

CASTLE DOUGLAS and DALRY SPRING NEWSLETTER



Dear School Community

As the Easter holiday approaches and we start to benefit from the lighter mornings and evenings I hope that some improved spring-like weather will be with us for the holiday period.

January to Easter has been a very busy term with lots happening in school in terms of learning and teaching and lots happening out with school in terms of extra-curricular activities. Many of the photographs featured in this newsletter demonstrate just how actively our young people participate in the opportunities we offer in school and how dedicated they are to the activities they enjoy.

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, S5 and S6 pupils who will be taking National Qualification SQA exams 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'. Please keep encouraging your child to stay positive and to keep going with their revision programmes so that they achieve the rewards their efforts deserve in the forthcoming diet of SQA examinations. This year the SQA exams will begin for our pupils with Higher Physical Education on Monday 24th April.

SQA Study Leave 2023

Dumfries & Galloway secondary schools have agreed to try to ensure that we all have similar arrangements for study leave during the SQA exams. To that end, the schools have agreed that study leave will officially start on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 and that the new timetable for session 2023-24 will begin on Monday 5th June 2023.

Any pupil with an exam prior to the 2nd of May will be able to study from home on the day before their exam and their absence will be authorised.

On the working day before each exam at CDHS a revision master classes will take place in the school. Details will be issued to pupils, posted on the school website and are appended at the end of this newsletter.

The arrangements for S4 pupils at Dalry Secondary will be the same as in previous years whereby pupils will be granted the day immediately prior to each exam for them to study at home should they wish to do so but otherwise the timetable will run as normal. This means that exam preparation can largely be teacher led and those doing N4 or below can have the maximum time to complete courses/assessments (this may include progression onto the next level if the course has been completed).

Parent Council

The parent council at CDHS have been active throughout the session supporting the school and looking for opportunities to improve the resources available for learning and teaching. Through the work of the parent council the school received 30 laptop computers from the Turing Trust. These computers have been an excellent addition to the resource available to support young people in their learning and as they prepare for a post school destination. The parent council have also donated £600 to the school to help us to off-set some of the soaring costs of bus hire for extracurricular activities. The next meeting for the CDHS parent council will be in April 2023.

The parent council at Dalry School has undergone some changes of personnel as session 2022-23 has progressed. A new chairperson, Alastair Lamb, was elected at an EGM in December 2022. At the same time Sarah Ade was elected as the Depute Chair, Michael Owen as Treasurer and there is currently a vacancy for a Secretary. If you feel you would like to be part of the parent council then please do come along to the next meeting as you would be made very welcome. If you are interested in taking on the role of secretary then please contact Alastair as again I am certain he would welcome your help. The parent council last met in March 2023 where a full and supportive discussion took place about the work being done and work being planned in both primary and secondary. The next meeting for the Dalry parent council will be in April 2023.

Information and minutes of parent council meetings can be found on the school websites:

www.CDHS.info

www.dalrysecondary.info

Additional Support Easter cake competition

Well done to all young people who are working in our resourced base at CDHS. They all took part in a competition to bake and decorate a cake, themed for Easter. The winner of the competition was Hughie Brannock who is pictured here with his cake and his Easter egg prize. All of the other entries are also pictured.



Basketball

Congratulations to Dalry Secondary who won the final of the regional basketball competition. This is a fabulous achievement for such a small school. The names of previous winners on the basketball trophy include the big schools such as Dumfries Academy, Annan Academy and Castle Douglas. The young people from Dalry who play basketball may not be great in number but their talent and skill has shone through resulting in them being crowned champions for session 2022-23. The final match played was against Dumfries High School and was an exceptionally tight game played at a very high standard. Dalry Secondary took the victory by 1 point in a 43-42 point win. Pictured below is the winning team from Dalry Secondary with the basketball trophy.



Mary's Meals Earthquake Relief

Congratulations to the young people of Dalry and the local community who supported the school to raise funds in support of Mary's Meals. The money raised will go towards providing much needed relief to those people affected by the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful fund raiser, hopefully you were lucky in the raffle! Pictured below are the senior pupil council representatives presenting a cheque for £1070 to Vivienne Hiddlestone from 'Mary's Meals'.



Spring Clean

Back for its eighth year, the Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign.

The Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean 2023 is taking place between the 17th March and the 2nd April.

Last year, an army of amazing Litter Heroes picked up nearly half a million bags of litter. Young people at Castle Douglas High School have joined this battle to clean up the places and spaces we love. Volunteers have been out and about around the school at interval and lunchtimes doing their best to keep the school litter free.

Pictured below are some of the young people who have volunteered with their litter pickers.



Castle Douglas High School Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to all young people who braved the winter weather on Friday 10th February 2023 to compete in the school cross country championship. Some pictures of the brave competitors shown below, more available on the school Facebook pages.



On Thursday February 16th CDHS pupils competed in the regional cross country championship at Dalbeattie High School. All pupils gave their all and were a credit to the school. S2 girls and S5/6 girls won their team events.

Team pictures below:



Developing the Young Workforce

On the 7th February Mr Pook welcomed students from CDHS to his restaurant where they were treated to a day of planning, preparing and presenting of high quality dishes. They found out how to get a restaurant ready for service, about food hygiene and front of house skills. Thank you to Mr Pook for providing such a valuable experience for our young people.



Young people have been working with staff in school and at home as they think about the subject options they would like to choose for next session. As part of that process a number of young people took the opportunity to visit Tarff Valley head office to learn about different careers in the agriculture sector.



Young enterprise

On the 22nd March CDHS Young Enterprise company, Bumble-Wrap, came 2nd overall at the D&G Young Enterprise awards event at the Cairndale Hotel in Dumfries.

Bumble wrap won the best trade stand and the best report award. Ms Sweeny (trainee teacher) won the board's special award for her support for pupils above and beyond the curriculum.

The company manufactured and sold cotton beeswax food wraps – a reusable alternative to single use cling film. They earned around £200 profit donating 30% to Barnardo's Scotland.



Additional Support Music and Art

On Tuesday 28th March we were treated to an afternoon of music and art from four of our pupils who have a resourced provision. As part of their National 2 qualifications in Art and Music, the pupils have to put on an art exhibition and do a musical performance. Mrs St Joseph, Mrs Bowles, the teachers and assistants in learning support worked hard with the pupils involved to make this a successful event. Charlie McNaught, Ryan Powell, Dakota Jardine and Teigan Hinchliffe welcomed parents, staff and pupils to this celebration of achievement. The young people also made cakes and sandwiches in home economics to serve with tea, coffee and juice.

The art work is fabulous and the musical performances were excellent. All enjoyed this celebration of achievement. Well done Charlie, Ryan, Dakota and Teigan.



Rugby

Under 14 regional Rugby

Well done to our Under 14 girls and boys rugby teams. Both competed very well in the regional finals with the girls finishing overall 3rd and the boys overall 2nd.

Thank you to parents/carers who transported the young people and supported the rugby throughout the day.



Rugby International Recognition

Well done to Tilda Henderson who is one of the 42 players selected to enter Scottish Rugby's player development programme at under 16 level. Tilda will spend time in training camps over the next few months allowing coaches to assess those players they feel have the potential to progress to the under 18 programme.

D&G Secondary Schools Gymnastics Championship 2023

Castle Douglas High School had teams competing in the secondary level 1 and secondary level 2 events. We also had individual entries in the secondary level 3 category. They all performed brilliantly with some fantastic achievements! Big thank you to Megan at Stewartry Gymnastics Club for her work with the students and supporting this opportunity for them all.

Level one

Team bronze for Yvie Dunlop, Erin Boardsman and Harrison Ansbro.

Level two

Team gold for Isla McFarlane, Lexi Low, Ruby Hope and Skye Hiddleston.

Individual silver for Skye Hiddleston and individual bronze for Lexi Low.

Level three

Individual gold for Reece Shaw.



Under 14 Football – Small Schools Cup Semi-final

On Tuesday February 21st, our Under 14 Football team travelled to Dalbeattie for their Small Schools Cup Semi-final. In a tightly contested affair, it was Dalbeattie that took the victory, edging a close game 2-1.

CDHS started well, the better of the teams, defending solidly and playing some nice football out from the back; just being unable to carve out any clear-cut chances. As the first half wore on, Dalbeattie came into the game more and the half ended 0-0 which was fair on both teams.

Dalbeattie started the second half well, putting pressure on the CD defence and pushing them back. This resulted in some chances, Dalbeattie taking two in quick succession; a low shot from inside the area and a well struck looping effort from 25 yards. It would have been easy for CD to be disheartened at this point, but the players fought back well, creating threats on transition as the game opened up; Shea Brydson latching onto a long through pass from Jack Peacock and calmly rounding the keeping and slotting into the empty net.

This set up an exciting finish, the boys rallied to create more chances but unfortunately it wasn't to be, Alfie Hering having his shot from the edge of the area blocked after skilfully beating his defender. It was a great effort from the boys in their first game together with a special mention going to Thomas Lake for his Player of the Match performance.

Youth Scotland Hi5 Award

7 pupils from Castle Douglas Primary School have been visiting the Home Economics department to help them achieve their Hi5 award. The pupils have been studying cuisines from around the world. Mrs De Silva runs the group from the primary where pupils help to select a recipe, they then purchase the ingredients with help from Miss Humphries and cook the dishes here in Home Economics. So far we have cooked macaroni cheese and pizza from North America, sushi from Japan, gingerbread people from Europe and cornbread muffins from Africa. We are looking forward to finishing the course with dishes from South America, Antarctica and Australia.

Young Musician Competition

Congratulations to Rebecca in S2 and Harry in S5 who competed in the Young Musician Competition. Both performed exceptionally well and received excellent feedback from the judges.



Castle Douglas High School
SQA Study Sessions Timetable 2023.

Please note the following points:

- All pupils are in classes following normal timetables until Friday April 28th except those who have an examination prior to that date, in which case they do not require to attend classes on the day of that exam or the day before when they should attend the study workshop for that subject.
- Some pupils may not be able to attend workshops as they may be sitting an SQA exam in another subject at the same time as the workshop but if they can, they should attend before or after the exam.
- National 4 pupils have no external examinations.
- Subjects undertaken under the auspices of other centres (eg drama) are not included.

Friday 21st April: PE

Higher PE	9am-10.30am	Mr McNay	H36
Higher geography	10.50am-12.25pm	Mr Henderson Mr McFarlane	Room 24

Monday 24th April: Geography

N5 geography	9am-10.35am	Mr Henderson Mr Prentice	Room 24/19
Higher geography	10.50am-12.25pm	Mr Prentice	Room 19
AH geography	2pm-3.30pm	Mr Prentice	Room 19

Wednesday 26th April: Biology

National 5 biology	11.35am-1.10pm	Mrs Little Mrs Dunlop	Room 20/ 22
Higher human biology	9am-10.35am	Mrs Little	Room 22
Advanced Higher biology	2pm-3.30pm	Mrs Little Mrs Dunlop	Room 22

Friday 28th April: History

National 5 history	9am-10.35am	Ms Connelly/Mrs Clive	Room E35/ Room 10
Higher history	10.50am-12.25pm	Ms Connelly	Room E35

Friday 28th April: Mathematics

S4 National 5 maths	10.50am-12.25pm	Usual maths teacher	Room: usual room
S5 National 5 maths	2pm-3.30pm	Ms Thorburn	Room 14

Wednesday 3rd May: Mathematics

Higher maths	2pm-3.30pm	Usual maths teacher	Room usual room
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Thursday 4th May: Music

N5 music	9am-10.30am	Ms Bertram	Room 4
Higher music	2pm-3.30pm	Mrs Cook	Room 5
AH music	10.50am-12.25pm	Mrs Cook	Room 5

Friday 5th May: English

Higher English	2pm-3.30pm	Usual English teacher	Room: usual room
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Tuesday 9th May: English

National 5	11.35am-1.10pm	Usual English teacher	Room: usual room
Advanced Higher English	9am-10.30am	Ms Fowke	E29

Wednesday 10th May: Graphic Communication

N5 graphic comm	2pm-3.30pm	Mr Courten	Room E25
H/ AH graphic comm	10.50am-12.25pm	Mr Courten	Room E25

Thursday 11th May: Chemistry

National 5 chemistry	9am-10.35am	Mrs Gillies/ Mrs Cathro	Room 20
Higher chemistry	9am- 10.35am	Mr Williams	Room 16
Advanced chemistry	10.50am-12.25pm	Mrs Gillies/ Mrs Cathro	Room 20

Friday 12th May: French and Health and Food tech

National 5 French	9am-10.35am	Mrs Robson	Room 9
Higher French	10.50am-12.25pm	Mrs Robson	Room 9
Advanced Higher French	2pm-3.30pm	Mrs Robson	Room 9
N5 Health and food	10.50am-12.25pm	Mrs Wilson	Room 2
H Health and food	10.50am-12.25pm	Ms Barrick	Room 1

Monday 15th May: Business management

National 5 business management	9am-10.35am	Mrs Mitchell	Room 16
Higher business management	11.35am-1.10pm	Mrs Mitchell	Room 16

Tuesday 16th May: Physics

National 5 physics	9am-10.35am	Mr Belford/ Ms Schutz	Room 17/ 23
Higher physics	2pm-3.30pm	Mr Belford	Room 17
AH physics	10.50am-12.25pm		Room 17 or 23

Wednesday 17th May: Modern studies

Higher modern studies	2pm-3.30pm	Mr Cathro	Room H37
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Friday 19th May: practical cookery

National 5 practical cookery	10.50am-12.25pm	Ms Barrick	Room 1
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Thursday 25th May: Art and design

National 5 art	9am-10.35am	Art teachers	Room E32
Higher/ AH art	2pm-3.30pm	Art teachers	Room E33/32

Monday 29th May: Design and manufacture

National 5 Des Man	2pm-3.30pm	Mr Ingram	Room 3
Higher Des Man	10.50am-12.25pm	Mr Ingram	Room 3