebecca Curran, Maja Frandsen and Mirin Bain whose work has featured in the online gallery. Their fantastic entries along with a wide variety of other students from across Scotland can be viewed at the following web address; <https://myplacescotland.org.uk/gallery-my-place-photography-2023/> If you head to page four you can see the excellent entries from the Dalkeith High School pupils.


The competition run by Edinburgh College was part of their “Festival of Talent”. The competition was open to Scottish secondary pupils in S1 – S6. Pupils were asked to submit entries based on the themes ‘My Surroundings’ and ‘My Family’. The themes were very open therefore allowing pupils the opportunity to explore their creativity in a wealth of ways. Congratulations to Jessica Clegg (S5) and Rebecca Curran (S4) who entered from Dalkeith High School and were recognised as examples of ‘excellent practice’ by the panel of judges. Jessica and Rebecca will receive their prizes on their return to school following study leave – congratulations!!


A very big well done to all pupils who entered the two competitions. The Art, Design and Photography department are very proud of their successes and are delighted that our young people are exploring their creativity through the camera lens in and outside of the classroom.




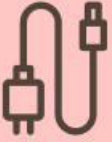
# LEAVERS - RETURN YOUR CHROMEBOOK


## IN 6 EASY STEPS


- 

1. Email any files you want to keep to your personal email address
- 


2. Log out of the device and power it down
- 

3. Remove any stickers/labels and clean with an antibacterial wipe
- 

4. Put the charger in the case with the device
- 

5. Return the device, case and charger to school
- 

6. Sign out of your school Google account on all personal devices



All S4-S6 leavers should return their Chromebook, case and charger to the school office as soon as possible.

## Minibeasts in the HIVE



The Hive have been learning about minibeasts this term. We have been fascinated to watch as our caterpillars grew and changed into chrysalides. We are so excited that 3 butterflies have emerged and we are waiting for the last one. We plan to release them in the school garden later this week!



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