



DOUGLAS-EWART HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

You will have received Junior Phase Pupil Profiles and Senior Phase Monitoring and Tracking Reports by the time this newsletter is published. In addition, the information package to support option choices for pupils in the current S3, S4 and S5 has been issued. The support for pupils in terms of study opportunities has also been included as well as an explanation of the Easter School situation and the provision of Masterclasses as an alternative. The school is trying to be more sensitive to the anxieties, stresses and pressures felt by both pupils and parents/carers as the exam season approaches.

As Head Teacher of the school, I also have a wider responsibility for the Health and Wellbeing of our young people. Information has been passed that persons of school age are abusing chemical substances outwith the school. Albeit, this is not a school issue, the police and the school still have a duty of care and would like to provide partnership guidance for parents/carers who are concerned for their child's welfare. We would like to assure you that it is a very small group who are involved, however, the information is pertinent to all parents/carers to ensure they are aware of what to look out for.

Over the next couple of months, there will be additional talks happening with all year groups within the school about the risks and consequences associated with underage drinking and abusing unknown and illegal substances. There will also be a live demonstration by a search-and-find police dog. Should any pupil or parent/carers wish any assistance or advice please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher at the school or Newton Stewart Community Policing Team on telephone number 101. There is also a number of websites where you can get help and advice - '*Young Scot Choices for Life*', '*Know the Score*', and '*Talk to Frank*'.

The information that follows is not new and indeed, in isolation, can have innocent explanations, but put together and if repetitive, then you should be more concerned.

Physical and Health signs of Drug Abuse

- Eyes that are bloodshot or pupils that are smaller or larger than normal.
- Frequent nosebleeds which could be related to snorted drugs.
- Changes in appetite or sleep patterns.
- Sudden weight loss or weight gain.
- Seizures without a history of epilepsy.
- Deterioration in personal grooming or physical appearance.
- Impaired co-ordination, injuries/accidents/bruises that your child won't or can't tell you about - they don't know how they got hurt.
- Unusual smells on breath, body or clothing.
- Shakes, tremors, incoherent or slurred speech, impaired or unstable co-ordination.

Behavioural signs of Alcohol or Drug Abuse

- Playing truant; declining school performance; getting into trouble at school.
- Drop in attendance and performance of work; loss of interest in extra-curricular activities, hobbies, sports or exercise; decreased motivation.
- Complaints from fellow pupils and teachers.
- Missing/

- Missing money, valuables, prescription or prescription drugs; borrowing and stealing money.
- Acting isolated, silent, withdrawn; engaging in secretive or suspicious behaviours.
- Clashes with family values and beliefs.
- Preoccupation with alcohol and drug-related lifestyle in music, clothing and posters.
- Demanding more privacy, locking doors and avoiding eye contact.
- Sudden change in relationships, friends, favourite hangouts and hobbies.
- Frequently getting into trouble (arguments, fights, accidents, illegal activities).
- Using perfume/air freshener to hide smell of smoke or drugs.
- Using eye drops to mask bloodshot eyes and dilated pupils.

Psychological Warning signs of Alcohol or Drug Abuse

- Unexplained, confusing change in personality and/or attitude.
- Sudden mood changes, irritability, angry outbursts or laughing at nothing.
- Periods of unusual hyperactivity or agitation.
- Lack of motivation; inability to focus; appears lethargic or “spaced out”.
- Appears fearful, withdrawn, anxious or paranoid, with no apparent reason.

SQA Examinations 2018

This session, the SQA examinations in the Douglas-Ewart High School will commence on Monday 30th April and run until Friday 1st June.

All candidates sitting exams this year will be issued with individual timetables which will show the date, time and location of exams for that individual. Dates of exams can be found on the SQA website: www.sqa.org.uk or at the back of your SQA *Your exams 2018* booklet. Please note that the school may make some minor changes to the times of exams published by the SQA, in order to fit more closely with the school day and pupil transportation arrangements, but we cannot change the date of the exams. Candidates should follow the times shown on their individual timetable.

It is extremely important that candidates check all the details shown on their exam timetable and notify the school office of any concerns. The start times shown on timetables are when the examinations are due to start and candidates should make sure that they arrive outside the exam room at least 5-10 minutes before the start time.

Results of examinations will be issued directly to candidates by the SQA on Tuesday 7th August 2018. Candidates can also receive their results via text or e-mail by registering at: www.mysqa.info

The SQA no longer offers an appeals process. This has been replaced by the *Results' Services* and more details regarding this can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/resultservices or in the *Your exams 2018* booklet.

Study Leave Arrangements 2018

The official study leave period for the diet of exams will be from Tuesday 8th May until Friday 1st June inclusive. This applies to all pupils sitting National 5 examinations or above. If pupils have an exam prior to 8th May, they are entitled to the day before and the day of the exam as study leave (i.e. if your child has an exam in the morning, they are entitled to the afternoon off, and vice-versa). Pupils with no examinations in S4 will be given details after the Easter break of the support programme for them throughout May. All pupils should return to school on Monday 4th June when there will be an induction programme, followed by the start of the new timetable.

Masterclasses 2018

As indicated in a previous letter, a series of masterclasses will be available in the school to assist our SQA candidates to prepare for their examinations. Each candidate has been issued with a copy of the masterclasses' timetable which is also at the end of this newsletter. These classes are not part of the Study Leave allowance and all candidates are expected to attend. Attendance registers will be taken at the masterclasses.

National Qualifications

The National 4 and National 5 courses have been running since session 2013-14 and all subject areas are presenting for awards from National 4 through to the New Higher, and some Advanced Highers.

How will National Qualifications be assessed?

Following changes implemented this year by the Scottish Government, National 5 courses are being assessed by end-of-year assessment including projects, folios, reports and examinations. Higher courses contain Units (areas of study) that learners will complete throughout the year. For each Unit, they complete a Unit assessment which is marked as pass or fail. During session 2018-19, the Higher courses will change to the same format as the National 5 courses with the removal of Unit assessments. There is the option of candidates only completing the Unit assessments but this will result in them not receiving an overall course award, only the completed Units for that subject will appear on their SQA certificate.

National 1, National 2 and National 3 are assessed through Unit assessments only.

National 4 is assessed through Unit assessments but also includes an Added Value Unit that assesses the course as a whole. To achieve a National 4 qualification, learners need to pass all Unit assessments including the Added Value Unit assessment.

How will they be graded?

National 1, National 2, National 3 and National 4 will not be graded but will be assessed as pass or fail. Courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher will be graded A to D, or No Award.

What happens if my child receives a Fail or No Award result on Results' Day?

If your child doesn't achieve the course award, they will still receive SCQF credit points for any Units they have passed within the course. These Units will appear on the detailed *Record of Attainment* section of their qualifications' certificate and will be listed along with the number of credit points obtained.

There are arrangements in place to support learners who don't achieve the course assessment at National 5 but may be considered eligible to achieve the course at National 4 instead. These are called *Recognising Positive Achievement* arrangements.

Option Process

The option process for session 2018-19 is now well under way and pupils will commence their new timetable on Monday 4th June 2018.

University of Glasgow Top-up Programme

The Douglas-Ewart High School was, once again, chosen as one of only three schools from Dumfries & Galloway, to participate in the University of Glasgow Top-up programme. This programme is designed to give S6 pupils an insight into University life, but more importantly, the different methods of delivering learning, including lectures, seminars and self-study. The/

The pupils who take part are required to research and report on a question chosen from a selection offered at the start of the year - this report has to be completed to university standard and is graded by university staff. Before completion of the report, the pupils are visited in the school by university tutors on five occasions, and also normally attend an eye-opening campus day in Glasgow, although this year it had to be cancelled due to wintry weather.

The Top-up programme may also assist pupils with their UCAS applications. The University of Glasgow certainly uses the graded results as part of their entry requirements and the number of other Scottish universities accepting them rises each year.

Growth Mindset - Parental/Carer Sessions

Many thanks to all of the parents and carers who attended the recent “Strategies to help your child succeed” sessions. These took parents and carers through the work that has been ongoing in the school to instil a growth mindset in our pupils and how they can help to reinforce this at home. Issues surrounding mental health and how to build the resilience to cope with negative thoughts and emotions by using a number of different strategies were also discussed. Finally, a number of revision strategies that are currently being used in the school were shared with parents/carers.

The sessions were very well attended and lots of excellent ideas were shared. We will be sure to take all the ideas that were shared on board and use them to help further support your children during their time at the Douglas-Ewart High School.

Miss Z Halliday

School Dress Code & Ordering Arrangements

A reminder that embroidered items of the School Dress Code can be ordered online from Border Embroideries at: www.border-embroideries.co.uk

School Handbook

A copy of our School Handbook for session 2018-2019 is available from the School Office upon request. An electronic version has been placed onto the school’s website at: www.dehs.info - in the section *School Information*.

School Meals’ Price Increase

The price of school meals in Dumfries and Galloway will increase by 5p per day from Monday 16th April 2018. The cost of a primary school meal will be £1.85 per day/£9.25 per week; a secondary school meal deal will be £1.95 per day/£9.75 per week.

5Rights Youth Leadership Group

In October 2017, Callum Adams S3, applied to become part of the *5Rights Youth Leadership Group*. After submitting his application, he was invited to attend an interview in Edinburgh. A few weeks later, Callum received the great news that he had been selected from hundreds of other entries. He was one of eighteen selected from the whole of Scotland to be part of this group. Callum will be a key player in the creation of apps/websites and policy for children’s Digital Rights. This scheme is high profile and was launched in May 2017 with the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop MSP, and the Minister for Childcare and Early Years, Mark McDonald MSP.

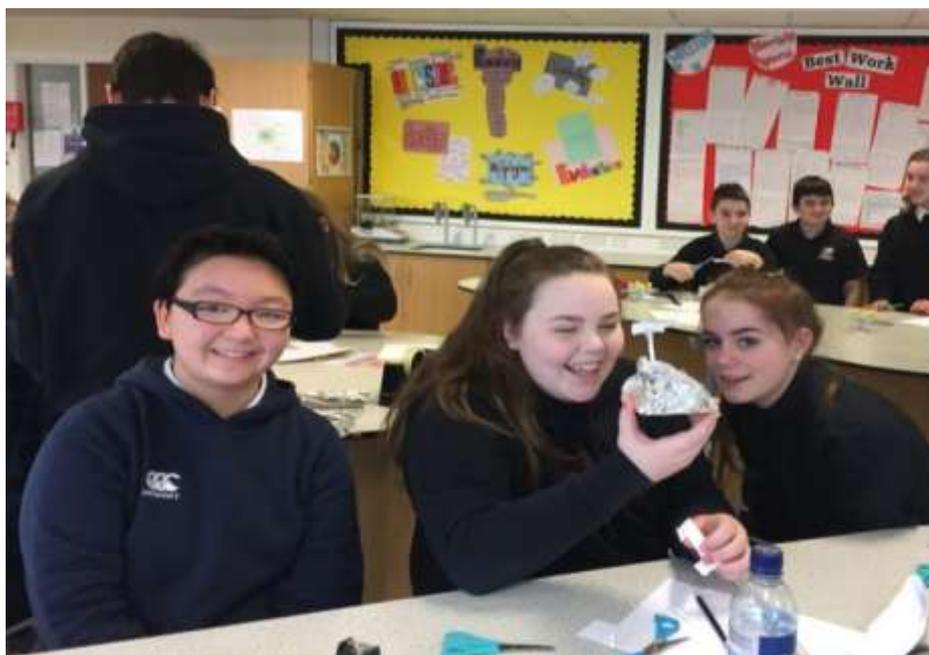
Callum will have a number of visits to the Scottish Parliament and have the opportunity to work with prominent software companies. This is an excellent achievement. Well done Callum!

STEM - 1000 Girls, 1000 Futures

Congratulations to Kerry McIlwraith S5 and Lara Ahmed S4, for being chosen to be part of the 1000 Girls, 1000 Futures' programme which is run by the New York Academy of Sciences. It is a groundbreaking initiative designed to engage young women interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, and advance their pursuit of STEM careers through mentoring and 21st century skills' development. Well done!

Sea Cadets Marine Engineering Pathway

In January, the Sea Cadets visited the school to inspire young people to engage with STEM subjects and to highlight the career opportunities within Marine Engineering. The S2 and S3 Science Preference classes completed fun, hands-on workshops to learn about the principles of engineering through the use of Marine-based, real-life scenarios. The workshops focussed on buoyancy, exploring some of the scientific principles behind buoyancy and displacement. The finale was for pupils to work in teams and put into practice what they had learned. They had to design and build a ship suited to delivering medical supplies in a disaster area (see photographs below):



The ships were then tested to see which one could carry the largest cargo. Well done to all the pupils involved and thank you to the Sea Cadets for providing this exciting opportunity.

Hospitality and Catering Event

On Tuesday 30th January, the Head of Hospitality and Leisure for Dumfries & Galloway, visited the school to give an insightful presentation to the S3 Home Economics Preference Class. This was supported by Enterprising DG and Mrs Kerry Hughan our school's Catering Manager. Together they educated our pupils on the largest bulk catering, purchasing and production in DG - our school lunches. Enterprising DG produces 3,000 lunches per day and our pupils were given an insight into purchasing in bulk, buying criteria and the delivery and cooking process. The pupils then had an opportunity to get a tour around the school canteen and cost their own meal for four people.

S3 Option Choice

Our current S3 cohort recently received inputs to inform and support them through the option choice process. On evaluation, our pupils feel better informed and confident about planning for their future.

The first event was the S3 Information Evening hosted in January which was extremely well-attended by parents/carers and pupils. This offered advice on how parents/carers can support their child in making these important decisions. This event was supported by our partners in Employability and Skills' Service, Youth Services, and Skills Development Scotland.

Following on from this, a Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisor conducted group interviews with all of S3. Pupils received information on where to seek further advice and the various pathways and progression routes available.

Dumfries and Galloway College Application Session

During this term, representatives from Dumfries and Galloway College and Skills Development Scotland, hosted an application session for our current S4-S6 pupils who were applying to study at college in the next academic year.

The presenters discussed the application process and supported our pupils in completing personal statements and submitting their application. This was a well-attended and successful session with all of the pupils who came along being offered interviews.

If any pupils in S4, 5 and 6 missed this session and would like to apply to Dumfries and Galloway College (Dumfries or Stranraer Campus), please see Mrs Hornell as soon as possible.

Machars Young Farmers' Club

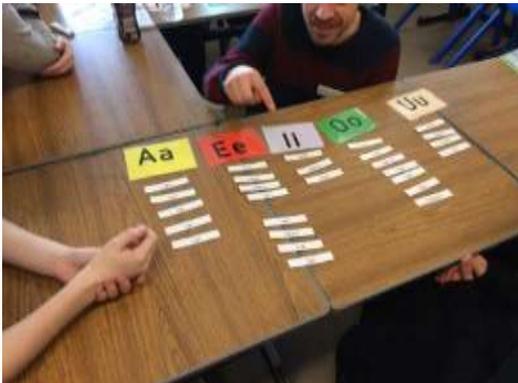
Representatives from the Machars Young Farmers' Club recently visited the school to give a talk to all S3 pupils to promote the wide variety of opportunities available to members of the Club. The presenters stressed that this was open to all young people aged between 14 and 30 and was "not just for those who wear wellies". By joining the Young Farmers' Club it can broaden the wider experiences and achievements open to young people and boost their skill set and applications for the future, as well as making new friends and challenging themselves. There is a new members and social night at Kirkinner Hall on Friday 30th March at 7.30pm if anyone wants to go along and find out more about it.

Higher Spanish Immersion Day/

Higher Spanish Immersion Day

On Friday 16th February, our Higher Spanish pupils spent half a day in school with two native Spanish teachers from the Spanish Academy of Language and Translation in Edinburgh. This event gave them and some pupils from Dalbeattie High School, the opportunity to be immersed in the Spanish language and culture for the day.

“We introduced ourselves in Spanish and we did several other fun activities to help improve our Spanish. We did an activity to practise our pronunciation in preparation for our talking exams. We also played games like ‘El Teléfono Roto’, the Spanish version of *Chinese Whispers*, and *Taboo*, to encourage us to think about how we can explain words that we don’t know how to say in Spanish.



It was a very fun and useful experience and it not only helped us with our speaking, it helped us with our listening skills too, as Jorge and José spoke in Spanish the whole time!”

Lingo Flamingo Workshops - S3 Pupils



Pupils in S3 will participate in two different workshops on Wednesday 28th March with a social enterprise called *Lingo Flamingo*. *Lingo Flamingo* is a Glasgow-based not-for-profit organisation that provides language classes to older adults; often delivering the lessons in care homes. The first workshop the pupils will participate in will focus on the health benefits related to language learning, particularly with dementia and stroke recovery. The second workshop will focus on the social enterprise business model and pupils will be encouraged to come up with some ideas for a unique social enterprise of their own. For more information about *Lingo Flamingo* you can visit <http://www.lingoflamingo.co.uk/> or watch this video on YouTube: https://youtu.be/_qFzHoNXZ1M

Physics Trip to Glasgow - 16th February 2018

The report below was written by Eilidh Duncan and Katie Maxwell S4.

“The Sky’s the Limit... or is it?”

The trip was so inspiring and enjoyable. Our trip began with a long road trip to Glasgow Science Centre. Glasgow Science Centre never ceases to impress and baffle the minds of the people who enter. We started with “The Sky’s the Limit” show in the Planetarium, which was sensational. The show was projected onto a large dome above us and we were taken on a tour of the universe, looking at stars, planets and constellations. We watched in awe as we learned about our planet, our solar system and where it all fits into the rest of the universe. It was just fascinating to watch. We



then spent time on each floor of the Science Centre and were allowed to wander round and investigate all the interactive exhibits. Our favourite floor was the “Bodyworks” floor because there were lots of activities to do, including a race track to test your speed, a bar that times how long you can keep yourself hanging and a mind game where you could test your brain power. Another favourite exhibit was the distortion room in the “A Question of Perception” area. On camera outside the room, it looked like just an ordinary room, but it was actually on a slope. You had to balance walking through and try not to slip. It was hilarious to watch.

After visiting the Science Centre, we went to World Buffet for dinner. For a lot of us this was one of the highlights of our trip. We got to try food from all around the world, including Chinese, Mexican, Indian, American and Italian.

After dinner, with our trousers a little tighter, we headed into the city to Glasgow Royal Concert Hall for the “An Evening with Chris Hadfield” show. Ironically, his show was titled “The Sky is Not the Limit”. Colonel Chris Hadfield was selected as one of four new Canadian astronauts in 1992. Since then he has made three trips to space and worked in a variety of roles with NASA, including Chief CAPCOM, Chief of Robotics and Chief of International Space Station Operations. We weren’t sure what to expect from the show and we were worried that just listening to a man talking would be boring but we were wrong, very wrong! Listening to Colonel Chris Hadfield really was spectacular. He filled his talk with quick and witty jokes, interesting facts and some truly amazing stories of his time in space. Listening to all his adventures gave us an incredible insight into what it is like beyond our atmosphere. Not many people can say they have had the honour of listening to a real-life astronaut and it’s something we will never forget. It was a truly marvellous experience and one that has opened our eyes to a world outside of our own. The one thing in particular that we took away from the show was what Chris said about success and failure. He explained that without failure you can’t have success. He said that being scared of something just means you are not prepared. There was something about that that really stuck with us.”



News from the Maths Department

Senior Maths Challenge

In February, the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge was held in the school with forty pupils taking part. Unfortunately, this clashed with our prelim examinations, so quite a few S4 pupils were unable to take part on the day.

Eight Douglas-Ewart pupils qualified for certificates which were awarded as follows:

Silver: Callum Adams & Robert Smith S3, Wilson Sloan S2

Bronze: Libby Adams, Ellie McClymont & Arran McKie S4, Charlotte Cleer & Jack Lynch S3.

Special mention must go to Wilson who was timetabled for S2 Maths last period on the day of the challenge. He was persuaded to take up one of the unused places (primarily for S3/S4 pupils) at the last minute and came out with one of the top marks in the school. Kirsty Sutherland & Callum Gordon S2, also took part, narrowly missing out on a certificate. We might have had more successes but some of our budding S2 Mathematicians were away at Gordonstoun playing netball and were not in class. Well done to all!

Pi Day - Wednesday 14th March

This year's *Pi* recitation entrants were S3's Callum Adams and Robert Smith. Both gave fantastic performances. Callum made it to the 133rd decimal place but was beaten by Robert who made it to the 516th decimal place. Well done boys!



*Pi Day winners and spectators
with Miss Welsh of the Maths Department*

Numeracy Ninjas

The following pupils have achieved Numeracy Ninja status this term:

S1

Finlay Anderson
Naomi Dunbar
Chloe McElrea

Enver Cingez
Teresa Ho
Callum McKeand

Catherine Cleer
Lauren Keenan
Sam Sommerville

S2

Romilly Adams
Callum Beaddie
Evie Cloy
Abi Dorans
Pippa Harris
Emma Jolly
Jack Lochhead
Emma McCornick
Sophie McSeveney
Alex Rivenell
Connor Wright

Caitlyn Baker
Jenni Brooke
Michael Corcoran
Cailey Dorans
Dylan Hastie
Ryan Kirkpatrick
Brogan Lockhart
Ben MacDonald
Thomas Munro
Ben Stewart

Kyle Barr
Liam Clive
Sean Cuthbertson
Olivia Glen
Leah Johnstone
Wiktoria Lewandowska
Cole McClymont
Klay MacDonald
Logan Nicholson
Kinley Sullivan

S3

Callum Donald
Stephen McCormick

Mia Gurling
Gemma Ritchie

Isla McCathie
Kyle Utting

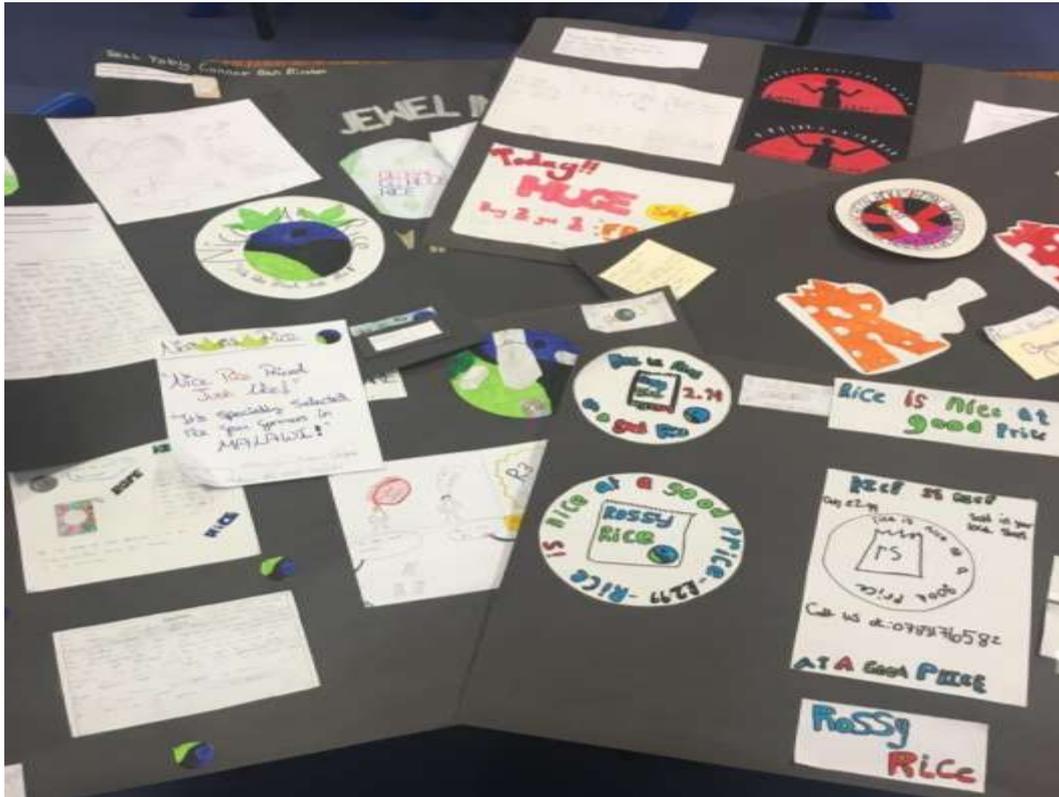
S2 Fairtrade Companies

The S2 Geography class took part in a recent enterprise activity in which they created their own Fairtrade Company to sell rice to help support farmers in Malawi.



The pupils came up with some excellent enterprising ideas and impressed the judges with their creativity. Well done to the winners *R3 Rice*. Some/

Some examples of the posters are shown in the photograph below:



Higher Geography - Edible Soils

The Higher Geography class recently took part in an edible soils task as part of their biosphere unit. They had to use ingredients such as chocolate mousse, crushed biscuits, chocolate chips and strawberry laces to create a soil profile and add labels to describe what they had created.



The/

The soil profiles they created were excellent (one is pictured below), but of course the main excitement was getting to eat them at the end!



Annual Regional Rotary Technology Challenge

On Wednesday 7th March, the DEHS Assembly Hall was full of inspiring young engineers. The Rotary Technology Challenge is a highlight in the calendar for our Technical Department, as pupils can learn, develop and create a working model in a matter of hours. This challenge is facilitated by the Rotary Club of Newton Stewart and is open to the secondary schools in Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Kirkcudbright, Dalbeattie and Castle Douglas.

This year's challenge was the most stimulating one we have seen in the six years it has been held. The pupils had to create a launcher, using a variety of resources, to gain the most height, and their level of entry determined the level of complexity, i.e., the junior phase had to launch a small ball into the air. However, the advanced level had to launch the ball from a small holding cup which was far more challenging than they initially thought!

The DEHS teams were as follows:

Junior Team

Helena Cochrane
Finn McMiken

Wiktoria Lewandowska

Corey Ross

Intermediate Team

Callum Donald
Jo Jackson

Connie McLean

Jake Moore

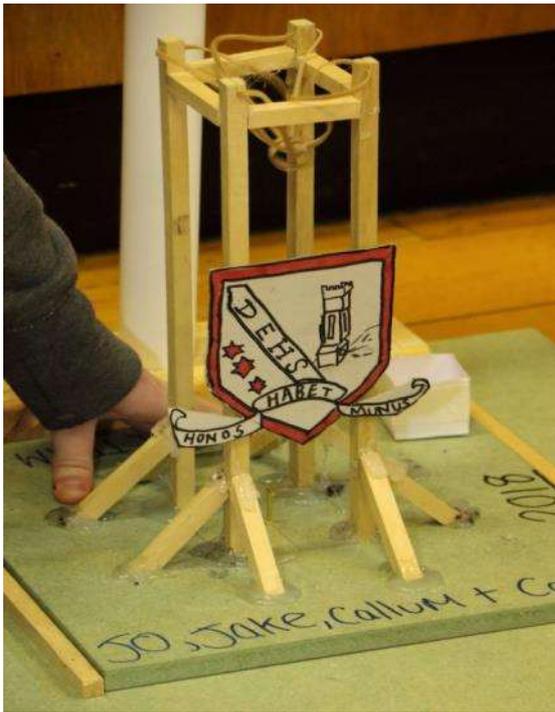
Advanced Team

Maira Adams
Craig Moffat

Jacob Beaddie

Sarah Martin

Some photographs of our pupils who participated in the Challenge are shown on the next two pages:





Well done to all the participants who took part for the tremendous effort they put into the Rotary Technology Challenge. Although the DEHS pupils did not achieve any silverware this year they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are keen to be involved next year.

Miss K Kneeshaw & Technical Department staff.

Peace Project in the Douglas-Ewart

In September 2017, a group of twenty-five pupils from S5 and S6 volunteered to do a course on the Peace Project - a conflict resolution course that focuses on equipping young people with the skills and confidence to lead and deal with situations that may occur in their lives. As part of the programme qualification, the young people have to provide a service to their school. Our senior pupils decided that the skills should be delivered to the wider community of the school and therefore we decided to focus on S3 pupils this year. Using some of the PSE lessons scheduled in the timetable, the senior pupils led two hours of Peace Project skill training and a number of follow-up sessions in November, and then repeated the process again in January 2018 to another cohort of pupils. The lessons were focused on developing the skills further, using scenarios that pupils could relate to in their lives, and there were a number of discussion topics to enrich their school and wider community experiences to allow pupils to voice and discuss their suggestions.

Feedback from all teachers and pupils involved was very positive and it has been expressed by other year groups that they too want to become involved. The main difference that has been observed by the pupils is the increased confidence which they have gained from the inputs. Pupils have shared that they feel their contributions in discussions are of more value, they have been more confident in solo talks, and some have noticed positive impacts in their friendships and family relationships.

I would like to acknowledge how impressive the seniors were who were involved during their service project. Mr K Best and Mrs J Best, who are the founders of the Peace Project, are in agreement with the school concerning how proud we are of every one of our senior pupils and we are pleased to announce that they will be certificated as Peace Advocates next term. Furthermore, there are a few who have shown great leadership skills and are proactively involved in delivering the S3 programme, therefore, they will be certificated as Advanced Peace Advocates. Very well done to you all!

Regional Schools' Cross Country Championships

In February, thirty athletes headed to Kirroughtree to compete in the Regional Schools' Cross Country Championships. There were over 350 athletes competing on the day. Conditions were cold, but perfect for running. The Douglas-Ewart High School athletes all performed well against some stiff competition. Congratulations to our individual winners:

Jamie Smith - S4 Boys - 2nd Place

Josh Wright - S4 Boys - 3rd Place

Lucy Gaw - S4 Girls - 2nd Place

Each year group can be entered into a team competition with the lowest scoring team taking victory. This year the DEHS received two team prizes of which we are very proud.

The winners were:

S2 Girls' Champions: Bronagh Beattie, Niamh McCarthy, Anna Christie and Jodie Stewart.

S4 Boys' Champions: Jamie Smith, Josh Wright and Dafydd Gwynne.

Some photographs taken at the Championships are shown below:



Netball

It has been a busy term for the netball squads. For the first time, the school entered two S4-S6 teams and four S1-S3 teams, in the Dumfries and Galloway Schools' League. Our Senior 'A' team won all their matches in the West league convincingly and will play the winner of the East league in the Regional final. They have also had a very impressive Scottish Schools' Cup run, making it to the quarter finals but unfortunately, came face-to-face with a team laced with Under-17 and Under-21 Scotland players - Strathaven Academy - who were unbelievable in their play - and although Strathaven won easily (80-22), the score line does not reflect our play on the pitch. The DEHS girls were commended by the teacher and the umpire from Strathaven for their outstanding attitude and commitment on court and for how hard they worked as a team. Very well done.

Our Senior 'B' team had slightly more mixed results, winning four matches and losing two. However, this is a good result for the team, as it was made up of players who had not played for several years and fancied having a go in the league to get back into the game and gain some match experience. An excellent effort. The 'B' team were runners-up in the West division.

In the Junior league, our 'A' team lost only one game by a single goal, finishing as runners-up in the West. Congratulations.

The Junior 'B' team won five games and lost three, finishing in third position behind the 'A' team. This is very encouraging as the squad contained some S1 players. Brilliant. Our 'C' and 'D' teams - which were made up of players who are just embarking on their netball career and lacked game experience - had their work cut out for them in the league where they faced older and more experienced players. Having said that, they are to be commended for their effort and play, which at times was good and caused problems for the opposition, but lacked consistency. Between the two teams they won four games. The future looks great for our Junior teams.

Our S2 (plus two S1 pupils) Scottish Cup squad has had the most amazing Cup run. They travelled up to Gordonstoun where they enjoyed an overnight stay and fabulous hospitality. We also enjoyed a convincing 34-16 win which sent us into the quarter finals. Strathallan travelled to us for the quarters and we dazzled them with skill, teamwork and determination. A 27-10 victory put us in the semi-finals where we will face Holyrood Secondary from Glasgow. Absolutely brilliant!

I would like to thank all the players for their hard work this season. Here's hoping they all come back next year. Also, a big thank you to all parents/carers for the support received from them.

NETBALL - BREAKING NEWS, BREAKING NEWS

The S1/S2 Cup squad won the semi-final against Holyrood 26-25. They will now go on to the final in Edinburgh this month.

Mrs A Francis

Netball Sponsorship/

Netball Sponsorship

The Netball squads have been fortunate to secure sponsorship with the help of our Active Schools Co-ordinator, Ann Ferguson, for new team kit and training tops. *Priory Veterinary Practice* sponsored new strips for our Junior team:



Above: S1/S2 Scottish Cup squad with Rachel Champion (top right) from *Priory Vets*

Below: *Ian Broll, Funeral Director*, sponsored our training tops:



We are very grateful to all our sponsors and appreciate the support they give us.

Badminton Club

Congratulations to the following pupils for a very successful Badminton season:

**Jennifer Craig
Ellie Mactier
Chloe McElrea
Kit Van Nguyen
Ryan Martin
John Hughes**

**Niamh McCarthy
Charlie Stewart
Loughran McCarthy
Fraser Dawson
Brogan Campbell
Daniel Gorman**

**Vanessa Ho
Hannah Birse
Harry Brown
Rory Mann
Corey Ross
Drew Fisher**

Competing in local (Machars and Wigtownshire) and regional events (Dumfries & Galloway Schools, Lockerbie), the players have won thirty-six gold, twenty-eight silver and nine bronze medals amongst them.



Special thanks to the parents and family who took the pupils to Lockerbie and supported them during a long day of competition.

Four of our pupils - Niamh McCarthy, Loughran McCarthy, Vanessa Ho and Rory Mann - qualified at Lockerbie to play in the Scottish Schools' Championship in Perth. Unfortunately, only Niamh and Loughran were able to attend and although they were not placed, they acquitted themselves well and gained valuable experience.

It is wonderful to have such success at competition level and have it recognised but Mrs. Strain (Coach) would like to emphasise it is not all about winning medals. The DEHS club has a number of pupils who just enjoy coming along to play and have fun whilst trying to improve their own personal performance. It is to be hoped they will all continue to attend when, all being well, the club will resume in the autumn.

Badminton is a great game for keeping fit and being one where you only need two people to play, it is easy to arrange a game!

Staffing Update

We are sorry to advise you that the following staff have left us since our last newsletter:

- Mrs S Jamieson, Teacher of Home Economics - has taken up a new post at Stranraer Academy.
- Mrs I McKie, Teacher of Home Economics - end of temporary contract.

However, we are grateful for the support of Mrs J Grant, Teacher of Home Economics, who has agreed to provide cover on a supply basis until Easter for our Senior Phase Health and Food Technology students.

We are also sorry that Mr P Butler, Teacher of Mathematics, will leave us after Easter to take up a new post at Ampleforth College in Yorkshire.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank these members of staff for their valued contribution to the school over the past few years and wish them well for the future.

We welcomed back Mrs N Junor, Teacher of Music, at the beginning of the year, which was ideal timing to support our new permanent appointment in Music, Miss E Brown, who started at the DEHS on 4th January 2018.

Our thanks are extended to Mr R Paterson, Mrs S Syed and Mr I Waddell, who have been providing additional support to help cover for current absences and vacancies.

We are pleased that the following staff also joined us early this term on a permanent basis:

- Mrs A Lloyd, Teacher of English
- Mrs L Boulton, Clerical Assistant

Next term Mrs K Armstrong, Teacher of Biology, will join us after a period of sabbatical as will Mrs L Creel, Teacher of Chemistry following a period of maternity leave.

Vacancies/

Vacancies currently advertised are as follows:

- Teacher of Home Economics
- Teacher of Mathematics

Vacancies currently advertised for an August 2018 start are as follows:

- Teacher of Business Studies
- Teacher of Additional Support Needs
- Teacher of Chemistry
- Trainee Teacher of Social Subjects

We hope to be in a position to update you on the progress of these vacancies in our next newsletter.

Dates for the Diary

March/April 2018

29.03.18 - Last Day of Term
30.03.18 - 13.04.18 - Easter Holidays
16.04.18 - Term 4 commences
19.04.18 - S1 Parents' Evening - 4pm - 6pm
24.04.18 - RHET Farming Trip
25.04.18 - S2 Parents' Evening - 4pm - 6pm
26.04.18 - Parent Council Meeting - 7pm

May 2018

02.05.18 - S2 Geography Field Trip
07.05.18 - May Day Holiday
12.05.18 - 20.05.18 - S2 Ardeche Trip

June 2018

01.06.18 - Pupil Holiday/Staff Inset Day
14.06.18 - School Show - *Annie*
15.06.18 - School Show - *Annie*
20.06.18 - 22.06.18 - P7 Transition Days
27.06.18 - 28.06.18 - Trafford Centre/Alton Towers' Trip
29.06.18 - Last Day of Term

July/August 2018

02.07.18 - 20.08.18 - Summer Holidays for Pupils
02.07.18 - 16.08.18 - Summer Holidays for Staff
17.08.18 & 20.08.18 - Staff Inset Days
21.08.18 - Term 1 Session 2018/2019 commences. Pupils return to school.

I hope that the Easter Break is rejuvenating and rewarding for all.

Yours sincerely



A Cowie
Head Teacher

The Masterclasses timetable referred to in page 3 of this newsletter is on the next page.

Masterclasses - 2018

Prior to, and during the Study Leave period, pupils are expected to attend, where possible, the following Masterclasses designed to focus revision on exam technique as well as Knowledge, Understanding and Evaluation, and where relevant, Problem Solving. Obviously, if the times below clash with a scheduled exam, the exam has priority. Pupils will be working with the subject teachers for all of the day unless indicated otherwise.

<u>Masterclasses Schedule - 2018</u>
24 th April - Mathematics
26 th April - Spanish
27 th April - Geography
27 th April - Music
30 th April - Administration and IT (Nat 5)
30 th April - Physics (AH only) (pm only)
1 st May - Physics
4 th May - Modern Studies (pm)
8th May - Study Leave Starts
8 th May - Graph Communications
9 th May - English (H)
9 th May - Biology (Nat 5)
10 th May - English (Nat 5)
10 th May - Biology (H)
14 th May - History
15 th May - French
16 th May - Design & Manufacture
18 th May - Chemistry
23 rd May - Health & Food Technology
24 th May - RMPS
24 th May - Practical Woodwork (am)
25 th May - Administration & IT (H)
25 th May - Physical Education (H)
28 th May - Art & Design
29 th May - Environmental Science
30 th May - Drama
30 th May - Hospitality: Practical Cookery