

Dalry Secondary School

Spring Newsletter 2022



Dear School Community



As the Easter holiday approaches and we start to benefit from the lighter mornings and evenings I hope that we will enjoy some improved weather and see less of the storms such as Dudley, Eunice and Franklin experienced in February.

Covid-19 has been the major influencer in all of our lives and it has had an impact on everything that the school would normally do throughout the session. With many of the restrictions now being lifted, we look forward to a more normal school experience for all of our stakeholders. Dalry Secondary and Castle Douglas High School were very fortunate that infection rates within the school community remained low during the heights of the pandemic. That good fortune was a result of how well our young people managed the restrictions imposed upon them in school.

Some small indications of a return to more normal school activities can be seen in the sporting activities taking place. Having shown a keen interest this year and no shortage of talent, a group of S1 & S2 pupils from Dalry Secondary have been participating in an extra-curricular basketball club and recently played two fixtures against other schools. Travelling to the much bigger Dumfries Academy, the boys emerged victors with a comprehensive 30-7 victory. This was then followed up by a narrow 19-16 defeat against Junior (S1-S3) Regional Finalists and partnership school Castle Douglas. The players can be very proud of their performances and will be entering the league next year in a strong position.

Well done!



Dalry Globetrotters Basketball Team

In the art & design class S4 have been working hard as the deadline for their practical work approaches. They have been developing ideas in 2D and 3D formats. The work displayed at the end of this newsletter is a mixture of development work for expressive and design projects. As you can see, their efforts are paying off and their improved skills can be seen in these examples. Hard work certainly results in progress, and I am very proud of their efforts.

Pupils in S1-S3 will be looking forward to their Easter break as a chance to down tools for a couple of weeks of rest and relaxation. For our S4 pupils who will be taking National Qualification SQA exams, however, this will be a two week window in which a great deal of focussed revision could make the difference between a pass or a fail or between an 'A' grade and a 'B grade'.

SQA Study Leave 2022

The examination diet will run from Wednesday 27th April until the end of May. At Dalry Secondary school, we have never previously allowed any study time outwith school, feeling that our pupils benefit greatly from direct input from their teachers throughout the exam period. This year we have decided that due to greater access to, for example, online resources, pupils may study at home on the day immediately prior to each examination. In addition, on examination days, pupils may remain at home before or after their exam and are not required to attend classes. Out with those days, pupils should attend as normal.

The new timetable for CDHS begins on Monday 6th June when all returning pupils must be in school.

NQ Estimate Grades

S4 receive their final monitoring & tracking reports on the week beginning 28th March 2022. The working grades reported at this stage will be the same as the estimated grades submitted to SQA. These working grades/estimate grades are generated from pupil evidence gathered throughout the session that represent each young person's performance. Learning conversations with teachers have kept each young person informed about their working grades to ensure that they are not surprised by either the working grades or their estimates and that pupils have an understanding of how these grades have been reached.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

2022 will see the platinum jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. To celebrate the platinum jubilee there will be a long weekend holiday from Thursday 2nd June through to Sunday 5th June 2022.

Tree Planting

Dalry Community Council successfully secured tree planting grants for the school which has seen the secondary pupils out planting during their wider achievement activities on a Wednesday. By re-greening peripheral areas of the school grounds with native plant species our hope is that we will increase local biodiversity and in our own small way help to offset carbon emissions. Many thanks to Morag Paterson from the community council and to Jonathan Barrett from the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme for their help in getting us started with the tree planting.



Rivers Fieldwork

With a slight improvement in the weather we took the opportunity to do some fieldwork with the S3 down by the River Ken to practice some data gathering techniques. It was good to get out again after the recent stormy weather and do some outdoor learning

Comic Relief



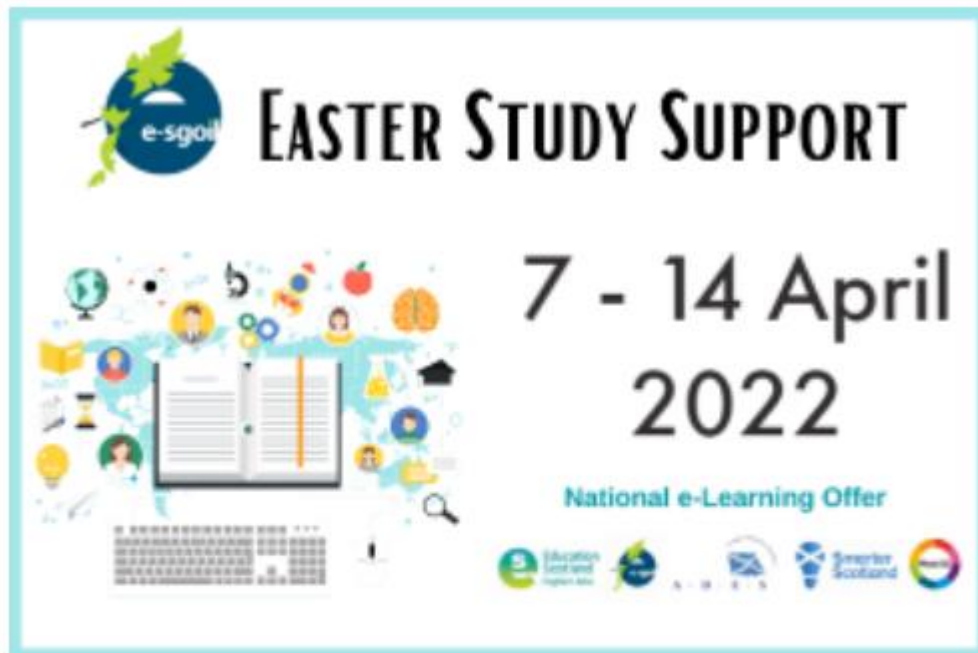
This term, the Wednesday Afternoon Activities Group decided to plan and organise a fundraising day for Comic Relief. We decided on a Dress up day, Raffle and Scavenger hunt. Pupils drew the raffle at break time and raised £266.40 for Comic relief.

Many thanks to Mrs Collins and Mrs Hamilton for their donations and also to local businesses who supported the school such as: Dalry-Wright's Shop, The Clachan Inn, Jayne's Hairdresser . Castle Douglas- Tesco, Mitchells and United Bricks.

Special Thanks to Galloway Activity Centre who very kindly donated 2 vouchers which will enable 4 people to enjoy a full day of amazing outdoor activities at their centre.

Winners of these vouchers were: Mrs E Stockwell and Susan Currie

On-line Study Support Opportunities



E-SGOIL EASTER STUDY SUPPORT

e-Sgoil Easter Study Support provides live and interactive online webinars, delivered by experienced and fully GTCS-registered subject specialist teachers. The service is completely free for learners.

For further information and to sign up before the 31st March follow the link below:

<https://e-sgoil.com/easter-study-support/>

School Blog and website

Keep up to date with what's been happening in school via <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/dalrysecondary/>

www.dalrysecondary.info

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S4 Art Work

