

Deans Newsletter

November 2017



@deanschs

Deans Community High School

Head Teacher: Pauline Allison

School of Rock a Great Success

After many months of rehearsing, this year's Deans Community High School Show took place in October. The fantastic performances were held over three evenings and hugely enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience each time. Not only were students performing on stage, they were also part of the live band, backstage working the lights and sound, helping with props and ensuring that this production was a real team effort. It was wonderful to see the commitment, talent and hard work of our students result in such an enjoyable and positive experience, both for them and for those of us in the audience.



Primary 7 Transition Events

P7 students from our associated Primary Schools, Carmondean, Deans, Knightsridge, Meldrum and Seafield, took part in a half day visit each to Deans Community High School. They enjoyed sessions in a number of subjects and had a chance to see round the school and meet some of the teachers. Below is a collaborative paper craft poppy remembrance wreath that pupils from Deans Primary made in the Art department.



Staffing News

We recently said goodbye to Miss Garrett from the Geography department who left us to take up a teaching post in Dubai. The Geography department will now be joined by Mr Gibson who I am sure will enjoy being a part of the Deans teaching staff.

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Lunches	12-13	Dec
S5/6 Parent Evening	14	Dec
H English Masterclass	15	Dec
All Break for Holiday	22	Dec
Staff resume	8	Jan
Students Resume	9	Jan
February Holiday	12-13	Feb



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Maths Information Session for Parents

Following feedback from the summer term survey to parents and carers, we held our first maths information session earlier this month. It was wonderful to see so many of you there and we hope that this will help you to support your child in their learning at home. We do understand that the date and time may not suit everyone who wanted to come along. We will be following this up with a further maths session in the new year.

Construction Challenge Winners

A group of our S2 students competed in this years Construction and Built Environment Challenge and won the heat.

This means they will progress into the finals in January. The staff from West Lothian College, SECTT and Heriot Watt were very complimentary of our youngsters who they thought were polite and very enthusiastic. Some of them offered our students the chance to go back and undertake some work experience at the college as a result of their outstanding behaviour.

Congratulations to the students involved:

Laurie Pringle
Sophie McAdam
Jack Bestwick
Awais Ghaffar

Jessica Gorman
Emma Bennett
Fraser MacColl
Cameron McGregor

A Message from our Science Ambassadors

We represent the Science Department and the school at large. Our responsibilities are split amongst us into the different subjects - Physics, Chemistry, Biology and BGE.

As our first task we attended the S4-6 Curriculum Evening where we discussed course content, study guides and recommended text books with parents and answered any questions relevant to Science. We have also been supporting the Science Club this year which so far has proved very popular with younger students.

We are looking forward to continuing to support and promote the Science Department throughout the year.



After School
STUDY
Sessions

The school is offering after school study sessions for students in S4 - S6.

These will run from 3.45pm until 5.00pm on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the gallery.

S2 Careers Information

Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisers have been interviewing S2 students in school this month to help them start now to think about the subject choice decisions they will need to make in February 2018.

The school Careers Adviser Evelyn Rogers has also been into the Personal & Social Education classes in school doing sessions with the students to help them to develop their Career Management Skills.

There is the opportunity for S2 parents/carers to attend a session to learn more about the support available from Skills Development Scotland and this will take place on Thursday 1 February at 5:30pm in the school.

If you would like to attend the session could you please email:
evelyn.rogers@sds.co.uk
confirming your interest.

Please note: There is also the option to book online to meet with the school Careers Adviser at every school parents evening.

Young Ambassador of the Month

Congratulations to Elle Dunlop, who is our Sport Scotland Young Ambassador of the month for October!

Since returning from the Young Ambassadors Conference, Elle has been full of ideas and enthusiasm and determined to make a difference. Working together with Active Schools and her PE Department, she's been involved across a number of areas, including speaking at assemblies, volunteering as an official at school competitions and attending a basketball officiating course in the October holidays.

Elle ran an Active Girls Festival, providing posters and sign-up sheets; arranging coaches, venue spaces, t-shirts and local sponsorship for fruit and juice. Elle also co-ordinated the volunteers and activity rotations at the festival. In addition, she has led the sports committee in a range of projects, including setting up a survey to gather pupils' views of school sport and PE. She is a key member of the school football and netball teams and also promotes all after-school clubs to her peers.

Elle was nominated by her Active Schools Coordinator, Angela, who says: *"Elle is always happy and smiling, a pleasure to work alongside and a real inspiration to the younger classes."*



School Garden Awarded Highest Level of RHS Gardening Award

We have undergone quite a journey with the garden over the last 5 years. Starting off with a bare area next to the school all the way through to an outdoor classroom space with raised beds and a polytunnel.

The RHS worked with us from early days and have now rewarded us with the highest level of School Gardening Award (Level 5) in October 2017.

We are very happy to have involvement from many of the students in the school, as well as community involvement from a wide range of groups from the Community Service Team to the Brownies (18th) and Cedarbank School.

As ever we are always keen to make new links so if you have any ideas or want to get involved do get in touch with the school and Mr Steele.



Our Garden



Murder Mystery Event in Science

The Royal Society of Chemistry visited the Deans Science Faculty recently to deliver a 'Murder, Mystery' event to the Advanced Higher Chemists.

Hannah, Jake and Emily from RSC brought with them some top of the range Infra Red Spectroscopy and UV Spectroscopy equipment for the students to use to solve the crime!

All the students felt it was a great learning experience and thoroughly enjoyed being able to use the equipment and apply the knowledge they have been learning in their chemistry class to solve the 'crime'!

Vodafone Insight Day

S4 - S6 students took a trip to the trendy Vodafone offices in Glasgow where they were given CV building and interview preparation tips. Vodafone then gave students insight into their tech-world, and lastly asked students to use their team building and communication skills to create an App for the company and present their idea. Students thoroughly enjoyed their day – particularly having a go at the VR headsets (although Mr Gray seemed to have the most fun!).



Career Ready Launch

S4 students Alice Somerville, Abbie Watt and Jade Tansey attended the Career Ready launch event at West Lothian College.

Career Ready is a two-year programme, which involves students being matched to a business mentor, who will guide and support them through masterclasses, workplace visits and a 5-week paid internship.

The programme provides students opportunities to gain the skills, attitudes and networks they need to succeed in the workplace, in their career. The photos show students participating in team-working activities with their business mentors, who they met for the first time.

The event was a huge success and both student and business mentors left with a positive and determined focus for their journey together.





West Lothian Council has launched its public information campaign Winter Ready West Lothian 2017/18.

The campaign highlights the council's preparations for possible severe weather and encourages local people to prepare now.

Severe winter weather can include snow, frost and low temperatures, high winds and flooding.

More information is available at www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter

As with previous years the council has:

- ♦ Maintained salt stocks.
- ♦ Set up contracts with local suppliers for severe weather support.
- ♦ Provided an email alert service so that regular information can be sent direct to your inbox.
- ♦ Delivered refresher training to staff on all severe weather equipment.
- ♦ Published a Winter Ready supplement in the winter issue of Bulletin, the council newspaper. This is also available online at www.westlothian.gov.uk/bulletin

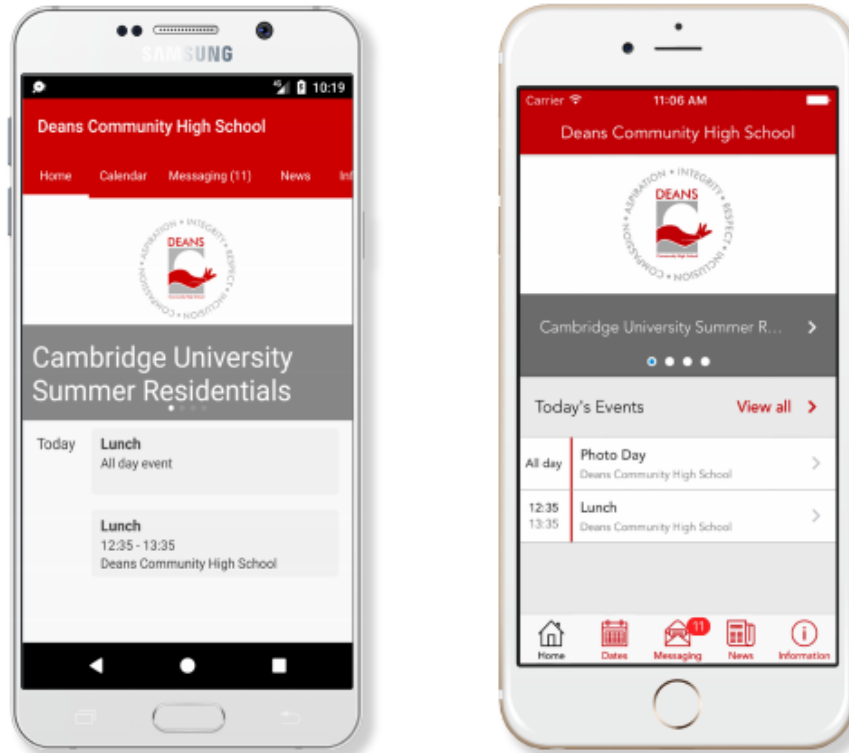
The council is also asking residents and local businesses to help:

- ♦ Park sensibly – abandoned vehicles can cause serious issues.
- ♦ Share information with friends and neighbours, and spare a moment for vulnerable neighbours.
- ♦ Stay informed. Sign up for the email alert on the council's website at www.westlothian.gov.uk/email, like the council Facebook page at www.facebook.com/westlothiancouncil or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/lovewestlothian for updates.
- ♦ If you are able, clear the path and pavement in front of your home.
- ♦ Prepare your car and home ahead of the winter.
- ♦ Keep the winter issue of Bulletin handy.
- ♦ Parents and carers should also ensure that their child's school has up to date contact information.
- ♦ Should severe weather hit, Groupcall is the way that schools will inform parents and carers about closures.



Deans Community High School

Our app is now live in the Apple and Google Play stores.
You can keep in touch with our events, news
and receive important messages from us!



To download the app, scan the QR code
below or visit the Apple or Google Play stores
and search for Deans Community High School



daynurseryapp.co.uk

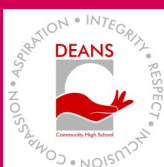


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Our website - www.deanscommunityhighschool.com - contains a wealth of information and updates on what's taking place in Deans. I would encourage you to take a few minutes to have a look at what's going on. We also like to celebrate wider achievement in Deans and welcome contact regarding student achievement outwith school. **Please email: wldcans-chs@westlothian.org.uk**

