



Dalkeith HS Bulletin

Friday 27 September 2024

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Pine marten by Natalie More, S3



Mr S. Illingworth
Head Teacher (acting)

Head Teacher's Update

Medal haul for S1 Gymnast!

Congratulations to Dalkeith High School's S1 Gymnast, Leon McCulloch, who competed recently in the Hamilton Grading event. Leon secured 2 Golds, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals, resulting in a Silver medal placing in the overall competition. We can't wait to hear about what is next for Leon. Well done and keep up the Hard work!



Dear Parent/Carer,

As the days get shorter and the temperature begins to drop it always feels like we are entering the core of the academic year. Pupils have settled into their classes and the important work of learning and teaching is in full swing. We are beginning our programme of self-evaluation with a review of learning and teaching in the Maths department, week beginning 30.9.24. A huge 'thank you' to those parents who have been able to be part of our focus groups – as a working parent I know how challenging it is to be part of these things. Your input is vital and we are looking in to how we can broaden opportunities to hear more voices.

Self-evaluation

In the coming weeks I will be meeting with departments to analyse our attainment from last session. At the next Parent Partnership meeting (6 November 7PM) I will be giving an overview of the attainment, and the work we are undertaking to build on strengths and address areas for development. I would like to encourage parents to attend the Parent Partnership if at all possible. It is a really important forum and the more representative it is of the school community the better.

Tracking and Monitoring

Staff have already begun the process of tracking pupil performance and this is being communicated with parents/carers in the normal ways. If there are any issues around progress you would like to discuss I would encourage you to contact the school. The sooner we can identify and address any concerns the more likely we are to see improvements.

Examinations and Formal Assessments

For those of you with pupils in S4-6 the SQA has published the exam timetable, and you can find it here https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-2025-exam-timetable.pdf. I know it feels like a long time away but planning back from these dates to create a schedule can be a very

important part of reducing pupil anxiety around the exams, especially for S4s who haven't sat any before. Our own formal assessments (you may remember them as prelims) will run from 28 November – 16 December and we will share the timetable in the near future. These assessments are a very useful way for us to measure pupil progress and to give pupils the experience of sitting assessments which closely match their final exams.

School Website

We are currently working on the final tweaks to the new school website and it should be going live in the next week. We are very hopeful that the new website will make it easier for you to access the information you need. We will be using the launch to introduce some new approaches to school/home communication, for example, a weekly Head Teacher update, which will focus on key school business.

Pupil Achievements

I continue to be hugely impressed by the range of activities pupils at this school are involved in and I would encourage you to let us know of any successes. You will see some of these throughout this bulletin, and a massive congratulations to all those pupils highlighted, as well as to those who have had success we are not aware of.

Well done to the pupils, staff and parents/carers involved in the recent fundraising for the Polar Academy expedition – the money raised by the car wash and Kilt Walk is quite amazing.

I am always really interested to hear directly from parents/carers about how you think we can continue to improve as a school, so please do not hesitate to get in touch. I would also like to thank those parents/carers who have made contact – your input has been invaluable to me.

Best wishes

Steven Illingworth

For the past few months, students at Dalkeith High have been taking part in an intense training program known as the Polar Academy. So far the team has committed to 2 fundraising events and have been doing training sessions every Wednesday. As the year progresses the team will do more fundraising and start their tyre hauls and other training events set up by the polar academy team.

The most recent fundraising event was the Edinburgh Kilt Walk where the team walked a whopping 20 miles from Holyrood Palace to Murrayfield Stadium. Along the way the team completed sets of push-ups and star jumps and it's safe to say the team were exhausted!

Another fundraising event was the Polar Academy Car Wash, where the pupils got stuck in and did a great job! There was a massive turnout and we saw a lot more people than we had imagined we would, including: Dalkeith High School teachers, the community police officer with her van, the fire brigade with a fire truck and the Polar Academy's own Craig and Lorna with their trucks! The car wash raised a whopping £900 for our team and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that came along to get their car washed and support our team. We have raised over £11000! We still have a long way to go so if anyone would like to donate to us please feel free to visit our just giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/team/thepolaracademy>



Every Wednesday our team has been training in the school dance studio after school. We are making great progress with fitness and the number of push ups the team are completing weekly is growing. So far the team have completed their blue insanity training sessions and are now onto red sessions, the sessions started at 30 minutes, they then went up to 45 and the team will now be doing an hour's worth of insanity training a week.

All this hard work that our team is putting in will eventually lead to 10 members of the team going on a scientific Polar expedition in Greenland for 10 days alongside Dalkeith High's very own Mr Duncan. The team are very excited for this once in a lifetime opportunity and the effect it has had on some of the team members already is unbelievable. Keep up the good work team and remember "Hard work prevails"

Written by James Kirk - Polar Academy Team member.

Hope Wilson - British Eventing Youth Champion!



Hope Wilson in S5 qualified and was selected to represent Scotland in the British Eventing Youth Championships which were held at Chillington Hall in Wolverhampton in September. This in itself was a major achievement.

However, Hope with her horse not only went on to win her section of the competition, but also won the overall 2024 British Eventing Youth Championship, which contributed to a win for the Scottish team - a first for Scotland in anyone's memory!

This means that Hope is the best, under 18, eventing rider, in Britain!

Congratulations on your magnificent achievements Hope. We are all very proud of you!

Midlothian Outdoor Festival

Sunday October 6th

Clan Stunt Show 'Stars of the Future' Show!



Lasswade Leisure Centre
Car Park

Free to Attend!

The exciting cycling stunt event returns to Midlothian!

Riders pulling off huge jumps, flips and tricks, featuring amazing junior riders on top of the well-known Big Air Show!



3 Performances, each lasting
20 mins:

At 11am, 1pm and 3pm

Midlothian our library

Midlothian Young Writers Competition 2024

To celebrate Book Week Scotland this year, we're calling on all you secondary school students in Midlothian to unleash your inner author. We're looking for short stories with a theme of **hope**.



www.midlothian.gov.uk/libraries

So, what's **hope** all about for you? It could be something simple, like hoping for a sunny day. Or maybe it's something bigger, like dreaming of a better future. Hope might be found in a friend who's always there for you, the beauty of nature or that secret superpower that keeps you pushing through tough times.

Here's what you need to know:

- **S1 – S3:** Write up to 1000 words
- **S4 – S6:** You get up to 3000 words
- Submit your stories using the online form by Friday, 11th October 2024.

We'll announce the winners during Book Week Scotland, and you'll get your prizes at the Midlothian Young People's Awards on 26th November.

Got questions? Contact us at youngwriters@midlothian.gov.uk

This is your moment to let loose, get wild with your words, and show the world what you've got. We can't wait to dive into your stories and celebrate the incredible talent you all have! Just remember—every awesome story starts with a single word.

Let **hope** light the way.

Now get out there and start writing!

The Robert Gordon's College Schools' Ski Race



On the 13th September at The Robert Gordon's College Schools' Ski Race, over 80 racers represented their respective schools.

The RGC organisers were delighted to have Dalkeith High School represented by Tristan Tiley who did the school proud by achieving 3rd place in a very competitive U18 Slalom race.

He also captained a mixed team in the Dual Slalom race that followed.

Tristan is looking forward to competing again at the SSSA Secondary Schools Dryslope Championship at Midlothian Snowsports Centre in October. Good luck Tristan!

DALKEITH HIGH SCHOOL

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS

START 17TH SEPTEMBER 3:30 - 4:30PM

REMEMBER

- TELL SOMEONE YOU WILL BE LATE HOME
- ORGANISE HOW YOU WILL GET HOME SAFELY
- WEAR SUITABLE CLOTHES
- BRING A DRINK

active schools
MIDLOTHIAN

Geography Department trip to

Iceland

February 2026

Open to current S3-S5 Geography pupils or pupils who will take Geography in S4-6 next year

If you're interested in attending this trip please pass on your name to Mr Duncan or Miss McIntosh



Dalkeith HS P7 Transition Programme 2024/25

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to starting our transition programme for the P7 pupils from our feeder Primary Schools.

I would like to share some key dates for your diary:

Thursday 24th October 2024 - Open Evening

6.00pm – 7.30pm

Parents/Carers and their P7 children are invited to come along to the High School to visit our faculties who will be showcasing their work. Please choose a time that suits you between 6pm and 7.30pm and stay for as long as you wish!

May 2025 – Curricular Visits

Once a week, throughout May, the P7's will come to DHS for an afternoon to engage in practical lessons. This is a fantastic experience for pupils to start to get to know the school, navigate the building and build relationships with their future teachers.

Monday 2nd June 2025 – Parents Evening

6.00pm – 7.15pm

This is a parents/carers only evening where there will be the opportunity for the pupil support team to introduce themselves, for key information to be shared and any pressing questions that you may have, be answered.

Wednesday 11th – 13th June 2025 – Induction Visits

Pupils will spend three days with us following their S1 timetable and participate in a morning of fun events on the final day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma O'Connell
DHT Pupil Support



Dalkeith HS After-School Clubs



At Dalkeith High School we try to encourage all pupils to come along and try a new sport!



All of our activities are led by Teachers, Young Leaders & Volunteers
ALL CLUBS ARE FREE!



Afterschool

Clubs on offer this year...

WHEN 3.25-4.30pm	SPORT	WHO FOR	WHERE	COACH/Teacher
Monday	Recreational Football	ALL(TBC)	Astro	Sophie P, Ruby, Kai
	Basketball	S1-3	Games Hall 2	Isla and Ellie
	Dance	S1-3	Dance Room	Kara and Callie
	Fitness	S1-3	Fitness Suite	Mrs Wilson-Black
	Volleyball	All	Games Hall 1	Emma, Elsie, Becca
Tuesday	Athletics	ALL	Track	Mrs Wilson, Andrew
	Badminton	S4-6	Games Hall 1,2,3	Mr Hamilton, Ismail, Abby
	Fitness	S4-6	Fitness Suite	Miss Wright, Arlo, Blair, Cameron
	U15 Girls Football Team	Selected team	Astro	Mrs Robertson
Wednesday	Recreational Football	ALL (TBC)	Astro	Jay, Alfie
	Rugby	All	Grass	Jason, Torfin
	Girls Sports Zone	All	Multi Sports	Miss Robertson
Thursday	Recreational Football	ALL (TBC)	Astro	Zak, Oliver, Ewan, Alex, Leyland
	Table Tennis/badminton	S1-3	Hall 1	Mrs Gatti

All clubs will begin the week commencing 17th September.

Follow us:

Twitter: @DalkeithPE @Active_Dalkeith
@Active_Mid



Dalkeith HS Supported Study Timetable

Dalkeith High School

Supported Study Session 2024/2025

Day	Time	Subject / Level	Room	Teacher
Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Art, Design and Photography	G3.02	Ms Kyle
Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Art, Design and Photography	G303	Mrs Zielinski
Tuesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Biology / All levels	F2.21	Miss Miller
Monday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Biology N5/H/AH	F2.33	Miss Maitland
Wednesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Biology N5/H/AH	F2.34	Miss Macpherson
Wednesday	Lunch	Biology/All Levels	F2.20	Mr Craig
Thursday	Lunch	Biology: all levels	F2.33	Miss Maitland
Monday to Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Business and Admin: all levels	G2.17/G2.18/G2.37	Ms Zhang, Ms Adam, Mr Hamilton
Monday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Chemistry Higher	F2.23	Mrs Mackenzie
Tuesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Chemistry N5 (H/AH drop in)	F2.25	Mrs Lawson
Thursday	1:05pm - 1:55pm	Chemistry National 5	F2.24	Ms Mackay
Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Design & Manufacture/Engineering Science	G2.02	Mr Ambrose
Wednesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Engineering Science	G2.02	Mr Whitmore
Tuesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	English (Higher)	G.122	Ms McJennett
Monday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	English all levels	G1.17	Mr Johnstone
Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	French National 5	G2.28	Mr Zirnheld
Thursday	1:05pm - 1:55pm	French/Spanish: All levels	G2.24	Mrs Heggie
Wednesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Geography - all levels	F1.11	Miss McIntosh
Wednesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Graphic Communication	G2.12	Mr Young
Tuesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Higher/NPA/N5 Drama	G7.70/G7.71	Miss Thomson & Miss Dunion
Wednesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	History	G1.09	Mr Wilson
Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	History National 5	G111	Ms Wilson, Ms Byres, Mr Holligan
Friday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	MATHS: AH	F1.20	Mr Gibbs
Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	MATHS: All levels/courses incl H Apps	F1.22	Mr May
Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	MATHS: All levels/courses (not Higher Apps)	F1.18	Mr C Stirling
Thursday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	MATHS: All levels/courses (not Higher Apps)	F1.21	Mr Hope
Wednesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	MATHS: All levels/courses (not Higher Apps)	F1.20	Mr Gibbs
Monday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	MATHS: All levels/courses*	F1.14	Mrs Harcourt-Gill
Wednesday	Lunch	MATHS: BGE	F1.22	Mr May
Monday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	MATHS: N5 Mat / N5Apps	F1.23	Mr Norby
Monday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	MATHS: N5 Mat / N5Apps/ Higher Apps	F1.17	Mr R Stirling
Wednesday	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Physics N5 (H/AH drop in)	F2.25	Mrs Lawson
Wednesday	1:05pm - 1:55pm	Physics N5 + Higher	F2.27	Mr Dale



Dalkeith HS Key Dates 2024/25

Event	Date
Pupils return	Wednesday 14 August
S1 & S4 Photographs	Thursday 22 August
Parent Partnership AGM	Monday 2 September
Senior Awards Ceremony	Thursday 5 September
September Weekend	Friday 13 & Monday 16 September
S4 Work Experience Week	Monday 30 September - Friday 4 October
October Break	Monday 14 October - Pupils return Tuesday 22 October
P7 Open Evening	Thursday 24 October
Parent Partnership - 6.30pm	Tuesday 5 November
Careers Convention & Curriculum Evening	Tuesday 12 November
Formal Assessments begin	Thursday 28 November
Flu vaccination (nasal spray) - all years	Monday 9 December
Christmas Concert	Thursday 12 December
Formal Assessments end	Monday 16 December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 23 December - Pupils return Tuesday 7 January
2025	
S6 Photographs	Wednesday 8 January
Parent Partnership - 6.30pm	Wednesday 5 February
February Holiday	Monday 10 February - Friday 14 February
Teenage booster - S3	Tuesday 11 March
Parent Partnership - 6.30pm	Tuesday 25 March
Easter Holiday	Monday 7 April - return Tuesday 22 April
SQA Exams Start	Monday 28 April
May Day Holiday	Monday 5 May
Parent Partnership - 6.30pm	Thursday 8 May
Victoria Holiday [pupils]	Monday 19 May
HPV & MMR (mop up) - S1	Tuesday 20 May
S5/6 Induction	Thursday 29 May & Friday 30 May
SQA Exams End	Friday 30 May
New timetable begins	Monday 2 June
P7 Welcome Evening	Monday 2 June
BGE Awards Ceremony	Thursday 5 June
P7 Transition days	Wednesday 11 June - Friday 13 June
Prom	Friday 13 June [TBC]
S6 Leavers Ceremony	Monday 16 June
Term Ends	Thursday 26 June

Issue Dates: Tracking Reports & Parents' Meeting Dates	
S1 Reports: Tracking Report 1 Tracking Report 2	Thursday 31 October Friday 21 February
Parents Meeting	Tuesday 11 March
S2 Reports: Tracking Report 1 Tracking Report 2	Friday 11 October Friday 21 March
Parents Meeting	Thursday 7 November
S3 Reports: Tracking Report 1 Tracking Report 2	Friday 29 November Friday 21 March
Parents Evening	Tuesday 10 December
S4/5/6 Reports: Tracking Report 1 Tracking Report 2 Tracking Report 3 Tracking Report 4	Thursday 12 September Thursday 31 October Friday 17 January Friday 7 March
Parents Evening (1) Parents Evening (2)	Tuesday 28 January Wednesday 5 February



Hello, my name is Barbara Moir and I am the Careers Adviser for Dalkeith High. I work for Skills Development Scotland and I work closely with the Pupil Support Team at Dalkeith High to support the pupils with their career plans. If any pupil would like a chat about their career plans with me, the easiest way to get in touch is by email at barbara.moir@sds.co.uk or the pupil can ask their Pupil Support Leader.

A lot of questions about careers will be answered by visiting the careers website www.myworldofwork.co.uk I also have a Careers Blog on Google Classrooms in which I post articles about vacancies, training, apprenticeships, colleges and universities. The code is `hyx3o5k`. You will find lots of useful career resources in my resource guide called "Keep Calm & Career Plan" which you can find on my blog. I also work with Sam Lamond, our Developing the Young Work Force Co-ordinator and she uses my blog to post information about careers events and opportunities also.

I will be visiting the S1 PSE classes after the October break to introduce myself and do some work on finding out about careers. I will later visit our S4 PSE classes to look at career options and I will soon be visiting our S3 PSE classes to explore subjects and how they relate to various careers.

Any queries about career ideas, please get in touch.

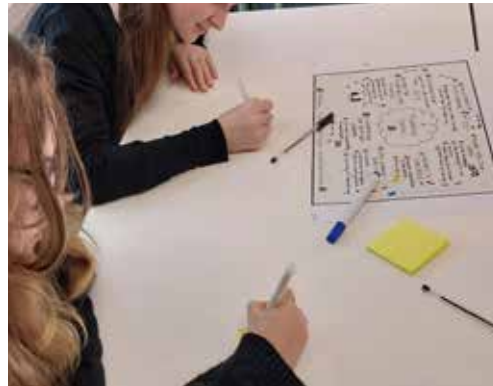
Barbara Moir (She/her)

Tel: 0131 376 3232 Mobile: 07887 831027

Skills
Development
Scotland

Midlothian Learners Conference

10 pupils from S1 to S6 attended the Midlothian Secondary Learners Conference on 'Learn to learn' at Easthouses Primary. They worked with other pupils from Lasswade, Penicuik and St David's high schools. Our pupils gave their views on feeling safe, connected and ready to learn, as well as what it is to be a Midlothian Learner. They made fantastic poems explaining the impact of bullying. The conference ended with a discussion on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and what this looks like in the classroom.



Despite the fairly wet and miserable summer, the DHS honeybees were on a mission to make as much honey as possible! This year has seen a bumper crop for us and the senior beekeeping class extracted and jarred several hundred jars at the end of August. They are now available for sale and this year we can accept card payments as well as cash. Each jar costs £6.50 with 25% from the sale of each jar going to support our charity the Polar Academy who are working to take 10 of our pupils to Greenland on an epic adventure in March 2025. The remainder of each sale goes straight back into funding beekeeping and other projects within the school.



Football Update!

Last week marked the return of competitive football fixtures for our DHS teams. Our U14s made a strong start to their season by claiming a point in a thrilling

5-5 draw against Lasswade. Our Seniors also faced Lasswade and they played some excellent football but in the end they lost a very tight game 1-0. Our U15s also claimed their first point of their campaign in a 3-3 draw with Preston Lodge.



Dalkeith High School

2 Cousland Road, Dalkeith

Midlothian EH22 2PS

Tel: 0131 654 4701

Fax: 0131 663 7311

Email: dalkeith.hs@midlothian.gov.uk

<http://dalkeith.mgfl.net/>



@official_DHS

Dalkeith High School PTA & PC



@DalkeithHighSchoolParentCouncilandPTA