



Dalry Secondary School Christmas Newsletter 2018



While I am writing to you to express good wishes for the forthcoming seasonal celebrations, I also find myself wondering where 2018 has gone? Yet in a few short days we will once again celebrate Christmas and the start of a New Year, 2019.

2018 has been a memorable and eventful year and it has been a joy to witness the successes that pupils have achieved and to see the enjoyment in their faces as they participated in all sorts of activities.

The school sports day in June was a trial for all involved as the heat on that day was quite remarkable. Contrast that to the last few days where the roof has been taken off the front of the building letting the winter weather almost rain inside the main office. Let us all hope that the New Year does not bring us too much in the way of snow!

Wednesday the 19th of September was a memorable day. I have been teaching for 33 years and that day was the first day I have ever been involved in a situation where all school users had to be kept indoors for their own safety. You might remember storm Ali and the high winds that brought chaos on our roads and damaged many trees and buildings. But once again the young people rose to the occasion and made the job of keeping them safe a much easier task.

The school performance of 'Archie Dobson's War' was an excellent evening of entertainment and also focussed the minds of the school community on the centenary remembrance of World War One. The young people have done so well over the entire year raising money for the poppy pledge and should be very proud of their achievements.

The school has been successful in appointing a new chair to the parent council, Dr. Ian Johnstone, and the at the first meeting chaired by Dr. Johnstone it was clear that the parent council has a great deal of energy and commitment to ensuring that Dalry Secondary continues to thrive.

Staff and pupils will return to school in the New Year on Monday 7th January. I would like to draw your attention to the close proximity of the prelim examinations for pupils sitting National 5 subjects. These exams begin on Monday 14th January 2019. Please encourage your child to make an early start to their study to maximise their potential for a successful set of prelims that provides a boost to their confidence as we head toward the main exam diet in April.

S3 and S4 will have a parents' evening on Wednesday 23rd January. S1 and S2 have a parents evening on Wednesday 6th February. Please make every effort to attend the parents' evenings to discuss your child's progress with their teachers.

Please take the opportunity to have a look at our school website where you will find lots of information about the school and photographs of recent events. www.dalrysecondary.info

But let me finish by returning to the season and offering you all the best wishes that this season brings and hope that 2019 is a good year for us all.

James Smith
Head Teacher

School News

This has been a really busy term with pupils and staff working hard to maximise progress with learning as well as participating in many opportunities and experiences to develop all of their capacities. Young people have hosted a series of events as part of our Poppy Pledge commitment, including a Tray Bake sale, 1918 Fancy Dress day, 'Billet Night', Guess the Sweeties in Jar, Guess the Bear Name, and a Coffee Morning which featured a fabulous cake raffle. The events culminated in a night of drama and song with a performance of 'Archie Dobson's War' and a community singalong led by The Lyric Community Singers. The showcase of talent provided great

entertainment as well as a moving educational experience for young people and the audience. All of the hard work amounted to a grand total raised of £2,295.30. Amazing!

We have established a breakfast club offering free toast, breakfast cereals and drinks for all pupils to ensure that everyone has the nutrition they need to be ready to learn. This is funded using additional monies available to school, linked to those pupils in receipt of free school meals. We have also developed a really extensive programme of extra-curricular clubs and groups which run before school, at lunchtimes and after school on most days (details are on the school website www.dalrysecondary.info).

Senior students have been on a residential field trip to enhance their biology and geography skills at a specialist centre on Millport and we hope to be able to offer this again next year. S4 students were also put through their paces during recent mock interviews when Natural Power recruitment specialist Kelly Innes interviewed the students in a process designed to match the challenges presented by a modern application process. They also attended the Stewartry Careers Fair with their peers at CDHS. S1 and 2 pupils have been working towards their John Muir award as part of the ever-popular WAA, conserving the environment and building a sand martin nesting site with the RSPB. S1 also travelled to CDHS to take part in a health and well-being activities morning.

S3 pupils were extremely successful in the recent Dumfries and Galloway College Schools Competition, winning 1st Prize in Digital Photography, 2nd in the Wallpapering Challenge and 3rd in Visual Communications.

Thanks go to staff who willingly volunteer and give up their time to offer such a wide and varied range of experiences for our young people.

Dates for the diary:

Friday 21st December Christmas Service 10am Dalry Church

Monday 7th January 2019 school resumes

Monday 14th January 2019 S4 prelim examinations begin

