

Part 2

Dumfries & Galloway Schools Swimming Championship

Well done to Eva Kernahan, Jack Sommerville, Izzy Barbour, Osla Milligan, Anna Dunlop, Yvie Dunlop, David Ortega Perez, Zach Barbour, Jessie Kernahan and Kristina Campbell, for representing Castle Douglas High School at the Secondary Schools Swimming Championship on 9th November 2023. Results worthy of special mention below:

Jack Somerville – 2nd 200m Backstroke

Anna Dunlop – 2nd 100m Butterfly, 3rd 100m Breaststroke, 3rd 200m Individual Medley

Yvie Dunlop – 2nd 100m Backstroke

David Ortega Perez – 2nd 100m Backstroke

Zach Barbour – 1st 200m Breaststroke, 2nd 200m Backstroke

Kristina Campbell - 2nd 100m Freestyle, 2nd 100m Butterfly, 3rd 200m Freestyle

Congratulations to David Ortega Perez and Anna Dunlop for meeting the consideration time in the 100m Freestyle event for the national finals. David also met the consideration time in the 100m Backstroke event.



Netball

Both of our Netball Teams have had a successful year playing in the D&G league.

This year the league was split into 3 pools with Castle Douglas competing against Douglas Ewart High School, Dumfries High School and Kirkcudbright Academy in pool B.

The Junior Team placed second in the pool, only just missing a spot in the final after winning three out of a possible four games. The Senior Team faced tough competition, playing well to finish third.

Well done girls, a great year so far!



Youth and Philanthropy Initiative

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is a powerful active citizenship programme, empowering young people to make a difference in their communities while developing a range of skills. YPI engages groups of students, developing skills and confidence through a contextualised learning experience. The programme raises awareness of social issues and local charities and is a vital means of devolved, locally driven grant-making.

For session 2023-24 the successful team was Isla Learmonth, Amos Jordan, Elise Cross, Neave Brown and Lyla Kirk. This team researched and advocated for the charity 'Woman's Aid' and their winning presentation saw them secure a £3000 grant from The Wood Foundation for their charity.

Ami from the Woman's Aid team came to meet the successful YPI team and be presented with a cheque. Ami expressed that she was very proud of the team and the hard work they had put in to securing funding for the charity.



Outside Space

In school we constantly look for ways to make our outdoor spaces more attractive and useable by the young people. As we move into the milder, perhaps even warmer months, our outdoor spaces are used very well by all year groups during interval and lunch times.

We were very fortunate to have a bench donated to the school by the Dumfries & Galloway Mental Health Association. The bench is anticipated to provide a quiet place for young people to be able to sit and be mindful.

We would like to thank the Dumfries & Galloway Mental Health Association and can assure them that the bench will be well used by young people during the warmer months.

Pictured below is the bench on the day it was presented to the school.



Library Funding



Congratulations to Ms Taylor in the school library who applied to Tesco to be considered for the Tesco Stronger Starts vote in the local store. The vote placed Castle Douglas High School in second place and secured a grant award of £1000 to promote inclusive literacy in our school community.

Parent Council

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

www.CDHS.info

www.dalrysecondary.info

Castle Douglas High School parent council intend to hold their Annual General Meeting on the 21st March at 7pm in the school. Any changes in office bearers following the AGM will be available on the school website.

Modern Studies

Local MSP, Finlay Carson, came into school to speak with Higher and S3 modern studies students. The Higher students took the opportunity to quiz Finlay about different voting systems, about ways citizens can influence the government and about how the government is held to account.

S3 students took the opportunity to quiz him about the proposed Galloway National Park, about his current priorities and about his favourite part of being an MSP.

Finlay was full of praise for the young people and the quality of their questions and thinking. He also commented on how polite and engaged they were and invited both classes to Holyrood later in the year.



Geography

Geography students designed Antarctic flags and sent their designs to the British Antarctic Survey. The photograph below shows Carrie, a British Antarctic Survey Marine Biologist at a colony of Gentoo penguins on South Georgia displaying some of the flag designs.



Music

On Thursday the 14th of March 2024, ten talented musicians performed in the very first Scottish Young Musicians Competition here at Castle Douglas High School. It was a lovely evening of entertainment from the young people who performed on a variety of instruments including the bagpipes, drum kit, piano and acoustic guitar.

Congratulations to Reuben De Silva (S5) who gave an outstanding performance on the piano and won the competition. Reuben will now compete in the second round of the competition at local authority level.

Congratulations also to Ben D'Arcy (S1) who gave a spectacular performance on the drum kit and was runner up. Well done to everyone that took part in the competition.

Congratulations and thank you to all young people who took part and gave us such an entertaining and competitive evening.



Biology

S3 have been building 3D models to show the structure of cells



S3 Biology made the most of a dry, spring day and took their learning outdoors. They focussed on surveys, drawing tables and developing their graph skills. The pupils enjoyed this and are looking forward to doing more lessons outside when the weather improves. However, Miss Forsyth had to quickly adjust her lesson plans after she noticed one of the column headings titled 'scaly things'!



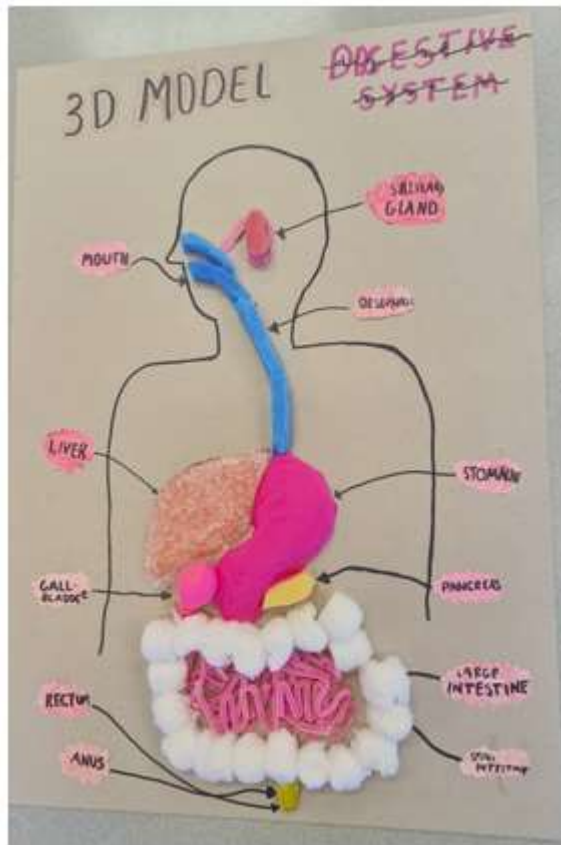
National 5 Biology classes have been working on the Multicellular Organisms unit. Recently, they had the opportunity to take part in a heart dissection. The pupils worked well in their groups identifying various

chambers, structures and vessels. They then took a section of artery and added weights to look at how much they can stretch. One of the groups managed to get to 2.7kg!

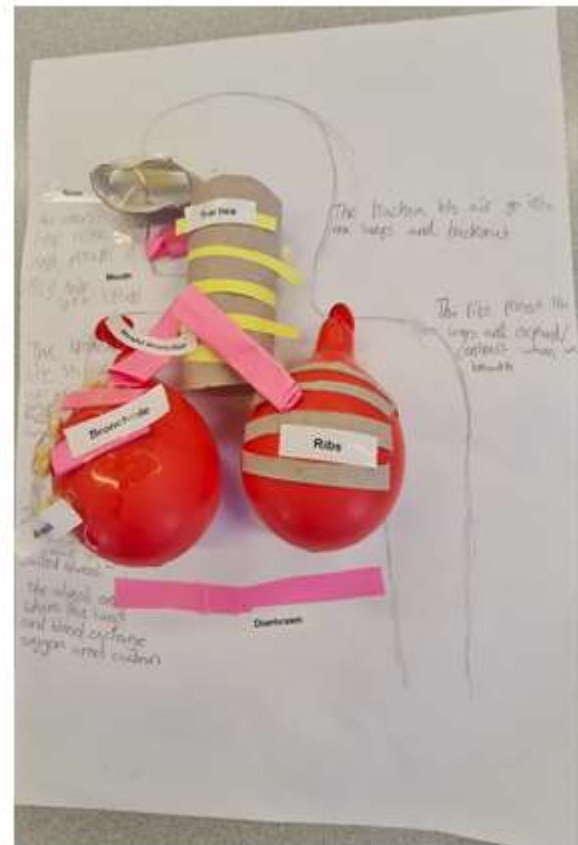


S1 Science

These models were created by S1 learners who have been studying the various body systems and then had to demonstrate their understanding of the layout and structures of their chosen system by producing a 3D model.



The digestive system was created by Milly Grierson, Rose Tuchewicz and Libby Earl.

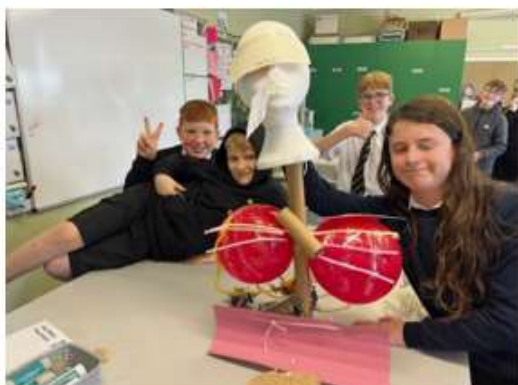
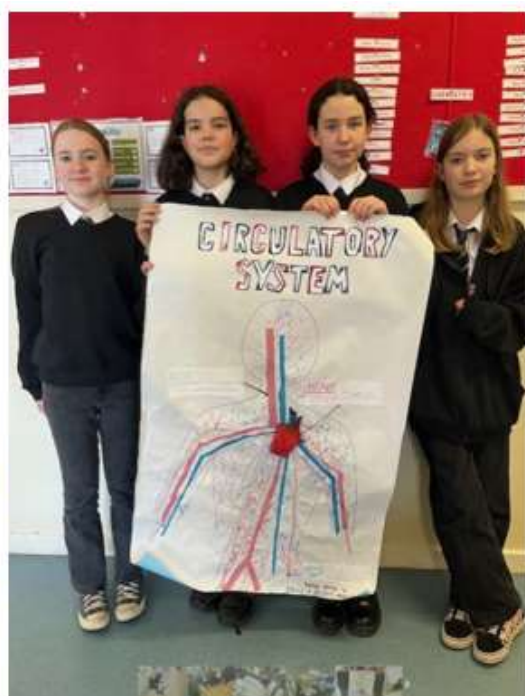


The respiratory system is Brooke Pickthall, Claire McFadyen and Ferne Hartley

Below are a few more examples of body system models built by our S1 learners



Here are some pictures of our S1 learners hard at work building their body part models.



Social Subjects

Well done to our S2 Social Subjects pupils who impressed greatly with their creativity and effort in their volcano homework. As you can see there were some incredibly creative young people who went the extra mile with their homework and produced outstanding pieces of work.

Yes they did get to try all the cakes and we can confirm they were delicious!

Well done to everyone!



Modern Languages

The modern languages department organised a Duolingo competition across S1 and S2 classes.

Congratulations to the winners:

S1 Spanish

1st Kaidi McCornick

2nd Skye Carnochan

3rd equal Jack Somerville and Joe Morrison

S2 French

1st Chloe Rothwell

2nd Rachel Girdwood

3rd Ailsa Rush



CRY – Cycle4David

One of the charities that the school has supported this year is CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young. CRY is a charity that raises money to try to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research, and supporting affected families.



One of our Dumfries and Galloway colleagues has had tragic personal experience of the sudden death of his son. David Hill was born on the 17th April 1991 and died suddenly, without warning, whilst playing rugby for the Scottish Parliamentary Team against the Irish Dail and Senead XV team, on a sunny day in Dublin on 19th March 2022, at the age of just 30.

To mark the second anniversary of David Hill's tragic death, members of David's family and friends have cycled the match ball from Edinburgh to Dublin, for the second playing of the David Hill Memorial Quaich, which took place at Donnybrook Stadium, Dublin on 16th March 2024 at 11.30am, between the Dail and Seanad and the Scottish Parliament rugby teams.

Whilst cycling through Dumfries and Galloway, the Cycle4David team called at 11 secondary schools, to raise awareness of Sudden Cardiac Death, to raise funds and to promote upcoming cardiac screening events in Dumfries.

A number of our young people and teachers supported this fund raising event by joining the peloton on the journey from Castle Douglas High school to Kirkcudbright Academy.



Young people getting ready to cycle with Rodger and Lesley Hill



Young people get to touch the match ball and chat with Rodger Hill before the cycle begins

Our S6 pupils organised and ran a fantastic quiz evening to raise further funds for CRY. The evening was well attended, the quiz was competitive and the cake sale was tasty. Congratulation sans well done our S6 pupils. Pictures will appear on our website and Facebook as soon as they are available.