



Dunblane High School

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015

School News

NEW TIMETABLE Tuesday 5 May

Parents are reminded that from **Tuesday 5 May 2015**, the new 33 period week timetable will be in operation. This will mean that changes to the finishing times of the school day will be implemented. The configuration of the school week from that date on will be:

Monday Tuesday & Wednesday

Start: 09.00

Interval 10.45—11.00

Lunch: 13.24—14.04

End: 15.40

Thursday & Friday

Start: 09.00

Interval 10.45—11.00

Lunch: 13.24—14.04

End: 15.04

Because of the later lunch interval (which will begin 19 minutes later), the catering staff have already started piloting a 'breakfast service' from 08.40–08.55 each morning which will continue into the new timetable. We will also be piloting in May, a slightly longer morning interval but this will **not** impact on the start or finish times to the school day.

Education for Life & Work (EFLW) 2015-16

The new 33 period per week timetable significantly increases our capacity to develop the curriculum both in the S4-6 Senior Phase and in the Broad General Education S1-3 (BGE). A key aspect to this will be enhancements to the curriculum in response to the Wood Commission—a report published by the Scottish Government requiring that schools should do more in the area of 'Education for Life and Work'. DHS's response to this is being led by **Mr Noakes DHT** who has already set up an EFLW group which is being set the challenge of

transforming the educational experience of our young people to fully prepare them for a rapidly changing world. Our staff's response to this has been exemplary with **21 teachers representing all faculty areas** involved. A core group of 8 staff chaired by Mr Noakes, will plan, consult and develop the reflections and suggestions on the way forward for our school. We are keen to find out from all stakeholders what skills and attributes they want their school and their community to foster in our young people. The EFLW team will be surveying the community – pupils, employers, parents and teachers - **during the week beginning 30 March** to know what we mean when we say skills for 'Life & Work'. Already important links have been made with 'Discover Dunblane' & the BID (Business Improvement District) team led by **Mr Tom Casey** (one of our parents). The successful vote on 27 February means our young people will be able to participate fully in shaping their local environment and it is hoped the school will have full representation on the board. Allied to this the EFLW team – represented by **Miss S. Porter (Technical) and Rachel Kelly S6** have been working with the 'Dunblane Charrette' along with some S3 and S6 students to look at mapping their experience of living in Dunblane and making suggestions for improvements.

Senior Phase Curriculum: S5 & S6 2015-16

As well as the introduction of the **new CfE Advanced Highers**, the curriculum for S5 and S6 next session will include a number of enhancements made possible by the introduction of the 33 period week. As with the current curriculum, 6 periods will be allocated to each column for academic courses and

although the average length of each period will be 48-50 minutes (as compared with the current average of 53 minutes), there will continue to be ample time to complete the 160 hours required of each SQA course. The additional 3 periods available provide us with the opportunity to include 1 dedicated period per week to be devoted to separate S5 and S6 year group assemblies. This means that **EFLW** issues—including UCAS support—can be covered without taking time from subject columns. Another period will be allocated to **core PE** and the third will be used to deliver other aspects of EFLW including such topics as 'Lifeskill Cooking', interview and presentations skills and business and enterprise education. We believe that this will be a significant enhancement to the educational experience of our senior students many of whom (especially S5) may feel the pressure of the relentlessly academic nature of the curriculum.

Senior Phase Curriculum: S4 2015-16

The curriculum for S4 will continue to offer 7 SQA subjects at National 4 and National 5 levels but will now include 2 periods of core PE and 1 period of core RME.

CfE Broad General Education Curriculum: S1 - S3 2015-16

The curriculum for S1 to S3 will contain the same range of subjects as in previous years with some (temporary) modifications to subject period allocations to take account of a reduction in our school roll from 867 (September 2014) to around 840 and consequential changes to our staffing for 2015-16.

DATES TO NOTE

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**S2 Reports
to Parents**
Friday 27 March

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**SPRING
CONCERT**
19.00 Tuesday
31 March
Murray Hall

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**Spring
Holiday**

School closes
Thursday 2 April
15.25

(after Cathedral Service)

**Re-opens:
Monday
20 April 09.00**

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**33 Period Week
Timetable
begins**

**TUESDAY
5 MAY 2015**

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PTO



Scottish Youth Parliament Elections

Congratulations to **BRIAN IROEGBU** of S3 who has been elected as one of 2 representatives from Stirling Schools to serve in the Scottish Youth Parliament 2015. This is the second successive year that one of our pupils has been elected to the Youth Parliament.

National Engineering Competition for Girls

Congratulations to **Caitlin Fotheringham** and **Sophie Namey** S6 who were shortlisted as finalists in Talent 2030's National Engineering Competition for girls. They were selected as one of the final 15 teams from across the UK to attend **The Big Bang Young Scientists and Engineering Fair** in Birmingham on the 14 March to showcase their project. The competition asked young people to propose a solution to one of the challenges of 21st century engineering. The girls chose to tackle the energy crisis and proposed a system of offshore wind turbines that store excess energy as hydrogen in non-peak hours. They presented their ideas at the NEC, Birmingham. Caitlin and Sophie are both planning to pursue Engineering based studies at University and enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with likeminded future engineers.

Royal Society of Chemistry Competition

Well done to **Emily Batchelor**, **Matthew Peters** (both S6) and **Jamie Paterson** (S5) who represented Dunblane High School in The Royal Society of Chemistry, Young Analyst Competition at Heriot Watt University on 3 March. They were faced with challenging laboratory procedures and although not being placed in the prizes our team found it an interesting and challenging experience.

Ecosystems Conference

15 of our S2 pupils accompanied by Mrs Hooks and Mr Browne (Science) made the trip to Edinburgh Zoo recently to take part in the **Ecosystems Recharged Global Classroom Conference**. The pupils attended with other schools and participated in a variety of workshops on the impact of human activities on ecosystems. It was a very enjoyable and informative day. The pupils were a credit to our school.

Scottish Space School



Congratulations to **Jurriaan Gouw** (S5) who has been successful in his application to the **Scottish Space School 2015**. The Scottish Space School programme comprises a week long residential summer school with an eclectic mix of lectures, labs and workshops all on a space theme, delivered by leading academics and researchers, and supported by NASA astronauts and engineers. The top 10 students will be selected for a 7-day Learning Journey to Johnson Space Center in Houston in October. Good luck Jurriaan!

Reverse Parking

The **Parent Council** at its meeting of 5 March discussed the issue of safety in the school car park. Following some 'near misses' it was proposed that we adopt a **'reverse parking' policy**. It was agreed that this should be promoted through this Newsletter and the school website. Though little can be done to enforce this policy, it was thought that asking parents, senior students and visitors to reverse park in the school car park would minimise the danger of accidents particularly at peak times prior to 09.00 and 15.25.

HPV Vaccinations

The final round of this session's HPV vaccinations will take place in school on **Monday 30 March 2015**.

SPRING CONCERT & ART EXHIBITION

This year's Spring Concert on **Tuesday 31 March** will be preceded by an Exhibition of Pupils' Art work in the Atrium organised one of our **MAD GROUPS**. The Exhibition will be open from 18.00 until 19.00 when the concert starts in the Murray Hall and will be a fundraising event by our MAD Group for **Amnesty International**. Selected pieces of art from S1-3 will be on display along with AH pieces. No tickets are on sale but donations would be appreciated by the MAD Group. There will also be a 'bake sale' by members of the MAD Group.

Sporting Successes

Senior Football

Congratulations to Senior School Football Team who have won the **Senior School League** for the first time in the school's history. They defeated St Modan's 5-2 in the final of this competition at Stenhousemuir in front of a very vocal and encouraging travelling support from Dunblane. They are also through to the final of the League Cup competition having beaten Wallace High 9-2 this week. This year's Senior Team (coached by Mr Ritchie) is the most successful football team Dunblane High has ever had. Well done!

Athletics

Stirling Schools' Cross Country Championship Results

Dunblane High had a highly successful Stirling Schools' Cross Country Championship last month. We **won two team events and were runners-up in two others**. This was on top of some notable individual success from **Cerys Gilbride** (S1) – third in the S1/2 individual girls' event and **George Stanger** (S3) – third in the S3/4 individual boys' event. The full results were as follows:

S1/S2 Boys 2nd in team event

Sean Duff
Kyle Middleton
Cameron Murray

S1/S2 Girls Individual 3rd Cerys Gilbride

1st in team event
Cerys Gilbride, Lizzie Stansfield
Elizabeth Winton

S3/S4 Boys Individual 3rd George Stanger

1st in Team Event
George Stanger
Ben Parkinson
Rory Price

S3/S4 girls 2nd in Team Event

Lucy Mason
Fiona Davies
Heather Scott

Congratulations to all our athletes! All will now represent Stirling Schools at the forthcoming Forth Valley Event.

Hospitality Event & Rotary Young Chef

Congratulations to **Anna McFarland** of S4 who was **runner-up** in the district round of the Rotary Young Chef Competition in Dundee recently. She competed against finalists from 12 other schools. Her 3 course meal really impressed the judges and she did exceptionally well to be runner up.

Our **Hospitality pupils** from S4 and S6 accompanied by Mrs Domin (PT) and Mrs Sweeney (Maths) attended a 'Hospitality Event' at Gleneagles last month to experience some of the forty types of jobs on offer in the Hospitality industry. Pupils particularly enjoyed the laundry service, spa treatments, cake decorating and mocktail making stations. They were given a tour of the complex by Gleneagles staff which gave them an insight to the intricacies of the smooth running of such a complex operation. Three plan to further their studies in the Hospitality industry.

Online Reports

With the recent S6 Reports, we have been piloting a new Reporting Online system. This provides an electronic version of the Report which is accessed via a link on the school website using a unique code issued to parents in advance. Early feedback suggests this has worked well and is successful but we are keen to encourage more feedback from parents. The Parent Council were given a brief demonstration on how it works and one of their suggestions—to provide a pdf version online - has already been taken onboard by the designer **Mr Smith**. The **intention is to use this system with the S1 Reports in May**.

Golf Tournament Fundraiser: 26 April

The Parent Council are organising a Golf Tournament Fundraising Event on **Sunday 26 April at Dunblane New Golf Club 10.00-16.00**. This is open to all pupils, parents and staff at the school. Costs: Senior Members £12 and Senior Non-Members £20 per round; all Junior participants £8. Entering a team of 4 is open to all Junior Members, parents and staff. If you are interested in attending please contact **Mrs Linsay Goodfellow** Chair of the Parent Council via the school office for more information.



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