



Deans Newsletter

September 2018



@deanschs

Deans Community High School

Head Teacher: Pauline Allison

Head Lines

Best Ever Exam Results

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2018 -19 session. Our students got us off to an outstanding start by achieving the best results in SQA examinations in the history of the school.

33% of last session's S4 students achieved 5 or more passes at National 5, placing them in a good position for S5 work. For the S5 students, 66% gained one or more Highers or equivalent, 51% gained 3 or more Highers or equivalent and 33% achieved 5 or more Highers or equivalent. In Advanced Highers, 18% gained one or more passes.

Congratulations go to all students on their success, all of which was achieved through hard work and perseverance throughout the year.

Staffing News

We have had a number of staffing changes across the school. Within the Support Team, Mr Dyson retired at the summer and I am delighted to welcome Mrs Clark to the team as Acting PTC Support for Dechmont House. Other new staff we welcome are: Mrs Simpson (Support for Learning), Ms Campbell (Modern Studies), Ms Easton (English), Ms Jakubiak (Business Education), Mr Kerr (History), Ms Liddell (Physics), Mr Rodriguez (Spanish/German) and Mr Stewart (Drama).

School Improvement Priorities

Our School Improvement Plan contains the main priorities we will be working towards this session. These come from the various aspects of self-evaluation completed throughout the session, including consultation with parents/carers, students and staff.

This year's plan can be found on the school website following this link:

<http://www.deanscommunityhighschool.com/uploads>

We also have a summary of what was achieved last session and this too can be accessed on the school website via this link:

<http://www.deanscommunityhighschool.com/uploads>

Parent Council

We are very fortunate to have a valued Parent Council here at Deans.

Meetings are held in the school on the last Tuesday of every month, from 6pm to 7pm, in the Conference room.

The Parent Council provides a voice for parents/carers and plays an active role in supporting school improvement, often acting as a 'sounding board' for proposed developments.

New members are always welcome, so please feel free to come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 25th September.



School Contact Details

We are very keen to work closely with parents and carers in supporting our young people and helping them to achieve the very best they can.

As such, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any concerns. The easiest way to make contact would be through your child's Pupil Support Worker or Head of House in the first instance.

If they are unable to answer your query directly, they will then be able to contact the relevant member of staff and either ask them to make contact or co-ordinate a response.

The Pupil Support Workers and Heads of House are as follows:

Cairnpapple House

Miss Thomson - HoH
Margaret Stevenson - PSW

Dechmont House

Mrs Clark - HoH
Paula Sinclair - PSW

Houston House

Mr Gray - HoH
Nicola Wood - PSW



Eastwood Park, Livingston EH54 8PS
Telephone: 01506 282155
www.deanscommunityhighschool.com
email: wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk



School Uniform

It has been wonderful to see how smart our students look in their school uniform and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your support in this.

The accepted school uniform is as follows:

Deans jumper/tank-top or plain black jumper/cardigan.

Plain black school trousers or skirt.

Tights should be black or neutral.

White shirt. (short or long sleeved)

S1-4 'junior' tie.

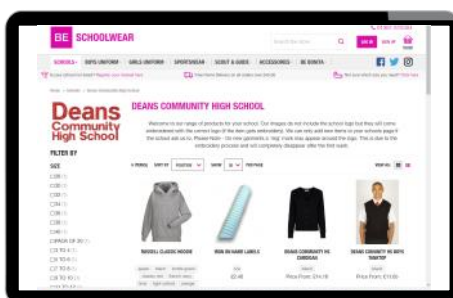
S5-6 'senior' tie.

Black shoes (must be all black - no coloured logos, laces, etc.)

S4-S6 black school blazer (optional)

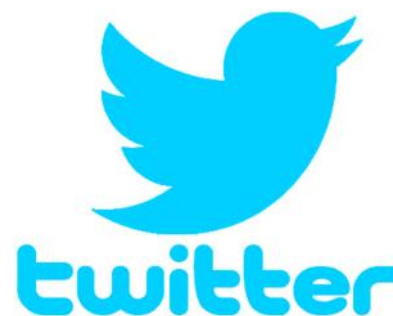
Students who are not in uniform will continue to be challenged by staff. This includes those wearing denim (including black jeans), leggings and Converse shoes. Should you have any concerns regarding uniform, I would ask that you contact pupil support to discuss this.

Pauline Allison, Head Teacher



Dates for your Diary

Mon	17 September	Holiday
Tues	18 September	Staff IS
Wed	19 September	Students resume
Fri	12 October	All break
Mon	22 October	Staff IS
Tues	23 October	Students resume



Follow us on Twitter:

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(Deans CHS)

Introducing our School and House Captains

School Captain Aaron Landels

School Vice Captain Brooke Stein

Cairnpapple House

Captain:
Stephanie Aitken

Vice Captain:
Erin McKay

Dechmont House

Captain:
Neave Ritchie

Vice Captain:
Beth Brown

Houston House

Captain:
Elle Dunlop

Vice Captain:
Eddie Sorenson



Developing the Young Workforce



Career Ready

Career Ready works in partnership with schools to provide young people with the opportunity to undertake activities and gain expert guidance that will help prepare them for the world of work.

Throughout the summer, our Career Ready students completed a 4 week internship.

Alice worked with the Scottish Government in Edinburgh, during which time she took ownership of her own projects.

Jade undertook various administrative roles at West Lothian College, in preparation for the new academic year.

Both girls integrated well into their departments and made a great impression on the workplace. Well done to both Jade and Alice.



Saltire Awards

volunteering for 12 to 25 year olds



Congratulations to the following students who have recently received Saltire Awards for volunteering.

Abbie Fraser completed 50 hours, Logan Tidy completed 100 hours and David Gibson - Adams completed 10 hours.

This is an excellent achievement, well done to all the students involved!

Edinburgh Zoo Science Summer School

S5 pupils Piper and Kieran earned a place on the prestigious Science School hosted by Edinburgh Zoo every summer.

The two attended the week-long course where they collaborated with like-minded students from other Scottish schools to develop their scientific and investigative skills.

Piper and Kieran spent their week researching the behaviour of the Sun Bears and presented their investigation to an audience of invited guests at the end of the week.

Mr. Elliott was there to support the pair and would like to congratulate them on their success of completing the course and earning their certificates!



Biology Visit to Strathclyde University

Fifty Higher students from the Higher Biology and Human Biology classes recently participated in a lab session hosted in Strathclyde University's state-of-the-art Biomedical building.

The students were given the exciting opportunity to use the university's impressive facilities and scientific equipment to carry out an investigation using PCR and gel electrophoresis. Their aim was to amplify and test DNA samples to find out an unborn child's blood type.

Students not only learned new scientific techniques but also got a taster for life at university, which for many is just around the corner! Staff from Strathclyde were very impressed with our students' enthusiastic approach to the lab session and hope to see some of them returning as university students in the future.

What's On in the Library

Reading Group - Students can join the Library Reading Group. Members can read in the library during breaks and lunchtimes. See Susan to join or for more information.

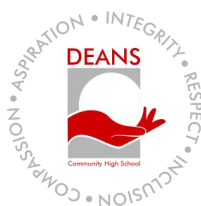
Banned Book Week is w/b 24 September.

Roald Dahl Week takes place in the Library from 10 September. Come along and see the displays, read some books and watch the big tv.



West Lothian School's Pipe Band

The West Lothian School's Pipe Band competed in the World Pipe Band Championships in August in the Juvenile section. Well done to all Deans students involved and to Mr Canning and Mr Ross on this year's season.



@Deanschspe
@ActiveS_Deans

timetable

Day	Activity	Location
Mon	Badminton	Sports Hall
	Dance	Dance Studio
	Rugby	Outside
Tues	Netball	Sports Hall
Wed	Basketball	Sports Hall
	Gymnastics	Small Gym
Thurs	Handball	Sports Hall
	Hockey	Outside
Everyday	Swimming	Swimming Pool



**Our After School Clubs
are all up and running again!**

Art and Design Success

DCHS students recently took part in the West Lothian BGE Summer Exhibition held at Craigsfarm Community Hub.

Whilst we always gain praise for the diversity of our students' entries at this annual event, this year proved to be something of a bumper outing for our students as the following entrants (listed below) were selected to have their pieces hung in the exhibition.

In recognition, all successful exhibitors received a certificate and a prize of a set of water colouring pencils (to accompany the obviously far more weighty kudos of having their work professionally exhibited!).

Moreover, Jessica Black (S2) won the prize for the category of 'most creative work' and additionally receives a special winner's certificate, and an acrylic painting set.

We will be arranging to have participants' work put on display in Deans so you can all see our students' efforts for yourselves.

Special Award Winner

Jessica Black

Successful S1 Exhibitors

Ali Al Mjadami
Anna Boyle
Leah Bryce
Amber Clark
Emily Colquhoun
Marcus De Luen
Jasmine Duncan-Loat
Josh Dunsmore
Aaliyah Fatch

Erin Gourlay
Erin Hyndman
Aurora-Bliss Innes
Ben Monk
Jamie Scougall
Jack Smith
Bailey Thomas
Rhianna Walker

Successful S2 Exhibitors

Natasha Chalmers
Andrew Danskin
Katie Graham

Amine Laghrouche
Erin Main
Eva MacFarlane
Abby McHugh
Aaron McKie
Ewan McLean
Ashley Merson
Anna Nyquist
Ellie Pender
Claire Reilly
Dale Singh
Zsofi Tamasi

Successful S3 Exhibitors

Megan Barnes
Reece Groves
Lauren MacPherson
Rachel McFarlane
Maxine McKenzie
Hannah Robertson
Anna Scott
Hamaad Sethi
Ava Stewart

Animation Workshop



Art & Design Department

Thank you and well done to everyone who helped out or dropped in to experience the animation workshop.

Deans CHS students threw themselves into their work and were really enthusiastic! The Art Department will share the finished animation shorts as soon as they are all collated.



DNA Group Fly the Flag at West Lothian Pride

The DNA, LGBT Group flew the Dean's LGBT flag at this years West Lothian Pride in July.



The DNA Group also represented West Lothian at the European Championships by creating a patchwork piece to go on a quilt at this years Pride House in August. Well done to all involved!



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 out with school. Please email: wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk

