

U16 Shield Final Rugby Report

After comfortable quarter final and semi-final results of the Scottish Schools' Shield competition against Peebles High School and The Glasgow Academy in October, it had been a long wait for the U16 rugby team to play their final vs Marr College from Troon at BT Murrayfield.

With indifferent weather building up towards 'SRU Final's Day', the players remained focussed and committed as they prepared for their biggest test of the season.

Christian Townsend (S4) kicked the game off with a strong wind at the team's backs and it wasn't too long before Earlston High School Melrose Wasps were celebrating their first of ten scores. Trystan Andrews (S5) barged his way over in the corner after a period of sustained pressure. Keiran Clark (S4) added the extras from out wide. Callum Folan burrowed over from 5 meters to settle the nerves and the Wasps had a tasty 12-0 lead after 10 minutes. The two wingers, Matthew Bertram and Ross Lile (both S4), worked tirelessly all game; supporting inside breaks, chasing kicks and they were ever present in both attack and defence. Bertram scored the team's third try with some scintillating footwork out wide whilst Ross Lile bagged himself four impressive tries in the game.

The other scores came from, Nick Henderson (S4), Trystan Andrews and Keiran Clark, with the latter converting three conversions in near impossible kicking conditions. The final score was 56-0 in the Wasps' favour.

A special mention must go to Ruaridh Tullis, Callum Folan and Jamie Clarke (all S4) who displayed effort, commitment and passion for the duration of the game. Christian Townsend marshalled the game like he has played it for twenty years whilst Roly Brett made break after break after break. This team's skill level and positive attitude has set the benchmark for many other teams.

Earlston High School is extremely proud of this team and everybody involved has contributed a huge amount; celebrate the success! There are some serious athletes in this team and the future is exciting for so many.



Sports Leaders—an update

The Sports Leaders have just finished off their first 6-week placement with the primary 6 class from Earlston Primary School. Each pupil delivered twice over the 6-week block, which saw primary pupils take part in handball, football and basketball activities. The leaders planned, delivered and evaluated all sessions and provided each other with feedback on their delivery. It was a great first block, with lots of hard work being put in and lots of valuable things learnt!

They have also this term delivered a 6-week lunchtime block for pupils in the learning support base. This ran on a Tuesday lunchtime and included sessions on netball, table tennis, tennis, basketball, badminton and dodgeball. Due to the success of this club, it will continue in the New Year in the run up to Easter.



Earlston High News

Respect - Responsibility - Honesty - Commitment - Excellence

December 2017

Congratulations Scottish Schools' Shield Champions!!



Report on back page

Message from Mr Sinclair



As we approach the end of this busy term I just wanted to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, staff, parents/carers and local community a happy, fulfilling and restful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I look forward to opening the doors again on Monday 8 January 2018.

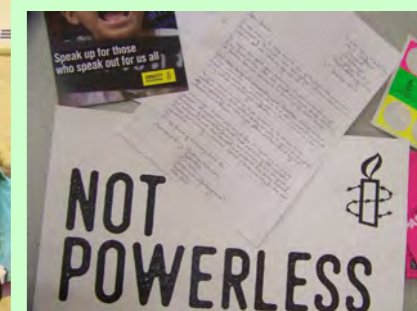
Kindest regards,
Mr Sinclair

WRITES TO RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

For the past week, pupils at EHS have been taking part in an annual campaign run by Amnesty International. Over two hundred letters have been written so far by staff and pupils alike, to be sent to victims of human rights abuses, or the Governments who are committing these crimes. By demonstrating such a united show of support and solidarity to those suffering, the pupils of Earlston and Amnesty supporters around the world are able to take part in a movement that results in positive change.

The turn out was fantastic, with pupils from every year group coming along to support the event and many people retuning dad after day to continue writing. As the first person to write a letter, Kieron Munro (S6) said, 'I'm proud to lend my support to such a fantastic cause and it's great to see so many of the younger students taking part.' It was wonderful to see people really engage with those they wrote to, and we hope this enthusiasm will result in the support for Amnesty International growing in the school.

Jasmine Bowie and Duncan Howard (S6)



S4 at Parliament

On Tuesday, 21st of November, Earlston High school's S4 (and a couple of S5) pupils set out an eventful day in the heart of Edinburgh. The 2 groups began their day with a pleasant stroll to the Supreme Court. At the court the pupils were given an insight as to what happens in the courts, including seeing a real courtroom and were given a brief historical background including ghost stories and experiences, including access to some areas the public don't usually get to see!

After the interesting talk on the courts we set off to enjoy a spot of lunch at Waverley, then continued back down the long narrow paths of Edinburgh's Royal Mile to the Scottish Parliament where we had a brief encounter with Ruth Davidson at the front door so we knew we were in for an exciting experience.

We were met by an education officer who kicked off our visit within the parliament with a fun activity based session on law-making and amendments. That said, I don't think everyone enjoyed their 'party hats'! To our luck, we were able to later have a quick chat with one of our local MSPs, Claudia Beamish, whom we were able to express to and give our opinions on what we think needs changing in the Scottish Borders. We also were fortunate enough to get a quick look at the chamber in action where the Health Secretary was giving a speech before heading back to the bus for the journey back to EHS.

By Liam and James S4



Digital Learning Week

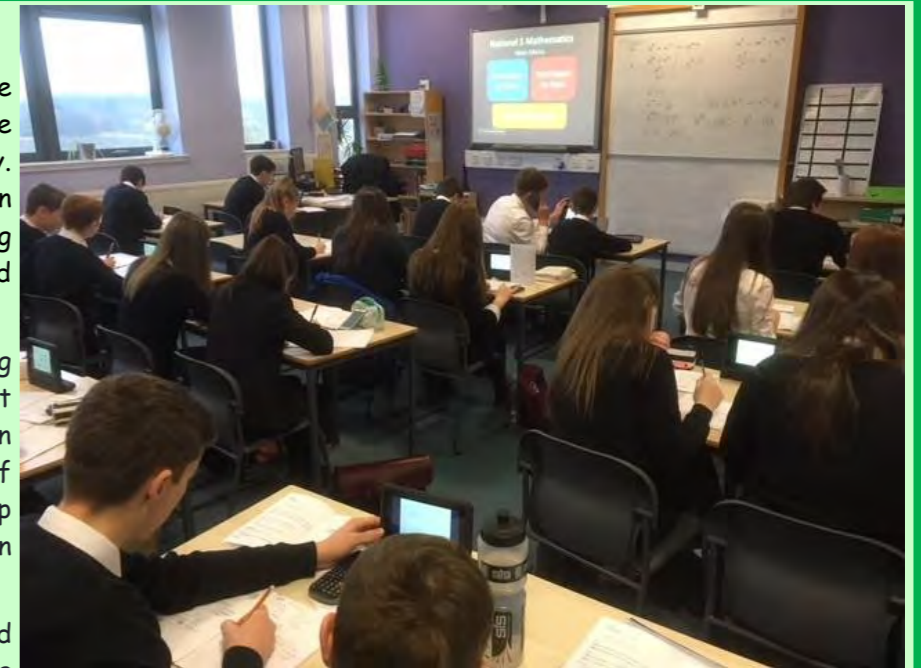
Technology is everywhere these days, so we at Earlston High School have decided to use it to our advantage, safely and responsibly. Students are encouraged to bring their own device into school as part of digital learning week so that their own technology can aid them in their learning.

This week S4 Maths students are taking control of their own learning by using a past paper PowerPoint on tablets and on their own devices. They have access to hundreds of questions, with notes and solutions, to help them access exam type questions in preparation for their prelims.

Also, in National 5 Health and Food Technology, students have been using mobiles in class this week to create a 'Dream Meal' as part of their Seasonality topic in the Contemporary Food Issues unit.

It's a sign that teachers are keeping in touch with new technologies and students are developing independence as well as their digital learning skills.

Being able to use their own device is also helping senior students in particular with personal study in study periods as students can type their essays and assignments anywhere in the school, meaning that deadlines can be met with more ease since they can use their own device to get work done that they may not have been able to previously.



Christmas 2017 S1/2 Dance

The Christmas season at Earlston has officially kicked off with the first and second year Christmas ceilidhs. On Tuesday the 7th, the first and second years put on their dresses and kilts and arrived at the school, ready to ceilidh. They danced the Gay Gordons, Stripped the Willow, military two stepped, and also danced to some classic chart music.



The night allowed the students to bond with one another and practice the moves they've learnt in PE. Overall, the night was very successful and on behalf of the students, we'd like to thank the dance committee for organising such a wonderful night.

Christmas Hamper Appeal

S2 students have been volunteering at lunchtimes in the RMPS department to fill and wrap boxes with the donations for the Christmas Hamper Appeal.

They will be delivering these to the residents in Melrose and Earlston's sheltered housing on Thursday afternoon.



Halloween events in H.E.

In Home Economics we held two 'spooktacular' events for Halloween. First, there was a Pumpkin Carving Competition and also an after school 'Baking with Pumpkin' event.



Thanks to all who made the effort to participate in these extra curricular activities. Fun was had by all!



Higher RME's trip to Samye Ling

Last Tuesday, on the 14th of November, Earlston's Higher Religious and Moral Education class visited Samye Ling which is a monastery and international centre of Buddhist training. As a part of the RME course, students are learning about the religion of Buddhism which focuses on having a life free of distractions and working towards enlightenment. Samye Ling is home to over 60 people, both Buddhists and volunteers.



Earlston pupils were very fortunate and were taken on a tour by Ani Dorklan, who is a nun that travelled to Samye Ling to devote her life to Buddhism. Pupils got the opportunity to ask questions about the religion that they would like deeper answers to, and about Ani Dorklan's life as a nun at the monastery. Lauren Flack, an S6 student said that "The trip really helped me understand the more complex ideas about Buddhism. It was incredibly interesting to see everything we have been taught about in real life."

This trip was a great opportunity to allow students to see past the pages of a textbook and see a Buddhist lifestyle in action. It's also very helpful for exams as students are able to use quotes from Ani Dorklan as a source, which will show the deep understanding that the pupils have. The Higher RME class would like to thank the teachers, monks, and nuns who contributed to making this trip a huge success.

Emily S6



University Library Visit

Advanced Higher History students had a great time on their trip to Edinburgh on Thursday 16th of November to gather important information for their dissertations which counts towards their final exam. We began the day with a few hours at the University Library, where we gathered resources to include in our dissertations about the American Civil War.

Our topics ranged from the Emancipation Proclamation, Why the South lost the War to the works of Fogel and Engerman. Going to the library will also help us in years to come as we learnt how to use the complicated filing systems that we will then use ourselves when we go to university.

After a quick stop at Frankie and Benny's to enjoy some delicious pizza, we went to our first ever University lecture with Civil War Historian Dr David Silkenat. He talked us through the beginnings of the American Civil War including some of the early battles and the technology used by both sides.

After the lecture, and once some of us had finished fangirling, we got to ask him questions on our specific topics which will provide us with a contemporary source and hopefully bring our marks up to an even higher standard than what they were before.

Overall, we all thoroughly enjoyed the trip and got a lot of valuable information. We would also like to thank our great teacher Miss Thores who led the trip!

Macx and Rosie S6

EHS WOW Evening 2017

Thursday 23rd November marked the third annual World of Work Evening (WOW) at Earlston High School. The attendance of over 100 pupils, accompanied by their parents, and around 50 employers and companies from across the Scottish Borders and further afield created an engaging atmosphere and provided pupils with an invaluable opportunity to network with employers and explore potential career pathways, creating the biggest and most exciting WOW that the school has seen yet.

The evening's format, which was mainly aimed at S3 pupils in light of their looming subject choices, began with a brief introductory talk which familiarised pupils, parents and guardians to the vast array of further education and career related options after school. Following Mr Ferguson's welcome (EHS Developing Young Workforce Principal Teacher), pupils were then able to explore specific career pathways at free will and ascertain the wide range of information regarding the present employers, their occupations and the path they pursued to achieve their role in the world of work.

The presence of two former EHS pupils as part of the employer force allowed pupils a true insight into the career path from Earlston High School. Euan Taylor and Mark Paterson were representing IQX and SPPA respectively, sharing their personal career information and inspiring the next generation of pupils to leave EHS into the world of work. Additionally, the variety of employers and information available provided every student with invaluable food for thought and in most cases, a variety of routes into employment to research further.

This evening would of course not have been possible without Mr Ferguson and his enthusiastic team of supporting staff, pupils and the school's own employer partnership. There are no doubts amongst pupils or staff that next year will be even more immense than this year's event in order to assist EHS in producing a successful and dynamic alumni workforce.

Eryn Douglas (S6 and WOW Ambassador)



Scottish Youth Brass Band Championships

The Brass pupils from Earlston High took part in the Scottish Youth Brass Band Championship's in Perth on the 25th of November as part of the Eastern Scottish Borders School's Band!

Performing very well they came 3rd in their section!



Columba 1400

On the 22nd to the 27th a group of thirteen pupils along with three teachers went to Columba 1400's Leadership Academy on the Isle of Skye. Over the course of these five days they learned about what their values were and how to use them in everyday life. They participated in indoor and outdoor activities such as trust exercises, teambuilding, exercises and values based leadership. These days were structured around a different Columba value which helped them practice their values and leadership skills.



Now that they are back in school they are planning to use their values and leadership skills to benefit the greater community by setting up different courses and activities not only for the other pupils in their year but for staff, parents and carers as well. They are also planning to involve last year's Columba graduates to help out to.

Columba 1400 2017 Graduates



Lessons from Auschwitz

Last month, myself and Gary Goodfellow (S6) were lucky enough to represent Earlston High School and fly with Mrs Maciver to Poland. The trip was part of a yearly scheme set up by Lessons from Auschwitz which sends two students from schools around the country. While there, we visited the town of Oświęcim and both the Auschwitz I and the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps.

Before our visit, we had the privilege of attending an orientation seminar at the Sheraton Hotel in Edinburgh and listening to an Auschwitz survivor speak. She told us her mother's story, and about how she herself was born in the camp shortly before it was liberated by allied forces.

All in a day trip; we flew out to Kraków in the early hours of the morning, spent the day touring Oświęcim and the two camps, before flying home late in the evening.

Both Auschwitz camps felt very surreal. However, the true magnitude of where we were didn't sink in until after the sun had set and everyone on the trip stood together, holding candles and listening to the Rabbi sing. Although I found visiting the camps to be a harrowing experience, I believe it was a very important once in a lifetime experience.

After our return home, we attended another seminar in Edinburgh during which we discussed how we would use our experience and our new knowledge through the Next Steps program. Over the next few months we will both submit 500 word statements about the trip alongside speaking to younger classes throughout the school to educate them on the magnitude and nature of the Holocaust.

Daniel Black, S5



Home Economics S2 Food and Farming Day Trip

On Tuesday 14th November 2017, 18 S2 Home Economics pupils accompanied by Mrs Ballantyne, Miss Armstrong (Student Teacher) and Mr Patterson (PE) travelled to Springwood Park, Kelso where the Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET) were hosting a Food and Farming event in association with Developing the Young Workforce.

Our visit was particularly inspiring learning about where our food comes from and factors that affect our food choice. Pupils had great fun making bread of all shapes and sizes! We learned lots about local farming and industry links and how machinery and technology are successfully combined for example when using tractor GPS to ensure accuracy when growing crops, considered the ethical issues surrounding low cost food and food miles. We were able to get 'hands on' with 'Betsy'- the simulated pregnant cow- and consider ways to enhance breeding in livestock by learning about how animals can be CT scanned.

This was a very valuable visit for all and particularly for those pupils thinking about a future career in farming and agriculture, health care, veterinary medicine or food and hospitality. Many thanks to RHET, Edinburgh University's department of Food Security and Dick Vet Veterinary School, The Hirshel Estate and all other who helped to make the day a great success.



Textile Club

Monday lunchtimes at Textile Club in the Home Economics department are getting festive!

Pupils are busy making Christmas stockings which use the applique skills learned from our first project- Lavender Lovehearts- and can be personalised using a computerised embroidery machine.



Sporting Success for Blake and Elliot Hedley

It has been a very busy sporting term for two Earlston High School brothers.

In August, brothers Blake and Elliot Hedley attended the pony club championship. Blake competed in the Tetrathlon individually in the junior boys category while Elliot competed as part of a team from the area in the Grass Roots category, which included Sarah Farnsworth, also of Earlston High School. Elliot and his team all performed well and went on to become overall grass roots champions over the 3 days of competition. Blake finished ninth overall in the UK with strong performances over the three days in all events. Considering he is in the first year of the category, which he will compete in for another two years, his performance was very impressive.

In October, Blake and Elliot competed in the Yorkshire Pentathlon. The events were fencing (epee), swimming, combined run/laser shoot and show jumping. The boys finished second in the under 13 and under 15 events. The brothers represented Scottish Pentathlon (Scottish Saltires) as part of the development squad for Scotland.

In November the brothers again competed, this time for Earlston High School at the Scottish School's Biathlon in Aberdeen where Elliot came fourth in the under 13 boys and Blake was first in the under 14 boys. Their position and scores means Blake is eligible to enter the British finals to be held at Crystal Palace in March 2018, which he will enter. Elliot just missed out qualifying this time but next year will go again.

A massive congratulations to both brothers on their successes and we look forward to hearing how Blake gets on in March.



Amy Sewell—Engineering challenge

After a rigorous application process, Amy Sewell in S2 has successfully gained a place on the Weir Wise programme at the University of Strathclyde at the end of January 2018. The programme is designed to inspire young female students to discover the excitement and personal satisfaction behind a career in engineering through participation in team-based challenges.

The programme aims to inspire S2 girls, through a series of group activities and engineering challenges, whilst simultaneously informing them of the educational requirements for university entry to an Engineering Degree. We look forward to hearing how Amy gets on in the New Year.

Elf Auction - Elves on the Shelves

Monday and Wednesdays last week were particularly busy for some of our sixth years. They had volunteered to be 'Elves' for the day and went up for auction on Monday. Fifty sixth years took part and Mr Kidd, as the auctioneer, ensured that plenty of money was raised for the Charities we are sponsoring this year: Doddie Weir's 5 Trust, Interest Link and Borders Pet Rescue.

Darren King and Michael Jamieson were snapped up by first year student Neilsen Donald. The two sporty sixth years coped well when they were out of their comfort zones completing Neilsen's Enterprise project. 'Elves' were also set tasks by teachers. Ms Hogg and her fellow Mathematicians put in a high bid for Duncan Howard and Sam Easson, who were tasked to organise display boards to show the Elements of Maths. Once that was finished to Ms Hogg's satisfaction, they supported junior Maths classes with their work.



S1 Media Careers morning

The latest careers morning for S1s was held on Tuesday 7th November and was a great way to find out a whole range of jobs that come under the heading of Media.

The sessions I attended were:

Journalism - this was interesting and fun. There was a lot of stuff you can do in that job and we got to ask the journalist lots of questions about his work.

Media at Queen Margaret University - Everyone got to contribute to this session (especially because there were sweets if you won the quiz!). This was all about the importance of social media in a load of different jobs.

Film-making - We were told how to go about making a professional film and all the different tasks involved in this. We looked at the video he made that we watched in primary school about what Earlston High School was like. It was really interesting to hear about the planning needed. He told us about other jobs that he didn't get too and the important message was 'if you don't succeed at first then try again!'

Arianna Stamenkovic S1



Careers Information sessions for S1 and S2

So far this session S1s have enjoyed careers sector mornings in Borders Industries and Media. The focus for S2s has been on themes within the world of work and they have received talks from guests on the topics of Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. Both types of events will be really useful in helping with future subject choices and career decision making. Thanks so much to all of our business partners who have contributed with these days. Next up for S1 is the Health sector morning in January. S2s will have Digital Career talks in February.



Trainspotting and Beautiful

Last month, the drama classes of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher went to watch a live production of Trainspotting at the Kings Theatre in Edinburgh. The three classes were absolutely blown away by the sheer rawness of the play, with Alasdair Russell commenting: "I loved this interesting adaptation of a modern classic. The acting was performed to such a high level and really added to the realism of the performance." It's fair to say that this interpretation of some of Irvine Welsh's finest work left a profound impact on all that were lucky enough to see it.

Also, the Earlston High School choir group were treated to a performance of 'Beautiful', the musical about Carole King by Douglas McGrath. One pupil that was fortunate enough to be at the production was Alasdair Russell, who said "It was wonderfully enjoyable to watch, especially given the fact that it featured an ex EHS pupil as the leading lady. It's nice to see someone so successful come from our school. Overall, the night was very memorable and one which I'm sure everyone involved would want to experience again.'

Stephen S6

