



Dunblane High School

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2014

School News

Proposal for a 33 Period Week 2015-16 onwards

We are posting this Newsletter because it is important that every parent receives information about this proposal.

Because of the council's serious budgetary situation, secondary schools are preparing for a significant cut in their teaching staff in the financial years ahead beginning in 2015-16. This level of staff cuts would have a significant impact on the range and nature of the courses we currently offer including SQA courses. However, almost all of the likely negative impact of these could be avoided if we move from the current 30 period week to a 33 period week. This would greatly increase the efficiency of our staff deployment and provide virtually all of the required savings. Moreover the school's curriculum—the current S1-3 Broad General Education would continue largely unaltered and in S4 we could continue to offer 7 subjects in the new National exams. Though there would be significant modifications to the length of teaching periods, the length of the morning and lunch intervals would remain the same but where they occur in the course of the school day would change. However perhaps the biggest impact for parents is likely to be on the finishing times of the school day. A proposed 'minimal' change would be as follows: on **Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays** the school day could end at 15.40 and

on **Thursdays and Fridays** at 15.05. If such a configuration of the school day were to be introduced there would be **no change to the 09.00 start** every day. Details of this proposal and others (including some which some other authorities have introduced), were discussed by staff and by the Parent Council on Monday 6 October. However, this **'minimal' change option is the one most favoured by the school.** There will be a '33 Period Week Drop-in' question and answer session for parents on this proposal on **THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER** in the **McCarron Room** between **15.45—17.30.** This, along with a special '33 Period Week' Information Evening for parents in the Murray Hall on **MONDAY 27 OCTOBER** from **19.00-20.00**, will provide parents with the opportunity to ask about the 33 Period Week and to express their views. Alternatively parents may wish to comment by emailing the Secretary of the Parent Council **Mrs Heather Dougan** heather.dougan@talktalk.net. Further information will be posted on the school website after the October holiday. It is important to note that the 33 period week has already been introduced by many authorities across Scotland and that our staff have agreed in principle to the change. In any event is likely that Stirling Council will require secondary schools to move to a 33 period week in due course. Against this background our main focus therefore should be on the configuration of the 33 periods. **We are convinced that moving to a 33**

Period Week with a school day configured along the lines indicated, is much the best option for Dunblane High. If this is to be introduced for the 2015-16 session, we need to make a final decision by the **26 November** (the start of the three Inservice Days) to allow time for the construction of the new timetable to take account our S3 Options in January. The new 33 period week timetable would then be constructed ready for its introduction at our change of timetable on **Tuesday 5 May 2015.**

Outstanding SQA Maths Achievement

One of our new S5 students, **Iain Davies** and his family attended an award ceremony at the Royal College of Physicians, in Edinburgh, on the evening of Wednesday 1st October accompanied by **Mr Junnor** (Maths). This was to recognise Iain's achievement in scoring 100% in the 2014 SQA Advanced Higher Maths exam. He was the only candidate in the country to achieve this unique distinction a fact that was all the more remarkable since he was only in S4 when he took this S6 examination. The awards were made under the auspices of the **Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.** Congratulations to Iain and his family on this distinguished award!

Culinary Success

Congratulations to Stephanie Verrall (last year's S6) who has obtained an apprenticeship with the **Chez Roux** group. Based at Cromlix House Hotel, she will be mentored and will have the opportunity to work all over the world in Chez Roux establishments.

Staffing

We have made several new appointments to our staff recently: we welcome **Mr S Adamson (Maths)** who joins us from Denny High School on a permanent basis and **Mrs E Harrington (English)** who has been appointed to a 0.6 temporary post for the rest of this session. We have also just appointed a new permanent Support for Learning Assistant **Ms A**

MacLaren who joins us from St Modan's.

S1-3 BGE: HE

Following the retirement in June of **Mrs Nairn** we have been unable to appoint a permanent Home Economics (HE) specialist. As a result the HE time in the Broad General Education (BGE) for S1-3 this session has been allocated to Maths. S1-3 classes therefore now have 5 periods of Maths per week. However every S1-3 practical set will, at various times in the session, be

extracted from Maths for a block of Home Economics. These 'extraction blocks' begin this month and we are delighted to welcome back on a temporary basis **Mrs Nairn** who will be delivering BGE Home Economics. Even after the HE blocks have been taken into account, the net time allocated to S1-3 Maths is still very generous. There will be no S1-3 Interim Report in HE this session—pupils will receive a report at the end of their HE block in the same format of the Interim Report.

DATES TO NOTE

S1 Individual Photographs
Thursday

9 October
(+ S6 Group)

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S4 Interim Reports

10 October

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October Holiday

School closes:

Friday

10 October
15.25

Re-opens:

Monday

20 October
09.00

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33 Period Week

Information

'Drop-in'

Thurs 23 October
15.45-17.30

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Information Evening

Mon 27 October
19.00-20.00

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Likhubula Day

This year's annual 'Likhubula Day' was a great success. The school has a long standing commitment to provide bursaries for senior students in our partner high school CHAMBE HIGH in Likhubula, Malawi. In addition, and thanks to the work of the Dunblane Likhubula Youth Partnership, we are well on target to meet the cost of employing a school nurse in Chambe High. As well as the charity stalls in the Atrium during the day, the S4 students from the Partnership delivered presentations to every year group. In the afternoon and following a suggested donation to the Likhubula Fund, a total of **345 pupils** participated in our annual Cross Country Run and over 30 senior pupils helped out as course marshalls or as recorders recording times. The results were as follows:

S1 Boys

1st Sean Duff, 2nd Callum Valentine, 3rd Oliver Stewart

S1 Girls

1st Cerys Gilbride, 2nd Sophie Poulter, 3rd Lizzie Stansfield

S2 Boys

1st Robbie Malkin, 2nd Kyle Middleton, 3rd Nathan Gilhooly

S2 Girls

1st Elizabeth Winton, 2nd Hannah Blance, 3rd Imogen Gibbons

S3 Boys

1st Rory Price, 2nd Ben Parkinson, 3rd Brandon Thomson-Hoare

S3 Girls

1st Heather Scott, 2nd Fiona Davies, 3rd =Jasmine Wilde and Kayleigh Fraser

Senior Boys

1st Daniel Stansfield, 2nd Iain Davies, 3rd Kieran Connolly

Senior Girls

1st Lucy Mason, 2nd Clare Stansfield, 3rd Bethan Evans

Congratulations to all of the above medal winners. *The day raised the magnificent total of £675 for the Dunblane Likhubula Youth Partnership.*

MAD Groups

Our MAKING A DIFFERENCE (MAD) GROUPS are now up and running. Once again such is the interest in S6, we have had to establish 2 groups which meet weekly under the supervision of **Dr Irvine** and **Mr Cooper**. Our MAD Groups take decisions on fundraising during the school day. DHS supports a wide range of fund raising activities but it is not possible to support everything. Only fundraising for charities is permitted during the school day and any pupil wishing to fundraise in school must seek permission from a member of the SMT who will refer the request to the MAD Groups.

Political Engagement

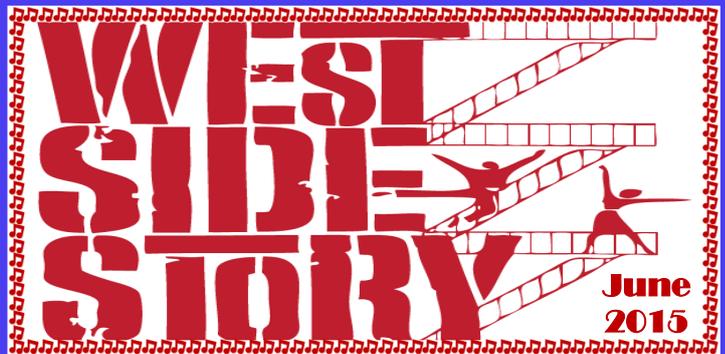
Dunblane High's senior students were impressively engaged in the recent political debate. A group of them attended the debate for new voters in the Hydro in Glasgow prior to the Scottish Referendum where they were a credit both to their parents and to the school.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Dunblane High DofE Award Group is in need of advice from anyone with data protection experience. If you have such experience or are keen to learn and would consider joining a dedicated group of parent volunteers to help in the development of this DofE Award Group, please contact Mr Juan Escala at coordinator@dunblanehighdofe.com.

School Meals

Monday 20 October is the start of the new Autumn/Winter menu cycle. **S4-6 students may pre-order** their lunches by filling in a form with choices from the Deli-Bar and putting it in the Drop Box by 11.15am. Payment will be taken straight from lunch cards and at 1.05pm lunch bags will be ready to collect at the designated area.



Our school show this session is without doubt the most ambitious ever attempted in Dunblane High - **West Side Story** - an energetic, romantic and sophisticated musical drama. Preparations are already underway for the **June 2015** production. The musical score by Leonard Bernstein will present an exciting challenge to all our musicians, with dynamic dance sequences offering a fantastic opportunity for all our talented young dancers. Inspired by Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', West Side Story is a modern-day, re-telling of this story, but set in the Upper West Side of New York City in the late 1950s. We are delighted to have a large number of senior boys involved in our cast of rival gangs, **the Jets** and **the Sharks** but we would be delighted to welcome any new recruits! The principal parts have already been cast and they are already busy rehearsing the challenging musical material. However, rehearsals for the **Show Band, Chorus, Dancers and Sound and Lighting Teams** do not begin until January so there is still time for pupils to take up the invitation to join this project. We will also require enthusiastic individuals to help with costumes, set construction, back stage/props etc. **Any pupil is welcome to join the 'WSS 2015 Team' to help bring this vibrant musical alive! NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED.** Anyone interested should speak to any of our music staff.

Golfing Success

Following Europe's success in the Ryder Cup comes news of a similar success for Dunblane High: **Andrew Stuart (3S1)** and **Christian Lee (5K2)** were part of the Stirling Schools' golf team that beat the Falkirk Schools' team in a Ryder Cup style golf match played at Grangemouth Golf Club recently—congratulations for to Andrew and Christian!

International Honours

Congratulations to **Sara Morrison (S5)** and **Angus Cameron (S6)** who have been selected for the Scottish Under 18 Girls' and U18 Boys' **Water Polo** teams in the North Sea Cup in Swansea over the weekend of 8/9 November 2014 where they will be up against teams from Ireland, Wales and Denmark. Congratulations also to **James Dougan (S3)** who has been selected to play **squash** for Scotland at the upcoming Irish Open in Dublin. Good luck to all three of our internationalists!

Auchwitz Visit

Last month September **Jamie Braidwood** and **Jessica Murray (both S6)** were fortunate to have been chosen to visit Poland as part of the Holocaust Association's schools' programme. As part of this powerful educational programme they attended 2 seminars in Edinburgh one prior to and the other after, the visit. As a result they will be making presentations to every year group at assemblies in January / February.

Government Survey

We have been asked to take part in the **Scottish Government's Young People in Scotland Survey 2014** being conducted by Ipsos MORI Scotland. This will involve 4 of our classes randomly selected from S2, S3, S5 and S6. The classes are: **2R2, 3K1, 5R1 and 6K2**. The survey will be conducted between 20 October and 14 November 2014. Parents of those classes involved will be issued with an 'Opt Out' letter if they do not wish their child to take part.