



# Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Friday 19 January 2024

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Mrs E. Ormerod  
Head Teacher

# Head Teacher's Update

## Invigilator Recruitment 2024

We are currently recruiting invigilators for the 2024 exams. Invigilators play a crucial role in supporting the exam diet. Their role is to help maintain the quality of the external assessments of National Qualifications by ensuring they are conducted in accordance with SQA policy and procedure.

All invigilation activities are carried out under the direction of a chief invigilator. Full training is provided, and no prior experience is required. You will also be supported by your chief invigilator throughout.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Mr Knight.

## Coursing

S3 into S4 coursing materials have been shared, and coursing interviews have now begun.

The interviews for pupils currently in S4 and S5 will take place between Wednesday 31 January and Friday 9 February. Information will follow in time for these interviews to take place.

Miss Bones



Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a lovely holiday with friends and family. It was lovely to see so many happy faces in school on the first day back. Everyone was very pleased to see their friends again.

Our staff in-service day on Monday the 8th focused on developing a new vision for Dalkeith High School. We considered the reasons why we do what we do. It was uplifting to hear what staff had to say and I wanted to share some of that with you in this bulletin. In response to the above question staff said:

- Passion for improving the lives of young people
- Improve life chances of young people
- Help improve wellbeing of pupils, staff and families
- Build pupil confidence to go out into the world and live a good, happy life.
- To help young people to develop resilience and grit
- To provide the support needed for young people to flourish in the world
- Having a positive impact on young people - create those "moments" that help to shape and define them
- No two days are the same, it keeps us on our toes and it can be fun because of positive relationships built with pupils and staff.
- It is a job that can have a real impact on a child's (and their family's) lives. Opening doors that may never have been opened without belief and guidance.

It was a lovely start to 2024 to remind ourselves why we are here. I shared this with pupils at year group assemblies on their first day back, as well as focusing on our school expectations of Ready, Respectful and Safe. I look forward to engaging with pupils and parents while we consult on our new vision for Dalkeith High School.

S6 pupils had their S6 photograph taken on the first week back. Pupils looked very smart in their school dress code! Sadly, it is another step for

our S6 pupils, in preparing to leave Dalkeith High School. We are currently planning the S6 graduation ceremony and I will share more details about this in due course.

On Friday last week, we announced the 50 pupils who will move onto the next stage of the Polar Academy selection process. A reminder that all pupils selected must attend the parental meeting on the 5th of February at 6:30pm at Dalkeith High School. I look forward to meeting with parent/carers then.

I had the absolute pleasure of attending Dalkeith Rotary Club's annual Music Competition. I am delighted to announce that all Dalkeith pupils who took part won an award. Snowy Chen came 1st place for instrumental, Guy Ward, came 3rd place for the same category and Natalie Campbell came 3rd place in vocals. A huge success- I was very proud of all our pupils!

Over the past week, we welcomed some new staff and made some new appointments. See updated staffing details below:

- Mr Jake Nicholson, Temporary Teacher of History
- Ms Severine Landais, Temporary Teacher of Modern Languages
- On Monday 22nd January Ms Laura Beattie, Teacher of Inclusion and outreach will start in her new post. This is also a new post at Dalkeith High School and we look forward to better supporting our pupils with this new role.
- We appointed a new CDT teacher, Mr Tim Whitmore and Learning Support Assistant Mr Callum Fraser. Pending employment checks we hope these posts will start at the end of February.

Finally, I wanted to say thank you for all the support I have had from parents, pupils and staff since making my announcement at the start of the week. Your support and kindness means a lot. I will share information on the next steps of the recruitment process in due course.

Stay warm in this cold weather! Enjoy your weekend.

*Emma Ormerod*

# S1 & S2 Outdoor Learning



A huge well done to all S2 pupils who have been involved in Outdoor Learning Days over the first half of this session. High numbers of pupils in S2 have opted to take part and had a great day out either on mountain bikes or to the beach.

S1 Outdoor Learning Days commence on the 23rd January and all S1 pupils who get the opportunity to go and explore the great outdoors! For any pupil that requires a replacement information letter or consent form please see Mr Agnew in PE.

# Rights Respecting Schools



**EVERYONE MUST  
KNOW CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS**

Our Rights Respecting Schools group meets every Monday & Wednesday to talk about improvements we can make around the school using a rights based approach. We have been learning about the UNCRC and applying it to an educational context. We have also been creating our whole school charter and thinking about embedding rights within lessons. We discussed the rights we would like to include in the charter and voted on our top five:

Article 2: No Discrimination

Article 12: Respect for Children's Views

Article 29: Aims of Education

Article 31: Rest, Play, Culture and Arts.

Article 42: Everyone Must Know Children's Rights

At the moment, we are designing the charter which will be on display in our school community. We are going to lead an assembly to introduce the charter to the school. We have also been consulted and shared our views on a number of issues to include; bullying and equalities, improvements to toilet facilities, the positive relationships policy and the teaching and learning policy.

We believe that a rights respecting approach will make our school a safe and welcoming place to be. We will continue to promote children's rights over the coming year and welcome all from our school community to join our leadership team.

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>

*Cody Bryson and the Rights Respecting Team*





## Dalkeith Rotary Young Musician Competition

The Dalkeith Rotary Club Young Musician Competition took place on Monday the 15th of January, at which Dalkeith pupils Natalie Campbell, Snowy Chen and Guy Ward took part along with 10 other performers from four Midlothian secondary schools. The standard of all 14 performers was exceptionally high and our three pupils from Dalkeith were no exception. Guy and Natalie came joint third in the Instrumental and Vocal categories respectively and Snowy came first in the instrumental category, meaning she will go on to perform at the regional final in Musselburgh next month. Dalkeith was the only school to have all of their performers get an award and this is a testament to the hard work and dedication they have put into music over the years. Well done to Natalie, Guy and Snowy!



Over the past two months, S2 pupils have been taking part in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) within RME. Each group has researched social issues in the local area and how it impacts peoples lives, found local charities that work to address the social issue and are currently creating a presentation in groups. In March, one group will secure £3000 for their charity. It's been very inspiring to see so many groups meeting up with charities and discussing ways in which they can be involved with their charity in the future. We're looking forward to seeing the finished presentations and learning about the amazing work that goes on in the local area.

## Scottish Inter-District Cross Country Championships



Image by rawpixel.com on Freepik

Andrew McWilliam (who is under 17) competed for the under 20 Scotland team. Andrew finished 7th overall and 5th in the Celtic nations, which helped team Scotland to Silver. Andrew was also awarded an individual medal for the UK Athletics Cross Country Challenge.

Anyone interested in running cross country, the Scottish Schools' Championships will take place in March. Pupils wishing to enter should speak to Mrs Wilson in PE.

Available to anyone who needs one. Take a coat or donate a coat, just don't be cold!

- 80% of Scotland's carbon footprint comes from goods and services we buy. Lets reuse what we already have and cut carbon!
- Visit one of our Warm and Well Hubs for free soup and a hot drink, just 'Ask For Alex' and our café and library teams at the Danderhall, Lasswade, Loanhead and Newbattle hubs will know what you mean.
- Find more cost of living supports at [www.midlothian.gov.uk/midlothiancares](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/midlothiancares)

## Midlothian



## FAMILY LEARNING

CLLE in Partnership with Dalkeith Library



## FAMILY GAELIC LEARNING



faiite

**Starting Friday 26th January 2024 - for 6 weeks**

2.30pm-3.30pm

**Come along to our Family Gaelic Learning on a Friday afternoon  
at  
Dalkeith Library**

Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-gaelic-learning-tickets-769583534067>  
For more information email [Heather.Ferguson@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.Ferguson@midlothian.gov.uk)  
Or call Heather: 07824342238

COMMUNITIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND EMPLOYABILITY  
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Midlothian

**Midspace**

## Cost of Living Support



<https://midspace.co.uk/self-help/cost-of-living-support/#>

## Accelerated Reader Champions!

Congratulations to Mrs McCabe's S1 class who are the Accelerated Reader Premiership Champions for term 1. Accelerated Reader is a reading programme where pupils sit quizzes on the book they have read and are awarded points if they score 85% or more on the quiz.

Mrs McCabe's class managed to gain a record breaking total of 2143 points accumulating 14.9 million words and 289 books read.



## Vaccinations

### S3 Teenage Booster Vaccinations

The Teenage Booster Vaccinations are due to take place at DHS on Tuesday 6th February 2024. This is intended for our S3 year group and those who may have missed this vaccination previously. If you have not already done so please ensure the completed consent form is returned to the school office as soon as possible.

### HPV Vaccinations

The HPV vaccinations are scheduled to take place at DHS on Wednesday 20th March 2024. Consent forms will be issued this week to all S1s and any pupils who may have missed this vaccination previously. To allow these forms to be triaged please can completed consent forms be returned to the school office by Friday 2nd February 2024.

## Dalkeith High School Enhanced Transition 2024

Moving from primary school to secondary school is an exciting time for all young people as they move to a new building, meet new friends, have new subjects and teachers. At Dalkeith High School we are delivering an enhanced programme of visits to our school for those young people who will benefit from some additional supports to make this transition a positive and happy one.

Primary schools will be identifying those P7 pupils who will benefit from these sessions and they will attend six before the Easter break. This will provide the opportunity to get to know our school building, meet our staff and do some curricular activities similar to those they will have in S1. Watch this space for an update on our activities!



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Dalkeith High School PTA & PC



@DalkeithHighSchoolParentCouncilandPTA