



Drummond

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



December 2016 Newsletter

Dear families,

It has been a very busy and successful term at Drummond Community High School and I am very proud to share and celebrate the many and varied achievements of our young people. We regularly celebrate the successes of our students at House Assemblies for Annandale, Bellevue and Claremont, and present Achievement Ties and star badges to those who have excelled in their academic, musical or sporting field, or who have represented our school community with flying colours.

We know how important it is for pupils to have a wide range of activities outside the classroom as well as inside and I hope that this newsletter gives you a flavour of all the opportunities we offer, as well as how successfully and enthusiastically the pupils represent Drummond. Our unique city centre location means that Edinburgh's cultural attractions such as the Scottish Parliament, museums, galleries, and the zoo are on our doorstep and there are many excursions to enrich our pupils' classroom learning.

In a survey of parents/ carers earlier this year, I was delighted to see that 100% felt that their child's learning was progressing well; 100% feel that their child enjoys learning at Drummond CHS; and 100% said that our school helps their child to be more confident. All our visitors to Drummond comment on the lovely ethos in the school and how well mannered, polite and confident our pupils are: all in all, this is a glowing endorsement of what we do at Drummond!



School Ambassadors. Hamza Elhag and Felix Christie were appointed as Drummond's Heads of School and have been busy speaking to cluster primary parents at their Parents' Evenings and Parent Councils, as well as the Open Evening. They are passionate about all the support and opportunities that Drummond has given them to achieve their goals. All of our Senior pupils are encouraged to participate actively in school such as being a prefect, assisting teachers in junior classes, and visiting primary schools to teach life skills such as First Aid which develops their leadership skills. I commend Ryan Kennedy and Colette Thomson in S5 as being particularly committed to this.



Maths Challenge. Mr Steel's team of pupils continued their winning run in the **Enterprising Maths in Scotland – National Finals**. All schools, both state and private, had the opportunity to take part in this event. Our fantastic team of **Mhairi Dickie S4, Daniel Farrow S3, Sara Leszczynska S3, Benjamin Sterrett S4** took part in the final of the competition they qualified for in September. 64 teams from across Scotland met at Glasgow Science Centre, tackling a variety of puzzles and problems, including team questions, practical tasks and calculations, logic games and relay races. All other schools had also qualified from regional events across the country. The pupils performed superbly again, finishing **12th** overall, putting them in the top 3% in Scotland. Another outstanding achievement!



China trip

Ms Fry and Ms Bennett accompanied a group of pupils from Drummond and Leith Academy to China in October where they visited many of the cultural sites such as the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Warriors. Senior pupils **Katherine Dempsey, Eilidh Douglas, Hannah Law and Emma McCallum** were then invited to share their experiences at the Scottish China Education Network event on Friday 2 December in 5th anniversary of the Scottish China Youth Summit at the EICC. Our pupils enjoyed an exciting programme featuring performances of Chinese songs, opera, music, dances and inspirational talks about the importance of learning Mandarin and studying Chinese culture. Drummond pupils talked about their experiences in China detailing the difference between Scottish schools and Chinese schools. They also talked about their favourite parts of the trip. Emma said "It was a great experience and I would go back in a heartbeat". This was a fantastic achievement for the girls as there were over five hundred people in the audience.



Design, Engineer, Construct

Drummond is committed to equipping our young people for the skills they will need for the world of work. We do this within a real life context and Mr Holden's Technologies department has a very high national profile with their Design Engineer Construct (DEC) programme. They continue to go from strength to strength in their partnership with A Class of their Own and the pupil team of **Josie Swift S6, David Douglas S6, Louie Gibson S4, Erin Youngs S3, Charley Miller S4 and Mhairi Dickie S4** came second in this year's DEC Design Jamie's competition with excellent feedback from the judging panel

comprised of industry professionals. This is a flavour of the feedback that the judges gave our DEC team:

The Construction Project Manager for the Jamie Oliver Restaurant Group said "Fantastic presentation document & formatting. The level

of creativity & understanding of the Jamie's brand was a real credit to the team - love the visuals. Drummond have prepared a fantastic design and presentation document and clearly undertaken their research with great care and consideration. The design for the restaurant was fantastic and would certainly create a very viable, successful and dynamic restaurant environment.

The President of the Chartered Institute of Building commented "The future of the UK construction industry will be in safe hands if can continue to encourage children to produce this excellent standard of design and innovation.

The Business Skills Ambassador of the Royal Institute of British Architects said "Fantastic images and well presented. A very close second. Well done."



Art

Drummond's Advanced Higher Art class and 10 selected S3 students were invited to participate in a special project with The Fruitmarket Gallery in central Edinburgh in partnership with the Garcia Family Foundation Schools Programme. The trip involved visiting The Fruitmarket Gallery and investigating the exhibition 'States of Time' by the Mexican artist Damián Ortega. Pupils have also been working on a very successful combined Art/ Science project at the Botanic Gardens.

Music

Tia Anderson and Ciara MacDonald performed in the Edinburgh Schools choir as part of the City of Edinburgh fanfare Concert in November and were singled out by the conductor as a real credit to the school.



Youth Philanthropy Award. All S4-6 pupils participate in YPI in which small groups each choose a charity they would like to support, research it, and work with that charity's staff to promote it. They present their charity project to an audience and panel being whittled down at various stages to quarter, semi and then the finals and the winning group receives a £3000 grant for their chosen charity. This year's delighted and worthy winners are **Alizah Mughal, Haia Jihan, Dallia Saadia and Michel Wrobel** who received the cheque on behalf of the Union of Turkish and Kurdish Refugee Families.

Charity fundraising

Our pupils and staff continue to show how big Drummond's heart is with a huge amount of money raised in two days in November for charity.

S4 Charity Fair. The S4 Religious and Moral Education classes raised over £400 for a variety of local and national charities in their Charity Fair, from activities such as a 5K run, Sponge the Teacher and bake sales.

Children in Need. Drummond raised over £800 for Children in Need from dress down day, guess the spots on the cake and a staff versus pupil basketball game (the pupils won!).

Community support. We know that Christmas can be a difficult time for some people, so in true community school spirit, staff and pupils have been generously filling boxes with food items for donation to local foodbanks, and giving money raised in a whole school Christmas Jumper dress down day to the Trussel Trust, a local charity that supports the foodbanks.

Community events

In December a group of **S1 pupils** visited the Jameson Place sheltered housing unit as part of Charity Age Scotland's campaign, No One should have No One at Christmas, pictured in The Herald,



above. Our students met residents, and the Pilmeny Development Project held an intergenerational Christmas tea party for them all. The pupils also met First Minister Nicola Sturgeon who is supporting this campaign and she presented all of the pupils with their certificates. As always, they were a credit to the school.

Open Door Evening. We welcomed the community to Drummond on Thursday 10 November to showcase our school and the wonderful opportunities we offer. Parents of our cluster primaries and from across the city visited us and commented upon the positive ethos of the school and the strong relationships between staff and pupils. We are planning another for **March 2017** so watch this space!



Film. We were delighted that our DEC pupils were asked by Alison Watson to be the stars of a BIM (Building Information Modelling) film on 1 December at the development site of St James' Centre. Drummond has built a strong partnership with Laing O'Rourke who are redeveloping the site and this short film about the importance of infrastructure will be used nationally and internationally with industry professionals.



Director Fred Mills said "Your students were well briefed, well presented and performed fantastically on camera - they are an absolute credit to you and they made our job easy!"

This educational film will be released in January to industry and simultaneously on YouTube, following an exclusive pre view screening to the pupils, their parents, the production company and A Class of Their Own's Alison Watson.



Biology

The higher Biology class has had two visits to enrich their learning - one to the zoo for a biodiversity conference and the other to Napier University for a genetics workshop. These are both topics that are taught in class and all our pupils continued to represent Drummond to the highest standards.



ELREC event. Foysol Chaudhury, the Chairman of ELREC (Edinburgh and Lothian Regional Equality Council) is a former pupil and we were honoured to be asked to host an event in early December to support refugees in Edinburgh. The Lord Provost, Mike Russell MSP, Ben McPherson MSP were all guest speakers, as well as several councillors and refugees from Iran and Egypt shared their experience of seeking refuge in the city. Many organisations, including third sector, offered practical advice. Our prefects were on hand to help organise the event and two groups of S2 and S3 pupils performed fabulous musical pieces to welcome all our guests.



Scan me for more!





Sport achievements

Squash. **Faye Fulton** S2, pictured in the Evening News on 7 December collecting Female Player of the Day and divisional champion at the Grange Squash Open, is flying high in national Squash competitions. She has now qualified for the National Championships in Aberdeen next February and will play in the Scottish Open in January 2017.

Karate. **Paige McLeish** in S1 is an active member in Karate. She represents Scotland for the Scottish Karate Federation and was picked for the Karate Squad as her CV had notable cups and medals won over the last 2 years. Paige has been abroad to

compete in Denmark and Switzerland and achieved a silver medal in October. She is delighted that Karate is to be a sport category in the 2020 Olympic Games.

Swimming. **Carla and Eve Lovell** recently represented the school in the Edinburgh & Midlothian schools swimming championships where Eve got a bronze in the 100m Breaststroke and Carla was 9th out of 15 in the 200m Breaststroke. We are now waiting to hear which swimmers are eligible to be put forward to the Scottish Schools Championships. All the girls have combined excellence in their sport with 100% school attendance and modesty: we are really proud of you!

Basketball. In recent competitive fixtures DCHS senior boys' basketball team 'The Grizzlies' have both won one and lost one. They lost out to a very strong Leith Academy side 46-77 on October 26th and beat Merchison Castle Boys School 69-56 in November. One more fixture remains, the outcome of which will decide our progress to the Open Boys Plate in the new year. The Grizzlies also beat the staff team in the Children in Need charity match.



Pupil Leadership

MVP. In November, five of our MVP Mentors, **Liam Steel, Jasper Williams, Freya O'Brien, Laiqah Mohammad and Tayybah Ahmad**, participated in the annual Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Conference at Tynecastle Stadium. Our students participated in workshops alongside Mentors from schools across Edinburgh, as well the Scottish Police Force and Young Edinburgh Action-sharing best practice. Consequently, our Mentors are currently using the information gained from the conference to create their own lesson plans for teaching the MVP model in school. This excellent leadership opportunity is allowing Mentors to befriend our juniors which enhances the already positive school ethos at Drummond. Furthermore, for Mentors with aspirations to become teachers, they are gaining their first experience of teaching: well done to all of our excellent Mentors!

Looking ahead to 2017

We are hosting the prestigious **City of Edinburgh's Holocaust Memorial Day** on Wednesday 25 January 2017 to which representatives from all city primary and secondary schools will be invited.

Uniform. Thank you for your ongoing support of our uniform code which promotes a positive ethos in our school and community, and focuses upon our high expectations of pupils as ambassadors for our school. The full details of our uniform code can be found on the website.

S4-6 prelims run from Thursday 12 January to Friday 20 January inclusive. All senior pupils are expected to attend timetabled classes throughout the exam period except on the day they have a prelim exam when they can come into school for that exam only. Full school uniform is expected as usual.

School website & twitter. We have been working hard to develop our website to ensure that it contains all the information parents need to know, such as policies and curriculum plans for pupils, at www.drummond.edin.sch.uk. We are also very active on twitter @drummond_CHS and this is a great way to keep up to date with everything that's going on in school.

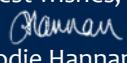
Punctuality. We continue to encourage all pupils to be in school to learn on time every day and have introduced a late policy for all pupils- 1 instance of lateness incurs a supervised 15 minute detention on a Friday afternoon, 2 latenesses equals 30 minutes and so

on. Already there has been an improvement with punctuality!

And finally.... my heartfelt thanks to all pupils and the school community welcoming me so warmly to Drummond, and in particular to my teaching and non teaching colleagues for their continuing dedication to making sure that all pupils have the best experience possible. It is an honour to be Head Teacher of such a vibrant, enthusiastic and forward looking school.

School reconvenes for all pupils on Tuesday 10 January but in the meantime I wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday.

Best wishes,


Jodie Hannan
Head Teacher

