

School Hockey

School hockey fixtures have started again after the holidays with an away trip to Eyemouth. The players displayed some superb hockey and ended up with some exceptional results - seniors won 8-1, S3's won 6-0, S2's won 7-2 and the S1's won 1-0 and lost 3-4. Next Saturday sees us play against Trinity Academy for the second year in a row. Good luck to all players involved.



The new playing kit is almost ready for orders. We have decided to change our suppliers due to a number of reasons and would like to thank SuperSport for their support over the last three years. We will now be working with PSL and Border Embroideries who are busy putting together the new range of EHS hockey kit for boys and girls. More information and order forms will be given out to pupils over the next couple of weeks. We would like to stress that the SuperSport and Kukri playing kits can still be worn for all fixtures and competitions.

Cross-Country Running

Well done to Euan Christie (S1) who finished 2nd in the East District Cross-Country event last weekend. He ran 2.65km in a time of 9 minutes 16 seconds. We wish him all the best in his upcoming competitions.

Social Dance

Social Dance has started for all pupils in S1-5 and kicked-off in brilliant style with the Virginia Reel and Dashing White Sargent being danced by over 800 pupils last week! As always, these lessons are used primarily to prepare the pupils for the upcoming Christmas Dances. This year the S1/2 Dance is being held on **Tuesday 5th December**. The S3/4 Dance is being held on **Tuesday 12th December** and the Senior Dance on **Friday 15th December**. Alongside the preparations for what is usually considered to be a fantastically joyful evening, the Social Dance lessons look to teach pupils a number of key skills and values including Leadership, organisation, excellence, social skills and respect. Well done to all pupils for their efforts with this week's dances.



Sports Leaders - an update

Our 11 fifth year Sports Leaders have hit the ground running since the start of their course in August. They were an integral part of the Earlston Primary 6/7 hockey festival at Tweedbank on 27th September, when they took charge of all the umpiring during the morning's festival, which saw over 150 pupils from across the cluster attend.



October saw the group completing a Run, Jump, Throw training course and Disability Inclusion training with Live Borders Development Officers Neil Renton and Alan Oliver. This will stand the pupils in good stead for their upcoming primary placements, which will see the primary 6 class from Earlston Primary School come up to the high school for a 6-week activity block led by the group. It will also be beneficial for the secondary lunchtime club which the group will be leading in the run up to Christmas.



Earlston High News

Respect - Responsibility - Honesty - Commitment - Excellence

October 2017

Celebrating at the Special Assembly

On Thursday the 5th of October first year students, sixth years, teachers, parents and some siblings of sixth years gathered in the high school's hall to celebrate the success of the 21 students who achieved five A's (for Anna Montgomery and Aline Varty it was 6 A grades!) in their SQA Higher exams. This is an incredible achievement for the school and students alike as it is the highest number of students achieving at this level and receiving a Dux Medal for several years.

During his speech, Head Boy Laurence Seeley said, "Their commitment to hours of revision and hard graft has led to one of the largest numbers of Dux medalists within a single year group at Earlston High School." He added that this was a clear portrayal of the school's values in action: the commitment and responsibility taken by these outstanding students has led to academic excellence which will go on to help them in later life and higher education.

The assembly congratulated the Dux Medalists but also highlighted and congratulated the sixth year as a whole, for their hard work and resilience throughout their time at school. The assembly introduced and the first years formally to the seniors and inspired them to become involved in the life of the school and work towards some of those amazing achievements individuals can experience. Speeches by Euan Clarke, Deputy Head Boy and Eliana Capstick, Head Girl gave the first years an insight into the opportunities available at school and to what the life of a sixth year looks like at EHS.

Mr Sinclair presented the Head team with certificates, formally welcoming them into office. He went on to present Dux Medals to the twenty-one students:

Finlay Anderson, Euan Clarke, Hannah Comiskey, Claire Daunas, Bethany Goodall, Duncan Howard, Ruairidh McVean, Anna Montgomery, Isobel Reid, Sophie Reilly, Katie Rourke, Ben Seabrook, Laurence Seeley, Jessie Taylor, Callum Tharme, Cameron Tullis, Aline Varty, Imogen Walls, Katy Wilkinson, Callum Wilson and Megan Wilson.



Overall it was a fantastic event.

Alex Billam

Message from Mr Sinclair



Welcome back to the second half of term 1!

You can see from our October newsletter that life at Earlston High School is never dull. I am witnessing that more and more of our young people live out our school values. I ask for your continued support in talking to your child about our values and work with us to develop the 5 golden skills (see inside) which will prepare them for life, learning and work.

We said goodbye to Mr Changleng last week who is off to Galashiels Academy as Acting DHT until Christmas. We look forward to welcoming him back next term. I have recently recruited new teachers in History, Business Education and a Deputy Headteacher. I will share more information later this term about these important appointments.

Kind regards,

Mr J Sinclair



Clarke Cases

Euan Clarke and Alex Billam, two S6 pupils here at EHS, have combined Euan's artistic skill, with Alex's business mind to create a growing empire, selling personalised phone cases.



They spend their lunch hour in the Art and Design department making eye-catching designs. To order one, Alex discusses your design preferences and he will pass on the details to Euan who will bring your ideas to life.

Alex and Euan juggle both their school work, and their business project expertly, however it comes with its struggles. Billam says, "Despite the stress, we are able to meet new people while making a small profit at the same time". Euan and Alex both hope to see their business thrive and grow.

If you wish to find out more about Clarke cases or order a Clarke case, you can message @clarkecases on instagram, or email Alex at alexbillam4@hotmail.co.uk.



Bowhill Fieldwork

Advanced Higher Geography pupils spent 2 days at Bowhill Estate along with other schools from the Borders and beyond. They were learning about physical geography fieldwork techniques and the sessions were led by the "Geobus" team from the University of St. Andrews.



5 Golden Skills

Earlston HS pupils study subjects based in 8 faculties: Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing, Modern Languages, Technologies, Sciences, Expressive Arts and Humanities and enjoy learning key knowledge and facts in the curriculum.

However, pupils also learn transferable skills as they engage in the life of each faculty and we have been working hard this term to make sure our pupils are more aware of the need to link together learning from each faculty and develop what we call our 5 Golden Skills. Employers are very clear that they really value people who can demonstrate these key qualities.



Golden Skills

Communication
Critical Thinking
Independent Working
Organisation
Problem Solving

Charity Non-Uniform Day Theme: Film and TV Characters



Friday 6th October was a Charity Fund raising event and all students and staff were encouraged to dress up as their favourite television or movie character. This year the S6 Charities committee are raising funds for three locally based charities: Interest Link, the Borders Children's Charity and DW5T (Doddie Weir's 5 Trust).

Friday's event raised just over £800 and many thanks to all who made a donation to these worthwhile charities. The sixth years were particularly imaginative with groups getting together to include many of the stars of their favourite films: Shrek, Alice in Wonderland, Grease's Pink Ladies to name but a few.

Somehow or other the Senior Leadership Team must have misunderstood! They came dressed in full school uniform!!



Success at The Horse of The Year Show

Two sisters from Earlston High School, Amy and Megan Morris recently celebrated their success in the Horse of the Year show championships in Birmingham.

Amy, a second year pupil at Earlston took victory in the 128cm championship on her favourite horse, Madonna in a stylish performance. Speaking of her experience she stated "I was extremely nervous but very excited about the competition as I had a long road to get here, I'm very pleased with my performance and hope to do even better later on in the year in my next competition". Amy has qualified for Olympia in December along with the Liverpool International which both take the top 128 pony and riders in the country. Amazing achievements!

Her sister Megan, a third year pupil, also performed outstandingly at the Horse of the Year Show, leaving their parents impressed and undoubtedly proud of both their daughters' unbelievable talents. Megan is jumping on the 148 debut Scottish team later this month at the English Home Pony International. We're sure to be seeing both girls and their impressive talents again. Congratulations and good luck in the next set of competitions.

Megan S6



EARLSTON NETBALL CLUB

2017/18 brings change at Earlston Netball Club....Following a hugely successful 2016/17 year where we had 9 teams entered across 4 different leagues where we saw our S1 Scottish Schools Cup team go through on Gold, our S1 Live Borders A team take top spot and were winners in the Live Borders Tournament. Our S3 squad were also awarded the trophy for most developed team in the newly formed Developers League.

Our senior girls had a very successful season in the Borders Adult League based in Peebles and senior player Hannah McGowan was chosen for the Borders District Squad, a huge honour. Well done to all of our netball players.

With change afoot and an ever increasing number of girls attending training we have changed to 3 sessions over the week to allow training per year group. Currently the club has approx. 100 girls. This year due to a lack of helpers we have had to reduce our teams to 5 teams running over the 4 different leagues, making this more manageable for the volunteers involved.

So far this season we have seen our S3 girls go through on Gold in the Scottish Schools Cup with I am sure many more success's to come. Anyone who would be interested in assisting our Netball club through coaching, admin or helping out at games.... please feel free to get in touch.

Rhona White 07799 876782

DIVERSITY WEEK

The first week back after the October holiday was Diversity Week. Students were involved in a range of starter lessons which made them think about the differences in people and how important it is to respect and celebrate these differences. This was summed up in our slogan for the week - Different is not good, different is not bad, different is just different, Celebrate the Difference.

Throughout the week they learned more about what it's like being dyslexic. I didn't choose to have ADHD. How easy is it to learn with a hearing or sight impairment or a speech and language difficulty? The school LGBT group produced a fabulous video about sexuality and gender. What's the difference between a crime and a hate crime? What's it like getting a Home Economics food demonstration where the teacher doesn't speak? How hard is walking football when you want to run - just as hard as running football when you can only walk.

Our school is one big jigsaw puzzle, with every individual a jigsaw piece. The pieces may all be different but they are all needed to create a completed picture. Hopefully Diversity Week has allowed our young people to appreciate the importance of all jigsaw pieces.



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expeditions

This September, 47 pupils took part in their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expeditions. We stayed at the Rosetta Campsite in Peebles, which was really spacious, and was a great place to cook our evening meal and camp!

There were 7 groups altogether and the routes were between Innerleith, Peebles and Traquair. There were good points about the expedition - we worked together as a team, improved our leadership skills and got to know people in our year that we hadn't spoken to before. We also needed a lot of determination, as carrying a heavy rucksack for 2 days is hard work! One of the worst things was the steepness of the hills, although I suppose you do get a good view from the top. Although the weather let us down and there were huge highs and lows, we enjoyed it overall!

We'd like to thank Miss McDowall, Miss Wilkie, Mr Haywood, Mrs Farnish, Mr Scott for supervising the groups and to Mr Jarvie and Mr Simson for assessing all our groups too. We'd also like to thank SBC's Outdoor Education Department, Chris Rhodes and Gordon Smith for making our expedition possible too. Bring on next year when we go on to do our Silver expeditions!

Isobel Stone and Anna Grieve S4



Glasgow Academy 45 - 10 EHS Senior Wasps

In what was a tough day at the office for our senior rugby team, Glasgow Academy reigned victorious by a margin of 35 points. On Wednesday 20th we faced a well experienced Glasgow Academy team in the 3rd round of the Scottish Cup.

Both sides looked sharp in the warm up prior to the 2:30 kick off and spectators from both sides eagerly awaited the referee's opening whistle. It was Glasgow who struck first with a try early in the first half following two missed penalties from our side. However the Wasps showed great resilience to strike back with a try of their own from team captain Duncan Howard who crashed over the try line to bring the game level after a conversion from Darren King. Glasgow then answered back a penalty to inch themselves into the lead. However this was short lived with a pinpoint penalty from Darren King from just in front of the posts. At 10-10 (unexperienced) player Fraser Jackson was called off the pitch and I was able to get his thoughts on the game, I enquired about how he thought he had played to which he said "I felt I had done okay, I missed my first two tackles but after that I hit them all.". Following this, Glasgow managed to pull off a well worked move which resulted in a try which put them in the lead at 17-10 at the end of the first half.

Despite only being a try behind Earlston had to pull something out the bag in order to get back in this game as star player of the first half Euan Clarke was unable to play in the second half due to him taking a knock on the head. Despite Howard's best efforts to rally the troops the team came back onto the pitch looking sluggish and ended up conceding a penalty which put Glasgow a further 3 points to the good. Shortly after this the Wasps lost another player, Lewis Marrian. From here things went from bad to worse with Glasgow scoring again to take the score to 30-10. Tensions seemed to rise, players began to tire and spectators got more and more passionate. It was then when Gregor Lindsay hit a late tackle and was sent to the sin bin. This would prove to be the last nail in the coffin for Earlston High School's Scottish Cup dreams as Glasgow began to pile on the pressure and close the game with a scoreline of 45-10. A scoreline which by no means reflected the amount of effort the team put into the game but despite their



handwork they simply could not cope with the unforgiving Glasgow team.

Following the game I spoke to Lanyon Rowley, who stated the "First 20 minutes were great, then our lack of fitness started to let us down. The fact that the opposition had played a bit more rugby got into some of the boys' heads" I then asked about who he thought stood out on the pitch today to which he responded "Good performances from Gary Goodfellow, Duncan Howard, Euan Clarke, Jake Fairley obviously and Ewan Ramage." It is clear to me after speaking with several players from the team that the team's confidence was by no means tarnished and they shall continue to go strong into this season and with high hopes and a hunger for victory.

Written by Alex Billam, Photography by Alister Davies and Jamie Lile.



From left: Bailey Clasper, Tom Beardsley, Emily Kimm, Megan Davidson, Evie Booth, Stephen Donaghy, and Alex Billam

Meet the S6 Press Committee

We are Earlston High School's Press Committee. As part of our committee work, we have been given the opportunity to write articles for the school newsletter, which will occasionally be showcased in the local newspaper. Over the course of the year we aim to keep students and parents informed about school trips and events. We also aim to involve some younger students by asking pupils to write a school article about various topics such as a book they have read and enjoyed, or a school trip they were a part of. We hope that over the year you will enjoy reading what the Press Committee has to offer as much as we enjoy creating it.

Enterprising Maths

A team from Earlston High School fought off the other Borders high schools to be crowned winners of the Borders Maths Competition.

After a wobbly start featuring toppling towers of cubes they came back strongly to win by a comfortable margin. Congratulations to the team: Luke Bauer, Amy Faircleugh, Callum Steel and Maddie Thomson who now qualify for the national finals in Glasgow in November.

Well done and good luck!



Assemblies

This term each year Head has been delivering an assembly based on our five Earlston HS core values. Throughout the life of the school there is a high expectation that our pupils and staff live our core values and that on a daily basis our values are in action.

The assemblies have reminded us all about the need to be aware of how the whole school community flourishes when we respect ourselves and other people.

They have focused on the need to commit to developing our character and that on our journey to excellence there will be bumps along the way, but that we will all get there if we are responsible for our own actions and show honest endeavour and a willingness to learn from our mistakes.



Values in Action

Commitment
Excellence
Honesty
Respect
Responsibility