



Dunblane High School

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014

School News

33 Period Week 2015-16 onwards

Following the recent consultation, decisions have been made on the introduction of a 33 period week for Dunblane High School next session. Three parents attended the '33 Period Week Drop-in' question and answer session on 23 October; 26 parents attended the '33 Period Week' Information Evening for parents on 27 October and 7 parents took the opportunity to email the Secretary of the Parent Council with their views. There was a very clear level of understanding about the need for us to be proactive because of the Council's financial situation and, in the light of this, full acceptance of the need to move to a 33 period week as the 'least worst' option. A common concern in the emailed responses (and raised at the Information Evening) was the later starting time for lunch in all of the 4 Options — from the current 13.05 to around 13.25. We recognised that this might be an issue and therefore included in 3 of the 4 Options, an earlier lunch. However this would have led to either the moving of the 3 consecutive periods from the mornings to the afternoons of Monday Tuesday and Wednesday and/or the creation of a two period afternoon on Thursdays and Fridays. All of these scenarios were scrutinised and in each case they resulted in serious problems in the upper school timetable where 3 subject columns will have to be allocated 2 double periods. With 12 of our 18 subjects in S5/6

currently being offered in more than 1 column (to maintain a high level of choice), an unacceptable imbalance in time between subject sections in different columns following the same course, would be inevitable. We judged this to be a more serious problem than the 19-24 minute delay to the lunch break. However to mitigate the impact of the later lunch the catering staff will pilot a 'breakfast service' from 08.40–08.55 each morning and consideration will be given to adding 5 minutes to the morning interval to allow more time for a significant nutritional break. Taking all of this into account, from **Tuesday 5 May 2015**, the configuration of the school day will be:

Monday Tuesday & Wednesday

Start: 09.00

Interval 10.45—11.05*

Lunch: 13.29—14.09

End: 15.44

Thursday & Friday

Start: 09.00

Interval 10.45—11.05*

Lunch: 13.29—14.09

End: 15.09

UK Maths Challenge

Some of our pupils took part in The Senior Maths Challenge on Thursday 6 November. This is a competition for mathematically skilled senior pupils throughout the U.K. The top 60% of all entrants nationwide receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1 : 2 : 3 respectively and the very highest scorers are invited to take part in

follow up rounds. Dunblane High achieved **5 gold, 6 silver and 8 bronze** certificates. Outstanding performances by **Daniel Polatajko** and **Alex Swift** (S6) have qualified them for first round of the British Mathematical Olympiad whilst **Matthew Peters, Daniel Stansfield and Iain Davies** have qualified for the Senior 'Kangaroo'. A special mention also goes to **Jamie Welsh** (S3) who won a silver certificate - a superb achievement for a pupil in S3 considering all the other participants were in S5 or S6. In addition Dunblane High's Senior Maths Challenge Team made up of **Matthew Peters, Daniel Polatajko, Iain Davies and Jessica Li** won one of the three **Scottish Regional Finals** and will progress to the UK Final in London in February 2015. All are to be congratulated not only for their success, but also for their effort in preparing, their general enthusiasm and passion for Maths. Other teachers at the event also commented on their modesty and good nature. Dunblane High is lucky to have such gifted mathematicians.

Number Day

All S1 and all faculties will be involved in a 'Number Day' on Friday 5 December. In every subject S1 will focus on Maths. Ms Sweeney and Ms Heneghan (Maths) the organisers hope this event will be both enjoyable and educational. The NSPCC may benefit from any donations made on the day.

Armistice Day 2014

Following the community Remembrance Sunday service at which Dunblane High was represented by **Matthew McKinney (Head Boy)** and **S2 pupils Louisa Thomson and Alex Douglas** (who laid a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the school), our own annual

Armistice Day commemoration took place on the 11th of November. In this centenary year, representatives from our 2014 Battlefields' tour were joined in school foyer just before 11am by **Lynne Reed; John Alexander; Tony Ford and Peter Ferguson** of the Royal British Legion. As usual our young people's response

both to the reflection over the school PA system by Mr McRobbie (Technical) and **David McNeil** (S3) who read Lawrence Binyon's famous lines, and the 2 minutes' silence which followed was exemplary. The whole school was never so silent and still. It was a moving way for DHS to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War I.

DATES TO NOTE

S4
National 5
Mock Exams
Monday
1 December
to
Friday
12 December
~ <> ~

S5/6
Parents' Evening
Thursday
4 December
16.00-18.30
~ <> ~

Christmas Holiday
School closes:
Friday
19 December
13.00
(After Cathedral Service)

Re-opens:
Monday
5 January 2015
09.00
~ <> ~

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PTO

Civic Honour

Congratulations to Louis Bryson (S4) on being one of only 3 young people in Stirling to receive a Civic Award. The award was made after Louis was nominated for his achievements in fencing notably his selection for the Scottish Fencing Team at youth level, his achievements in national competitions and his dedication to the sport as evidenced by his coaching and supporting younger fencers. Well done Louis!

Curricular News

Modern Languages

All 48 French Higher and AH students attended a "découverte de la cuisine française" evening at the Bistro Beaumartin in Glasgow recently and 130 S1 pupils will be taking part in a visit to the **UK French Film Festival** in Edinburgh on Tuesday 25 November – they are attending the screening of 'Belle et Sébastien'. In what has become something of an annual event, Mrs Sadek-Kirk will be leading a group of over 40 S4 pupils on the French/Belgium Christmas trip which leaves on Friday 12 December.

English & Modern Languages

S1 Narnia: The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe. English, Music and French Interdisciplinary Project

The class teachers (Mrs Stevens, Mr Cooper and Ms McHardy) and pupils of 1R1 are well underway with preparations for their *Narnia* mini-movie production, which will be filmed and available to view from the end of December via the link on the school website. The project involved the prose study of the text in **English** and the creation of their own class script, which has been used for the production aspect of the project. Pupils have been responsible for the development of costumes, set design and filming / editing of scenes. In **Music** pupils have been responsible for selecting and developing the creation of instrumental arrangements to accompany their assigned scenes. Whilst in **French**, pupils have been responsible for the investigation and development of language, which is to be applied to subtitled their produced scenes.

English & Music

1K1, 1R2 and 1S2 recently completed their interdisciplinary learning project on WW1. The classes had rehearsed scenes from the satirical drama *Oh What a Lovely War*. Not only did the pupils learn some stirring songs in Music and thought provoking lines in English but they discovered the rewards and challenges of putting together a dramatic production. The performance was received very warmly by all. The full production will be available to watch via the school website shortly.

S1/2 Theatre Trip to see 'Wicked'

64 pupils will be going on an English Dept trip to see the matinee performance of 'Wicked' at the Edinburgh Playhouse on Wednesday 10 December.

Kids' Lit Quiz 2014/15

Dunblane High School was well represented again at this year's Kids' Lit Quiz. After holding our own heats in school two teams from the current S1 and S2 year groups went forward to the West of Scotland Heat. There was very little between our teams who took up respectable places mid-table amongst some fierce competition.

Debating

Our Debating Club attended, with Miss Gould (English), a short prep debate competition held by the Edinburgh University. We entered two teams consisting of Emily Wilson and Diarmid Thomson (both S2) and Matthew Smith and Kayleigh Fraser (both S3). It was a great experience which helped improve their debating skills.

BGE Science

On 5 November the Science Centre visited the school with their 'Bodyworks 3D' show. All of our S1 pupils got to see it. Pupils enjoyed a 3D tour of the brain and spinal cord, focussing topics relevant to the "Scrubs" topic S1 Science. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Physics

Anwen Davies, Sarah Pearson and Ewan Lambert represented the school recently at the **West of Scotland Physics Competition**.

Swimming Success

15 Swimmers from S1 to S6 made up the Dunblane High School Team which competed in the Central Schools' Swimming Championships at Grangemouth on 8 November. Between them they came away with a medal tally of **9 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze** as well as a considerable number of Personal Best times and an equally impressive number of Consideration times for the Scottish Schools' Finals to be held early next year. Special mention to our **Relay A Team** who swam impressively against very stiff competition to finish in 1st place! We came an impressive 3rd place overall in the combined Team Scores. The Dunblane team comprised of: **Seren Adams, Katie Chaplin, Kailey Davidson, Harriet Duffus, Alice Greenan, Olly Carr, Shawn Cooper, Sam Leckie, Malcolm Jack, Kayleigh Fraser, Jodie Murray, Cara Smith, Rosie Stanger, David Hughes and Jamie Murray**. Well done! Individual results are listed below.

Girls 12-13 Events

Seren Adams: 100 Back (6th), 100 Breast, 200 Breast (4th)
Katie Chaplin: 100 Breast (6th), 100 Free, 200 IM
Kailey Davidson: 100 Free (4th), 200 Back (5th), 200 Free
Harriet Duffus: 100 Fly (5th), 100 Free (5th), 200 Fly (3rd)
Alice Greenan: 100 Free, 200 IM, 200 Free

Boys 12-13 Events

Olly Carr: 100 Breast (4th), 100 Free, 200 Free
Shawn Cooper: 100 Breast, 100 Free
Sam Leckie: 100 Back (3rd), 200 IM (2nd), 200 Back (3rd)
Malcolm Jack: 100 Back (6th), 200 Back (6th), 200 Free (5th)

Girls 14-15 Events

Kayleigh Fraser: 100 Back (6th), 100 Free
Jodie Murray: 100 Free

Girls 16-17 Events

Cara Smith: 100 Back (1st), 100 Free (1st)
Rosie Stanger: 100 Fly (1st), 100 Free (2nd), 200 Fly (1st)

Boys 16-17 Events

David Hughes: 100 Fly (2nd), 100 Free (1st), 200 Fly (1st)
Jamie Murray: 100 Back (1st), 200 IM (3rd), 200 Back (1st)

Mixed Freestyle Relay 12-18

B Team: Jodie Murray, Jack Malcolm, Harriet Duffus and Sam Leckie

A Team: Rosie Stanger, Jamie Murray, Cara Smith and David Hughes (1st)

Congratulations to our 'A' Team who swam an impressive race against very stiff competition to finish in 1st place.

**MANY CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OUR SWIMMERS!**

Football Honours

Congratulations to **Conor McKenzie and Greg Hurst** who have been selected to attend a trial for the Scottish Schoolboys U18 International Football squad. The trial takes place at Ravenscraig indoor arena on Friday 28 November. We have some S6 playing for the **Forth Valley select** team in the regional cup match against Perth and Kinross. They are **Callum Davison Greg Hurst Connor McKenzie**. **James Dougan** (3R2) has also been selected to play for the Forth Valley U15 team.

National Honours

Congratulations to **Clare Stansfield** (S4) who has been selected for the Scottish Schools' team for the **World Schools Orienteering Championship in Turkey next April**. Congratulations also to **Cammie Reid-Thomas 2K2**, who won a Bronze medal in the Under 50 kg (Under 15s) at the Scottish National Judo Championships at Ravenscraig on 9 November. Well done to both our pupils!!