

Work Experience - Supported Group



It is important that all of our students experience work-based learning at different stages and a major focus of this is our S3 work experience week in May, which also features later on in this edition.

For some students the best fit for work experience week was to visit a variety of different employers and establishments throughout the Borders.

A huge thanks to the following for accommodating us:

Ritchie Grierson at The Red Lion in Earlston, Rachel MacDougall and Garry Dickson at Borders College campuses at Galashiels and Newtown St Boswells, Sandra MacKenzie at Abbotsford, Heather Taylor at Mainetti in Jedburgh, Sharon Patterson of Live Borders at Tweedbank Sports Centre, Marianne Hodge at RHET Borders for our visit to Mertoun Gardens and Owen Joiner of Scottish Bird Gardens at Oxtoun.

This was a jam-packed week and our group of intrepid travellers had a fantastic insight into the world of work in their local area. It was great to see the personal development they all displayed over this week, with a growth in confidence and self-belief clear for all to see.

It was also a good excuse to get out and about in the may sunshine—we even stopped off at Scott's View to have a quick test on what we had learned at Abbotsford a couple of days before.

Heather Taylor, Human Resources Officer at Mainetti commented 'This type of work experience definitely a great idea for going forward as the pupils get to experience a business from a different perspective.'

This is the first time we have embarked on this type of work experience and all involved—students, teachers and employers - felt this was a very successful programme and we will do this again next session.



S3 Work experience

Marcel's personal account

Last week's S3 Work Experience was a very enjoyable time for me. It taught me many aspects of the working world and what it is really like. I was very pleased to have my placement accepted at the Scottish Borders Council architects where I went to gain experience of being an architect.

Since primary school I have wished to become an architect. I've always liked the architectural designs and looks of various buildings and also always thought it would be very cool to do such a thing as a career. When it came to S3 I was planning from the very beginning to go to an architectural company which could give me a very good taste of the job.

On my first day at my placement I had many questions as I wanted to find out about architects, training and university courses and the job itself. Some of the answers that I received surprised me but also made me even more determined to become an architect. Many of my work colleagues tried to put me off jokingly by telling me to give up and not try it as architecture is one of the most difficult degrees to get at university in the world.

I was set to design a bike shelter with my tutor for the public but also for the council workers to promote a more friendly approach to the environment. I took to this challenge in a positive way where I could learn valuable things from my tutor and the techniques architects use to solve problems and carry out such tasks. I had to do some research involving cycle routes in the Borders in order to conclude that a bike shelter would be needed in that place. I also had to show my creative skills when drawing sketches of the proposed shelter.

I attended a meeting where architects would show their projects and tell other architects about what they have done and why, which was good to see and experience first hand what they get up to and how. However, my favourite part of work experience was the visit to 3 construction sites. I really found it fun having a tour around the sites and getting to visualise the building from plan elevations which were given to me to look at during the trips. On one visit I was allowed to walk around the roof, safely of course, which made it a more memorable and a much better experience.

At the end I received very positive feedback from my tutor and the rest of the team which had a very positive impact on me. This experience made me want to do architecture even more!

Marcel Paszkiewicz S3



Earlston High News

Respect - Responsibility - Honesty - Commitment - Excellence

May 2018



Dear parents, carers and pupils,

Our newsletter never fails to impress upon me the wonderful work that goes on in our school community - thank you to all who go the extra mile for EHS! Our SQA examinations are well underway and we look forward to welcoming our new S5 and S6 back on Tuesday 5 June 2018.

I hope the sunshine continues to shine on us for the remainder of the summer term.

Kindest regards,

J Sinclair

EHS CELEBRATES SUCCESS

The annual EHS Celebration of Success Evening took place on the last night of term before the Easter Break and was another fantastic occasion and a great opportunity for the school to showcase and recognise achievements in and out of school, across all stages and over a range of different activities.

This year the focus was the Year of Young People 2018 and two of our YoYP ambassadors, Ruth Drane and Poppy- Nixey-Godfrey, introduced the evening, explaining the themes of Equality & Discrimination, Enterprise & Regeneration, Culture, Health & Wellbeing, Participation and Education. The awards all came under these overarching themes.

New awards introduced this year included recognition for diversity, skills, former students and for community members who have supported students from the school across various projects, including Greener Melrose and Hanover House.

Eliana, Euan, Laurence and Morgan (our Head Team), were superb comperes throughout the evening, bringing glitz and glamour to our version of the Oscars and the audience were entertained with musical pieces from Sam Johnston and our Pupil Support Group.

Our guest speaker was Norman Drummond, founder of the Columba 1400 project that the school have worked closely with in recent years. Norman gave a very inspirational speech and his key message was that if we look for the good in somebody we will be able to find it.

The Team of the Year award was highly contested this time around and was won by the U16 rugby team after their success in the National Shield final in December.



Another new award was the final prize of the evening. The Staff Extra Mile award was voted for by students and the janitors 'swept the floor' (with the opposition) to become the first name on this new trophy. Ricky Lynch, Head Janitor, collected the award on behalf of the janitors.

Well done to all who won awards on the evening and for all involved in organising this great event.





'Junk Kouture' Grand Final Grand Finalist! 'Feminist Tarzan'

Model: Liljana Stamenkovic
Team members: Annabelle Murray and Leanne Lyall.

This design was inspired by deforestation and consequently a protest to raise awareness to protect our jungles and forests around the world. The design is made from plastic bags from Asda, Tk Maxx and Sainsburys, bark, peacock feathers, sheep skull, feathers and wood.



Finalists' Interview 2018

Liljana Stamenkovic: model, Annabelle Murray and Leanne Lyall

Congratulations on your amazing achievement, getting through to the grand final! Firstly, take us through your Junk Kouture experience, when did you start the project and how did you decide on a theme?

We started the project in September and the whole process took months of designing and making. We knew we wanted to produce a statement design to raise awareness of an issue. Therefore we decided on 'Deforestation' with a nod to feminism to celebrate 'Year of the Woman'. All three of us worked round a table in the classroom sharing ideas and designs until we came up with our favourite. We used real bark from a palm tree, metal fencing, peacock feathers, plastic bags, a sheep skull and beetle wings. We used these because the materials fitted with our theme, deforestation.

Did you have any challenges? What was the hardest part about creating your design?

The hardest part about our design would probably be the belt of the skirt so we could make it wearable. We had to make sure the dress was durable enough to walk down the catwalk and fit to Liljana.

How did you enter the competition and how find out that your design got through to the Regional Finals?

We entered the competition through the Junk Kouture app so it was a bit of a panic to make sure we had the photo shoot uploaded and sent off by the deadline. We found out a week or so later that we got through as did three other groups from our class.

How did it feel when you won at the Regional Finals? Did you have any idea that you would win?

It was such a surprise, when they called Feminist Tarzan back stage we were all overwhelmed. The competition was hard so the chance of winning was quite slim. We were all rooting for the other teams that came with us because it meant we were by ourselves in the final.

Talk us through the day of Junk Kouture Grand Final, what did it involve?

We had to get up early and then head for the 3 Arena in Dublin. After that it was all about getting the makeup done and making sure we were confident with our performance. We had a rehearsal where we practiced the dance whilst we eyed the competition.

Liljana, you had to walk in front of 6500 people in the 3Arena, Dublin, how did it feel?

I already perform on some of Edinburgh's biggest stages so honestly I didn't really feel nervous.

Louis Walsh was one of the judges watching you as you went down the catwalk; did you look at the judges at all?

When I walked on I quickly looked over at them but because the spotlight was so bright I couldn't see them so I focussed on my performance.

Leanne and Annabelle, how did you feel for Liljana or support her in preparation for her performance?

The night before we practised the makeup design so we would have it spot on for the real thing. We helped change the performance as we watched her do it so we could give her feedback. When we were in the audience we screamed as loud as we could to support her during her time on stage.

What would your advice be for the S3 pupils who might be given the chance to do the project next term?

Don't panic and have fun because it will be over quickly. Also, make sure you collect all of your junk over summer so you can get making. Pick a theme to raise awareness of an issue in the world.

Is there anyone you would like to thank?

We would like to thank the school and the parent council for funding our trip. Mr Kelly for driving and supporting us. We'd like to give our biggest thanks to our art teacher, Miss MacBeth, for supporting us and helping us right from the start.



ART WORK PUBLISHED

Amelie Berry received a 'Highly Commended' award from the Arc Trust and Anya Jackson also had her work published in the 'Amazing animals Brilliant science; How DNA technology is being used to help save Scotland's wildlife' by Pete Minting.

Both pupils completed drawings in class and now have a copy of the book to take home.



KEEPING SILENT IN SUPPORT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

We have a club at Earlston High School where we try to raise awareness and funds for Amnesty International. Today, Thursday 3 May, we are doing a bake sale and a sponsored silence.

The reason we are wearing masks with crosses on them is because Amnesty International helps people who do not have the right to speak their opinions. We hope our sponsored silence and bake sale will raise awareness for Amnesty International as well as some funds so the organisation can continue their work.

Miriam Aitken S1



House Champions 2018

The winner of the House completion for 2017/18 was announced at the Celebration of Success evening at the end of March. Leader House managed to retain the house shield for another year, despite a close race with Teviot. Aline and Lanyon collected the shield on behalf of all students in Leader House. Well done and the competition starts once more...

CONGRATULATIONS LEADER HOUSE



Pupil Support Ensemble triumph at the Spring Concert and Celebration of Success Evening.

This newly formed group has grown from an idea shared by our janitor, Ricky Lynch who, as many of you know, can often be found strumming his ukulele in the office as pupils enter and leave the school. This is something that is enjoyed particularly by some of our Pupil Support pupils and led to a passing comment one day that we should get together to play. This coincided with an offer from Sam Johnston (S5) to come and work with pupils in the Pupil Support Department to develop their musical skills, and thus the group was born.

Ricky began beaver away behind the scenes; he was instrumental (!) in securing funding from his boss, Chris at AMEY which was then matched by headteacher Mr Sinclair. Ricky then obtained competitive prices from Neil Turnbull at The Music Station which enabled us to purchase a wide range of musical instruments for use within the department. Ricky takes time out of his school day twice a week to come along and work with the pupils to rehearse some tunes, and Sam supports during one of his study periods.



We are extremely grateful to the school, Sam, Ricky, Chris and Neil for their

generous support and trust

that if you missed our debut performances, (one of which featured guest performer Mr Woodcock, who joined us to sing the Andy Stewart classic, 'Donald, Where's Yer Troosers!'), you will make it

along to one in the future. (one of which featured a guest starring Mr Woodcock!), you will make it along to one in the future.



WELL DONE AND GOOD LUCK TO DRAMA STUDENTS

Concluding on Thursday 26th April, Higher, Advanced Higher and National 5 Drama students performed for the SQA examiner as part of their course award. As a final rehearsal the evening before the practical exam, they performed their plays for friends and family.

It was tremendous to see what they have achieved and the feedback from the audience and their teachers, Mr Thomson and Miss Dickson, gave them an incredible confidence boost for the exam.



Earlston Talent Show

Another charity event took place on Thursday 22 March. This time it was a charity show organised by the sixth year charities committee in support of the three charities they are raising funds for this year: Doddie Weir's Discretionary Trust; Borders Children's Charity and Interest Link.

The evening followed the tried and tested format of Britain's Got Talent, with a panel of esteemed judges giving feedback after each act: Mr Connell, Mrs McGinlay and Mr Sinclair. Expertly compered by Mr Meikle, with his usual flurry of jokes, the evening was a splendid display of the many talents of EHS students.

The twelve acts had already competed in a phase of auditions and last night's show gave the twelve top acts a chance to share their talent with the audience of family, friends, fellow students and staff.

Starting the show with great confidence and an amazing performance were Mrs Brown's Boys, an aptly named rock band who are all part of Mrs Brown's S4 Music class. Their rock mash up set the standard for the rest of the evening - fabulous!

The acts performing were varied in style, but not in skill: they were all superb which gave the judges and audience the difficult task of deciding a winner. Mini M@hem, a trio of dancers, took to the stage to 'All about the Bass'; Amelia and Olivia played a piano duet and sang 'Believer'; Oliver Grant gave a confident and polished performance of Stitches; S6 student Katy Wilkinson played a fiddle medley and fellow sixth years Chyna and Katrina (with Stephen on the drums) sang 'Valerie'. They were followed by soloist Allyes Ewing and then our Head Girl Eliana Capstick shared the stage with Erin Scott to perform Wings.

Next up was Sam Johnston, from fifth year, who blended music with comedy performing 'Dark Side'. He had the audience laughing, clapping to the beat and even attempting the chorus too. Another talent was from singer/songwriter Evan Anderson, who performed his own song - 'Isolation'. The penultimate act was a comedy routine, similar to a Morecombe and Wise type sketch, by Deputy Head Boy Euan Clarke and his pal Alex Billam. Their act started with a video clip introducing themselves and then the main sketch featured classic scenes from classic movies: Titanic, Jurassic Park, Rocky, The Lion King and even the 'no one puts Baby in the corner' lift from Dirty Dancing. Truly hilarious.

To conclude the performances was a star in the making - Khiara-Louise O'Neill, a first year student, who sang 'Black Roses'. The judges were wowed by the power and clarity of her voice and the audience was too, as after the vote count she was announced the audience's Runner Up. The audience voted their winning act to be Movie Scenes by Alex and Euan.

The judges had a similarly difficult decision and voted as their Runner Up Evan Anderson, whose musical skill as a composer and performer had to be recognised. The winner from the judges was Sam Johnston, who delighted the audience with a jazz piece he had been working on with Mr Haywood's jazz group. Alex and Euan concluded the evening with laughter with the second performance of their key movie scenes.

All in all, a great evening's entertainment and many thanks to the Charities committee for all their hard work organising the event. Am..az..ing!



FINAL DAY FUN AT ALTON TOWERS

Friday 27 April was the last school day for sixth year students before study leave and SQA exams. To celebrate six years of being together at EHS, the S6 Activities Committee had organised a trip to Alton Towers.



experienced 'The Smiler' and were still smiling afterwards! All in all it was a fabulous day amongst friends and we returned to EHS having enjoyed a fun filled day!



Despite the early morning start at 4am and then the constant rain, everyone was in great spirits throughout the day. The plastic ponchos we had in school came in very handy and no one was deterred from trying out the different rollercoasters and rides considering the weather.

Mrs McGinlay and Mr Connell were the most adventurous amongst the staff, closely followed by Mr McKenzie. They

Columba 1400 Ambassadors

2 pupils from S3 we invited up to Edinburgh to give feedback and help shape future leadership programs for Columba 1400.

We have sent over 25 pupils to the Isle of Skye for Leadership courses over the last two years and Lily Hutchison and Ethan Robson were chosen to help support the future of this charity. Both pupils gave excellent ideas and contributions to the day and demonstrated their improved skills in communication and leadership at the event.

They were excellent ambassadors for the school.



S2 Cupcake Challenge

There was a series of thought provoking, exciting lessons in the Home Economics department for S2 pupils last term. Showcasing fantastic team working and creativity, pupils were competing for the award for class winners of the Cupcake Challenge.

Working in pairs, pupils decided on a theme based around the idea of a celebration. We had some great examples: 'National Hamburger Day' cupcakes; baby shower cupcakes; football winner (and loser) cupcakes and also amazing cakes that celebrated other countries and pets!

We were very proud of how well pupils worked together to compromise, listen, adapt, prioritise and work resiliently during this year's challenge. Get your thinking hats on now S1 as you have big shoes to fill!

