



Dunblane High School

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2016

School News

School Office Review

Parents will know that Stirling Council has set its budget for the coming year. For schools there will be major savings that will have to be made without impacting on teacher numbers. For us this means that the savings must come from management re-structuring and support staff. In the case of support staff we have not replaced the two members of staff who have left since December 2015 (a 1.5fte reduction). However, following a detailed review of administrative tasks we have taken the decision that no SLA support for individual pupils will be affected and administrative support for lesson preparation and development will also be protected. This means that, as indicated in the November and January Newsletters, the burden will fall on other operational aspects of the school office. Consequently from Monday 29 February for a trial period until the end of this term, the school office will close at 15.05 each day instead of 16.00. **On Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays when the school day ends at 15.40**, parents who need to contact the school **urgently** should call the normal school number where an **'ESSENTIAL CALL'** number will be given via a recorded message. This will be put through to PT Pupil Support or member of the SMT.

S6 Positive Destinations

Our S6 Student Mentor programme has once again been in operation this session whereby every S6 student has had the support of a staff Mentor to support them with the planning of their post-school options. **Mrs Scott (PTPS)** has been supervising this. All S6 students have taken part and been supported by a member of staff, who volunteered as a Mentor. Recently updated information from both UCAS and college applications is very encouraging. To date, of the **97 UCAS applications that were made from DHS, 43 (44%) have resulted in unconditional offers and 32 (33%) have resulted in conditional.** Once again our students have applied to a wide range of institutions in the UK and further afield—these have included Harvard, Stanford and other US universities, Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London and other institutions across the UK suggesting that our young people are indeed 'looking beyond the mountains'. College applications are very significant this year and encouragingly, a number of students have already received firm offers of places following successful interviews.

S4 & S5 Future Pathways Event

Parents & students from S4 and S5 were invited to this event, which took place in the Atrium

prior to the Options' Information Evening. The purpose of the event was to showcase the range and diversity of post-16 opportunities available for students. Parents and pupils had the opportunity to informally meet with the wide range of providers attending the event, and share information.

Staffing News

At the end of this term Mr Lennon will be retiring from Dunblane High School. The process of appointing a new Head continues and involves representatives from the Parent Council. It is hoped that an appointment will be made by the end of March. We welcome the appointment of a new Active Schools Co-ordinator for Dunblane High, **Mr Keith Glendinning** who took up his post on Monday 15 February.

Uniform Focus

Now that we are (hopefully) coming to the end of the inclement weather, we are planning a whole school focus on uniform. This is designed to increase the rigour in the second half of this term in run up to the SQA exams. Accordingly we are asking parents to ensure that pupils are appropriately attired and that such items as: *large fashion belts, coloured tights/leggings, 'hoodies'/denim/zip-up jackets, logos, etc.*, are not worn. Pupils will be asked to remove such items when inside the school building.

New Online Payment System

Soon, parents will be able to make payments to our school online. The system will enable parents to top-up lunch cards, pay for school trips and excursions and other school activities. More information on this will be issued in future Newsletters as well as on Twitter and by text.

DATES TO NOTE

Reports to Parents

S5&6:

Friday
4 March 2016

S2 BGE Report

Friday
18 March 2016

Spring Concert

Wednesday 23 March
Murray Hall
19.00

Holidays

Friday 25 &
Monday 28 March

Spring Holiday

School closes:
Friday 1 April 15.25
(after Cathedral Service)
School re-opens:
Monday
18 April 09.00

Contact Details

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PTO

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Biology

Mrs Gater's Higher Biology visited the **Argarty Red Kite Centre** near Doune for a field trip. They observed the feeding behaviour of approximately 40 wild Red Kites, each with a wing span of 5ft. It was a real spectacle. Students were also given a talk by Ranger, **Mike McDonnell** who informed the group about how successful the re-introduction of the Red Kite has been in the Central Belt after being persecuted to the point of extinction. Students will use the data they collected to prepare a scientific report which will be externally assessed by the SQA. Many thanks to the Argarty Red Kite Centre for the visit and in particular to Ranger Mike for sharing his knowledge of the Kites.

Maths

The recent **NUMBER DAY** on Friday 5 February was a great success involving the whole school. Activities included:

- an S1 "Number Hunt".
- a whole school "Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar" competition—Zoe Leckie S1 was the winner.
- an S1 Number Quiz—Fraser Welsh S1 was the winner.

All competitions were free of charge to enter. Some S1 pupils also gave an excellent presentation at the S1 assembly about Number Day. This involved a PowerPoint and a song by Dunblane High's own boy-band 'One Divison'.

English

We are delighted to announce the success of two of our S2 pupils in **Creating Gallipoli** a nationwide writing competition launched to commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli conflict in World War 1. **Hayley Exton 1K2** and **Emma Neild 1K1** were both short listed and commended for their short stories. Professor Kathleen Jamie of The University of Stirling chaired this prestigious competition and the judges were full of praise for the girls' entries and the way in which their writing brought to life the real human cost of war. Considering the competition was open to entrants aged up to fifteen it is a real honour that our pupils have received such an accolade whilst still in S1. Their stories will be published at a later date.

A drum, a drum... Macbeth doth come to a castle near you and he is accompanied by several of Shakespeare's much loved plays. The Shakespeare extravaganza which S2 have been involved in during English this year is fast approaching the performance stage. All S2 English classes have been studying plays, exploring Elizabethan life and creating an array of artefacts from castles to spells to convey their appreciation of The Bard and his iconic works. Their efforts will be culminating in enactments in **Stirling Castle** and all the year group are working very hard on their productions.

S3 Options

The S3 Options process is now complete. We are pleased to report that once again every pupil has been allocated their first choice in every column. Work has already begun on the 2016-17 session's timetable which will begin, for the whole school, on Tuesday 3 May 2016.

Traffic on Old Doune Road

We have had requests from parents of pupils at Dunblane Primary to alert our parents to the situation in the morning at Old Doune Road and Wallace Road. Their concern is about the volume of traffic and the need for more consideration to be given to young people who are crossing at points where the road narrows. The request is that parents who drive their children to Dunblane High be a little more considerate of younger pupils crossing.

SAINSBURY'S Active Kids' Vouchers

The school is collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers which can be used to buy resources to promote health and well-being across the school. Please deposit any vouchers in the collecting box at the school office.

S1 Battlefields Tour 2016

In 2014 the Royal British Legion working together with Poppy Scotland and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, launched an initiative named 'Every man Remembered' to keep alive the memory of all who fell in the First World War for future generations. Each year our school organizes a trip to the battlefields of the Ypres Salient and the Somme. This year's trip leaves for Flanders in May with some **60 pupils and staff** taking part. We are intending to have our own version of Everyman Remembered, where we will take names from the Dunblane War memorial, and lay a wreath on their grave or at their memorial in the centenary year of their death. This year we will concentrate on soldiers killed in 1916, and we are trying to make contact with relatives and descendants of the following:

John W. Anderson, Archibald Black, George Brough, William Crawford, Peter Cree, John Dick, Peter Gardiner, Donald Mathieson, Matthew McKie, Daniel McNaughton, George Nicoll, John Small, William Spiers.

We are asking relatives to make contact with us if they would like us to lay a commemoration on their behalf. Please make contact with **Mr Iain McRobbie** at Dunblane High School on 01786 823823 or by email.

The **Information Evening** for parents will be on **Wednesday 16th March at 19.00 in the Murray Hall**. There will be a full briefing covering the itinerary and what pupils should bring with them. A representative of Mercat Tours International will be in attendance to answer questions. Please note the **second instalment of £150 is due to be paid by 26th February**. *There are still a few spaces available on this trip. Please contact Mr McRobbie in Technical Education for further information.*

Successes

National BP Ultimate STEM Challenge

Congratulations to **Adam Bryson, Isaac McKerr and Conall Stephen (S2)** who finished as semi-finalists in the National BP Ultimate STEM Challenge for their project on 'streamlined ships', being one of only two Scottish schools selected. In recognition of their excellent project the pupils will receive a Bronze CREST award. CREST awards are the only nationally recognised accreditation scheme for project work in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). A fantastic achievement!

Swimming

The following pupils competed at the 2016 National Scottish Schools Swimming Championships last month at the International Swimming Centre at Tollcross in Glasgow. Congratulations to all who competed but particularly to **Rosie Stanger** on her Bronze Medal.

The results were as follows:

Rosie Stanger - 6th Year

Bronze in the Girls 17-19 100m Butterfly

Jamie Murray - 6th Year

11th place in the 17-19 Boys 200 Individual Medley

6th place in the 17-19 Boys 100m Backstroke

Malcolm Jack - 3rd Year

7th place in the 13-14 Boys 200m Backstroke

12th place in the 13-14 Boys 100m Backstroke

Football

Congratulations to **Jack Thomson (U15)** and **George Stanger (U18)** who have been selected to play in the Forth Valley Select football teams this season. The U15 reached the quarter final stage where they lost to a very strong Glasgow Schools' team. The U18 team won their quarter final against Lothian Schools and will play the winner of Glasgow v Aberdeen in the semi-final.

Burns Competition

Congratulations to **Holly Jarvis (S4)** who competed in the regional final of the **Burns Federation Competition** earlier this month in the singing category. Holly won through to the National final.