



# EARLSTON HIGH NEWS

RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY - HONESTY - COMMITMENT - EXCELLENCE

June 2019

## Head Teacher's Comment

Dear Parent/Carer/Colleague/Pupil/Friend of EHS,

Welcome to our quarterly bumper edition of EHS news. It has been another term of hard work, wonderful experiences and good deeds. The commitment of our pupils, staff and partners is evident in the pages of the newsletter. We are so lucky to have so many who go the extra mile for our young people. I would like to thank all who are involved in the rich life of our school. Happy reading!

Mr Justin Sinclair

Head Teacher



## Leavers Evening 2019

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June our leaving students from S4-S6, along with their parents and carers, were invited to attend our formal leaving ceremony. The assembly hall was packed as students were presented with their records of achievements and their intended destinations were announced by our compere on the evening, Deputy Head Damian Hayes. Our guest speaker on the evening was Mr Malcolm Changleng, now DHT at Galashiels Academy. He offered our leavers some words of wisdom and advice for their future. Head Teacher, Mr Justin Sinclair, addressed the leavers and spoke about the next chapter of their lives. Our Head Team of students gave speeches summing up the last year, thanking those for their involvement in school community life and gave examples of how our school values had been met. Mrs Jill McDonald presented the Head Team with a keepsake as a thank you for all their hard work and commitment over the year. In return, the Head Team also presented gifts to Mrs McDonald and Mr Sinclair. There was a special School and Community Award presented on the evening for Michael Kerr and Sam Johnston for their service to the community. 'Good Egg' awards were also presented by the Pastoral staff to students in their respective houses. They were Lily Purvis-Hutchison, Robert Denny, Issie French, Caragh Mackay and Amelia Adams. After the formal ceremony there was a chance to take pictures and cut the leavers' cake. This is always a highlight in the school calendar as pupils get a final chance to thank teachers and staff for all their input over the years and we have an opportunity to celebrate the future lives and careers of the class of 2019. Many thanks to our technician Spike, the office staff, the janitor team and the canteen staff for all the hard work and effort to put on a fantastic evening. We wish our 2018/19 leavers all the best!





## Sports Day 2019

Earlston High School held its annual Sports Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. The theme for this year was participation and our pupils certainly grasped that theme with both hands! The traditional track and field events were held along with a health and wellbeing walk and tug o' war.

The winning house for this year was Leader, 69 points ahead of second place Teviot. Our individual winners on the day were, from S2 – Rebecca Graham and Sam Craig, S3 – Elspeth Panter, Annique Varty and Onur Kurt, S4 – Evie Archenhold and Daniel Drane and S5 – Catrin Howell and Keiran Clark. The Pupil Support winner was Louis Gilhooley.

Thank you to our sponsors, Brett Investments and to Shona Brett for presenting the prizes. A big thank you also to our committed PE staff for organising such a successful Sports Day. Well done to everyone who participated!





## S1 Interdisciplinary Learning Week

During the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> May, all S1 pupils came 'off-timetable' to attend various activities and tasks. These were designed to provide rich learning experiences and focus on developing skills. Pupils took part in activities such as, a technologies and science rocket challenge, 'Maths Olympics', the house point challenge, 'School of Rock', environmental walk and a languages breakfast – which was attended by visiting pupils from a school in France. There was even time to fit in a barbeque on Friday afternoon before a celebration of success assembly to reward some outstanding achievements from the week. All pupils agreed that the week was worthwhile and people got to experience new things they wouldn't normally be exposed to during timetabled classes. We would like to say a huge thank you to our teaching and non-teaching staff and our school partners for putting on such an exciting week of events.





## Earlston's Exodus

Excursions week this year involved nearly all S2 and S3 Pupils. S2 pupils went on excursions to York, Liverpool and the Ardeche in France. S3 pupils travelled to Krakow in Poland or the Battlefields of WW1 in Belgium and France. Other pupils opted for some activities closer to home as part of the Border Explorers and City Sights trips. Some of our S3 pupils even got pampered at Borders College by students on the Hair and Beauty Therapy courses. In all, around 350 pupils and 40 staff went on these excursions which wouldn't have happened without the hard work of our office staff to put it all together in the background. Thank you to the staff who gave up their time to plan and run these trips to ensure our pupils had a great experience.

### Krakow, Poland

Thirty- six pupils and 4 staff went on an excursion to Krakow, Poland from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Pupils got to visit places such as the Underground Museum, Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camps, Schindler's Factory, Wawel Castle and The Salt Mines. It was a particularly educational trip with some very sombre and reflective moments, including a talk from Holocaust survivor, Monika Goldwasser. The pupils also got to experience some fun elements such as a few hours in the large shopping mall. All agreed it was a wonderful trip and the behaviour of our pupils was exemplary.

### Battlefields, Belgium and France

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, 118 S3 students departed Earlston for Belgium and France. The school annually makes this trip to see the World War I battle sites and museums in the surrounding the area. I was honoured to be asked to be one of three students (along with Ruaridh McIntyre and Harry McCrindle) selected to lay the wreath for the school at the Last Post Ceremony in Ypres. Although the service was short and the only thing I had to do was walk and lay down the wreath, it was nerve-racking. The atmosphere at Menin Gate wasn't like anything I'd experienced before. Even though there was a vast amount of people, including several school groups, it was practically silent. The service itself was so emotive – being surrounded by 54,000 names of missing soldiers while the Last Post was played is something I will never forget. The whole trip was so unreal and all the other sites we visited had the same thought provoking effect on everyone. (Matilda Brosnan)

### Ardeche, France

One hundred and twenty S2 pupils left EHS on 17th May at 6am to depart for France. When there, they took part in activities such as kayaking and canoeing and a 2 day river decent of the Ardeche River, involving an over-night camp. They visited the Salt Caves and Haribo factory. Pupils took part in fun activities like high ropes, the 'leap of faith' and archery. Everyone had a wonderful time and returned tired but happy.

### Liverpool

The school's first trip to Liverpool was enjoyed by 18 pupils. The itinerary included activities such as visits to the Albert Docks and Anfield football stadium. Pupils followed in the footsteps of The Beatles by visiting the Cavern Club. They also went to the cinema, bowling and on a river boat trip down the Mersey. We hope this will be a regular excursion as they all had a blast!





## York

Thirty eight pupils and their teachers left for York on the morning of 20th May. They enjoyed visits to the Jorvik Viking Centre, York Minster, York Castle Museum, York Chocolate Factory and The National Railway Museum. They walked the city walls and even fitted in some shopping time on the famous Shambles. One of the highlights was a trip to Flamingo Land Theme park. The weather was very good for the whole trip and everyone had a great time!

## City Sights—Pupil Support Report

Some of our pupil who work in Pupil Support were visiting various attractions around Scotland with other students in S2 and S3. Bronte in S4 told us about the Edinburgh day trip, "We went to Edinburgh on the bus. We visited the Castle and there is an amazing view of Edinburgh from there. It was very busy, there were lots of people visiting the castle. We also did a treasure hunt. It was a sunny day so we walked along the Royal Mile to get lunch and sat along the street and watched all the people pass by. It was a tiring day but I had fun." Katrina in S4 and Christopher in S3 told us about the trip to Glasgow, "We went to the Riverside Museum. It has the Tall Ship and some old cars, buses, steam trains, push bikes and trams. On Buchanan Street, we skipped along happily. We had a drink at Starbucks and we could here the Scottish bagpipes playing which linked to our research we had been doing in Music." On the Eyemouth and St. Abbs trip, Christopher and Louis M in S3 said, "We walked on the beach. There were seagulls and we all had ice cream as a treat. We were listening to the seagulls and the sea. We were there with Miss Flanagan and other S3 pupils who we got to know better and make friends with. We were tired by the end of the day as we had walked loads but we were also happy we could sit by the sea."

## Stable Life

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 15 S1 and S2 pupils went to Stable Life Riding Centre in Dryden, Ashkirk for the day. When we arrived we were put into two groups of beginners and experienced riders. First we were equipped with riding accessories such as riding boots, gloves and helmets. After, we were told what horse we were going to ride, we then tacked them up ready to ride for the experienced riders to go for a hack first. Once they took off on their hack the others went to a cabin to decorate a horse shoe - there was glitter and lots of mess! After that we got the other horses out and tacked them up. The beginners walked their horses down into the riding school and got on the horse and walked round the riding school to get used to riding the horse. We then started trotting around in different directions. After that we went out on a hack up and down a hill, headed back to the others and helped them un-tack the horses. We then had our snacks and got to play with the 8 week old sheep dog puppies. It was an amazing experience, we enjoyed ourselves very much and it encouraged most of the people that went to start riding. We thank every member of staff who helped us on the day. (Niamh Sampson, Ailsa Miller and Tilly Bourne 1GY)





## Developing the Young Workforce



### S3 Work Experience

All S3 pupils completed a week of work experience with employers in the Borders and beyond from May 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. Lina Lataoui in S3 went to the Jed Eye newsletter and told us about her experience.

"I went to the Jed Eye newsletter for 4 days as my work experience. I was supervised and taken through the week by the editor, David Pike. My days included attending interviews and taking notes, shadowing David on his daily tasks, joining in on the bi-monthly news group meeting, viewing exhibitions, working on the newsletter layout on the computer and writing my own news story. The interviews were very interesting and I got to meet a lot of lovely characters in a short space of time. I learnt that the job of an editor (or even a part-time editor, as David is) takes a lot of work and enthusiasm. I also learnt that there are a lot of interesting stories and events for just the town of Jedburgh, and there is always plenty of stories available for the paper. This has been a great and insightful experience for me and has given me a chance to see a little of how the news world works. I will continue to pursue a career in Journalism as I feel more now that it is the job for me."



### S1 STEM Career Morning

S1 Pupils got to experience a morning of Science Technology Engineering and Maths career activities on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Employers and partners from Borders College, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Hart Builders Ltd - Trades & Labour, SDS Scottish Borders, VOMO, CITB, IQX Limited, NHS Borders and Scotmas took part in the event, showcasing all the different careers in STEM. A huge thank you to them all for giving up their time to help put this on and to our S3 Ambassadors for helping ensure the day ran smoothly.



### Young Enterprise Scotland (YES) Success

There was huge success for EHS teams at the regional Young Enterprise Scotland finals on March 28<sup>th</sup>. 'Kan-i' won awards for Presentation and Interview and also the prestigious Border Company of the Year award. Well done to Michael Kerr, Lara McGowan and Jana Du Preez for this great achievement.

'Deimos' won the award for the best Digital Presence - well done to Lachlan McIntyre, Callum Arnott, Ethan Dalgleish, Alex Duguid and Kyle Cockburn. Thanks to all of our teams who participated - you all performed very well.



### Teacher Influencer Insight Placements

During the month of May, some teachers in the Borders took part in 'Influencers Insight Placements'. Modern Languages teacher Mr Paus attended Mercat Tours in Edinburgh. English teacher Mrs Haywood went down to Carlisle to spend the day with ITV Border. Ms Higgin, in Maths went to the Scottish Public Pensions Agency in Tweedbank and Mrs Renwick, Geography went to Bowhill House and Grounds near Selkirk. Mrs Renwick kindly told us about her experience, "I spent some time finding out about the range of careers that are available within the wider Buccleuch group and was given a tour of the estate to see some of these in action. As well as jobs which relate to tourism at the house and visitor centre (in the café, shop, tour guides etc), there is also an education service run by the ranger and house manager, who offer various courses and activities for school groups and beyond. More widely, there are opportunities within property management and building services (including joiners, plumbers, electricians and other trades), farming, office work and administration as well as more specialist occupations relating to the paintings, furniture and artefacts owned by the Duke and his family. Employees at Buccleuch Estates have varying levels of qualification – from modern apprenticeships to specialist University degrees and also for pupils who leave school and go straight into the world of work. I was delighted to see that there is such a wide range of opportunities and also to hear that they are happy to have people on work experience if they are interested in working within these sectors. As a Geography teacher, many of these jobs had links to the subject so I was very pleased to see how some of the work done in school links into careers outwith the classroom."





## Borders College Schools Academy Awards

Jodie McNeill (S4) was the winner of the Employability Award for students who have attended Borders College Schools Academy courses this session. More than 500 students across the Scottish Borders have taken part in the programme this year and Jodie, who studied Early Education & Childcare, was chosen ahead of everybody else for this award. She is pictured below with Head Teacher Mr Sinclair and Colin Henderson from the award sponsors, Skills Development Scotland. It is the 2nd year in a row that an Earlston High School student has won the top award. Congratulations also to the subject award winners, Danny Thom (Painting & Decorating), Hannah Watson and Sophie Mulvey (Hair & Beauty), Jodie McNeil (Early Education & Childcare), Carly Gibson (Computing Science), Kirsty Gibb (Animal Care), B.Jay Gunn-Grieve (Brickwork) and Michael Kerr (Software Development). A massive well done to all of our course winners at the Borders College Schools Academy awards ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> March. This is the most number of winners Earlston High School has ever had at this event, so we are really proud of our students' achievements and this level of recognition.



## Leadership and Volunteering Marketplace

On 14th June Earlston High School held a Leadership and Volunteering Marketplace for the first time. S6 students are expected to commit a number of hours each week towards school/community service or personal development and this seemed an ideal way to help them find these opportunities. It also proved to be an excellent way to introduce younger students to the range of volunteering opportunities that exist in and out of the school. These experiences, and the associated skills development, are increasingly important for personal statements and applications and we hope that this event will flourish in the years ahead. Many thanks to our partners for coming along and speaking to our students and to Community Learning Development for helping to arrange the event.





## Leadership for Life—Study Leave Programme

Leadership for Life is a programme for S4 students during study leave to enable them to get a head start on the leadership qualifications that all students are expected to achieve before they leave Earlston High School. This year we had a trial run of a very exciting programme run by the Fire Service for anyone thinking about working with the emergency services or organisations dealing with people. The students were fully trained in fire-fighting techniques and had a spectacular passing out parade at the end of May. Other activities included visits to Bowhill Estate for teambuilding, shopping for and building Ikea furniture, cooking, planning a trip, a visit to the National Mining Museum and paired reading with primary 5s at Earlston Primary school and children at East Green Nursery.



## Pupil Achievements and Awards

### Duke of York iDEA Award

Congratulations to Abby Mackenzie (pictured) and Anya Jackson (both in S3) who are the first learners to achieve the Bronze certificate in The Duke of York iDEA award (Inspiring Digital Enterprise). This is a programme which helps to develop digital, enterprise and employability skills. Any student interested in completing the award should speak to Mrs Thomson in Business Education.

### Girl Guiding—Baden Powell Challenge

Emily Jessop (S2), who attends the 1st Lauder Guide Unit, was recently awarded the Baden Powell Challenge badge. This is the highest badge you can receive in Guides. She had to complete 10 'clauses' including helping out in the community, running nights at Guides and going on an adventure camp with other guides who she didn't know. Due to recent changes, the Baden Powell badge is no longer available, so Emily will be one of the last to receive it. Well done Emily!



## Amnesty International Group – Sponsored Silence

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April the school Amnesty International group did a sponsored silence to highlight the injustice of people across the planet who do not have the freedom to express themselves. They could not speak throughout the day and could only communicate through writing on 'show-me boards'. The group also did a silent bake sale to raise funds for Amnesty International. Well done to all involved. The Amnesty group have been one of the most active extra-curricular clubs this year. If you would like to be involved speak to Mrs Thomson in RME or pop along to one of their meetings on Monday lunchtimes in SS10.





## Education Scotland – National Improvement Hub

In April, our Earlston cluster schools were delighted to welcome delegates from Education Scotland who were visiting our Numeracy Intervention programme to include in their National Improvement Hub. Students and staff were interviewed as part of the visit. Pupils spoke about their learning and shared the personal impact from this initiative, which has already won awards at national level. Pictured during their interview are Numeracy Support Assistant, Sandra Craig and Mya Bullen (S3) at Earlston High School.



## S1 Fishing

A group of S1s recently went to Tweedstart at Sunlaws in Kelso. They had a chance to do some invertebrate sampling, fly tying and fly fishing. It was a great day and a few fish were even caught too! Thank you to Kenny Gault of the Tweed Foundation and Eoin Fairgrieve of Tweedstart for this amazing opportunity. Thanks also to Mr Foggin for arranging the excursion.



## Goodbye and Good Luck to our S6 2018/2019

### Destination Blackpool

Tuesday 23 April was the last day before study leave for our sixth years and to celebrate their final day as a student at Earlston High School, the entire year group descended on Blackpool. That meant two coach loads, a total of 116 students and staff, set off on a sunny morn for the seaside!

We arrived at the Pleasure Beach just as it was opening and smiled gleefully as we were escorted to the front of the lengthy queue. Once inside, with map in hand, we ambled around the theme park daring each other to try the rollercoaster rides.

Particular favourites were Valhalla, The Big One and Blackpool's newest ride – the Icon. The Icon is the UK's first double launch rollercoaster. It accelerates at 0-80km/h in 2.25 seconds before reaching heights of 88ft at speeds of up to 85km/h. Scary! Less frightening, but just as much fun, were the dodgems (Mr Sinclair was particularly brutal in car number 13), the ghost train and the Steeplechase.

It was gloriously sunny all day and we enjoyed an alfresco lunch - chilli cheese hot dogs are to be recommended – whilst watching others spin and whizz through the air on the nearby rides.

Thanks to the S6 trips committee for organising our day out. It was great fun!



### Prom—Ednam House Hotel

Our S6 students who are leaving held their Prom at Ednam House Hotel in Kelso on Friday 31st May. All those who attended certainly dressed up for the occasion! Students enjoyed a wonderful dinner and an evening of dancing. Many thanks to the Dance Committee for organising a memorable evening.



## Earlston Model United Nations Conference 2019

On Tuesday 11th June, Earlston High School held the 7<sup>th</sup> annual EMUN conference. Ten schools from all over Scotland travelled to take part in a number of debates on pressing current issues, including gun control, prisoners' right to vote, and the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Former Scottish Secretary, Michael Moore, was invited as a guest speaker and told us about his time as a politician and with the UN, emphasising the importance of such international organisations. He also spoke about how important it is for young people to speak out about issues we care about and to have an interest in politics and world affairs- something MUN helps to encourage.

After the committee debates in the morning on the issues highlighted above, everyone came together in the General Assembly for the Emergency Debate: the UN's response to ethnic testing on European borders. Immigration and ethnic testing are very recent and alarming topics that many people feel passionately about, which came out in what was a very lively and interesting debate. A possible highlight could be the Swiss defector deciding to represent North Korea and introducing a motion to kick the UK out of its permanent seat in the Security Council, or a delegate in a fedora who brought his own Russian placard, or maybe the agile manoeuvring of our runners as they raced to deliver notes and pass around the microphone!

The closing ceremony consisted of closing speeches and awards were given out, some to our own Earlston delegates, who should all be very proud of themselves. I think I speak for us all when I say that the conference was very enjoyable, and hopefully we'll see everyone back again next year. By Maddie Thomson (S5)



## Visit from the Melrosian

The 2019 Melrosian Ben Magowan and his attendants visited the school on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June. They met with our Senior Leadership Team and were given a tour of the school. Former student Ben was joined Harry Fletcher, Russell Mackay and the Chair of the Melrose Festival, Douglas Hardie. It was wonderful for some of our teachers to catch up with the team and wish them all the best for a great week of festivities.



## Refugee Week

To mark Refugee week the school Amnesty International group organised for Dr Chris Jary from Amnesty International to come and talk about refugees and human rights. It was an interesting and informative talk regarding the current refugee crisis in Syria, the Mediterranean and other parts of the world. Many thanks to Chris for taking the time to come and speak to our young people.





## Vine Trust Tanzania Excursion Blog

Monday 10th June— Team Earlston have landed! We started off by having our orientation where we learnt all about what we were going to be doing. We met Elly and Richard and also learnt some great tunes! We also had the opportunity visit a market in Moshi.

Tuesday 11th June—We visited the home of Velanora's mother as she is currently living with another family because their house was too small. We will be building them a new house. We began to dig the foundations, where we had to work as a team to pass rocks and buckets of sand. We made good progress! The site was very nice, with banana trees everywhere.

The team also visited the worksite for Emmanuel and Happiness. We dug the foundations and moved many rocks while singing and dancing. We learned that 'pole pole' means go slowly, and 'haraka haraka' means go quicker, and 'nzito sana' means very heavy.

Wednesday 12th June—Wednesday was a jam-packed day! On our first full day at the worksite we visited Emmanuel and Happiness. Activities included working as a team to move heavy bricks and passing sand in buckets to complete the foundations. After a much needed shower we headed off to dinner with TAWREF representatives and Berwickshire High students who are also here in Tanzania. This was followed by some ceilidh dancing and we ended the night singing Auld Lang Syne and having a dance battle!

Thursday 13th June—Today our group visited Baracka and Christian. Two siblings who have lost both parents and don't have their own home. Today's main task was making the cement for the base of the house. This involved taking it in turns in walking down to the river to collect water for mixing with the sand manually, using shovels as there's no cement mixers here. This process was very eye-opening! Today's highlight was meeting all the children who came to watch us work at the site, playing football with them and showing them how to blow bubbles. Working at the site today was very fun and rewarding as we are now beginning to see progress. Tonight we went for a meal at Deli Chez which was very nice and we look forward to visiting the same site to see the progress and all the people again.

Friday 14th June— The progress made in the last couple of days has been incredible and we are extremely fortunate to be a part of this experience that will change the lives of other families. Over the past two days, we visited two orphanages, including Kimashuku Orphanage to visit the young people aged 3-17. We played two cracking games of football. They welcomed us with many tuneful and enjoyable songs. We left the orphanages feeling extremely grateful for what we have and also touched to see how funds can change the lives of many people around us.

Saturday 15th June—Today we had another half day on site which involved more moving soil and bricks. In the afternoon we visited Moshi's Children's Christian Centre where another game of football was played and there were many skilful people and goals!

Sunday 16th June—Very early 6.30am start. The African coffee was definitely needed! Today's breakfast consisted of some samosas and vegetable omelette. We then set off for church next to the local Christian medical school. The building was open and circular. The service lasted roughly 2 hours but was jam packed with a mixture of prayer, singing, dancing. We then left the church for the Marangu gate- the starting point for many Kilimanjaro climbers at 1896m in height. We then descended back into the foot hills to visit a museum about a local chaga tribe- which our own Elly Kimaro claims to belong to. Although he also claimed to have climbed Kilimanjaro on multiple occasions and whilst still in school! We then visited one of the last year's projects where we were warmly greeted by the church leader and house owner. We returned home to a Sunday roast- African style!- with chicken, roast potatoes, vegetable sauce, rice, watermelon, and African coleslaw. In the evening, our quiz night meant that the losing team had to make the winning team lunch!

Monday 17th June— Today, we started our day off earlier than last week with a 7:30 breakfast and left the college by 8:30 for a full day at the worksite. We split into two groups with one going to Emmanuel and the other to Velanora where the fundis (local builders) have made tremendous progress.

Tuesday 18th June—The day started with a typical breakfast before setting off for our last day on the worksite. One group headed to the Valenera site and the other to the Baraka site. The work at the site was minimal due to our hard graft earlier on as we had already surpassed expectations! After a light work session, the group headed back to Berea to clean up before heading to an orphanage for children aged 0-7. On arrival, we had a prolonged speech concerning the heritage of the orphanage. Shortly after, we were able to stretch our legs with the children in the park. As the sun was setting we travelled back to Berea where we had our tea then watched the Lion King to build up excitement for the much anticipated safari!

You can see the full team blog and more pictures at [www.vinetrust.org/blog/earlston-high-school-team-blog-tanzania-june-2019](http://www.vinetrust.org/blog/earlston-high-school-team-blog-tanzania-june-2019)





## Our Braw Lass

Congratulations to our very own Nicola Laing who has been named as this year's Gala Braw Lass along with Braw Lad, Robbie Lowrie.

Nicola works in our brilliant school office team. She has been busy taking part in many events and ridouts and will be even busier during Gala week itself with all the festivities.

Nicola said, "It has been a lifelong ambition of mine to be elected as Braw Lass. I am sure 2019 will be a year to cherish."

Well done Nicola, we're all super excited for you!



## P7/S1 Transition Days

On June 12th and 13th, EHS was delighted to welcome our Primary 7 pupils for their High School Transition visits. These pupils will become our S1 cohort after the summer holiday and join the EHS family. Pupils followed a sample timetable in the classes they have been allocated. They got a taster of what lessons will be like and a feel for the facilities. At lunch times, activities were arranged by PE, Pupil Support and Sports Leaders and on the last afternoon, our Maths teachers led the famous Maths Olympics. We look forward to welcoming our new S1s after the holidays!



## Race For The Line

All S1 students recently took part in the "Race For The Line" challenge where they designed and tested rocket powered race cars. Congratulations to the winning team Marnie Hamilton, Olivia Gibb, Isla Bauer and Kayla Matthews. They went on to represent the school at the Scottish Finals at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh and came 3rd overall. The team have now qualified for the UK finals on the 27th of June at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. They will face other teams from the home nations as well as teams from Hong Kong. Thanks to our Partners at BSW Timber for their continued financial support. Well done team Carrots!



## Mental Health First Aid Training

On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June, 15 pupils from EHS joined students from around the Borders at the Tait Hall in Kelso to take part in Mental Health First Aid Training. The training was delivered by, SeeMe and supported by the Quarriers Resilience Practitioners. Topics such as mental ill health, looking after your wellbeing, communication skills and tackling stigma were covered. Students also received a formal qualification in Mental Health First Aid which will be extremely useful, particularly those who are interested in working in the health service and tertiary sector. These students will now go on to become Wellbeing Ambassadors in our school.





## Author Visits

### Jonathan Meres

On June 10th, we were incredibly lucky to welcome the multi-talented author Jonathan Meres to EHS. He gave an animated talk (interspersed with song) to all of our new S2 pupils and our P7 pupils from Earlston Primary. We learned about his much loved book series 'The World of Norm' and had lots of laughs along the way! Thank you to the Scottish Book Trust for funding this event



## Borders Book Festival

This year the Borders Book Festival was extended by a day as we were fortunate to have a visit from two inspiring authors from the festival. Natalie Haynes spoke to our Advanced Higher English class and Chris Lloyd gave a presentation to all of S2. Not only did they highlight the necessary literacy and creative skills required to be a writer, but what came through very clearly was their interest and passion for their subject matter. A huge thanks to Festival Director Paula Ogilvie for organising this input for us.



## Meeting of Minds Visit—Pupil Support Visit

Thank you to Ann and Kirstin from Meeting of Minds who came in to school recently. It was lovely to show them round our amazing Pupil Support Department.

Meeting of Minds are a parent led support group to promote acceptance for children with complex/additional needs. The group arrange activities that some of our pupils attend after school and during the weekends and school holidays and staff from our Pupil Support Department regularly attend training events organised by the group for parents and professionals. Well done Meeting of Minds, keep up the good work. You can find out more about meeting of minds on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/meetingofmindsscot](https://www.facebook.com/meetingofmindsscot)



## EHS on the Journey to Gold LGBT Charter

On Saturday 22nd June, Earlston High School's GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) LGBT+A group ventured to Pride Edinburgh. Congregating outside the Scottish Parliament, joining thousands of people who took part in the march which marked the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots of 1969 in New York, an uprising by young LGBT people that changed the face of the gay rights movement in the US and beyond.

This year Earlston High School achieved their Silver LGBT Youth Scotland Charter Award. Starting in August, Earlston High School's feeder primary schools (Channelkirk Primary School, Earlston Primary School, Gordon Primary School, Lauder Primary School, Melrose Primary School, Newtown Primary School, St Boswells Primary School, Westruther Primary School and Leader Valley School) will embark on their Bronze LGBT Youth Charter Award, with Earlston High School's support. In doing so, Earlston High School hopes to receive it's LGBT Youth Gold Charter Award – the first School in the Scottish Borders to receive this charter mark. To find out more about the award and the process you can visit <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/lgbt-charter/>.





## Duke of Edinburgh

Over 60 S3 pupils have been involved in Duke of Edinburgh this year.

S3s have attended monthly meetings for Duke of Edinburgh training as well as completing their Physical, Skill and Volunteering over the course of the year.

There have been 6 expeditions already in this summer term and the final assessed expedition for another 3 groups in in September. Groups walked in the Selkirk area and Southern Upland Way, with most qualifying expeditions taking place in the Peebles area. This year also saw an Exodus group out walking in Northumberland on a beautiful coastal path as well as the pupil support group, who completed their expedition at Vogrie Country Park. The weather has varied from bright sunshine to heavy rain and thunder!

Well done to all involved on this achievement - you've all made a huge commitment. Thanks to Mrs Farnish for organising all expeditions.

Congratulations to all of our pupils who took part in their supported Duke of Edinburgh expedition on week commencing 17th June.



This is the first group from Earlston High School who have taken part in our supported Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and we are very grateful to Mrs Farnish and Mrs Monks for supporting the pupils from the outset and to Mrs MacPherson and Mr Dunlop for joining the team on their expedition.

Very well done to all the pupils who individually had to overcome huge barriers to successfully achieve the expedition component of the award. Pupils in the group also had to complete the volunteering element for the award and helped to set up the new school Lego Club, raising funds from local companies. We are proud of what you have achieved, well done!



## Inspire Learning

On Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June our teaching staff were issued their iPads as part of SBC's Inspire Learning programme. Partners from SBC and CGI helped teachers to set up their iPads and gave a brief introduction. Teachers now have the opportunity to get used to the iPad as a learning and teaching tool over the coming months, although some have already been enhancing learning and teaching with them! We expect pupils to be issued with their iPads between January and March 2020.





## Pupil Sporting Achievements and Awards

There have been so many sporting achievements recently with our pupil at Earlston High School that we would need a separate newsletter to provide all the details! We are so lucky to have dedicated PE staff, parents/carers, coaches and community members who support our youngsters in their sporting endeavours—thanks to all! These pupils and their supporters live and breathe our school values and we are very proud of each and every one of them. Here is a flavour of the recent success enjoyed by our students, well done to them all!

**Hockey**—Livvy Hogg (S4) represented the Scotland Under 16 Hockey squad at a tournament in Wales and also captained the team against England in Glasgow.

**Athletics**—Kiran Ramu (S2) and Tara Brennan (S3) competed in the South East of Scotland Air Cadets Sports. Kiran won 2 gold medals for 200m and 400m while Tara won bronze in the Shot Put. Kiran also represent the area at the regional sports event, winning gold in the 400m and bronze in the 200m. Kiran will go on to compete for the Scotland Under 15s at the UK Championship at Grantham.

Grace McWhinnie (S1), Finn Douglas (S3), Ewan Christie (S2), Cameron Rankine (S2) and Anna Fairclough (S2) took part in the East District and National Open Championships. Finn achieved 2 silver medals and 2 PBs in the U17 100m and 200m. Grace achieved a gold medal in the U13 Long Jump (beating her own PB 3 times!) and 5th and a PB in the 100m. Ewan was 2nd in his heat and qualified for the final, Cameron was 7th in same heat. Anna was 1 second off her PB. Personal Best times were achieved for Anna in the 1500m and Triple Jump, Cameron in the 1500m and Ewan in the 400m.

The Schools Track and Field Championships were held at Grangemouth on 8th June. We had a number of outstanding performances. These were the results of our EHS athletes Eloise Kerr: 800m (Heat 2 7th 2:38), Brogan Beattie: 100m (Heat 3 5th 14:00); 200m (Heat 2 5th 28.02), Logan Kerr: 200m (Heat 3 5th 28:95); 100m (Heat 3 6th 13.88); Long Jump (14th 4.03m), Cameron Rankine: 1500m (Heat 1 7th 4:50), Finn Douglas: 100m (Heat 2 1st 11:73; Semi-Final 2nd 11:83; Final 7th 11:72), Ewan Purves: 400m (Heat 2 3rd 53:86), Elspeth Panter: 100m (Heat 3 5th 14.43), Grace McWhinnie: 100m (Heat 2 5th 14.44); Long Jump (10th 4.02m)

**Rugby**—Finn Douglas (S3), Sam Derrick (S4) and Ben Lynch (S5) were selected to play for Scotland Under 16s at a rugby festival in Wales. Sam and Ben have been selected to attend a player development camp with 24 other players from around Scotland in Valladolid, Spain in the summer holidays.

Keiran Clark (S5) and Christian Townsend (S5) represented Scotland U17 vs England U17. Keiran also turned out for Melrose RFC at Earlston 7s and was named as player of the tournament.

**Table Tennis**—Hannah McDonnell (S1) represented Scotland at the British Schools Championship in Belfast, finishing joint 3rd. Hannah won the 'Mike Allison Junior Player of the Year Award' at the recent Edinburgh and Lothians Table Tennis League prize giving. Hannah will represent Scotland next at the British Senior Schools Event in Guernsey.

**Judo**—Blair McGowan (S1) won a well deserved silver medal for sparring. He was representing Team Borders at the UKTC 2019 Professor Chang Ung Cup International Open Taekwondo Championship which was held in Motherwell on June 2nd.

**Tennis**—Captain Alice MacBrayne (S6) and her team Annique Varty (S2), Felicity Walls (S3) and Ailsa Clark (S2) won their matches against Bourghmuir High School in the Scottish Schools Cup Quarter Finals. They went on to the Semi Finals at Craiglockhart where they were eventually beaten by a very strong George Watson's team. The girls have made history, taking EHS further in the competition than ever before. At the Borders Schools Tennis Championships in June, Earlston girls retained the trophy and Fraser Rout (S3) and Luke Townsend (S3) reached the final of the boys doubles.

**Archery**—Sophie Millar (S1) became the Eastern Area Archery Champion for under 14 year old girls on 31st March.

**Swimming**—Kirsty Gibb (S4) and the Borders Barracuda Para Swimming Squad achieved 3rd place overall at the National Senior Championships at Grangemouth.

**Aquathlon**—William Taylor (S5) competed at the Scottish Schools Aquathlon Championships on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Michael Woods Sports Centre in Glenrothes. Over 240 pupils from across Scotland competed. William finished 5th place overall.

**Equestrian**—Grace Botterell (S3) won the 100 U18 class at the Floors Castle International Horse Trials on 12th May.









## Leadership at Earlston High School

### Pupil Parliament

The Pupil Parliament has had a very successful year. The Parliament meets at least twice a term and feeds into the School Improvement Plan and helps to develop other areas of the school. This year the Parliament has been engaging with parts of the document How Good is our School, focussing on areas such Learning and Teaching and the School Environment.

The refectory now has a new queuing system that has ensured a smoother lunchtime for many of our pupils. Water fountains have been fixed and replaced and ideas have been floated on how the school bulletin gets shared with pupils more regularly.

The Parliament has also discussed the need for more seating during breaktime and lunchtime. This has been taken to and discussed by the Senior Leadership Team and agreement is that obviously budget dictates how much progress can be made on this issue.

The Parliament, while discussing resources pointed out the need for improved digital technology so hopefully the roll out of the Inspire Learning programme will help in that respect. We are also due a refresh of new computers soon.

Before Christmas the Parliament designed a respect survey which a large proportion of the school completed. Feedback was given to the Senior Leadership Team. As a result of this, the S1 Leadership classes looked at the value of respect and how leadership can help with problems to do with respect in the school environment.

A group of the S3 Leadership team went to Ross High in Tranent to see how the pupils there helped improve Learning Logs. The parliament at EHS then dedicated a full meeting to looking at Learning logs and their findings were presented to the Senior Leadership Team. Learning log development was part of the 2018/19 School Improvement Plan. The Parliament created a Learning Log 'must have' list of points for the perfect Learning Log.

The Pupil Parliament will be recruiting new representatives for next year so get your applications in after the summer holidays to Mr Foggin.

### New School Value

Our School Values are Respect, Responsibility, Honest, Commitment and Excellence. This year's S1 classes collectively came up with a 6<sup>th</sup> Value which will change on a rolling basis. The value POSITIVITY was chosen by the Leadership classes. The Leadership classes look extensively at values and how they are important to helping make good leadership and personal choices. Next session all S1-S3 will be self and peer assessing themselves and others on their use of the school values and golden skills in their Leadership Academy tracking booklet (pictured).

### Leadership Roles 2019-2020

Early in the new term we will be appointing S3 Junior House and Sports Captains, Ambassadors for S1-S3 and Pupil Parliament Representatives. The Junior Leadership Team have done some excellent work over the past three years and we want to recruit as many pupils as possible to help improve the school and assist in school events etc. Obviously, pupils who undertake these roles increase their skills base and self-confidence which helps with their personal development. See Mr Foggin for further information.





## Earlston High School Festival— Saturday 7th September 2019

This year, Earlston High School celebrates its 10th anniversary since the new High School building was opened. To celebrate, the school is holding a Festival on the 7th of September 2019 at Earlston High School from 11am until 3pm. The event will host a variety of activities, stalls and shows. Some of these include: a senior choir performance, hog roast, school faculty stalls, sports, iPad lesson, local charity fundraising and past and present pupils talking about their experiences at EHS. This will be a great opportunity for former pupils to meet with their old classmates and for future pupils and parents of pupils to learn more about the school. See you there!



## EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS



BOOK BY ALAN MENKEN  
LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN & TIM RICE  
MUSIC BY LINDA WOOLVERTON

BOOKED BY ROBERT JESS ROTH

DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

DOORS OPEN 6.45PM FOR 7.30PM START

ADULT: £10 CONCESSION: £8\*

\*CONCESSION PRICE AVAILABLE MINORS ONLY

PUPIL TICKETS FROM 4TH JUNE VIA PARENT PAY

PUBLIC TICKETS FROM 10TH JUNE VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE

\*TO AVOID ANY DISAPPOINTMENT BOOK EARLY

PERFORMED ENTIRELY BY STUDENTS

THE AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTED BY AMATEUR THEATRE WITH MUSIC THEATRE IN A TOWN HALL - LEIPZIG

# 24 - 27 JUNE 2019

**Your School Lottery**—A reminder that everyone can take part in our school lottery to raise funds for our school and pupils. Sign up at [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/earlston-high-school](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/earlston-high-school)



## Earlston High School

# School Festival

Saturday 7th September

11am-3pm

It's our 10 year anniversary in the new building so come and join the celebrations!

School choir, live bands and music from past and present pupils.

A blast from the past—Photo display of photos from the last ten years  
Fun Science, Faculty Displays.

Everyone welcome, current, past and future students, parents and the whole community.

## Dates For Your Diary

Tue 2nd July—Last day of term

Mon 19th August—Staff inservice day

Tue 20th August—Staff inservice day and S4-S6 re-coursing (am)

Wed 21st August—Start of term, pupils return from holiday

Thu 29th August—Celebration of Success Evening

Fri 30th August—Exodus Assemblies & Launch

Thu 5th September—Parent Council Meeting

Fri 6th September—Exodus Returns Deadline

Sat 7th September—Earlston High School Festival

Mon 9th September—Extra-Curricular Marketplace

Thu 12th September—Broad General Education Information Evening

Fri 13th/Sat 14th September—S6 Leadership Days

Thu 3rd October—Special Assembly

Fri 11th October—Last day of term, school breaks for holiday

Mon 21st October—Staff inservice day

Tues 22nd October—Pupils return from holiday



@/Earlston High School

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