DHS Newsletter Spring 2024

Rector's Introduction

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter for session 2023-24. There have been a lot of activities to celebrate and we will try to capture as much as we can within this newsletter.

Congratulations to all pupils and thanks to all staff, parents and carers who have supported these activities.

Thank you once again for your continued support as we promote our shared school values of Ambition, Respect and Commitment.

There were so many events and activities over the course of Term 3. Congratulations to everybody involved.

Iain Yuile

Rector

Staff v Pupils Challenge - Netball and Football

We are very grateful to the PE department for organising staff v pupils challenge matches in netball.

The staff came out as the winners in the netball challenge with some very competitive input from certain members of the PE department. The games were played in very good spirits and were enjoyed by everybody who was present.

The staff v pupils football match was played during the last week of term in front of a large audience. The staff team raced to a 3-0 half-time lead before being pegged back to a 3-3 draw at full-time. The first 10 penalties were dispatched with ease before Mr Argo's foot appeared to hit a divot in the astroturf whilst taking his penalty!

Both teams and spectators should be very proud of the way the game was played and the spirit of the support given. Congratulations to all involved.

World Book Day Activities

'Dunfermline Pupils Encourage New Life' - orchard planting at St Leonard's Park

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On Thursday 7 March, a group of young people from the Dunfermline High's Department of Extended Support joined the Brucefield Tenants' Association to plant a range of apple trees at St Leonards Park.

Dunfermline was chosen as a venue for planting to mark the 50th anniversary of the Tree Council, and our young people were keen to lend a hand.

We learned how to dig the holes, plant and support the young trees, back fill the holes and feed with a nutritious mulch. Varieties planted included Julia's Late Golden apple, Paradise Gold apple, Apricot Golden Glow, Big Golden Star and Malus Golden Gem.

The orchard should support a healthy and diverse eco-system and provide some delicious fruit.

The event has also been reported in the Dunfermline Press. The picture below shows the tree the young people planted as a memorial for a member of our Parent Council who sadly passed away.

NB Some young people attended who are not included in the photo below

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First Aid Elective

COPFS Public Speaking Competition

A huge congratulations to our S2 public speaking team! They took part in the COPFS public speaking competition last night and have won for the Sheriffdom! They will now go on to a regional final. Ewan and Erin did incredibly well!

Perse Coding Challenge

Mr Trainer in Computing supported some of our pupils to participate in the Perse Coding Challenge. Both teams have qualified for Round 2 after completing the first round tasks involving complex algorithms.

With exemplary determination and skill, both of our competing teams have not only demonstrated their resilience but also secured a well-deserved spot in the upcoming round 2 of the competition.

In round 1, participants were tasked with unravelling intricate algorithms, a true testament to their proficiency in coding and problem-solving. It's truly awe-inspiring to witness such an accomplishment, especially considering the scale of this competition being global in nature.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our talented students for their outstanding performance and wish them continued success as they advance further in this prestigious competition. Stay tuned for more updates as our teams continue to shine brightly on the coding stage!

Breakfast Club Donation from The Abbey Church

We run a school breakfast club as part of our efforts to reduce the cost of the school day and support our pupils. We are very grateful for the support of many local companies and organisations to make this possible. We also really appreciate the support of staff in the school who volunteer.

Our friends at The Abbey Church recently raised £617.49 as a donation to the breakfast club and we thank them for this.

Columba 1400

Dunfermline High School is a partner school for Columba 1400. Our fifth S2 cohort is about to benefit from this wonderful programme when they depart for Skye in the early part of Term 4. Congratulations to all pupils who have participated up to this point and we hope that those who are going to Staffin have a wonderful experience.

Pupil Empowerment Teams Supporting our Future S1 Pupils

Our Pupil Empowerment Team are supporting 24 of our future S1s in their transition to DHS through our Seem Me See Change Programme.

LGBT Silver Level Charter Award

We are delighted to be able to share that Dunfermline High School has achieved LGBT Silver Charter Status.

Parental Engagement Evenings: School Improvement Priority 3

In line with School Improvement Priority 3, we have been staging parental engagement evenings during the course of this session. The information sharing sessions have received very favourable feedback and we are grateful to everybody who supported these events.

Expressive Arts

Visit to Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

It has been a very busy term for the Music Department. Some of our S3s were given the opportunity in February to see the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) play a concert at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS). We took a minibus road trip through to Glasgow.

20 of our brass Instrumental students were given the opportunity to go to an RCS Brass Department concert and we went through to Glasgow along with our friends from Woodmill High. Thanks to Mrs Dowall for the opportunity.

Trip to See Hamilton the Musical

After being placed 11,686 in the ticket booking queue (no exaggeration) in March 2023, Mrs Knox managed to secure 50 tickets to see the hottest show in town for March 2024: Hamilton, *the musical.*

On 7th March, the music and drama staff were there with DHS pupils and it was an incredible feast for the eyes and ears. The performers, the set, the design, the sound, the orchestration, the lighting, the costumes were inspiring.

Fife School Shakespeare Festival

During September of last year, we in the Drama Department were offered the opportunity to participate in the Fife Shakespeare Schools Festival at The Byre Theatre, St Andrews. After our previous experience with one of Shakespeare's comedies in the form of A Midsummer's Night Dream last June, we decided to present Much Ado About Nothing. Proceeding a frantic series of short-notice rehearsals, on January 16, we performed our late nineties themed production alongside Beath High School (Julius Ceasar), Madras College (Macbeth), and Kirkcaldy High School (As You Like It). With everything from a masked disco to a pseudo fatality, our sun loungers and Hawaiian shirts adorned the story of Much Ado with ridiculous Neon embellishments which resulted in a brilliant success of an evening, bringing a fun and energetic atmosphere to the entire theatre.

As drama ambassadors, we enjoyed a very valuable experience in the world of theatre and gained a beneficial insight into the things that we enjoy, additionally gaining an opportunity to represent Dunfermline High School's Drama Department outside of school with our performance of 'Much Ado About Nothing'.

Drama NPAs

Business Education and Computing

This week we celebrated our amazing Future Asset ladies who undertook a programme that aims to enable girls to gain real industry insight and experience of investment. The teams had to choose a company to research, Zoetis and Tapestry were the choices and they worked very hard to prepare terrific written and video proposals for potential investors in to these firms. The girls had a steep learning curve but made it to the end with tonnes of transferable skills that can be used in their future. We are very proud - well done ladies!

Thanks to Jennifer from Bank of Scotland for visiting S4 Business Management to give a very insightful session on personal finance and how to budget effectively.

Thanks to Eilsa Henderson from JC Accountants for coming to speak to our pupils about apprenticeship opportunities and what it is like to work in the industry.

Social Subjects

Inspiring Scots Transition Project

We are delighted that our P7 Transition Project of 'Inspiring Scots' signage has arrived. Every new S1 submitted work and our corridor now has inspirational Scots on the wall. Well done to all involved.

Holocaust Memorial Day

This year we had senior pupils listen to an incredibly moving talk by Hedi Argent about the impact of the Holocaust and the importance of Remembering.

EYP

This year we had an amazing S4 team take part in the East of Scotland EYP event held in Edinburgh. The pupils had to prepare for debates on a wide variety of topic areas including sustainable fishing, town planning and if pineapple should be on a pizza. Most of our pupils had never debated before they did incredibly well!

We are very grateful to our local MSP Shirley-Anne Somerville who gave up her time to come in and speak to all of our certificate Modern Studies classes about her role as an MSP and as a Cabinet Secretary. It was very informative and the pupils can use this as an example in the exam!

Dunfermline Great Fire Project

We are very excited that our Earth and Beyond Club are helping to remember the Great Fire of Dunfermline. They are doing this by rebuilding the school building of the time out of Lego. Staff and pupils have been enjoying putting it together.

Winners of the Estate Agency and Town Planning Contest

Congratulations to the winners of the estate agency and town planning contest.

Modern Languages make it into the film industry!

Some of our S3 French pupils had the opportunity to work with SEET (Scottish European Education Trust) as part of the Our World project. Our World is a language and citizenship-based filmmaking competition for secondary pupils. Pupils had to create a storyboard incorporating a language other than English and a theme from the UN Sustainable Goals. Bella, Molly and Luke designed a storyboard around "Zero Hunger" which was one of the 24 winning teams. They enjoyed a day in Edinburgh, working with professionals, turning their storyboard into a short film. We can't wait for the awards ceremony in June, where the 3 pupils will strut their stuff on the red carpet and hopefully pick up a number of awards for their outstanding acting, editing and French Language skills!

Sporting Success...

U18 Fife Basketball Tournament

The boys competed in their first ever competitive basketball games last week. It was a great experience with many positives taken away from the day.

Everyone gave each game 100% effort, whilst being a testament to Dunfermline High School throughout.

S3 Footballers...

A fantastic comeback win for our S3 Footballers to help them finish top of the league section...

Gymnastics

A massive well done to Poppy, Sophie and Ellie for competing in Fife Gymnastics schools competition!

Being only in S1, the girls did an amazing job against pupils from S1-S6.

Results:

Group Competition (Floor & Vault) = 4th place

Individual Floor Routine = Ellie (Silver)

Netball...

Well done to our S3 Netball Team who finished 3rd at the Fife Schools Netball Tournament.

5 wins out of 6 for the girls .

Shout out to Lexie who came 2nd in player of the tournament votes!

Finally, a massive thank you to Orla (S4) for coming along to umpire.

Fife Schools Badminton Championships

An absolute SMASHING effort from Sammy, Jenna, Rosie, Owen, Alasdair, Zaara, Chloe, Dyamesh and Adam. Well done team!

Plate competition results:

Adam R. - Gold (singles)

Sammy M. - Gold (singles)

Sammy M. & Jenna Y. - Silver (doubles)