

# Deans Newsletter

December 2018



@deanschs

Deans Community High School

Head Teacher: Pauline Allison

## Head Lines

As always, students at Deans have had a busy time during the first half of the session. They have continued to participate in a wide range of activities and present a wonderful example of young people in society.

Those working in the senior phase will have received a variety of feedback from their class teacher on how they are currently performing in their subjects and, vitally, what steps they should now take in making improvements and achieving success in their examinations. As they are approaching their prelim exams, all senior phase students should be looking to put any advice given into practice and ensuring that their time spent studying is effective.

My thanks go to you for your continued support in the school as we work with your children and, on behalf of the staff at Deans, I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a fulfilling 2019.

## Girls Breaking Barriers - House of Lords Chamber Event 2018

Eighteen students from Deans Community High School visited the House of Lords in London on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November to take part in an event discussing the barriers facing girls and women in politics, business and education.

The girls spent the day debating these barriers, focusing on a wide variety of topics such as barriers to progress in education, business and politics, the issue of street harassment and its impact, and the importance of reform of sexual health and relationship education.

The students were also fortunate to take part in two committee sessions where they could pose questions to women from a variety of fields including charitable work, sport, science, journalism and three baronesses who have a range of experiences.

Throughout the day the girls demonstrated a passion for gender equality and change. They displayed maturity in their comments and were clearly considering the bigger picture and not just what they wanted as individuals.

*"We were delighted to have been afforded the opportunity to take part in this highly relevant debate, funded by The English Speaking Union and Plan International, and once again our students were outstanding ambassadors for Deans Community High School and West Lothian. Our thanks also go to Morton Fraser Solicitors and Brakes for their very kind additional sponsorship".* Pauline Allison, Head Teacher.



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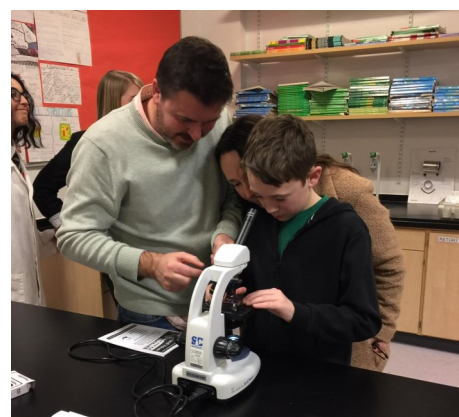
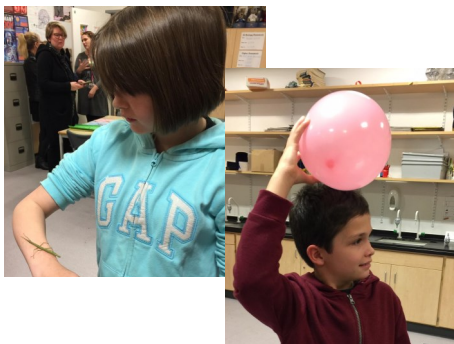


## P7 Transition Events

P7 students from our associated Primary Schools Carmondean, Deans, Knightsridge, Meldrum and Seafield, recently took part in a half day visit each to Deans Community High School. They participated in sessions for a number of subjects and had a chance to see round the school and meet some of the teachers.

It was lovely to meet our future Deans students during these days and also their parents/carers who came along to the open evening, as we look forward to getting to know them all better as the session progresses.

**Pauline Allison, Head Teacher**



## Winter Ready

West Lothian Council has launched its public information campaign Winter Ready West Lothian 2018/19. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/email), like the council Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/westlothiancouncil](https://www.facebook.com/westlothiancouncil) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/lovewestlothian](https://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.**

**Please make sure we have up to date contact information.**



Keeping West Lothian  
**moving**  
#WinterReadyWL  
[www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter)

WinterReady  

## Dates for your Diary

Term Ends	21	Dec
All Resume	07	Jan
Senior Prelims Start	09	Jan
S2 Parents Evening	05	Feb
All Break	15	Feb
Staff Resume	19	Feb
Students Resume	20	Feb
S3 Parents Evening	21	Feb



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(Deans CHS)



## Brass Ensemble Perform at Charity Ball

On the 23rd November The Deans Brass Ensemble got everyone in the Christmas Spirit when they performed at the Hilcroft Hotel for the Ashwood Scotland Foundation. Their annual Charity Christmas Ball raises money for "Friends of the Children of Chernobyl" and the Brass Ensemble, along with Mrs Scobie and Mr Christie enjoyed using their talents to entertain everyone for the evening. Well done to all!



## Skills Scotland Event



## Higher English Masterclass 2018/19

There will be FIVE Masterclass sessions to support all Higher English students.

They will start at 12.30 until 2.30pm on the dates below and will cover all aspects of the Higher English course, including: close reading skills, critical writing skills, comparison questions and the study of Scottish texts.

**Masterclass dates are:**

**14/12/18    18/01/19    15/02/19    22/03/19    03/05/19**

January												
				1	2	3						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31						

Over 100 of our students attended the Skills Scotland Event at the Royal Highland Centre recently.

This event brings young people face-to-face with employers, training providers, colleges, universities and professional bodies helping them to transition into the world of further study, work or training by identifying their ideal career pathway.

Students returned to school with a wealth of information.

**The final Friday session will cover all aspects of the examination.**

## Green Plan It Challenge

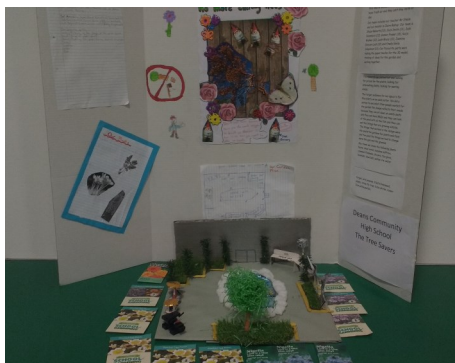
The aim was to inspire students with nature and plants, and build their skills and confidence. The RHS and the Botanic gardens in Edinburgh worked together with industry leaders to deliver an awesome challenge.

Over the course of 10 weeks, students across the UK were tasked with researching, planning and building a model showing us their ideas of what would make an innovative or exciting new garden for their school or local community.

Teams were matched with a mentor from the horticultural industry who guided them through the project, offering their knowledge of plants and challenging them to think about the purpose of their design. We were lucky enough to have Claire Bishop from Dobbies working with us.

The project began with a launch event for teams to attend where activities, games and discussions will get their creative minds going and get them set for their challenge.

At the end of the 10 weeks, students returned to the Botanic gardens to show off their work, and were rewarded with a special mention from the judges regarding their confidence and communication abilities whilst presenting their ideas and 3D models.





## STEM Trip - Forth Bridges Education Centre

S2 students enjoyed a STEM trip to the education centre at the Forth Bridges to take part in a bridge building challenge.

The programme aimed to enhance our students' knowledge and understanding of maths, science and engineering in real life situations.

It also set out to develop team building skills, leadership skills, planning and organisational skills, presentation skills as well as our students' confidence.

The visit consisted of:

- ♦ a viewing of the Exhibition
- ♦ a presentation – The Forth Bridges and Engineering
- ♦ a STEM - Engineering Workshop Challenge
- ♦ a walk over the forth road bridge



## Connect Ambassador

Congratulations to Ross Gilmour who was awarded the role of Connect Ambassador last month.

Thanks to Carol Johnstone from The Inclusion and Wellbeing Service for coming along to present Ross with his badge and certificate.

## Trans Am Bike Race

### Cycle Race Guest Speaker

On Wednesday 7 November, S3 to S6 students studying Geography or Travel and Tourism were lucky to receive a presentation from guest speaker Chris Greenan.

Chris is a keen amateur cyclist who spoke about his experience in the summer, participating in the Trans Am Bike Race, an enormously challenging cycle race of over 4,200 miles across the United States.

Chris spoke with great enthusiasm as he shared his stories, photos and videos from the journey. He cycled through some stunning scenery and had to cope with a variety of challenges, ranging from extreme weather and painful injuries, to coming very close to encountering grizzly bears!

The feedback from students who attended the presentation was very positive, with many commenting on how interesting it had been.

Hopefully the students also found the talk a motivating experience, as Chris emphasised to the audience that every individual is capable of extraordinary achievement, if you show ambition and determination...

Definitely an important message for all the students to bear in mind in the future!





## Attendance Prize Draw Winners

Congratulations to Jed (1H2) and Jennifer (2H1) who were October's winners for the prize draw for good attendance.

Each month students with over 90% attendance are given the chance to enter a draw to win a prize to celebrate their achievement.

At assemblies recently we drew last months winners, who each received £20 of amazon vouchers. Well done Jed and Jennifer!



## Autism Ambassadors



This year sees our first ever group of Autism Ambassadors here at Deans.

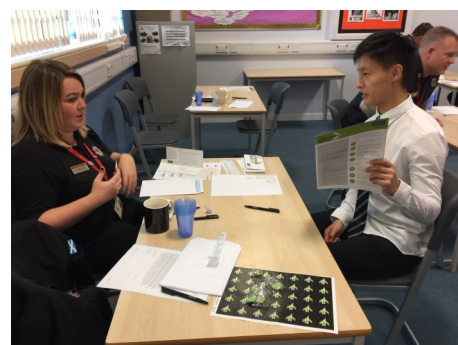
An impressive thirty three S6 students volunteered to sign up in August and attended a full day of training delivered by Louise Walker and Michael Elliott who will be supporting the ambassadors in their new role.

The Autism Ambassadors' aim is to promote awareness of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) within the school community, provide extra points of contact for ASD students and to help teachers support ASD students in their class.



## SFRS - Anthony Nolan Registration Event

We recently welcomed the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in to Deans to run a sign up session for our S6 students to register with Anthony Nolan. Anthony Nolan is a fantastic charity that works to match donors of blood stem cells and bone marrow to those with blood cancer or blood disorders who desperately need a transplant.



The event ran so smoothly thanks to our wonderful Anthony Nolan Champions: Aaron Landels, Leah Hall, Ritchie McCluskey, Alishba Babur, Sam Scougall, Jade Lawson, Brooke McMechan and Erin Salen. An amazing 33 students registered at the event.





# Sporting Success at Deans Community High School



## West Lothian Dance Championships

What a night it was for Deans at the West Lothian Dance Championships. Both our Senior and Junior Teams danced their absolute socks off and not only did themselves proud but also the School and Miss Riddell.

The girls put so much time and effort into choreographing and perfecting their dances and blew everyone away on the night.



A huge well done to our Senior team who put on a powerful performance to portray female empowerment. What an asset to the school the girls are.

Congratulations to all of this block's sports stars! These students have been selected by their PE teachers for showing excellent effort, demonstrating positive attitudes and for good behaviour over the past 6 weeks.

### Ms Campbell

- S1 - Aiden Mitchell
- S2 - Ben Gilmour
- S3 - Klay Wynne-Cole
- S4 - Ewan Kennedy



### Miss Evans

- S1 - Megan Paterson
- S2 - Ben Philp
- S2 - Lara Curran



### Miss Riddell

- S1 - Stewart Hall
- S1 - Jemma Ritchie
- S3 - Amar Oyegun
- S3 - Claudia Miller



### Mr Croser

- S1 - Paul Keeble
- S1 - Ollie Penrice
- S1 - Sophie Elliot
- S4 - Hannah Robertson



### Mr Yardley

- S1 - Nathan Toms
- S1 - Rihanna Wilkins
- S2 - Ellie Murray
- S3 - Daniel Flett



### Mr Robertson

- S1 - Robyn McKissock
- S2 - Thomas Glen
- S2 - Markuss Bilerts
- S3 - Lewis Rennie



A huge CONGRATULATIONS to our Junior team who came FIRST!!

All the girls were absolutely incredible and it was a joy to have them represent Deans. Well done to everyone involved!!



Follow us on Twitter: @DeanschsPE



## Sportathon a Great Success!

This year's sportathon was a huge success. Over 80 students raised more than £4,600 which will allow us to offer opportunities in sport for our students over the next two years or so. A special mention to Erin Duncan and Hannah Millar who raised over £1000 between them! The students who took part were absolutely brilliant from start to finish.



## Celebrating Sport



Congratulations to James Tocher (S4), who won Sportsman of the Year at the recent Celebrating Sport awards ceremony held in Linlithgow.

The award was presented after James was crowned Scottish, European and World Archery champion at his age group despite only taking up the sport a few years ago.

Congratulations to James on an incredible achievement and his well deserved recognition!



## Swimming Success for Ashley

Well done to Ashley Merson who gave an outstanding performance at the recent West Lothian Schools Swimming Event.

Ashley came first in three out of the four events she competed in, achieving gold in her 100m back, 100m breast and 200m IM events.

Well done Ashley - an excellent achievement!



## Gold School Sport Award for the Third Time

Deans Community High School has been awarded the Gold School Sport Award by SportScotland for the third time!

This award recognises the school's contribution to the Health and Wellbeing of our students by placing sport and PE at the heart of our values.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in helping us to achieve this award again, including parents/carers, staff and students!



Our website - [www.deanscommunityhighschool.com](http://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: [wdeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wdeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk)

