



Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Friday 1 September 2023

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By Evie Mortimer, S6



Mrs E. Ormerod
Head Teacher

Head Teacher's Update

Maths Department Assessments

Please find a summary of approximate dates for block tests in the Maths Dept; dates are subject to change but should give an indication of when to look out for test and revision information.

The department often re-arranges classes following assessments to ensure that all pupils are following the best pathway for them. Progression pathways are sent home with the coursing information at the relevant coursing time.

Pupils will receive details of the specific test dates nearer the time, via their class teacher. These, along with suitable revision material, will also be posted on their Google Classrooms.

- S1: October / February / May
- S2: November / February / May
- S3/4: class dependent
- S5/6: September / October / Nov-Dec (FA 1) / January / March (FA 2)



Dear Parent/Carer,

This is our first bulletin of the school session. I hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday with your young people, although just now, it may seem like a distant memory. We have, as you would expect, had a busy start to the year.

During our first week back staff and pupils engaged with our new policies which have been rolled out this year. These include policies on the following:

- Dress code
- Positive Relationships

Attendance and punctuality
All of these policies will help us to set and maintain high expectations of each other, while also continuing to strengthen our school's culture and ethos.

I want to thank families for their continued support with our new dress code. I have been so proud of our school's effort to develop our identity. We have had many positive reports from members of our wider community saying how smart our young people look. Well done to the pupils for their efforts.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our pupils who achieved their National Qualifications. We have seen an improvement in our whole school attainment and this is down to the hard work, dedication and perseverance of our pupils. To that end, we will celebrate with our young people on Thursday the 7th of September at our Senior Awards ceremony. During this ceremony our DUX awards will also be given. We look forward to celebrating with you all then.

As with most new terms, we welcome new staff to the school community. Erin Adam, Business, Bethany Dunion, Drama, Lucy McIntosh, Geography, Christopher Stirling, Maths, Emma McBride, Pupil Care and Welfare Officer and Stephanie Bauld, Learning Assistant.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Amy Sutherland, PT Enhanced and Complex Needs Provision who has been at Dalkeith High School for 17 years. I want to thank Amy for the work she has done to support our young people within the HIVE. Amy moves on to a role within Midlothian Council supporting

the Inclusion team and we wish her the best of luck. With that we welcome Dean Black, as the new PT of Enhanced and Complex Needs. Dean comes from Carrongrange High School and we are delighted to welcome him to Dalkeith High School.

Kirstie Maclaine, substantive PT PE, who was on a career break has made the decision not to return to Dalkeith. As a result a permanent PT PE post is currently live and will close within two weeks.

We say good luck to Ms Heggie, who starts her maternity leave on Monday the 4th of September. She will be missed but we are looking forward to seeing baby pictures of the new arrival in due course. This maternity post has been re-advertised and closes shortly.

I had the pleasure this week to meet with our School Captains, Guy Ward, Georgia Bain and Maya Macdonald. They have some exciting new opportunities which will be shared with pupils over coming weeks. Please also look out for the school captain articles which will appear in the next school bulletin.

Finally, at Dalkeith High School we are lucky to have a vibrant Parent Council. Parent/Carer voice is essential to the improvement cycle of our school. Our Parent Council was supported last year by Cara Chambers as the Parent Council Chair and Diane Ward as one of the parent council office bearers. Their support has been second to none and I want to extend my gratitude to them for their dedication to our school during their time in post. Unfortunately, both Cara and Diane are stepping down and we are in search for new office bearers. As mentioned before the work done within this group is essential to the running of our school and I would welcome all parents to join our first meeting on Monday the 4th of September at Dalkeith High School. This meeting will start at 7pm. Please come along to find out more about the impact you can have on our school by being part of this collective team.

Have a lovely weekend.

Emma Ormerod

Nurture Base

Last week we launched our new Nurture Base at Dalkeith High School. Pupils can attend nurture for a variety of reasons but this could be to help improve their social, emotional or behavioural skills. Pupils will attend the base for Soft Starts in the morning, 1-1 Sessions, Lunch Clubs and Nurture Groups. During Nurture Groups pupils will work on tasks to help improve areas such as their confidence, peer relationships, anxiety, attendance and engagement in school.

Lunch clubs will run every lunchtime for S1-S3 in the Nurture Base and anyone is welcome to join. The clubs are:

Monday- Football highlights (Match of the Day club)

Tuesday- Film Club

Wednesday- Board Games and Jigsaws

Thursday- Quiet Space



Active Schools Training Opportunities

August & September 2023

Training Opportunities

Introduction to Coaching Children 

Developed as part of sportscotland's physical literacy CPD pathway, this course has been designed to support new coaches, volunteers, students, parents /careers & school staff working with children aged 5-12

Friday 15th September 1.30-4.30pm Dalkeith Campus

Basketball Leaders 

This course will develop your skills in leading or supporting sessions for young people U14

Friday 29th September 1.30pm-4.30pm The Penicuik Centre

How to Book & Further Information

RLSS Emergency First Aid at Work: £8 p/p

Hockey Leaders (school staff only): FREE

Introduction to Coaching Children: FREE

Basketball Leaders: £15 p/p

As these courses are low cost or free of charge, Active Schools would require all candidates once trained to complete a minimum of 3hours volunteering leading or supporting school based sports clubs. Support will be provided.

Contact: activeschools@midlothian.gov.uk for booking & with questions.

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August & September 2023

Training Opportunities

RLSS EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK 

Aimed at volunteers, school staff, parents & carers this one-day First Aid training course covers a range of CPR and first aid skills providing you with the knowledge to deal with injuries/ some illness and also reduce risks in the workplace

Course 1: Tuesday 29th August 9am-4pm
Or
Course 2: Tuesday 12th December 9am-4pm

Both courses take place at Lasswade Centre

Hockey Leaders 

This coaching session is aimed at school teachers and other school staff only, to support the delivery of hockey in PE and out of the curriculum as part of a school sports club

Thursday 7th September 3.45pm-5pm Lasswade Centre

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The School Garden

During the school holidays some green fingered staff members gathered together to take on the immense task of tidying the school garden. Armed with shovels, pick axes, saws, trowels and even a pressure washer, the team, directed by head gardener Mr McGlade, got stuck into the weeds that had taken over the flower beds and pathways. Mrs Kyle provided a gentle cooling water spray as she pressure washed the paths and raised beds. Bags of litter were cleared from the hedges and piles of very smelly dead leaves and weeds were netted from the ponds. The gardening group intend to meet again soon to continue with the makeover. Huge thanks to all who helped out. If anyone wants to get involved, or make a donation of plants or other gardening products, please contact Mrs Zielinski in Art. Some before and after pictures of the garden are attached.



Cabin Crew Experience

This week pupils from Travel & Tourism have been taking part in a simulated Cabin Crew experience at Edinburgh College. Pupils were assigned job roles and acted out a variety of role plays throughout the day in a simulated work environment.

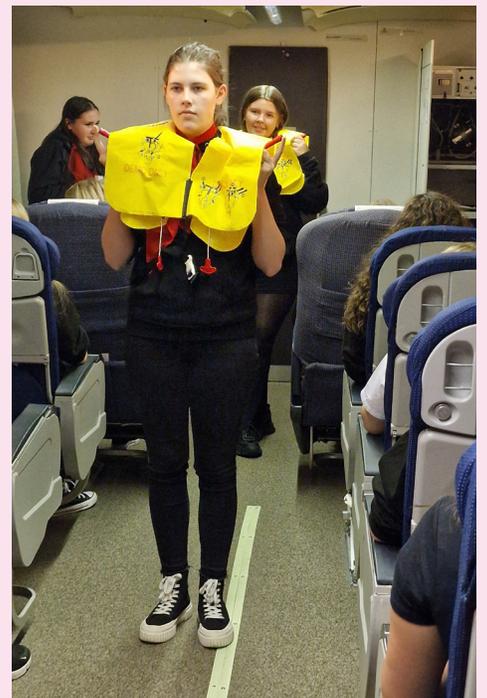
Some of these roles included:

The boarding process – Helping passengers to their seats, dealing with any problems during the boarding process and conducting a welcome announcement.

The safety demo – Demonstrate the safety instructions and conduct the safety announcement, securing the cabin making sure passenger's seats are upright, and seatbelts are fastened

Service – Carry out a food and drink service, and conduct a passenger announcement

Pupils had a fantastic time and many are now considering applying for courses in the Aviation sector!



Young Handler of the Year!



Congratulations to Lewis Durrant, 2B1, who won Young Handler of the Year at Bute Agricultural Show. This was a trophy he has had his eye on for a few years and worked really hard to achieve it.

He also won best Dairy Calf in show on the day.

The work that goes into this is relentless. Many early starts, training the cow to walk properly, getting her used to him being so close, washing her and giving her the all important hair cuts!

His passion on the day was glaring out of him.

The judge was very impressed with his dedication and diligence.

S2 Outdoor Learning Sept-Dec



S2 Outdoor Learning Days will begin every Tuesday from 5th September until the Christmas break. S2 pupils will all get the opportunity to go out mountain biking into East Lothian for a full day. Participation levels were well over 90% last year and pupil feedback was very positive! Letters have been sent home from the school office with more information. Please can Parents/Carers return Parental Consent forms to ensure their child can take part in this fantastic opportunity. If you require any more information please email Mr Agnew f.agnew@midlothain.education



Honey!

Our first batch of Scottish Blossom Honey is available to purchase at £5 for a 227g jar. Our spring crop, produced a limited quantity, however, much more will be available when we harvest our summer crop next week. All proceeds from the sale of our honey goes into funding sustainability and outdoor learning classes for the school.



CAREERS ADVICE

To Good careers advice is essential for effective career planning. Barbara Moir is the Careers Adviser for Dalkeith High School. Barbara's usual days in School are Monday to Thursday where she can be found in the School Library.

See the notice board at the back of the School's library for information on vacancies, college, university and volunteering. There is also a Careers Section in the School Library which is useful for information on college, university, applying for work and training as well as gap year activities.

Barbara can be contacted by email at Barbara.moir@sds.co.uk or by phoning her on 07887 831027. If she is not in school, please call 0131 663 7287 and one of her colleagues at Skills Development Scotland can help you.

Parent Council & PTA

The Parent Council is the formal body which represents all parents and carers of pupils at Dalkeith HS. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 makes provision for all parents to be members of the Parent Forum at a school, and to have their views represented to the school, education authority and others, through a representative Parent Council for the school.

Our PTA is a less formal body which supports the school at a number of events during the school year. Fund-raising occasions have included quizzes, fashion shows and even Strictly Dalkeith-style. Through the commitment and dedication of the parents, funds are raised annually and donated to the Pupil Voice. These funds are then disbursed in the best interests of our young people.

The first Parent Council meeting and AGM will take place on Monday the 4th of September at Dalkeith High School from 7pm. As always we look forward to meeting current and new parent council members.

Senior Awards Ceremony

The DHS Senior Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday 7th September at 7pm. Names of those who have won a prize are displayed next to the ballerina and letters have been posted home. We look forward to welcoming families into the school to recognise and celebrate the achievements of so many of our young people.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)



Applications open for 2023/24.

EMA is for students from low-income families, who are in full-time education after the statutory school leaving age or for students attending full time and part time non-advanced college education. It is a means tested weekly allowance based on school attendance.

£30 per week, paid fortnightly into the student's bank account. Payments are only made when students have 100% of agreed weekly attendance. For more information: https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/899/financial_support/151/education_maintenance_allowance_ema

Fantasy Football

The DHS Fantasy Football League started this week with over 30 pupils and staff taking part. This is an online game where pupils choose a team of players from the English Premier League, how those players perform in real life gain their team points. There will be manager of the month awards as well as an overall champion. Last year Mr Galbraith won the league so hopefully a pupil can beat him to the trophy this year. If you haven't signed up yet there is still time to get your teams in.

For more information see the website- <https://fantasy.premierleague.com/> or the information board in block 1.



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Dalkeith High School PTA & PC



@DalkeithHighSchoolParentCouncilandPTA