

EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL NEWS 1st MARCH 2019



Diversity Week At EHS

From the 22nd to the 28th of February the pupils and staff at Earlston High School have celebrated Diversity Week, an initiative that's primary aim is to further the levels of tolerance and inclusion in the school. The idea for the event was born within the school's diversity committee. Here a group of S4, 5 and 6 pupils began to create plans which were adapted and accepted by Guidance Teacher Mr Christensen in order to create a fun and interactive schedule for the week. The timing of the week coincided with EHS receiving the Silver LGBT Charter – an award which demonstrates the inclusive nature of the school. During the week different events were arranged in order to help celebrate our differences and raise awareness of how other people live their lives.

The week began on Friday the 22nd where a set of assemblies kicked the event off. Within these S6's from the committee used anecdotes and stories to spread the message that you should be comfortable with who you are. The S6's made sure to emphasise that this is regardless of religion, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, gender, race or if you have a physical or mental disability as well as any other factors which may divide people. After the weekend, the following Monday, the committee's next event was based during lunchtime and focused on religion. The event took place in the school's central area and focused on breaking down religious stereotypes and learning the difference between what is false and what is factual. On Tuesday, the committee, alongside the head team, set up a series of computer based activities at lunchtime which simulated the effects of living with different disabilities. Once again the principle focus of the activities was to raise awareness and understanding, this time of the various physical and neurological disabilities which are common within our society. The following day the emphasis was on race and ethnicity. Wednesday's activity consisted of a giant map in which pupils were able to plot where they were born and where their families originated from. The idea of the task was to make people proud of their background and heritage in addition to happily acknowledging the extent of the racial and cultural diversity within the school. Finally, on Thursday the pupils came together for the week's finale which involved a huge gender spectrum on the floor in the canteen. The activity consisted of pupils placing a hand print to define their position on the gender spectrum. This time the aim of the task was to raise awareness of the different genders and to reinforce the fact that gender is a spectrum not a binary.

Overall Diversity Week at Earlston High School represented the fact that our differences should be embraced in order to bring us together rather than to divide us. The activities and events that comprised the week helped to increase pupils understanding of the situations faced by different people. As a result, the pupils were enabled to see past false facts and prejudice attitudes and see others for who they really are - people who live, laugh and love in exactly the same ways in which anyone else does!

By Yousuf S6





Heptathlon Success

We would like say a HUGE well done to the following pupils who represented the school in Edinburgh yesterday at the Regional Giant Heptathlon Event! They finished in second place behind a strong Peebles High School team!

Throughout the afternoon the team took part in seven events including a sprint, hurdles, an endurance event, a step-up challenge, long jump, triple jump, shot putt and team relay sprint! Competing against eight other teams from across the Borders and Lothians, the pupils were a genuine credit to the school. Big thanks must go to Gemma Ross, our Active Schools Coordinator, for all the extra training sessions she ran and to Mr Alston for driving them up yesterday.

The pupils involved were: Elspeth, Anna, Ailsa, Esther, Tilly, Emily, Ewan, Cameron, McKenzie, Harvey, Logan, Jack and Jay.