



Dunblane High School

NEWSLETTER

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 5

School News

WELCOME TO OUR NEW S1!

Our new S1 pupils have made a very impressive start! Their conduct, attitude and demeanour have been first class – they are a credit to their families and school. We would like to thank all parents, but particularly those new to the Dunblane High School community, for the tremendous level of support for the school that is evident in the turnout of the new S1 in full school uniform.

2015 SQA Results

With the first sitting of the new CfE Higher Grade exams, the SQA Examinations of 2015 marked an important milestone in Scottish Education. In Dunblane High we also had the largest presentation for Advanced Highers in the school's history. In fact the S6 who left Dunblane High in June 2015 were the highest achieving year group to have done so since records began. In every measure of the 2015 examination performance our S6 achieved the highest success rates we have ever had. Boys once again showed some improvement by narrowing the gender gap in the National exams at the end of S4 and marginally outperforming girls in the Advanced Higher Grade exams. Unfortunately, in spite of its absence in 2014, the gender gap made a reappearance in our 2015 HG results. After a period of sustained improvement between 2010 and 2014, we might have expected 2014-15 to have been a session more challenging than most to show examination improvements. It is pleasing to report that our examination performance in 2015 has set new records for the school in some of the key traditional measures. This is the fifth year in succession that in at least one such measure, a new record for the school has been set.

S4 Measures

The % of young people gaining:
5 or more awards at SCQF level 3 – at 99% - is the highest on record;
5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 – at 98% - is the highest on record;
the % of young people gaining
5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 – at 71% - is the 3rd highest on record.

S5 Measures

The % of young people gaining:
1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 – at 82% - equals the highest on record;
3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 – at 61% - is the 3rd highest on record;
5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 – at 35% - is the 4th highest on record;
In these measures all the performances which have bettered those in 2015 have come in the last 5 years.

S6 Measures

The % of young people gaining:
1 or more awards at SCQF level 7 is – at 43% - the highest on record;
With an impressive 36% of all subject presentations at Advanced Higher gaining 'A' awards. Unsurprisingly last year's S6 saw record numbers of our young people gain entry to a wide range of institutions of Higher and Further education including Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard.

A new and welcome development when it comes to measuring schools' performance is the publication of 'Attainment for All' data based on Average Total Tariff Points. This compares how schools perform using the socio-economic characteristics of their pupils. Based on these characteristics, each school in Scotland is presented with a **Virtual School** for each cohort sitting SQA exams. This shows how:

*the most disadvantaged 20% ;
the middle 60% and
the most advantaged 20%*

of young people across the country, compare with pupils in Dunblane High who share the same socio-economic characteris-

tics. It is striking that for the second year in succession Dunblane High pupils, in every one of these measures, have outperformed their Virtual School. Indeed the out-performance in both 2014 and 2015 has been most notable in the case of the "most disadvantaged 20%." Traditionally, the % of S4 who gain 5+ SQA awards at Credit equivalent (now National 5) is significant. The % who then go on to gain Higher passes is also key. In the first of these measures we have gone from 58% in 2010 gaining 5 or more Credit Awards at the end of S4 to an average of over 70% in the last four years.

In the Higher Grade key measure we have gone from 29% in 2010 gaining 5 HGs to an average of 40% in the last four years.

In addition the % of our young people gaining at least 1 HG in 2015 was above 80% for only the third time. At the same time, the number of 'No Awards' has continued to decline – and is zero in many subjects indicating our pupils are attaining across all levels of ability.

Thus the SQA results in 2015 were, in several areas, the best on record.

P7 Transition

Our 2015-16 transition programme has already started with P7 pupils having attended Dunblane High for Music and Science Workshops. Mr Boyce (DHT) would like to thank our partner primaries for their support in this and, of course, to the huge number of S3 and S6 pupils who helped in a variety of different ways over the course of the P7's two days in DHS.

P7 Parents

Once again we are including parents of P7 pupils in our partner primaries in our Newsletter mailing list. We hope this will continue to ensure good communication during the transition year.

Dates to Note

Likhubula Day is now on: Wednesday 30 September

S1 Photographs Thursday 8 October

(S6 Group Photograph will be taken as well).

October Holiday School closes:

Friday 9 October 15.04

Re-opens: Monday 19 October 09.00

S1 Parents' Evening

Thursday 29 October 2015 16.00-18.30

November In-service Days

School closed Thursday and Friday 26 & 27 November

Contact Details

Tel: 01786 823823
Email: dunblanehs@stirling.gov.uk



PTO

Staffing News

Several changes to our staff occur this term, most notably the retirement of **Mrs Shelagh Hansom Principal Teacher of Pupil Support**. Mrs Hansom has been an outstanding Principal Teacher of Pupil Support and teacher of Geography since 1999 and Acting Depute Head Teacher in session 2014-15. She has given magnificent service throughout her time in DHS. We wish her every happiness for the future.

Mr McMaster has been appointed to the post of **Principal Teacher of Social Subjects** with immediate effect. His previous PT Pupil Support post, along with the PT post Mrs Hansom currently holds, will be filled before the October holiday. **Ms Susan Gould** has moved from English to Support for Learning on a fulltime basis providing much needed additional expertise in that area. We will be making another appointment to Eng-

lish shortly. We welcome several new staff this term: **Mrs Nicola Black** to a permanent post in English and **Ms Helen McAlister** and **Mrs Vicky Hambly** to temporary posts in English. **Ms Claire-Louise Casey** has also been appointed to a temporary post in Social Subjects. **Mrs Laura Kennedy** (from Perth High), has recently been appointed to a permanent post in Maths and will take up her appointment soon.



www.dunblanehighschool.org.uk
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Awards Ceremony for Session 2014-15

Awards for S1-6 for session 2014-15 were made at the ceremony in Dunblane Cathedral on Thursday 10 September. Guest of Honour was the Right Honourable **Dame Anne McGuire DBE** who recently retired from Parliament after having been MP for Stirling since 1997. Dame Anne presented the awards and gave a very reflective address on her own education, drawing parallels for current students. The traditional awards were made for Academic Attainment and Personal Achievement, as well as a number of special awards for Service. The rationale and criteria for awards can be seen by going to the school website and clicking on the 'News & Events/Awards Ceremony' tab on the home page.

Dux Medal & Summa Cum Laude: Daniel Polotajko
Proxime Accessit: Matthew Peters
McCarron Medal: Emily Batchelor
Jennifer Gilfillan Award: Nicola McDonald.

S6 COUNCIL 2015-16

Head Boy

Sean Huggett

Depute Head Boys

Harry Cox

Euan Lambert

Lead Learners for 2015-16

Stirling Council have asked all schools to nominate 2 students who, as 'Lead Learners' for their school would attend council run discussions. Our Lead Learners for 2015-16 are **Euan Lambert** and **Erin Kennedy**.

Pupil Councils for 2015-16

Nominations and elections for our **S1-5 Pupil Council** Elections take place soon. This session our Pupil Councils will build on a DHS tradition of pupil involvement in the corporate life of the school. This session the PCs will contribute to a major school curriculum development. Overseen by teachers **Ms S Porter**, **Mrs H McAlister** & **Miss C-L Casey** and supported by the S6 Council the S1 to 5 PCs will help shape our response to *Developing Scotland's Workforce*.

Head Girl

Sophie Reid-Kay

Depute Head Girls

Erin Kennedy

Lara Ross

Excursions 2015-16

Planning for a number of residential school trips this session is well underway. With **over 200 pupils** already committed to participate, in most cases the trips are already fully subscribed:

Football: Valencia October 2015 S3/4/5

French: Christmas Markets December 2015 S4.

History/Social Studies: Belgian Battlefields May 2016 S1

English (Shakespeare): London/Stratford May 2016 S2

Art & Design: Rome /Florence May 2016 S3 (tbc)

Pupil Support 2015-16

S1 & S6 Mr Boyce DHT

Mrs Hansom PTPS S6

Mr Ross PTPS (Acting) S1

S2 Mrs Imrie DHT

Mrs Sutherland PTPS

S3 Mr Noakes DHT

Mrs Gunning PTPS

S4 Mrs Hook DHT

Miss Murney PTPS

S5 Mrs Wilkinson Sen DHT

Mr Ritchie PTPS

Focus on Effort

Once again we begin the session with a focus on individual **EFFORT**. This will be the main focus of the **Interim Reports on S3, S4 and S5/6** to be issued during October. Teachers will rate students' 'Effort' using the HMIE 6 point scale as follows:

6 - Excellent

5 - Very Good

4 - Good

3 - Satisfactory

2 - Weak

1 - Unsatisfactory

After these Interim Reports the following achievements will be recognised:

S3: 8+ 'Excellent' / 'Very Good' grades for 'Effort' in SQA subjects - '**Pupil Praise Card**'; 'Excellent' in all subjects (including 'Core' subjects and with no other subject below 'Good') - **MERIT BAR** (dark blue).

S4: 7+ 'Excellent' / 'Very Good' grades for 'Effort' in SQA subjects - '**Student Praise Card**'; 'Excellent' in all subjects (including 'Core' subjects) - **MERIT BADGE** (bronze).

S5: 5+ 'Excellent' / 'Very Good' grades for 'Effort' in SQA subjects - '**Student Praise Card**'; 'Excellent' in 5 subjects - **MERIT BADGE** (silver).

S6: 3+ 'Excellent' / 'Very Good' grades for 'Effort' in SQA subjects - '**Student Praise Card**';

'Excellent' in 3+ subjects - **MERIT BADGE** (gold).

The school policy document on Maximising and Recognising Achievement can be viewed on the school website.

In S4-6, students who do not meet the criteria for a Praise Card will have another opportunity to rectify the situation by taking part in the MIE (Monitoring Individual Effort) Card scheme on a voluntary basis after the October break.

Dunblane High School ~ OPT-OUT FORMS

1. Photograph / Video OPT-OUT

Photographs and occasionally videos are taken in school of school events/classes for publication in educational documents / websites / news items. If you would prefer your son / daughter **not** to feature in any such way please sign this Opt Out Slip and return it to the school office **by Friday 2 October 2015**

Pupil's Name _____ Class _____

I do not wish my son / daughter named above to appear in photographs / videos prepared in school for educational publications/websites/news items.

Signed:

2. EDMODO OPT-OUT

The educational website EDMODO is now in widespread use across Scottish schools. If you would prefer your son / daughter **not** to be provided with login details for access to this site please sign this Opt Out Slip and return it to the school office **by Friday 2 October 2015**

Pupil's Name _____ Class _____

I do not wish my son / daughter named above to be provided with login details for access to this site.

Signed: