



DRUMMOND

Community High School Newsletter

Headteacher's News - June 2015

As the third term draws to a close, we can reflect on another positive year at Drummond Community High School. Senior Pupils have sat their Nationals, Highers and Advanced Highers and eagerly await their results on August 4th. I am sure that their hard work and commitment will have paid dividends and they will be duly rewarded.

Moving from primary to secondary school is a huge milestone and an exciting time in young people's lives. We were delighted to be part of that milestone when we welcomed our new S1 on 16th, 17th and 18th June; they seemed to have relished the experience of being at secondary school, meeting their teachers and getting a taster of their new subjects.

All pupils at Drummond started their new school timetable on 1st June and have settled in well to their new classes. Throughout June, Masterclasses have focused on Kenya, where our link school is. In August we will be taking a new approach to Masterclasses, with the focus being on progressive skills development through from the junior to senior phase, ensuring that pupils are prepared for learning, life and work when they leave school. More information about this will follow in the new term.

Staff attended the S6 Prom, at the Radisson Blu, on Friday 5th June to bid them a fond farewell. As ever, the young people looked stunning in their outfits and the evening proved to be a resounding success with great food, company and dancing. We wish them all the very best for the future and hope they will keep in touch with the school to inform us of their progress.

The usual end of term traditions were in place the last week of term beginning with the Celebration of Achievement Evening on Tuesday 23rd June when we welcomed Kimberley Reed, a former pupil, as our guest speaker. Kimberley was recently awarded the Eric Liddell trophy for the 'Most Promising World Class Athlete of the Future' and she spoke eloquently about her career pathway since leaving Drummond,

her achievements both on the athletics field and balancing this with her studies at University. She was a great inspiration to pupils, staff and parents alike. I would like to thank her again for attending our evening and making it special by presenting our young people with their awards. I would like to congratulate all of our prize winners on that evening and a special congratulations to Glen Hunter, our Dux.



Our Suspended Timetable offered pupils a range of opportunities for wider achievement on Wednesday 24th June. There were visits to Camera Obscura, East Links Farm and unusual activities such as bubble football. Pupils immersed themselves in the day, had a lot of fun and developed their skills set.

On the last day of the summer term, we had our Achievement Assembly with pupils' talents being recognised across a variety of disciplines.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Drummond Community High School staff and our partner agencies, who have ensured our pupils have benefitted from a wide range of learning experiences and activities throughout the session. I hope everyone has a well-earned summer break and I will look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 17th August at 8.25am.

Dress Code for School



The school is dependent upon the support of parents in working with us to promote and maintain high standards of application to study/homework, behaviour, attendance, punctuality and dress code from our pupils. Drummond is a school to be proud of and we want our public image to reflect the values staff and parents promote. We have very few occasions when the work ethic/behaviour/dress of pupils fall short of our high standards, as the majority of our pupils have a very positive response to the standards set and expected by all of the Drummond community. However, recently, there has been a notable increase in the number of pupils wearing leggings/footless tights, brightly coloured footwear and tops that are not appropriate for school. This is disappointing and takes away from the usual high standard and dignified wearing of our school uniform. I am making a special appeal to parents to work with the school so that we reach those high standards in uniform that we achieve in so many other ways. Please continue to work with us to ensure all pupils wear the correct version of the school uniform. It is also important to remind our pupils to conduct themselves in a proper manner as they travel to and from school and in our local and wider communities. Your ongoing support is very much needed and appreciated.

Sue Cook (HT)



TERM DATES 2015/16

Autumn Term (2015)

Term starts Monday 17th August

September holiday Monday 21st

Mid-term break is Monday 12th to

Tuesday 20th October (inclusive)

Tuesday 20th October – **staff only day**
for in-service

Term ends Tuesday 22nd December

Christmas Holidays

Wednesday 23 December 2015 -

Wednesday 6 January 2016 (inclusive)

Wednesday 6th January 2016 – **staff
only day** – in-service day)

Spring term (2016)

Term starts Thursday 7 January

Mid-term holidays

Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February

Term ends Thursday 24th March

Easter holidays

Friday 25th March – Friday 8th April

Summer Term (2015)

Term starts Monday 11th April

Mid-term holidays

Monday 2nd May, May Day

Thursday 5th May, **staff only day**
to coincide with Scottish Parliament
Election

Monday 23rd May, Victoria Day

Term ends Friday 30 June

**New term begins Wednesday
16th August 2016.**

Maths Challenge

In May, nine Drummond pupils took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. The challenge is aimed at pupils in S1 and S2 in Scotland.

Almost a quarter of a million pupils from across the UK sat the challenge, with roughly the top 6% receiving a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze. The top students qualify for the follow-on competitions, the Junior Mathematical Olympiad and the Junior Mathematical Kangaroo. The results for Drummond pupils were fantastic:

GOLD: Daniel Farrow (S1) and Benjamin Sterratt (S2)

SILVER: Mhairi Dickie (S2)

BRONZE: Swapnil Vyas (S2)

PARTICIPATION: Sean Burns (S1), Megan Fortune (S1), Daniel Bozek (S2), Adam Elbekhti (S2), Erin Youngs (S2)

Congratulations to them all!

Both Daniel and Benjamin also did well enough to qualify for the Kangaroo. An outstanding achievement! Everyone at Drummond wishes them the best of luck for this follow-up competition in June.

Staffing

Headteacher Position

I was delighted to be asked to extend my secondment at Drummond Community High School, until December 2015, as Mrs Norma Prentice continues in her role as the seconded Headteacher at Castlebrae High School. I have really enjoyed my year at Drummond and I am confident that the school is moving forwards in a positive direction. Our School Improvement Plan can be accessed on our website, along with a three page overview for parents, which will enable you to see what we will be focusing upon next year to ensure that we continue to provide high quality learning experiences for all our pupils so they achieve their potential.

Retirals

On the last day of term we marked the retirals of two staff, Mrs Cath Fleming and Mr Phil Quinn. Cath Fleming has been at Drummond Community High School for fifteen years and it is partly down to her passion for inclusion that the Secondary Resource Provision exists at Drummond. All those who have worked with Cath saw her warmth and compassion radiate through in all her dealings with pupils, staff, parents and partners. Phil Quinn has worked diligently to support many pupils throughout the years both in Geography and in supporting particular learning needs. Again, I am sure Phil will keep busy in his retirement as an avid reader and traveller.

Staff moving on/ new appointments

We also have other colleagues moving on for a variety of reasons and I would like to wish them all the best too. Ms Laura Matuszak takes up a Support for Learning teaching post at Gracemount High School after being at Drummond for five years. Her Music post will be filled by Ms Angela McLoone. Mrs Cooper will be on maternity leave for most of next session and Mr David Gabellone will fill this post. Mr Neil Millington, Maths and Mr Darren Smith, PE, will take up respective teaching posts at The Royal High and Portobello High School and Ms Alicia Coyle and Ms Mairi Baillie will join the permanent staff in Maths and PE respectively. Ms Helen Packwood, Geography, who was on sabbatical last year will not return to Drummond and has started her PhD. We wish her well being a student again. We have subsequently appointed and the successful candidate joining the Social Subjects Faculty as the Geographer is Mr Gregor Hood. Drama has also made a return to the curriculum and I would like to welcome Ms Dawn Taylor as our probationer in this subject. Ms Natalie Harper will join our Support for Learning teaching team, which has a newly appointed Leader, Ms Niki Munro. Mrs Rajni Punn, our English as an Additional Language teacher, moves on to a new school after 20 years at Drummond. Naomi Stewart, our Community Learning and Development link, who has worked closely with the school for many years, delivering courses for young people and more recently, parents, will leave us to pursue a PGDE in Primary teaching. I am glad her work with us has inspired her to teach and she will be brilliant at this. We also bid adieu to our Community Link Officer, PC Greig Stephens, who has been a great asset to the school over the last two years and has been highly effective in building positive relationships with our pupils, staff and our local community, supporting the teaching of Personal and Social Educations and in supporting the everyday work of the school. PC Greig takes up a post in the Preventions, Interventions and Partnerships IP team and will be replaced next session by PC Claire McLean. Finally a thank you goes to Ms Edith Watt and Ms Nan Duff for their work as invigilators over the years.

Parent Council

I would also like to thank Ms Diane Kennedy for the sterling work she has done as both Co-Chair of the Parent Council for the last three years and a member of the Parent Council for six years, since her son started at Drummond. Diane has been a great advocate for the school, encouraging parents to come along to discuss issues and concerns and offering advice and support to all parents. Diane, along with the other parents on this group, has ensured the school has listened to the parents' voices in times of change and this has influenced how the school has progressed. Her warmth and inclusive approach will be missed greatly and we wish her well for the future. Mr David Sterratt will now take the helm as Chair of the Parent Council. I would warmly invite parents to come along to our first meeting of the year on Wednesday 2nd September, at 6.30pm, in the staffroom.

National 5 Cake Craft

Cake Craft is one of the best classes you can take, you learn so many techniques and skills that help you out in other areas of the school such as patience. You have to take your time making a cake, every detail counts thus teaching us to pay more attention to detail in other subjects and in life in general. Not only do you learn skills, you also feel more comfortable to try new ideas out even if they are difficult. Miss Fry lets you be as creative as you want to be, for example, creating an Alice and Wonderland cake where the cakes all sit uneven to give that edgy vibe or a Wizard of OZ cake where to make the Emerald City you make your own green sugar glass. It also has a really fun atmosphere where you will find yourself never wanting to miss a lesson. If I was you I would pick Cake Craft at some point in the Senior Phase.

Holly Robertson, S6



Kenya Group – Malaria Appeal

Students in the Kenya Group attended the Global Schools Conference on Health last September and were appalled when they found out the death rate from malaria, particularly in children. They were even more concerned when they found out that malaria was a preventable disease and that a net cost less than the price of a McDonald's Meal.

At the conference they were inspired to stand up in a packed auditorium and make this pledge

'That we will raise money to provide the equivalent of one mosquito net for every child in Drummond Community High School, saving 386 lives.'

True to their word they raised the money through working in our Fairtrade Café, a Christmas Jumper Day and one dedicated student's excellent home baking throughout the term raising a total of £903.41. After research they discovered that they could apply for pound for pound support from the British Government making available a grand total of £1,806.82 (430 nets) and chose to send the money to Save the Children's work on malaria.

Alongside our fundraising students researched malaria and produced a variety educational materials and displays to educate the whole school.

Our school has an educational partnership with Muthambi Boys and Girls Schools in Kenya and from our work with them we learn first-hand the effects of malaria on children and their education.

We hope that the money raised can make a difference to the lives of children in Africa.

Annie Scanlon, June 2015

Enterprising Maths in Lothian

We have great pleasure in informing you that Drummond Community High School has won this years' Enterprising Maths in Lothian competition!

On Thursday, 11th June, four Drummond students took part in the event, tackling a variety of mathematical puzzles and problems against 27 schools from across Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian. The pupils performed magnificently, working superbly both individually and as part of a team, scoring very highly in every round. The puzzles included creating a poster, a whole-team competition, a speed competition, a relay competition, an on-the-spot calculation, individual rounds and a model boat-building task.

This is an enormous and historic achievement for the team. They have now qualified for the National finals due to take place in Glasgow in November.

The pupils involved were:

Katherine Dempsie (S4)

Mhairi Dickie (S3)

Matthew Farrow (S4)

Benjamin Sterratt (S3)

Everybody at Drummond is incredibly proud of these very talented individuals and wish to congratulate them again on their success. We wish them great luck for the finals later this year.

DCHS Maths Department

When I took part in senior induction it was a great experience

When I took part in senior induction it was a great experience. Bonding with the other senior years and cooperating together in activities. The different tasks that were set for us included fun things like carry a barrel with rope outside the 'lava zone', spider web which required team work, thought and physical ability, also a highly advanced game where people were blind folded and had to listen to one member in there team for instructions on how to make a tent. Over all it was a convivial morning. After lunch a group of 12 of us went down to broughton primaries sports day, consisting of primary 1, 2 and 3s, we got to help out with the different obstacle courses, scoring and just encouraging the wee ones. That was very fun and exciting. The next day us S4s done a class activity together. It incorporated us going into groups of 10 and making profit by selling a well designed notebook, as many as we could, that was a very successful task that was carried out. After break we went into smaller groups and done a bit of script reading and role play. This was to practise on our interviewing skills and what kind of person you should be when talking to an interviewer, like eye contact, confident but not over confident, clear and loud voice and good posture. Altogether this whole event was very fun, different and inspiring.

Alisha Arshad S4





Sports Day 2015

Our annual school sports day was held on Thursday April 2nd at Meadowbank. Over 250 students participated in a variety of athletic and fun events with some outstanding performances along the way.

Throughout the day students also had fun playing on giant inflatables whilst listening to our resident DJ Steelie (Mr Steel from Maths) play some excellent motivational tunes.

Our new 100m female school champion is Eilidh Douglas and Sean Begbie (now left school) took the boys title.

Mr Kelly has regained the title of fastest male teacher and Miss Murphy literally flew over the finish line to take fastest female teacher.

After a brilliant day, with all competitors' demonstrating fantastic sportsmanship, the winning house champions this year were Claremont House.

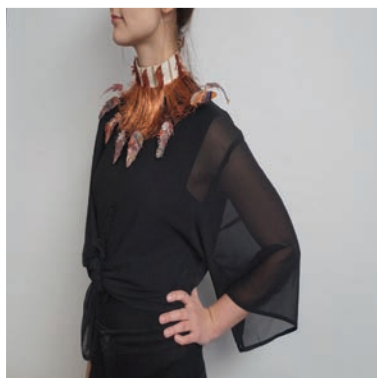
Congratulations to all who competed on the day!

Date for your diary sports fans- Friday 10th June 2016 is our next school sports day.

Get training!

ADVANCED HIGHER ART- CLASS OF 2015.

The Art Department celebrated the success of their Advanced Higher students by having an exhibition of their work at the Celebration of Achievement. The show displayed portfolio work demonstrating the creative process from investigative drawings and sketchbooks through to final outcomes such as portraits, children's books, scarves and neckpieces. The work was greatly admired by both parents and invited guests and an inspiration to younger pupils. All the students look set to reach a positive destination having gained unconditional/conditional places in Architecture, Textiles, Illustration, Photography and International Relations.



MVP

Senior students recently took part in an exciting and thought provoking course named MVP. For anyone who has not yet heard of MVP, it is based on a course developed by Jackson Katz, a leading Filmmaker, Author and Educator from the USA. MVP usually stands for 'Most Valuable Player', however, in this instance, MVP is short for 'Mentors in Violence Prevention'. MVP focuses on the need for students to refrain from becoming a 'bystander'- a person who witnesses an unfair act yet does not intervene.

This dynamic initiative will allow young people to demonstrate their skills in leadership, as well as allowing young people to understand the importance of empathy in the school community. The students will become teachers, and will lead Personal and Social Educational (PSE) classes with junior students. Each senior student will work with a partner and the PSE Teacher when delivering lessons which encompass bullying, harassment and different forms of abuse.

Senior students should experience an increase in their self-confidence and their ability to engage in public speaking. Junior students will experience an increase in their understanding of unacceptable acts; and will be provided with the opportunity to form close bonds with senior students. This programme has been running very successfully for several years in Portobello High School, with an extremely positive effect reported from all participants.

On June 5th the selected senior students received an intense, but very interesting, day of training. A further half day took place on the 19th of June, allowing senior students to be fully ready to begin delivering PSE lessons after the summer break.

Rachel Barr, MVP Co-ordinator (Edinburgh & Inverclyde), remarked that the students of Drummond are especially inspiring, given their willingness to learn and excellent knowledge and understanding of current issues surrounding bullying, gender discrimination and harassment.

In addition to some senior students becoming trainers, our current sixth year will also receive the programme taught as a Master class. They will have the opportunity to engage in many co-operative learning tasks and peer support. The MVP course also compliments the Psychology Higher currently on offer, with many students enrolled in both courses.

Well done MVP Trainers- I can't wait to get started!

Staff v Students

The annual Staff v Students charity Basketball match took place earlier this academic year. The game was organised by Mrs Collin's S6 Leadership class and the aim was to raise funds for Sports Day inflatables. With Great Britain internationalist Hannah Peacock refereeing the game, Mr Hunter making his debut and in front of an expectant crowd the scene was set for an epic encounter. The game did not disappoint and was played at a ferocious and frenetic pace. The staff raced into an early lead but with age and CRE levels catching up on them the students came back to snatch the title in the closing stages. The match was played in excellent sporting spirits and the event was a major success.

Hospitality Highland Show Trip

On Friday 19th June some of the senior Hospitality pupils went to the Highland Show with Miss Cook and Miss Fry. It was a great experience and we had lots of fun taking photos and visiting various stalls to learn more about Scottish produce. We were given lots of free samples and tasters from the stalls – we did much better than the teachers, they only got some cheese. We also saw animals in the livestock area, there were sheep, cows and horses. The horses were taking part in a Show-jumping competition. Unfortunately one of the horses ran into a barrier but luckily no one was hurt. I hope I can go to the Highland Show again next year as it was a really good day out!

Eilidh Douglas



Tennis Blog

How I got into tennis

I got my first tennis racket at 3 years old, for Christmas. This was the beginning of a long, exciting and ongoing career in tennis. At 3 years old I started playing tennis with my Dad, however, I had to wait until I was 5 to join my first tennis club in Tenerife, Spain!

Initially, I enjoyed the social aspects of playing tennis with other girls and boys. It didn't take long however, for me to want a little more one to one supervision and challenge. So, after hopping from one tennis trainer to another, I finally met my match in the club 'Escuela Tenis Las Americas' where my Dad also coached.

Inspirations for getting into tennis

My Dad has always inspired me to participate in sport. He always said 'it doesn't matter what sport you do, as long as you do one!' I think it's vital to engage in sports for a fit and healthy lifestyle.

My favourite tennis player is Roger Federer because he has the same birthday as me, and he is also extremely talented and engaging. I hope to be as incredible as Roger one day!

Why I feel it's important for young people to get involved in sport, such as tennis

Tennis is so inspiring and fun, yet it can also be quite pressurised. It also requires so much dedication and commitment. It is just me on the court, and at times, that can feel quite scary as I am naturally shy! Although, when I experience the feeling of gaining points and winning, it all becomes so worth it!

I also feel tennis is very cool and glamorous- I've had the opportunity to travel to various places such as Glasgow, Bolton and Blackpool; where I took part in Miss Teen Junior Great Britain. I was awarded Miss Teen Edinburgh. I am inspired by Maria Sharapova as she is also a model and amazing tennis player. Furthermore, she is a United Nations Ambassador for girls in sport- something I am also passionate about.

My achievements in Spain

I have already won the following tournaments:

Babolat Tournament (2012)



Copa Del Norte (2012)

Copa Cabildo (2012)

Dunlop Tournament (2012)

Escuela Tenis Las Americas Tournament (2012)

Wilson Junior Cup (2013)

Torneo Carnaval (2013)

Runner Up in Spain:

Torneo Copa Cabildo (2013)

Winning tournaments in UK:

Rogy Borders and East Tour Winter (2013/2014)

Sunderland (2015)

DL Dundee (2015)

Rogy Borders Winter (2014/2015)

Runner up in UK tournaments:

Linlithgow Junior Open (2014)

Kilgraston Tournament (2014)

Durham and Cleveland (2015)

My plans for the future

My dream and ambition is to become a professional tennis player. My immediate goal is to branch out into international tennis. In order to achieve this I will need a Sponsor, therefore, I am channelling my energy into committing myself fully to showcasing my talent.

I also very much enjoy modelling, I like the idea of modelling for a sports company. For example, I would love to eventually model for Nike!

I would also like to donate to charity, hopefully, if I become a professional, I can use my status to highlight charities which help those most in need.

Finally, my burning ambition is to give something back to my parents. They have never stopped caring and supporting me throughout my journey to achieve my goal of being a professional tennis player. One day, I will repay them!

Mahia Alarcon S4

Are you Career Ready?

DCHS currently has 6 students about to start paid internships with RBS, Capital Document Solutions, City of Edinburgh Partnership and Blackrock as part of the two year "Career Ready" program running throughout Scotland.

The Career Ready (formerly Career Academy) program matches individual students with a business mentor. Over the two year course, with the support of their mentor and attendance at termly "masterclasses", students aim to develop confidence and skills for life and work.

The "Career Ready" organisation is well placed to broaden experiences and horizons for our young people and to allow them to achieve positive and sustained post school academic or workplace destinations.

We are pleased to be able to offer this unique opportunity to a further six S5 pupils for the 2015 – 2017 "Career ready" course. Please contact your Career Ready school coordinators, Mr Paley and Dr Marks, if you are interested.

Fright at the Museum!

On the 5th November 2014, as part of the Pathology Week, our S2 students joined pupils from 10 other Edinburgh schools on an expedition to the National Museum of Scotland.

All second year students made their way to the Museum to embark on a "treasure hunt".

From the top floor and "the Quagga", to the underground world of "Beginnings" and continental drift, students hunted for answers to clues and dared to take "selfies" with the weird and wonderful of the animal kingdom.

Some animals and facts proved harder to unearth than others and the pupils worked hard under the watchful gaze of Tyrannosaurus rex and Triceratops!

The consensus was that the visit was fun and that we never stop learning.



Edinburgh Schools Dance Competition

On Friday the 13th of March a group of S2 girls received a first place award winning a Street Dance Workshop at Dance Base. In reaching this fantastic achievement, the girls have developed many great qualities and skills. The group have shown a lot of talent through their choreography of the winning routine, they have worked cooperatively as a group throughout and they have shown a great deal of support to each other in their endeavour to succeed. The event celebrated dance styles from around the world and throughout the decades. It was a fantastic event that the girls thoroughly enjoyed and were over the moon to win their first place as well as the award for best costumes.



Drummond's S4 duet were also awarded third place at the event. The duo choreographed a beautiful contemporary style dance that portrayed elements of nuclear war. The girl showed a great deal of creativity and commitment throughout, they not only choreographed the dance themselves but they have also taught themselves the contemporary style of dance. Again, it was a great achievement for the girls who thoroughly enjoyed both performing and observing a variety of dance styles at the event.

A truly inspiring event for all involved!

SkillForce Mural at Broughton St Mary's Parish Church

On the 5th and 6th of March Drummond SkillForce pupils took part in the Princes Award along with pupils from Leith Academy. We all worked together to create a mural at Broughton St Mary's Parish Church. The mural features famous Edinburgh sights such as the trams, Greyfriars Bobby and the Edinburgh skyline. We worked on the mural over the two days from 8.30am until 4pm. At the beginning of the process we drew our ideas onto the walls and began painting at the end of the first day. We completed painting on the Friday and got to create a splatter wall, this was lots of fun.

Overall, we enjoyed the experience as it was great fun to work with our friends and also meet Leith Academy pupils, it was also a good opportunity to demonstrate our creativity.

Alex, Colette and Mark, S4



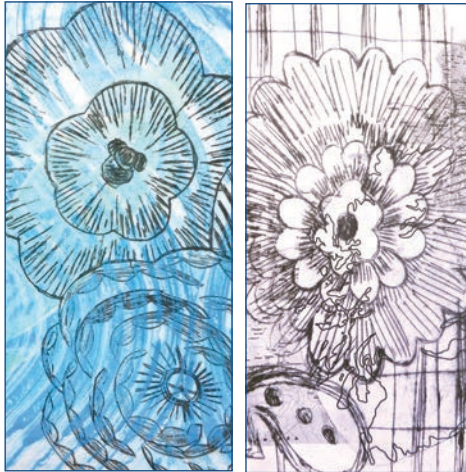
WHY THEY CALL IT FOSSIL FUEL

There were these little fish, toty and wee.
That were swimming around the big blue sea.
When they died they would fall to the ground.
Knowing that when they got there they would never be found.
They were covered completely by grains of sand.
But the fish were just glad not to be canned.
Over millions of years they were buried deeper and deeper.
Being squashed as the sand got stepper and stepper.
Over the years the fish was squashed as thin as foil.
But all that was left was a fossil and oil.
An oil well was drilled to find oil.
It had to drill past lots of soil.
They found the fish in the oiled sea.
And they sucked it all up completely.
The fish's oil was used in a special way.
In items we use every day.

By Andrew Martin 2A1

On the 11th of May a group of our S3 students went to a special opening of their prints at the Byre theatre in St.Andrews. This exhibition marked the second year of a three-year collaborative project between the Modern languages Department at St.Andrews University and the Art Department at Drummond Community High School, Edinburgh.

This year we challenged our third year students to research their own cultural heritage thus creating a dialogue between parents, grandparents and other family members. These findings were then recorded in visual journals and took the form of patterns from various textile traditions and the design of family trees. Following this ten students were selected to participate in an artist led workshop with printmakers Susie Wilson and Jenny Findlay. Here the students learnt new techniques such as gelatin and intaglio printing. These delicately, layered prints reflect textile influences from countries such as Poland, Germany, England, Pakistan, Jamaica, Scotland, Australia and America and visually represented some of our research findings.



Art Masterclass

On the 1st April the Art Masterclass (which has been a mix of S2-S4 pupils) revealed their performances and installations to a very curious audience - an audience at one point that was wearing over 100'hand designed masks. This day was the culmination of months of work in partnership with outreach staff from the National Galleries. Further, a professional film crew was provided by the National Galleries to record the works and hopefully footage will go towards an exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery at the start of next year.

I have worked in Drummond for nearly 9 years and 1st April will go down as one of my most favourite moments at the school so far. There was something quite exciting knowing that on that day there was nowhere else in the world that had a giant cardboard igloo (with real penguin noises inside); giant blackboard people; a giant pizza oven offering some rather bizarre flavours, and, a team of pupils ready to change the language of pupils via the power of art. A very special day indeed. A special mention has to go to Robin, Fraser and Richie from the National Galleries - these guys have been brilliant with our pupils and have a real belief in what our pupils can achieve

French Play

On the 26th of March Drummond Community High participated for the first time on Des Rencontres Théâtrales, an event organised by the French Institute in Edinburgh.

The schools participating had to perform a play in French and "La révolution Française", was our theme. After many hours of rehearsals, wig fitting and nerves, the play was a great success. Although, we did not win this time, we received a generous pack of French books and materials for the school.

On behalf of the Modern Languages Department, we would like to thank all the pupils participating and a special thanks to Margarida Tente and Emma Paterson for their help organising the event. Merci!



French Assistant

Lucas Roger has worked in the Modern Languages department this year. He has worked with S1 and S3 classes. Lucas been very popular with our pupils so we wish him a fond farewell!



S6 Prom

The S6 Prom took place on Friday 5th of June at the Radisson Blu Hotel on the High Street. It was great to see so many of our S6 pupils at the Prom, the girls all looked beautiful in their dresses and the boys were very smart in their suits and kilts. It was a lovely evening with plenty of dancing. We wish all our S6 pupils well in the future in whatever career path they have chosen and look forward to hearing of their continued success.

Miss Fry



Astroturf

Our Astroturf is available (during term time) to hire at a very competitive rate of £30.00 per hour.

Bookings are using made on an hourly basis with various slots available Monday-Friday between 6.00-9.00pm and Saturday morning 9.30am-12.30pm Please contact Pauline Clair at the school for more information 0131 556 2651

Room Hire

Looking for somewhere to hold a meeting, childrens birthday party, sporting activity? We have various spaces for hire at competitive rates. Contact Pauline Clair 0131 556 2651 for further information.

Parent Council News

Members of Drummond’s Parent Council have been visiting Drummond’s feeder primary schools to share their views about how Drummond is helping their children. At meetings of Broughton, Abbeyhill and Leith Walk Primary Parent Councils we showed a video about Drummond made by students using their iPads. The video was well-received and we were able to answer most of the parents’ questions and dispel some long-standing misconceptions. Thanks to Broughton Primary School Parent Staff Association, we were able to have a stall at their summer fair, with a popular interactive engineering challenge and information about Drummond. We were able to chat with a number of primary school parents.

At the Parent Council AGM in May, outgoing chair Diane Kennedy reported on the year’s activities. We have helped to host a careers speed dating event for S3-6 pupils which was well attended by employers and students. It had a real buzz to it, and it opened the eyes of students to new opportunities, and showed employers the quality of Drummond’s students. We also provided a representative at the Youth Philanthropy Initiative event and have donated funds to a number of school projects.

Sue Cook thanked Diane for her six years of hard work on the Parent Council, including two years as co-chair, and others added their own appreciation. Diane’s leadership has been inclusive, calm and caring. She has been welcoming and inspirational, and meetings have ended on time. She will be missed!

Taking over as chair is David Sterratt, and Edmund Farrow remains Treasurer. We look forward to seeing parents at next year’s Parent Council meetings; dates are on the school website. Even if you can’t get to meetings, if you’d like to raise any issues or make suggestions about the Parent Council, please contact David Sterratt (email david@sterratt.me.uk or leave a message with the school office).

Raising Teens with Confidence Course

The teenage years are a time of great change: you’re growing more independent, dealing with stressful situations such as exams, and perhaps pushing boundaries and experimenting with risks. For parents it can be a worrying time and it can be difficult to change the way you support the child you’ve known since they were tiny. Now that you no longer drop your child off at school, there are probably fewer other parents to chat to as well.

The Raising Teens with Confidence Course helped a group of parents from Drummond and other Edinburgh secondary schools with all these issues. Expertly facilitated by Molly Page and Naomi Stewart over 8 weeks, we learned about the huge changes that are going on in teenage brains, how to deal with risk-taking, how we need to change our role (becoming “consultants” rather than “managers”), how we promote mental well-being, and how we find time for ourselves. In each session there were lots of opportunities to discuss things with the other parents. As well as being informative, helpful and thought-provoking, it was also a lot of fun and there was time for some good blether. If you would like to take part in a Raising Teens with Confidence course please contact Molly Page at growingconfidence@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Former Pupil News

Former pupil Erin Quinn has just graduated from Edinburgh College of Art Jewellery and Silversmithing having won ‘The Goldsmiths award for silversmithing’. What a fantastic achievement – well done Erin.

Conveners challenge

Early in the morning, beneath an ominously overcast sky, four 6th year pupils and one teacher, set out on the very first Convener’s Challenge; a high intensity adventure treasure hunt around the streets of Edinburgh.

Mairi Stenhouse, Ronaigh Douglas, Greg Mitchell and Jordan Pettigrew, accompanied by Mr Clarke, left the school on foot at 8:30. By 11:00 they were tweeting photos of themselves in the adventure playground at Craigmillar Castle (one of the requirements of the treasure hunt), having climbed Calton Hill and Arthur’s Seat, rode mountain bikes in Holyrood Park and gathered numerous pieces of points-worthy information along the way.

From Craigmillar they moved to Blackford Quarry for abseiling, climbed Blackford hill and then returned to the streets to gather more information. Finishing at the city chambers (after another photo opportunity at the top of Castle Hill) the pupils were greeted by Edinburgh City councillors and provided with some much needed food and drink – which was quickly demolished.

After totalling the points, ‘Team Drummond’ came within touching distance of the eventual winners, but unfortunately did not steal the trophy. The pupils worked indefatigably and had a wonderful experience. Mr Clarke gained some valuable insight into how to scoop the trophy next year – I am told he is already plotting his next route and considering his next team.



Rotary Day Out!

