

Dalry Secondary School

Summer Newsletter 2018



Message from the Headteacher



I hope you find this newsletter not only informative, but also that you are pleased with the continued efforts being made by staff and pupils alike to attain and achieve. The newsletter reflects the range of opportunities young people enjoy and some of their many successes. It also reflects that staff continue to offer, and deliver, a range of opportunities to young people which are second to none.

The SQA exam diet for 2018 is complete and once again all of our young people have demonstrated the capacities of curriculum for excellence in the responsible, confident and effective way they have conducted themselves throughout the exam period. Our SQA invigilators congratulated the pupils for their exemplary behaviour, both the exam candidates and the junior pupils who ensured their conduct was such that the conditions for sitting exams were excellent. For those

who sat SQA exams, time will tell if you have demonstrated that you are also successful learners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our invigilators who provide a consistent level of excellence to Dalry Secondary School. When the results are released in August, any issues that may arise can be discussed with senior staff who will be contactable at CDHS.

On Wednesday 27th June the school sports took place and once again our young people demonstrated excellent behaviour and attitude by competing fiercely on the day and by supporting one another as spectators. The weather on the day was excellent for those of us spectating but I am sure it was a little too hot for the competitors. Thank you to Mrs Farquhar for her efforts in organising the event, assisted by colleagues from Active Schools, and to all staff for participating in the sports day event in a range of duties.

Throughout the year our young people have taken part in a wide and varied range of opportunities and are to be congratulated for their successes. Successes have been achieved in a wide range of activities such as musical performances, drama and dance productions, sports participation, creative writing, volunteering in the community, fundraising activities and agricultural competitions and shows. Schools are about learning and teaching but the achievements of our young people demonstrates that Dalry Secondary School also supports the development of the whole person and our young people must be congratulated for the way they respond and take part in the opportunities available.

It is right that we pay tribute to some long serving members of staff who have made the decision to retire at the end of this session. Mrs. Mary Nurse, Mr. Tom Carmichael and Mrs. Ros Henry have taught English, Physical Education and Music respectively for many years at Dalry with great passion for their subjects that has been inspirational for our young people. I am sure that as a community we wish them well as they depart from us and enter a new phase of their life in retirement. Mrs Susan Farquhar will also leave us at the end of the session to take up a position at Dumfries High School and again I am sure we will all want to wish her well in her new role. This session has seen quite a period of change for the school and I am certain there will be more changes to face over the coming session. However, I am delighted to say that we have been successful in appointing staff to the vacancies created by the teachers who are leaving us. Mrs. Emma Stockwell has accepted a position as teacher of English, Mr. Liam Fleming has accepted a position as teacher of Physical Education, Mrs. Susan St Joseph has accepted a position as teacher of Music and Miss Rachel Crossan has been appointed as trainee teacher of Home Economics. I am sure you will welcome all four new members of staff into the community and help them to be successful as they teach your young people.

We will also miss Mr. Paul Goodwin who is retiring from his position as network administrator. Paul has been a fantastic ambassador for the school and has ensured that the Information Technology available in Dalry has consistently been fit for purpose and serving the young people in their learning. Paul has many other strings to his bow that he regularly has made use of in order to provide opportunities for the young people and I am sure, while he will be enjoying his retirement doing the things he wants to do, he will also continue to support the school and give of his expertise to help widen the range of opportunities available to our young people.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Andrew Belinski who has very successfully chaired our parent council for several years. Mr. Belinski has been a great supporter of the school and has played an important part in helping the school through a few difficult years. I wish Mr. Belinski well as he takes his leave from the position of chairperson and hope that he can look back on his time as chair of the parent council with fond memories. I am sure Mr. Belinski will continue to support the school and that he would agree with me that it would be really good to see many more parents, with as many different skills and knowledge as possible, willing to be involved in the parent council helping to steer this school forward over the coming sessions.

We are now a few weeks into our new school timetable and it is going well. The young people who moved on from Dalry Secondary to Castle Douglas High School have also settled in well to their new environment and are enjoying their new experiences.

Finally I would like to extend my personal thanks to all staff and parents of Dalry Secondary School who have made me feel very welcome and have made it easier for me to step into the role of Head Teacher. I am looking forward to continuing to work with you and your young people aiming to achieve the vision that we have clearly stated in our vision and values statement that will result in all of the young people achieving the highest goals.

I hope that you enjoy your summer and as always, if I can be of help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

S4 Leavers Ceremony



Our S4 cohort of young people were bid a fond farewell on 31st May prior to their move on to Castle Douglas High School for S5. The event involved the whole school and families of S4 learners and offered a chance for us to recognise the strengths and achievements of each and every pupil as well as to reminisce through a photo montage of earlier years. Some very youthful faces and funny moments captured raised many a laugh as well as a few tears at the ending of an era for pupils, mums and dads.

We wish them well and will hear of their future successes through the senior management team who will continue to support them in the next stage of their studies and beyond. Many thanks to Mr Bannister for producing the commemorative DVD of the photo montage gifted to the S4 pupils as a keepsake of their time at Dalry Secondary School.

P7/S1 Induction programme

Wednesday 20th June saw us welcome our new S1 learners who experienced a day of their new timetable alongside their new classmates. They enjoyed lessons in art, maths, history and technology as well as planning their menus for the next two days, with their chefs Mr Bannister and Mrs Acheson! The next





We are really excited to have them join our school community in August and hope they are looking forward to it too.



two days were a whirlwind of team and individual activities held on a residential basis at Stronord Outdoor Education Centre. The new pupils worked well together, trying their hardest and showing respect to others and demonstrating the values we will continue to promote, these being: Respect, Equality, Responsibility, Honesty, Hard work.

Pop Up café

Thursday afternoons at Dalry Secondary have been an opportunity for a rolling programme offering wider activities such as mountain biking, debating and fishing. Last term, a new group started organising and running a Pop-up Café to offer something for the



community and also raise money for school funds. The first pop-up café on the 8th of February offering a soup and sweet lunch was a great success. The pupils had spent time before the big day contacting local shops, planning menus and cooking everything themselves. Customers were asked to fill in feedback forms afterwards and the comments were



overwhelmingly positive: "Fantastic", "I enjoyed the relaxed friendly atmosphere", "Wanted seconds it was that good", "It was all lovely". The only advice that customers had for the group was to have more pop-up cafes, more often! Due to the success, another soup and sweet pop up café lunch was offered prior to Easter. Thanks go to Tesco, Co-op and Corson's for their generosity and support.

Due to the resounding success, we plan to continue to offer this popular event on an ongoing basis although in a new Wednesday afternoon slot. Watch out for local publicity giving future details!



House System

During this term we have taken the first steps to introducing a house system involving all pupils, led by elected house captains to encourage recognition of sporting and academic achievements as well as positive behaviour and citizenship achievements and contributions. The houses established are Goodwin House and Mulloch House, and congratulations go to the chosen house captains, Florrie Newbery and Jake Finlay.

The first event which recognised the house system was the school sports afternoon, which saw the very first awarding of the Goodwin trophy.

Sports Day



The re-introduction of a competitive sports day at Dalry Secondary School was a tremendous success. The day consisted of a range of races, both individual and team relays, as well as very competitive egg and spoon and three-legged races and a fun inter-house pupils and staff game of rounders.



The prizes were very closely contested but the Goodwin Shield for the winning house was won by Goodwin House, which was bravely led by House Captain, Florrie Newbery. The Carmichael Sports Champion Cup was won by William Nash. Well done to the individual winners and everyone who participated



on behalf of their team. It wasn't easy on such a hot day. Special thanks go to Mr Carmichael and Mr Goodwin for donating the trophies and to Mrs Farquhar for leading the organisation of the event.



We certainly plan for this to be an annual event which will be the culmination of the year of recognising achievements through our house system.

Poppy Pledge



Dalry Secondary and Cluster Primaries have jointly taken on the challenge of raising £1918 during the year to help ex-servicemen and women and their families impacted upon by conflict. Earlier in the year, there was a successful WW1 dress up day. Pupils and staff dressed up as Suffragettes, Chimney Sweeps, English Nannies,

Nurses, Soldiers, Munition Workers, Gangsters, and so on and a 1918 themed tray bake was held.

A group of volunteer pupils, supported by Mrs Warren, have since been planning other events and put a great deal of effort into organising a WW1 themed sleepover, or "billet".

On 25th June all of their hard work came to fruition when a hardy group of young people and staff spent the night camped out in the school hall as they would have done during evacuations and air raids. It's difficult to say who struggled the most with the interrupted sleep, staff or pupils. I think it's fair to say everyone is glad they don't have too long to wait for the holidays to arrive!



Music Achievements

Dalry Secondary pupils have surpassed even their own high standards with some exceptional achievements this term. Rory Newbery, Hardie Walker and James Wallace all performed in the Castle Douglas Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition, all three were a



credit to the school and James won the vocal award as well as the silverware as overall winner.



At the Galloway Music Festival Hardie Walker won first place on electric guitar, James was first in two classes, including with distinction in Scots solo singing and the S1 group performance also took first place with distinction.



James also sang at the Big Burns

Supper in January along with pupils from P7, Jessica Nash from S1 and Sarah McCreath and Grace Jeffery Temple from S2 who played flute. Dalry is truly a hotbed of musical talent out and about across the region and we thank Mrs Henry for her efforts in supporting the talents of the young people. We look forward to further triumphs in the future under the experienced tutorage of Mrs St. Joseph.

Royal Highland Show Visit



On Friday 22nd June, the vast majority of pupils and staff embarked on a trip to Edinburgh to enjoy a day at this year's Royal Highland Show.

This is an event of huge

significance to those in the farming community but also gives pupils the chance to experience a wide range of activities and experiences linked to land based and food and drink industries, as well as to have a fun day out with friends. I think the photographs testify to that having been the case!



Pupil Parliament

Next session it is planned to raise the profile of the young people's voice by holding monthly consultation sessions, when Mrs Gillies will meet with elected representatives of each year group. It is hoped this will provide opportunity for young people to make suggestions, raise concerns and to be consulted on all appropriate aspects of school life. Elections will be held early in the new term and we hope you will encourage your young person to consider participating in this opportunity to experience a democratic process.

School Blog

Keep up to date with what's been happening in school via

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/dalrysecondary/>



Headteacher/Depute Headteacher availability in Dalry School

Due to changes in teaching commitments, the times during which senior managers will be based on site at Dalry School will change and under normal circumstances will be:

Mr Smith Friday mornings

Mrs Gillies Monday mornings

Tuesday mornings

All day Thursday

Mrs Cook Thursday mornings

Mr Cathro Tuesday late morning/afternoon

At all other times Mr Bannister and Mrs Acheson (Principal Teachers) will be fulfilling management roles.

Dates for the Diary

Pupils return – Tuesday 21st August 2018

S1 to S4 Target Setting Parents/Carers Evening – Wednesday 5th September 2018

Poppy Pledge Coffee Morning – Thursday 11th October 2018

Tattie Holidays – Monday 15th October to Friday 26th October 2018



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