



EARLSTON HIGH NEWS

RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY - HONESTY - COMMITMENT - EXCELLENCE

December 2018



Head Teacher's Comment

Dear parent/carer/colleague/pupil or friend of EHS,

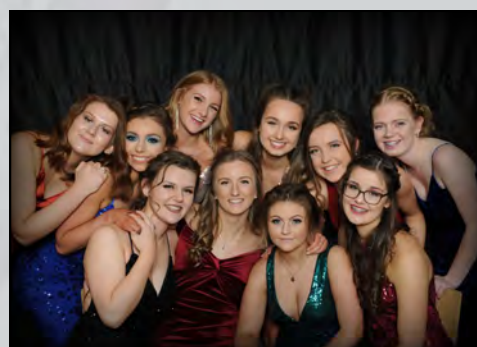
As we approach the end of this busy term, we wanted to share with you a recent snapshot of the range of wonderful activities and events here at Earlston High School. We are all feeling particularly festive here at EHS – our pupils and staff surpassed themselves this year at our three outstanding Christmas dances and our amazing Christmas concerts – what an end to a very successful year here at EHS. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Christmas Dances 2018

After weeks and weeks of practising social dance in PE it was time to put those ceilidh dancing skills to the test at our S1/S2, S3/S4 and S5/S6 Christmas Dances. Ball gowns, kilts, dresses, suits, and heels (high and low) were all adorned. And when it was time to 'strip the willow', well most of the heels came off in favour of bare feet! We hope all those who attended the dances had a great time.

The Christmas Dance season is a major event in the school calendar and we would not be able to hold these dances without the commitment and dedication of our staff and pupil volunteers. A huge thank you to the PE staff for the hours and hours of work in class and on the evenings hosting the dances. Thanks go to our staff who volunteer each evening to supervise the pupils and help with organisation. The S6 Dance Committee put a lot of work in to organising the evenings, so thank you to them also. Our wonderful S4 girls were a great help on the evening of the S5/S6 dance. There is a lot of late nights for our janitorial staff too, we are hugely appreciative of them. Lastly, Thank you to all our pupils who came along on the evenings and our parents/carers for supporting them. Professional photographs from the all the dances can be viewed and purchased at:

<https://galleries.everybodysmile.co.uk/borggrech/evnts/>





Christmas Concert and Show

Our annual Christmas concert was held on Tuesday 18th December and Wednesday 19th December. In keeping with tradition, the first half showcased the fantastic musical talent of the students at Earlston High: guitar group, Scots group, junior choir and senior choral groups, wind band and jazz band to name just some of the fabulous groups performing.

In the second half of the concert, this year our audience was treated to songs and performances from The Greatest Showman. Our production involves so many people, front and back of stage, it is impossible to thank them all individually – so a massive thank you to everyone who was involved. We really hope our audience thought, “This is the greatest show!”



Sam Johnston— A Musical Inspiration!

Congratulations to Sam Johnston (S6), who recently won an ‘Inspire Award’ in the culture category for his voluntary work with Soundcycle. Sam has been busy again involving others in music. He recently presented at a ‘PechaKucha’ event (run by CABN Scottish Borders) at MacArts, Galashiels on his reasons why he is inspired by music. Sam also led the Gordon Primary School choir. The pupils are hoping Sam will return to lead a summer show production with them.

Sam's amazing experience shows the benefits of volunteering for your own confidence and building skills for the future. For more information about volunteering in the borders go to the Volunteer Centre Borders website <http://www.vcborders.org.uk/> or the Saltire Awards accreditation scheme www.saltireawards.org.uk . Well done Sam— an inspiration to us all!



Earlston Cluster Quality Improvement Award Success

Earlston Cluster recently won a major national award at the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative's Quality Improvement Awards. The award was won in the category of 'Achieving Results at Scale' for our work on closing the attainment gap in numeracy through the Pupil Equity Fund. The young people at Earlston High who are supported through this programme celebrated with a special party. The Additional Needs Assistants and the Head Teacher attended a ceremony at Scottish Borders Council headquarters to recognise this major achievement and all those involved. The award is a major achievement for the cluster work and shows the outstanding work we have been doing to support numeracy development in our young people.



Pictured with the award is Head Teacher, Mr Sinclair and the numeracy team at Earlston High.

Elf Auction

On November 28th the annual Elf Auction was held. This has become a favourite event and over fifty S6 students put themselves up for auction. The idea is that they will devote one or more of their study periods in the following weeks to supporting whoever bids for them in the auction. We saw some of the elves carrying heavy schoolbags for younger students, helping out in a class, standing in the lunch queue, helping to decorate classrooms with tinsel and acting as a waiter or tidying desks for teachers! It's all for a good cause and donations from bids all went to the school's charity fund. Thank you to Mr Woodcock for being the auctioneer and to the S6 for being such good sports.



House Competition

The House Competition continues every week on Tuesday lunchtimes with various events. In recent weeks we have had, chess, a Top of The Pops quiz, target practice, S6 Vs pupils challenge and space hopper races. Pupils can also earn



house points for positive school reports, outstanding pieces of work and helping out in the school. Eden are still top of the House Competition Table, but anything can happen between now and April when the winner is announced!



Our House Competitions add to the positive ethos of our school and would not be possible if it wasn't for the hard work of our Sports and House Captains, as well as Miss Pate who supports them. Thank you!

Curricular Excursions

Higher RMPS—Samye Ling

The Higher RMPS class travelled down to Langholm and visited Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery and Tibetan centre. Visiting a real Buddhist centre gave the pupils an insight into the daily lives that the Buddhists follow: the food they eat (which would probably take us a while to get used to), the time they get up, and the activities and jobs they do.

A Buddhist Monk gave us a guided tour around the centre and showed the special monuments and the rooms in which they pray. After we had lunch, we got to practise praying, and followed the steps to try clear the mind. Overall, this trip was very beneficial as it will help with our essay writing. (Tyree S6)



Advanced Higher Biology - Edinburgh University



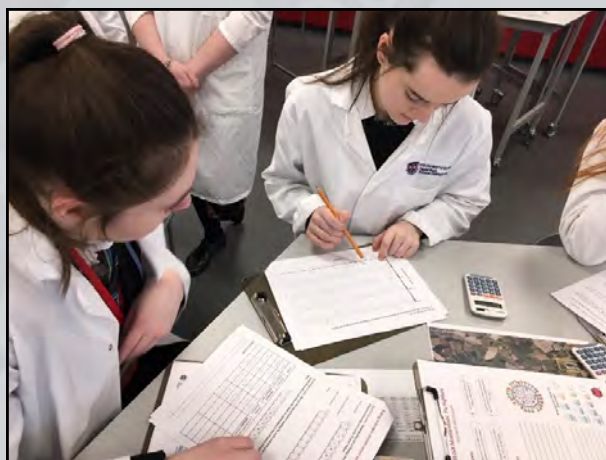
On Tuesday the 4th of December a group of eager pupils, alongside their teacher Mrs Donohague, participated in a biology trip to Edinburgh University's Easter Bush campus. The aim of the excursion was for the pupils to carry out and gain an understanding of the ELISA process – a procedure used to detect and measure infectious antibodies in the blood.

The group arrived at the campus, composing of an ultra modern complex nestled under the shadow of the barren Pentland hills. Once within their new environment, the pupils, alongside groups from Castle Douglas and Kilwinning, were greeted by a team of experts whose specialisms lie across multiple biological fields. The morning session kicked off with some background work on infectious diseases to help build a clearer picture of what the following experiments would be determining. With that done it was time for part 1 of a dual wielded ELISA adventure. This primary stage consisted of carrying out ELISA with known concentrations of flu antigen, and creating a standard curve. From these activities the pupils gained valuable experience of the procedure. Their new skills would be put to the test during round 2 after lunch. Fingers crossed the practise would pay off.

In the afternoon, pupils were now tasked with testing serum samples from chickens on different farms in order to identify which farms contained infected chickens. The work began. The ELISA process was hard, there were mistakes, but there was also a great deal of resilience and by the end of the day all of the EHS pupils had correctly identified the farms with infected chickens. After basking in the glory of their success it was now time for the pupils to negotiate the final hurdle of the day – a question and answer session with the university students. Through the use of intricate questioning techniques the pupils managed to successfully learn about the work the different students were completing alongside some fun facts about them. The day had ended in success.

The journey back to Earlston was a quiet one, and the pupils respectfully enjoyed the communal silence. Whilst reflecting peacefully on the beauty and ingenuity of the ELISA technique and its effects on biological science.

To conclude, the trip was a great success where the pupils managed to combine a fun new experience with the familiarisation and understanding of a tricky aspect of the Advanced Higher Biology Course. On behalf of the group I would like to thank the entire team at Edinburgh University, we appreciate that you took the time to help us out. (Yousuf Khursheed S6)



Curricular Excursions continued...

National 5 Modern Studies—Scottish Parliament



On the 27th of November 2018, 32 S4/5 Modern Studies pupils travelled to Holyrood to visit the Scottish Parliament.

They were invited in for an educational workshop where they learned about the work of an MSP. They learnt about the split between parliamentary and constituency duties, and how the members are part of many different committees within the parliament. They also took part in a quiz where they had to tell the difference between reserved and devolved powers.

After the workshop, MSPs Christine Grahame (Member for Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) and Paul Wheelhouse (Member for South of Scotland) arrived for a question and answer session. They were asked about the best parts of their jobs and

what committees they would like to be a part of if they were given the opportunity by the students.

The debate in the chamber on the 27th was about welfare reform in the UK, and the pupils were able to watch the debate and understand the dynamics of the debating chamber. They managed to watch Aileen Campbell, the cabinet secretary for communities and local government, debate that it is the government's responsibility to do what it can to improve everyone's life chances.

The Modern Studies pupils enjoyed their day at the Scottish Parliament and will be able to take some of their understanding into their national exams in 2019. (*Elsbeth Roper S4*)

Advanced Higher English/Modern Studies/History—Edinburgh University and Central Library

Over the course of the autumn season S6 pupils studying Advanced Higher English, Modern Studies and History went on a two part trip to visit Edinburgh University Library and Edinburgh Central Library. The purpose of the trip was to find quotations from secondary texts, relevant to the assignment material that the S6s are studying. One focus for the first trip was for pupils to orientate themselves within the vast libraries and pinpoint the sections they needed to focus their search in. After much exploring, the pupils managed to begin to find relevant texts. Once these were found the hard work of finding quotations relevant to their assignment essay questions began.

After lunch the quest for knowledge continued and the History pupils enjoyed a lecture presented by university students from the USA on the American Civil War. Whilst this was happening, the other S6s adjourned to the Central Library to look for further material. Here, under helpful librarians' instructions, many useful secondary texts were found, and under the intense silence that dominated, much work was done.

After dinner the group went to the Lyceum Theatre in order to watch "The Twelfth Night". The performance was enjoyable and a perfect conclusion to a fine day of work.

A few weeks later and it was time for part two. Being already familiar with their setting from the earlier trip, the pupils headed to the library of their choice in order to pursue the information that they required. The hard graft began without much hesitation. Once again the intense silence of the library commanded the atmosphere as the pupils spent hour after hour concentrating on reading different material, taking notes and writing down quotes.

Overall the trips were a great success and the group managed to discover a wide array of relevant material for their respective assignments. (*Yousuf S6*)



Extra Curricular Excursions

S1 Zoo Trip—Pupil Support Report

On Wednesday 14th November we went to Edinburgh Zoo with other pupils from S1. The trip was organised by the S6 students. It was a rainy and windy day. We travelled in 3 coaches – Tigers, Zebras and Pandas. We were in the Tigers coach. When we got there we got a map of the zoo. We saw tigers, zebras, penguins and monkeys. The favourite part was seeing zebras. (*Tamara and Paul S1 Pupil Support*)



Model United Nations (MUN)—North Berwick Conference



On the 16th November fifteen pupils from S1 to S6 attended a MUN conference at North Berwick High School. Earlston pupils represented the country delegations of Spain, Canada and Belgium. Pupils spent many weeks before the conference itself researching their countries positions and developed written position papers on topics ranging from rising sea levels to censorship of the media.

At the conference, pupils debated in their individual committee topics in the morning and took part in an

emergency general assembly debate in the afternoon. Earlston pupils were a credit to the school, confidently debating their countries point of view, many of whom it was their first MUN conference, showing excellent enthusiasm to debate as global citizens.

Pupils have been meeting every Thursday lunchtime before and since the conference and are continuing to develop their communication skills within an MUN format. Pupils are looking forward to taking part in more conferences and new members are encouraged to come along and give MUN debating a try.



Developing the Young Workforce—Torness power Station.



Pupils from Earlston High School, Berwickshire and Eyemouth visited EDF Energy's Torness Nuclear Power Station on December 6th.

The pupils completed a range of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities and received an informative tour around the power station. Pupils also learned about the amazing apprenticeship opportunities with EDF Energy at Torness! One pupil said, "I really enjoyed all the challenges and the tour. It was good to find out about the apprenticeship opportunities and this is something I am now considering as a possible career route."

Earlston High School regularly tracks the careers intentions of our pupils so that we can target appropriate career opportunities like this.

Many thanks to our colleagues at Developing the Young Workforce—Borders and Mr Ferguson for arranging this trip.

World of Work Evening—The WoW Factor!

Our annual World of Work Evening (Wow₁₈) took place on 22 November. More than 40 local companies, educational institutions and support organisations had stalls at this event. The event is aimed at all S3 and Senior Phase (S4-S6) students without clear career plans and parents/carers.

The purpose of this evening is to raise awareness of the jobs available now and in the future, highlight the importance of skills and qualities and to help with making informed subject choices in the next couple of months.

This event complements our Positive Pathways Evening in September which has a focus on considering the range of routes into preferred careers for our senior students.

The feedback from those attending was very positive. Employers were very impressed by the well-considered questions asked by our young people, how receptive they were to advice and how enthusiastic they came across. This last point is very important – in the survey conducted with all businesses in attendance, it was noted that 90% of them highlighted a positive attitude as the most important aspect when applying for jobs. This was much higher than qualifications and skills, which are obviously also very important. Another aspect emerging from surveys was that both youngsters and parents/carers feel more informed about college and university routes to work than the family of apprenticeship opportunities. This is a growth area we need to be better at informing everybody about.



Debating—Law Society of Scotland's Donald Dewar Memorial Competition

Two of Earlston's outstanding seniors recently argued their way to a brilliant first round victory in the Law Society of Scotland's prestigious Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition.

Rhiannon Fagan and Ruth Drane (both S6) demonstrated fantastic skill, determination and quick thinking to defeat a team from Peebles High School - opponents who have a strong history in the competition having provided last year's winning duo. The motion Rhiannon and Ruth had to oppose in the debate was "This house believes that Google does more harm than good".

The annual schools debating tournament sees 128 teams from across Scotland enter the first round, with just one team crowned the winner at the grand final held in the debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament.

Established in 1999, the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating tournament, dedicated to the memory of the former First Minister Donald Dewar MSP, is Scotland's largest annual schools debating tournament.

The next round is due to take place in January 2019 and Mr Mitchell is sure the girls will do themselves proud once again.



Law Society of Scotland

Leadership at Earlston High School

S1 Leadership Classes

This academic session is the first that S1 pupils are getting a dedicated Leadership class once a week. The course has been focussing on 'Values Based Leadership' this term and has taken inspiration from the award winning Columba 1400 program that the school has taken part in on Skye for the previous two years. Although, only a small number of pupils were able to experience the course in Skye it is hoped that their experiences and those of the teachers that took part will benefit all pupils in Earlston High School for years to come. The pupils have been exploring the importance of values in Leadership with an emphasis on the school values. Each class were set the task to come up with a sixth value for the school and almost every class, out of an almost limitless choice of options, either came up with Positivity or Friendship. It was great to see everyone working so well collaboratively and using their Leadership skills to make compromises and come up with such worthy ideas. Next term they will be exploring how they can use their leadership skills to combat bullying.



S1 Pupils working together to complete the 'impossible jigsaw.'



Children in Need

On Wednesday the 21st of November 2018 two of the Junior Sports Captains (Gracie Will and Amy Morris) held a Children in Need fundraiser. It was a 'bike-athon' where some of the junior sports and house captains rode the bike throughout the day. At break and lunch some of the teachers even had a shot. Over the whole day we all managed to cycle a total of 184 miles. We also had a bake sale which went well. Overall we managed to raise an amazing £524.84. Thank you all who made this event possible. (Amy M and Gracie W S3)

Pupil Parliament

At the beginning of December a delegation of our S3 Leadership team travelled to Ross High in Tranent to see the work that the pupils there had been doing in helping develop Learning Logs for each subject. Learning Logs are a school priority at EHS this session and it is hoped that the Pupil Parliament will use the knowledge Fraser, Anna, Gracie, Amy and Issy gained at Ross High to help them input into Learning Logs at Earlston. The Pupil Parliament meets twice a term and roughly 80 pupils from across all year groups in the school take part. The aim of the Parliament is to facilitate the pupils' ability to lead in key areas that will directly benefit school life for everyone.

Earlston Over 60s Christmas Tea Party

Every year, Earlston High School invites members of our local senior citizen community from the Earlston Over 60s Club to a Christmas Tea Party organised by our Charities Committee. The tea party is an important part of our Christmas events in the school.

This year our guests were entertained with 'Christmas Bingo' from Head Girl Christie and Deputy Head Girl Alice and performances from our Christmas Show, including songs from The Greatest Showman. Mr Sinclair was on hand to welcome our guests and Mr Thomson shared some 'cracker jokes'. Tea and home baked cakes were served by our senior students and Santa himself even paid a visit!

A festive time was had by all!



School Improvement Planning

Parents' role in improving the life of the school

We are in the process of collating the feedback that we have had from parents and carers, from students and from staff and using this to help us plan what we're going to do next year. We are delighted that the overall feedback is very positive; however we are particularly keen to respond to those areas for improvement that have been identified. The parent council will discuss this at their next meeting on January 9th at 7 pm. Parents and carers are welcome to come and contribute.

Some of the main areas for discussion raised by parents were:

- Enrichment activities such as excursions and sports and their costs.
- How we stretch and challenge students, particularly in S1-3 and in S6.
- Communication with parents; for example through reports.
- How we try to celebrate success in an inclusive way.
- Taking parents' views into account.
- How we make sure students feel that they are known as individuals.

Our plan for the next three years will be developed later in the session; it can be a challenge to give time and to prioritise those areas we think are most important. We have already started to think about how we deal with the costs of being in school; we have changed the way we celebrate success for next year following feedback; we will be changing the way we report in future; and this is one way that we are aiming to show parents that we really value their input and think carefully what we do as a result. Stretching and challenging students is of central importance to teaching and learning and we are creating a renewed focus on this by asking all teachers to develop their planning of lessons through clear 'Learning Intentions' and 'Success Criteria'; and by an annual focus on a part of their practice called a 'Pedagogical Plan'.

*The school leadership team is constantly trying to **improve the life of the school**. One way we do this is through **asking parents** what they think could be done better in surveys and focus groups. (We also ask students and staff).*

Each year we do this through:

The suggestion box by the school office: checked regularly

One to one meetings or contacts: as requested by parents eg by email.

The Parent Council: each month

Questionnaires: at parents' evenings

The learning and teaching survey: in June

Feedback following events: for example the World of Work evenings

What are the teacher priorities: 'Learning intentions,' 'success criteria' and 'learning logs'?

A learning intention is the reason why the lesson, or group of lessons, is important to study. Normally this would be shown to students at the start. It should be clear, relevant and grab the students' attention. Often this means it is a 'big question'. The focus of the lesson is then to answer the problem. Examples might be:

Chemistry:	Can I burn a diamond? (topic = atomic bonding)
History:	Were railway timetables the cause of World War I? (topic = cause of WWI)
English:	What is the best way to start a horror story? (topic = creative writing)
Biology:	Why do men have nipples? (topic = genetics)

Success criteria give students very clear outlines of what good looks like. They should be manageable within the time; measurable, so that it is possible to say that they've been done; and they should be the most important parts of what makes something good. Examples might be:

- An exam mark scheme
- A model example, and a bad example
- Different levels of difficulty from 'describe' to 'explain' to 'make connections with...'

Parents and carers should be able to ask all students 'what were you learning?' and 'how you know you've got better?' You're likely to see them also in the **learning logs** that students use to record their progress in S1-3 and after their prelims in S4-6.

Extra Curricular Sports



Cross-Country Success

Congratulations to the following pupils for their success at the Aberdeen Cross-Country Championships. In the U13 Boys competition Cameron Rankine (S2) came 5th with an automatic selection for the East District Team, in the U15 Girls competition Anna Fairclough (S2) came 11th, and in the U15 boys competition Ewan Christie (S2) came 9th and also guaranteed an automatic selection. All three pupils displayed really strong runs in top fields. Only a couple of days later and Anna Fairclough was also selected to represent the East District Cross-Country Team. Well done to every one of you - the hard work and resilience shown throughout training and competition is paying off!

Amazing Opportunity for EHS Swimmers!

Tilly Lakie (S1) and Kirsty Gibb (S4) were honoured to be selected as kit and medal carriers during December's Scottish National Short Course Championships in Edinburgh. Amy

and Jack Sewell also attended the event and were able to observe some of the country's top performers in their respective events. This was a fantastic experience supporting the country's top swimmers and maybe getting a glimpse into their futures?! Well done to all pupils involved!



Aspiring Hopes in Judo

During the first weekend of December, Luke Thomson and Saul McRitchie (both S2) were competing at the Pre-Cadet British Judo Championship in Sheffield with their club 'Sportif Judo'. Luke won the gold medal in the U38 category and Saul won the bronze medal in U66 category. Congratulations to you both and to all the other competitors on the day!

Wasps Rugby—Under 16s Scottish Schools Shield Final, BT Murrayfield

Our Earlston High School Wasps under 16 team have to be congratulated for making it all the way to the Scottish school's shield final at BT Murrayfield

on December 5th. Our players faced a strong Stewart's Melville College side who ran out 41-0 winners. Whilst this was a difficult result to digest for our players, they can be absolutely proud of representing their club and school brilliantly and showing the highest levels of sportsmanship. A huge thank you to all our supporters who came on the day to back the team and many thanks to the coaches who put in hours and hours of planning and coaching time. To steal a Stewart's Melville quote which helps sum up the team's experience, "A school learning is more important than winning." **#GettingBetterAtGettingBetter #TheWaspsWay**



Table Tennis



Hannah McDonell represented the school in the Scottish Schools Table Tennis tournament in Bathgate. She finished 2nd in the girls event and won the doubles. Hannah's 2nd place in the singles, qualifies her to represent Scotland in the British Schools International event in Ireland next April. Hannah also won the U13 girls event at the Glasgow Open. A fantastic achievement Hannah. A huge well done from everyone at EHS!

A massive thank you to all our pupils, staff, partners and parents who give up their time to help with extra-curricular sports. We couldn't offer these amazing opportunities with you!

Spotlight on our new courses at Earlston High School

This year we are offering a number of new courses for the first time. It's important that our school community are aware of these to support our young people with subject choices and career planning. Teachers and pupils have been keen to tell us how they are getting on in our new courses so far. We hope this insight into just some of these new subjects will help parents and pupils plan for making subject choices for 2019/20 in the new term.

Level 5 Award in Personal Finance

So far in Personal Finance we have been learning about taxes, pensions, loans, interest, saving schemes and banking. We have looked at different household deals and how to use the best deals for TV, broadband, phones, gas and electricity. We have also investigated car and life insurance and car purchase schemes. We've studied taxes associated with buying and selling and income tax and national insurance. We will soon be going on to learn about council tax, budgeting and monthly bills. The course has been really good for helping us learn how to manage our finances when we are older. The skills we are learning are good life skills for

when we eventually leave school—setting us up for real life. Cheyenne said, "I chose the subject because you learn about real life situations and how to handle your money or how to get the best deals. It is also relevant to any business course. My favourite part of the course was looking at how to get the best deals." Jed commented, "This course fits in with my career as I want to run my own business, so I will need to know how to handle my finances. My favourite part was passing the unit 1 assessment." (Cheyenne L S6 and Jed S5)



National Progression Award (NPA) Level 4—Horticulture



In its first year, the NPA Horticulture class has taken on the maintenance and up-keep of the school garden, clearing weeds and planting potatoes as well as harvesting the abundant fruit available over the summer months. The course comprises 4 units including Allotment gardening, Plant propagation, Use of Handtools and Soft landscaping; pupils have enjoyed a variety of outdoor and indoor tasks together with visits to other establishments to broaden their understanding of different gardening techniques and to see horticulture in action. The course is primarily practical with hands on learning and written tasks are kept to a minimum and supported where necessary.

Evan Haswell told us, "In Horticulture so far, we have planted and dug up potatoes, weeded, prepared rows, planted bulbs, cuttings and seeds, went to Eyemouth High School to see their garden, and taken cuttings from plants. The next thing we will be doing is to learn different ways to grow plants including planting seeds, dividing plants and transplanting seedlings. Some skills I have developed from Horticulture are being able to plant seeds properly, identify gardening tools and cleaning the equipment afterwards. I chose Horticulture because it sounded interesting and I wanted to try new things. My favourite parts so far have been picking apples, going to the country store and maintaining the garden's wellbeing." (Evan S5)

Level 5 Travel and Tourism

So far in Travel and Tourism, we have been learning about different types of jobs in the travel industry. We have planned trips for teachers and considered the specific requirements that they have. We are developing our communication skills, our knowledge of the travel and tourism industry and how important customer care and service is. So far, we have had visits from the local travel company, Unique Cottages and we have received a presentation from a travel councillor, Louise Mitchell. My favourite part of the course so far has been planning holidays with specific requirements because it challenges me. Next term, we are going to be looking at employment within the industry in more detail by exploring the skills and attributes the industry requires. (Cheyenne M S5)



Spotlight on our new courses at Earlston High School continued...

Level 5 Administration and IT

So far in the course we have been developing practical skills involving word-processing, databases, spreadsheets, and presentation software as well as learning the theory behind it. The skills include learning to use these types of software effectively within the world out with school life. We will continue to learn more about the use of e-mails and e-diaries as well as the effective use of the internet.

I have enjoyed developing my practical skills as previously I had very little knowledge on how to use some of these software packages. I know that it will be able to help me in the future as I want to go on to study Business at a higher level and information technology is strongly linked to business. However, it will be of use no matter what course I choose to do as the skills learned help to enable me to present my work in a professional manner. After studying Business Management last year and this course this year, I am now eligible to complete units to gain a National Progression Award (NPA) in Business and IT at level 5. (Louisa and Michael S6)



S3 Fashion and Textile Technology



We have been designing rucksacks and now we are making them. We are using our sewing machine skills to construct the handles, flap and patch pockets. I've enjoyed designing a decade of fashion themed t-shirt and am looking forward to completing my denim bag. We have learnt about different types of fabrics, the weave of fabrics and different sources of fabrics. We have learnt to do different stitches, seams, sewing on buttons and making a pocket. Our next unit will be about crafting and we'll learn how to print, weave, tie-dye and applique fabric. We will be making our examples into bunting. We have been using our sewing skills and developing our design skills by researching fashion trends and making mood boards. My favourite part of the course is creating your own garments and making them fit your style." One pupil said, "It is not what I expected but in a good way! I really like the themes and design part of the course. I didn't think we would actually make a rucksack!"

The Fashion and Textile Technology course will be on offer in the senior phase for session 2019/20 at Level 4 and 5. The <http://creativeskillset.org/> website is a good source to look at the range of creative careers in the industry.

Health and Wellbeing Clubs

Pop- Up Cookery Club—Christmas Cakes

The latest project has been a two part venture - making and decorating Christmas cakes! There has been a lot of variety in decoration and design and a great turn out after school. We are looking forward to a cosy warm up dish for January's Pop Up - see you all there!



Textile Club

This term the Textile Club have been busy on a Tuesday lunchtime creating applique bags. We have had some lovely creations- Japanese themed, cat themed and florals. For our Christmas craft, we have been making textured wreaths.





Art and Design Exhibition

On Wednesday 14th November, The Art and Design department welcomed parents, pupils and the local community to visit an exhibition of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher work from session 2017-18. On display were the exam pieces which had been part of the students' overall SQA award at the various levels.

It was an amazing display of talent. Those visiting the exhibition were blown away by the quality and variety on display and many commented that it was remarkable that such work was from young people and not professional artists. It was lovely to see former students bringing along their parents and friends to view their work from last year.

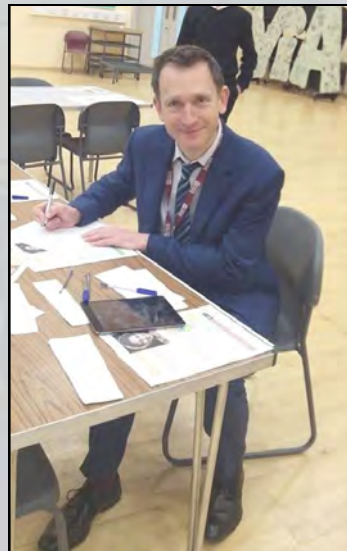
Also showcasing the students' talent is a new calendar, which is on sale in school: £10. Each month focuses on artwork from a student. Orders, with payment, can be taken by the Art and Design teachers and proceeds will be donated to the school's extra-curricular fund, Doddie's Trust, SAMH and The Karam Foundation.

Amnesty International Group—'Write for Rights' Campaign

Earlston High School staff and students have been taking part in the Amnesty International 'Write for Rights' campaign at lunch times in November. They have been writing letters of support and appeal for people who have had their rights curtailed around the world. This includes political prisoners who are being incarcerated with no access to legal support or fair trial and people at risk of persecution and torture.

The letters to diplomats and foreign governments will help to put pressure on those in power to ensure international rights are upheld and action is taken. The EHS Amnesty International group organised the event and have been working hard collating all the letters to send away. Pictured is Hannah in S4 and Mr Hayes writing their letters.

The Amnesty International group meets in Mrs Thomson's room (SS10) on a Tuesday lunchtime and new members are always welcome.



Hanover Close—Musical Visit

On the 22nd November the lunch club at Hanover Close were treated to a musical performance by Mr Haywood from EHS music department. Mr Haywood came along on his day off and voluntarily gave his time to entertain the members who were taken back in time to their youth.

A fabulous time was had by all and they look forward to a return visit from him.



Dates For Your Diary

January 7th—Pupils return from winter holiday

January 8th—Year group assemblies

January 10th—Parent Council meeting

January 24th—S2 Parents' Evening

January 28th—S2 -> S3 Subject Choice Deadline

January 31st—Burns Supper

February 6th—Sports Photographs and Pupil Parliament

February 7th—Parent Council meeting

February 11th—S3 -> S4 Subject Choice Deadline

February 15th—Staff In Service Day (all pupils off)

February 18th—20th (inclusive)—Mid-term holiday



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