



Dunblane High School

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2015

School News

UK MATHS CHALLENGE TRIUMPH!

Huge congratulations to **Daniel Polatajko, Matthew Peters, Jessica Li and Iain Davies** who won first prize in the 'Poster Round' competition at the UK National Final of The Senior Maths Challenge in London. This is a competition for the most skilled mathematicians from schools across the U.K. Reaching the final was an achievement in itself but winning one of the prizes is immense! Their winning theme was the mathematics of the solar system about which one of the three judges commented: "The maths of the DHS team was perfect." Well done!

S6 Positive Destinations

This is the second year at DHS of our successful S6 **Student Mentor** programme whereby every S6 student is offered the opportunity of a staff Mentor to support them with the planning of their post-school options. **Mrs Hansom (PTPS)** reports that this session all 158 S6 students took up this opportunity and are currently being supported by one of the 52 members of staff, who volunteered as Mentors.

Recent update information received from both UCAS and college applications is very encouraging. To date **112 UCAS unconditional offers and 38 conditional offers** have been made to our students. Included in these are offers to our students from Harvard and from

both Oxford and Cambridge. In addition, a significant number of students have also either had interviews for different courses in a wide range of universities, or have interviews pending. College applications are also very encouraging with a number of students already receiving firm offers of places following successful interviews.

Future Pathways Event

26th February 2015, 5-7pm

Parents & pupils from S4 and S5 are invited to this event, which will take place in the **Atrium** prior to the Course Choice Information Evening. The purpose of the event is to showcase the range and diversity of post-16 opportunities available for students. Parents and pupils will have the opportunity to informally meet with the wide range of providers attending the event, and share information.

Staffing News

Following the publication last year of the report 'Education Working for All', the Scottish Government has provided funding to schools to develop Education for Work. As a result of this **Mr Noakes** has been appointed to the temporary post of Depute Head Teacher. Mr Noakes will lead the school's development of Education for Work. He also takes over responsibility for S3 and Reporting until June 2015. **Ms A Mackenzie** has been appointed to the temporary post of Principal Teacher of English and **Mrs Sadek-Kirk** to the temporary post of Principal Teacher of Modern Languages for this period.

Rotary Club Burns Supper

Accompanied by Mrs Spencer, our pupils once again excelled themselves in their performances at the

Rotary Burns Supper last week. The **Trad Group** performed 3 pieces, with Evan Raymond as solo piper in Sleeping Tune. **Karla Grant (S5), Holly Jarvis (S4) and Matthew McKinney (S6)** each performed a solo Burns song and Holly and Matthew performed a duet. The feedback was very positive, with comments such as "we were not expecting such a high standard" being publicly made. Well done!

Holly also participated in the **Perth Burns Competition** on Sunday 1 February and won the 'Solo Singing' and 'Solo Speaking' categories for her age group and was also awarded the President's Prize for her performances. Well done Holly!

Rotary Young Chef Competition

Under the supervision of Mrs Nairn (HE) the Local round of this competition took place in DHS at the end of last term. 5 pupils took part, 4 from Dunblane and 1 from QV. All contestants performed very well and were complimented by the judge on their excellent working methods. Congratulations to **Anna McFarland** who was placed 1st, **Joanna Brannan** who was 3rd and to **Angus Clelland** and **Jenna Fleming** who were Highly Commended. Anna will now go forward to district round in Dundee in February. Good luck!

Rotary Young Leadership Award

Congratulations to **Fiona Dick (S4)** who, at the end of last term, learned that she had won a Rotary Club Youth Leadership Award (RCYLA) This will involve a week at the Abernethy Trust's Outdoor and Adventure Centre overlooking Loch Tay. Young people ages 14-30 are sponsored by Rotary Clubs to attend the event run by the club's district committee. Participants are chosen for their leadership potential so it is a great achievement for Fiona to have been selected.

DATES TO NOTE

~ < > ~
S2 Parents Evening
Thursday
5 February
16.00-18.30
~ < > ~

Mid Term Holiday
School closes
Friday 6 February
15.25

Re-opens:
Monday
16 February
09.00
~ < > ~

Reports to Parents
S4:
Friday 30 January
S1 Interim:
Friday 6 February
~ < > ~
S4 & S5
Options 2015-16 Parents' Information Evening
19.00 Thursday
26 February
~ < > ~

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PTO

S4 ~ 6 'Mock' Exams

With the recent end of the S5/6 exams, all of our 'Mock' SQA exams are now over. Parents of S4 will have received their reports already - the reports on S5 and S6 will be issued during the week beginning 2 March.

S5 Health & Wellbeing Day

The S5 participated in their HWB Day on Monday 2 February. The programme involved guest speakers from **Police Scotland** and **Project Trust** as well as sessions in 'metafit' and self-defence from **Active Stirling**. They also received short presentations from Mrs Hanson giving S5 an introduction to S6 and from Mrs A Crawford of **Skills Development Scotland** who delivered a session on writing a Personal Statement. All pupils also gained a **Heart Start First Aid Certificate**. Thanks to Mr Ritchie, Miss McHardy, Mr Ross and Miss Murney.

40th Anniversary ART

2014 marked the 40th anniversary of Dunblane High School and also the construction of a new footbridge over the railway at Dunblane Station. With both of these in mind, Balfour Beatty approached our Art department and asked them to create two display boards to enhance their building project at the station, celebrating the schools forty years. After some consultation different views of Dunblane were chosen as the theme and the pupils and staff got creating. Many pupils from 2nd to 6th year and teachers from Graphic Communications and English, got involved. The project resulted in two boards showcasing paintings of Dunblane including the Old Railway footbridge, before it was removed. Pupils involved were **Rachel Kelly S6 Holly Cunningham S6 Jodie Howland S6 Mareth Burns(S3) James Dougan(S3) Kirsty Glen(S3) Holly Jarvis(S3) Erin Watson(S3) Faye Pullan(S2)** Thanks also to the staff involved: Mrs Morrow(English) Miss Porter(Graphic Communications) Mrs Munro(Art) and to Christine Turpie of Balfour Beatty. The work now has a permanent home in the school's McCarron Room.

Biology

Our Advanced Higher Biology students recently visited the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh with Mrs Gater. 22 students participated in a 'DNA Workshop' which was led by Edinburgh University. Students extracted their own DNA and then analysed their genes using the latest scientific techniques. The workshop was a challenging but very enjoyable experience.

S3 Options

The S3 Options process is now complete. We are pleased to report that every pupil has been allocated their first choice in every column. Work has already begun on next session's S4 timetable which will begin, with the rest of the school, on Tuesday 5 May.

YOUTH SERVICES

Looking for something to do after the school day? Youth Services have a range of exciting programmes and activities for young people, from free professional music tuition to basketball training. Check out our website What's On and Stuff for Young People pages for details www.services4youth.com or get in touch for more information on youthservices@stirling.gov.uk or 01786 233562.

Snow Rules

During severe weather DHS's SNOW RULES apply—this means no one should leave the school building at interval and only those going home for lunch should do so during the lunch break. When exiting the school in snow pupils should be mindful of their own and other's safety and refrain from throwing snow especially near cars.

Drop Off by Car

Our thanks to those parents who make use of the **Drop Off Zone** to drop pupils at school by car. Can we please ask that parents do not enter the car park to drop off pupils where possible. The car park is very busy at certain times of the day and we'd like to try to ensure our pupils' safety as much as possible.

Likhubula Appeal

Our Likhubula Youth Partnership raised £200 recently from a collection during PSR time and a bake sale in the atrium to help the Likhubula community cope with the floods which hit the area last month. They were responding to reports that at the peak of the storm, Mount Mulanje received 12 inches of rain in 24 hours. Likhubula is at the base of Mount Mulanje. The plight of the country is illustrated by the fact that Mulanje Mission Hospital lost all electricity and is now dependent on generators. Flood water collapsed a toilet block. Mulanje Mission hospital is the local mission hospital to Likhubula. They have provided support to our partnership in many areas. Articles talk of the danger of water borne diseases, of fractured roads and access problems and, most serious of all, the loss of a year's crops. If the affected geographical areas have no harvest they face 15 months of food insecurity. Thanks to all who contributed to this latest school appeal.

Sporting Successes Football

Congratulations to **Conor McKenzie (S6)** who has been named (for the second successive year) in the U18 Scotland Squad for the forthcoming internationals against Australia, Wales, Northern Ireland, England and the Republic of Ireland.

Congratulations also to **James Dougan (S3)** who has been selected for the Forth Valley U15 football team.

Valencia Trip Race Night

Grateful thanks to Mr Scougall (PE) and everyone who supported the Valencia Trip Race Night—a fantastic time was had by everyone and almost **£1521** was raised! The money will be put towards match tickets and training kit for October's trip.

Swimming

Three of our senior pupils represented DHS at the Scottish Swimming Championships in Aberdeen last month. The results were as follows:

17-19 age group
100m Backstroke ~ **Cara Smith (S6) 5th place**
100m Butterfly ~ **David Hughes (S5) 6th place**
200m Butterfly ~ **David Hughes (S5) 4th place**
100m Backstroke ~ **Jamie Murray(S5) 7th place**
200m Backstroke ~ **Jamie Murray(S5) 7th place**

Congratulations to our swimmers on these excellent results!

Badminton

Junior and Senior pupils competed the Central Scotland Badminton Competition at The Peak in December. Well done to all the pupils for all their hard work and effort on the day. Congratulations goes to the following members of the junior team (S1):

Fraser Sheriff and James Forrest who won the boys' doubles.

Fraser Sheriff and Amy Campbell who won the mixed doubles.

Also, **Fraser Sheriff** won a silver in boys' singles and **Amy Campbell** won silver in girls' singles. We are very proud of our successful and enthusiastic team. **MANY CONGRATULATIONS!**

Table Tennis

James Forrest, S1, won the u14 Stirlingshire Schools Table Tennis Tournament 18/1/15, and will now represent Dunblane HS / Stirlingshire Schools at the Scottish Schools Tournament on 21 February.

Squash

In November **Emma Fitzsimmons** travelled to Dublin with Scottish Squash to compete in the Irish Junior Open where she came 3rd. She also competed recently in the Scottish Junior Open where she was delighted to reach her first European Squash Federation final, despite playing well Emma came 2nd losing to a player from Japan.

Judo

Cameron Reid-Thomas (S2) competed in the 2014 British Judo Championships in Sheffield last month. He fought extremely well, after losing one fight he went on to win his next 4 fights to win a Bronze medal in the Under 55 kg weight category of the U15 age group. Congratulations Cameron!