



Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Wednesday 28 June 2023

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Mrs E. Ormerod
Head Teacher

Head Teacher's Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I cannot believe it is the end of term and what an end of term it has been. Our last full week in school was spent raising money for Turkey and Syria. Our S3 pupils spent time organising and preparing activities for the whole school to enjoy. The staff vs pupil football match was a highlight with a 6 all final score. There were some very sore staff at the end of the day! A huge well done to everyone who took part in the day, including everyone who donated for a great cause.

Last week, I had the absolute pleasure of appointing our Senior School Captains. I am delighted to announce that the successful pupil leaders are:

Kenzie Doctor
Maya Macdonald
Guy Ward
Georgia Bain

Everyone who put themselves forward for this role should be very proud of themselves. Their input in developing our pupil leadership team will be essential next session.

On Tuesday night our Expressive Arts Faculty along with Dance, put on the most incredible show for parents and carers. The foyer was full of thought provoking art work and photography, all created by our pupils. As we moved into the assembly hall, there were hilarious and immersive drama performances from BGE Drama clubs right up to Higher Drama performances. The music throughout the night from individual pupils to ensembles blew me away. And the dance performances were excellent. This event was a real celebration of the talent we have within our school community. The staff and pupils should be so proud of their achievements, and of the confidence they had to stand up and perform in front of such a large crowd.

We had another busy week with recruitment:

Amy Sutherland, PT Enhanced and Complex Needs (The HIVE) leaves us at the end of August to take on a new role within Midlothian Council. Mr Dean Black will replace Amy in her role at Dalkeith from the end of August. We look forward to having him join our team.

Ms Sandra Viniegra has been appointed as a Teacher of Spanish on a fixed term contract.

Ms Kirstie Maclaine, Curriculum Leader of PE, has been on a career break for the past year and half. She has made the decision to not return to Dalkeith High School. As a result we will advertise for a permanent replacement in the new session. Until that date, Ms Gayle Gattie and Mr Fraser Agnew will continue in their acting role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kirstie for everything she has done for Dalkeith and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Thank you to Joanna Jarvis, Teacher of HE; Roxy Banks, Teacher of Art; Nicola Pay, Teacher of English and Kirk Shaw, Teacher of Maths who all leave us today. We wish them all the best and thank them for their hard work and dedication to our staff and pupils.

It is not only the end of my first year as Head Teacher but also my first year as Head Teacher at Dalkeith High School. It has certainly been a whirlwind but I can honestly say that I have been made to feel most welcome by the pupils, staff and parents. I want to thank you all for your continued support and guidance. It has been and will continue to be my privilege to work with and for our young people at Dalkeith High School.

Have a lovely summer holiday with friends and family. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday the 16th of August for our first day of term.

Emma Ormerod

Careers

Barbara Moir is our School's Careers Adviser from Skills Development Scotland. Barbara works with our pupils to support them with their career management skills and planning. She will be working over the Summer to find out how our leavers are getting on and can tell you about vacancies, apprenticeships, college and university courses.

You can explore career ideas on www.myworldofwork.co.uk and find out about apprenticeships at www.apprenticeships.scot

For information on local vacancies, also keep a check on www.edubuzz.org/midandeastvacancies

If you have any queries about career plans, please contact Barbara on barbara.moir@sds.co.uk

Honey!

Our bees have been super busy already this summer, so we have extracted an early batch of honey. You can purchase a jar of Scottish Blossom Honey for £5 (224g), from Mr McGlade. Proceeds will go back into maintaining the apiary.



DofE Silver Expedition

21 pupils from S5 have successfully completed and passed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Assessment expedition. The expedition took place in the Trossachs with a beautiful route from Loch Ard and finishing west of Loch Venachar.

The group all coped extremely well with hot and sunny temperatures and the thousands of midges! A fantastic achievement to all pupils involved and we hope to see lots of you continuing on to Gold Duke of Edinburgh next year.



Expressive Arts Showcase

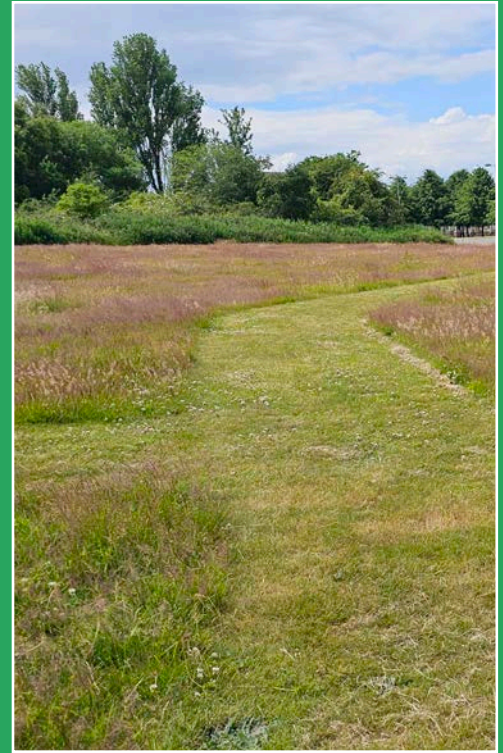
This week we were delighted to present an Expressive Arts Showcase of learning from S1-S6 pupils studying Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Photography. Performances included a range of acts including creative contemporary dance, humorous performances from our Junior Drama Club; upbeat musical performances from our folk band, uplifting performances from our various music ensembles and many more! The display of talent across all subject areas was hugely impressive and we are extremely proud of the passion, dedication and commitment our young people have put into preparing for this evening. A huge thank you to all the staff, parents and pupils involved in making the evening a great success!

@DalkeithHS_Arts



Rewilding Dalkeith Campus

At Dalkeith High School we're incredibly lucky to have large areas of open green space for pupils and members of the public to use and if you've been down for a visit recently, you may have noticed that some of these areas have undergone a bit of a change. Until now, the grassy areas have been regularly and very closely mown and their chief virtue was that they looked very neat and tidy. However, this mowing regime created what were essentially green deserts devoid of life; given that we have lost 97% of grass meadows since the end of the Second World War and Scotland ranks 212th out of 240 countries studied for nature depletion, we decided some of the grass could be put to better use. Working with St David's High School, the Midlothian Ranger Service, BAM and Midlothian Council we identified three areas that could be developed as perennial grass meadows. Paths have been mown through them so that they can still be used but other than that, the grass will only be cut (and crucially lifted and taken away) once in September. Over time this will reduce the soil fertility and allow more wildflowers to compete with the grasses. The long grass and flowers will massively boost the number of insects and this should in turn support a growing population of birds and other species. The pictures you can see are of the ditches that mark out the boundaries and they have only been cut once a year for three years now and you can see the huge variety of wildflowers that have appeared on their own and how attractive they are to bees and other pollinators. Given the grave environmental threats our planet faces, we believe that it's important for our pupils to connect with nature and do what we can to make our communities more sustainable. Our pupils will help manage the meadows, litter pick and take part in biodiversity studies but we also recognise that these areas are used by a range of people who will be interested in supporting our project. If you'd like to know more about how you can get involved in helping to establish, maintain and protect our meadow then please email your contact details to Dalkeith High School dalkeith.hs@midlothian.gov.uk and mark it for the attention of Mr McGlade.



Salon on Campus

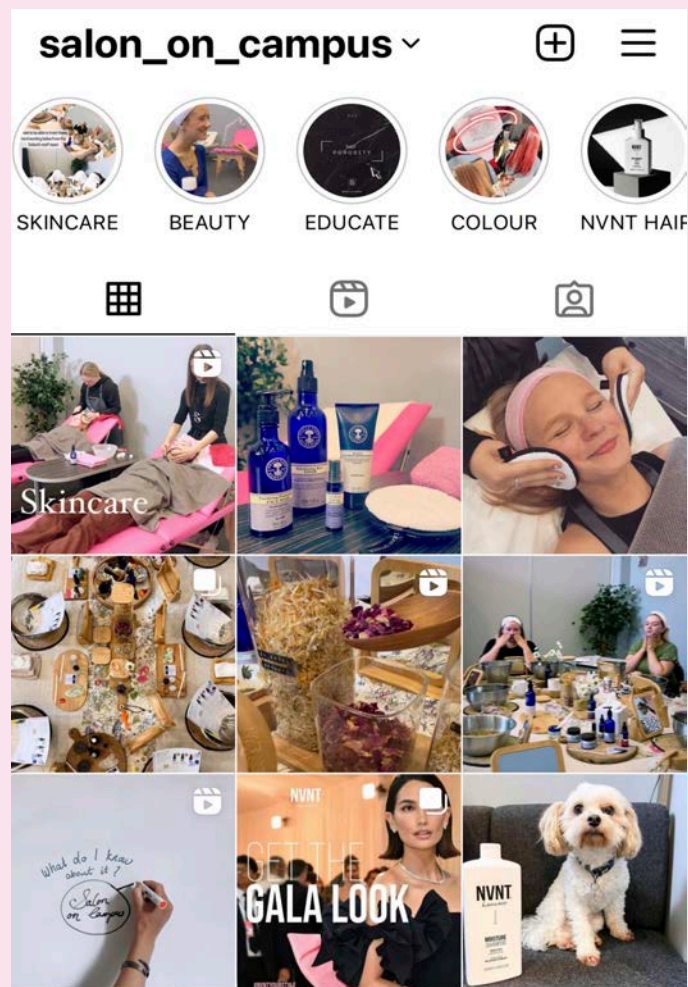
Salon on Campus would like to thank all staff for their support over the past few months as we relaunched, rebranded, and requested many students out of class for assessment. Your cooperation and enthusiasm has been much appreciated and valued.

We are really looking forward to what the next academic year brings with new courses and opportunities, interdisciplinary learning across subject areas and the possibility of introducing enterprise with staff and parent access to salon and products.

We launched an Instagram page @salon_on_campus to showcase learning, network with local industry and use as a platform to raise our visibility. Please follow along if you have an account, would be great to 'see' you there

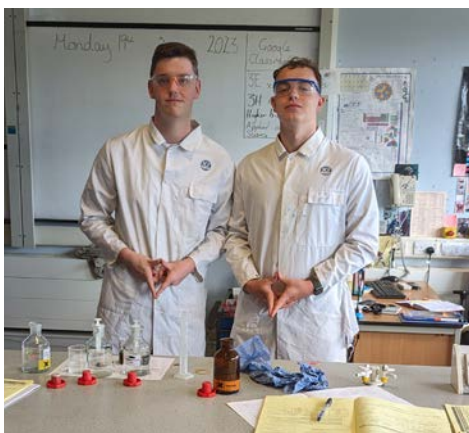
Thanks for a great year

Salon on Campus



Chemistry

Higher Chemistry pupils have been working hard on their experiments for the Chemical Changes and Structure unit. This week we were doing the Iodine clock challenge which yielded great results!



The Mr Duncan Art Prize

Every year, Mr Duncan challenges the pupils in S2 Art and Design to create a range of creative, interesting sea life inspired artworks. Pupils have worked hard to develop a range of work using a variety of art materials and techniques over the month of June, resulting in some fantastic artworks! Mr Duncan and the Art Department were very impressed with the level of talent and skill of all pupils who entered the competition, and are pleased to announce that this year's winners are Yvie B, Antonia L and Freya W. The winners were awarded with a unique fish themed prize and will have their artworks displayed in the art corridor to celebrate their success. Well done to everyone who entered, and congratulations to the winning artists!



Fundraiser

Junior pupils in the Languages Department organised a fundraising day for the people affected by the Turkey / Syria earthquake. A Bake Sale, Teachers v's Pupils Football, Sponsored Run, Sponge the Teacher and the Ice Bucket Challenge were just some of the events on the day. The total raised will be announced later and more photos will be in the next bulletin, but here is a sneak preview!



Scottish Schools' Athletics



On the 9th and 10th of June individuals who made the entry standard to compete at the highest level of schools competition in Scotland were selected to compete at Grangemouth in the Scottish Schools' Athletics Championships. We had many personal bests over 2 days of competition, during very warm conditions. Some pupils were competing in their first Scottish level competition. Andrew McWilliam secured a Bronze medal in the 3k.



Sponsorship Required!

Our talented athletics group are seeking sponsorship going into the next school year. Our current vests are over 20 years old and we would love to invest in some new ones. We have been unable to field large teams to a number of events due to coach travel and entry fee costs. If there is any business out there interested in helping our athletes grow and compete against the independent schools then we would love to hear from you. Please contact the PE department via email if you are able to help: s.wilson6@midlothian.education



Pentathlon Success!

A team of 4 U14 pentathletes competed at the Scottish Schools Multi-event Championship at Grangemouth Stadium. Anna Lawson, Beth McWilliam, Emma Thomson and Evie Burnett took part in the high jump, shot putt, hurdles, 200m and 800m races in the middle of a heat wave. All four athletes did the school proud with a bronze medal for Anna and some stellar performances by all 4 first time multi eventers.



Midlothian Athletics Champions!



On the First of June Dalkeith fielded a team of 37 pupils from S1-S3 to compete in the Midlothian Schools' Athletics Championships. We came back with 18 gold medals and the over all winning team shield! There were so many amazing performances on the day and all participants had a part to play as every point counted towards the win. Our medal winners were:

S2

Anna Lawson - 200m, 100m and Relay
Grace Sharp - Hurdles and Relay
Libby Ferries - Relay
Aiden Robertson - 800m

S3

Ruby Mann - Relay
Becca Cochrane - Relay
Liam Hay - Discus

S1

Ruadhan Perring-Montoya - Long Jump

Alister Roy - S1-3 1500m

Emma Thomson - S1-3 1500m, Javelin and relay

Beth McWilliam - S2 800m and relay

Yvie Burnett S1-3 High Jump and relay



Sports Day

We were very lucky to have the weather on our side this year as the whole school suspended timetable to join us on the track for an afternoon of athletics and fun events. Home economics made hotdogs to sell as part of their Skills for Work Hospitality course to keep us fuelled up and the local icecream van took the edge of the heat. We had some great spectacles of talent on show as well as lots of bravery and effort by those who joined in last minute to represent their house and earn points. The winners of each event were presented with a gold medal and the Winning house this year was Melville. Well done to all who participated.





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Dalkeith High School PTA & PC



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