


# Deans Newsletter

March 2019

 @deanschs

Deans Community High School

Head Teacher: Pauline Allison

## Head Lines

As we are fast approaching the end of another very busy term, it is heartening to see how much our students have achieved, both in school and out with. They continue to participate in a wide range of activities, adding to their ever developing skills, and the following pages give you a sample of the opportunities that our students have made the most of this term.

As a school, we continue to evaluate the service we provide for our young people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers, students and partners who have taken the time to offer us feedback throughout the session. Our Student Council and Parent Council have been very active in evaluating the work of the school. A large focus for this year's evaluations has been on wider support for students and the curriculum, and this will continue through until the summer term, with invitations for you to participate in some short surveys. The results of the evaluations and any actions taken forward will be issued to all in our school community.

### SQA Examinations

S4 – S6 students are now in the final lead up to their SQA examinations. It is therefore vital that they make the most of the Easter break and use this time to study hard. A large number of Easter Study classes will be running in school and students have been issued with a copy of the Easter School timetable. Copies are also uploaded in the School Information section at the top of the webpage under Student Information and details are also contained on the school app. I would urge students to make full use of these classes, but also ask that parents and carers encourage their children to follow this up with plenty of revision at home too. Prior to the Easter break, students will be given details of what the SQA's expectations of them are with regards to conduct in exams and what to do should they fall ill on the day of an exam along with a letter giving details of study leave, etc. Should you have any queries about the exams, please contact Mrs Bleach (Senior DHT) at the school.

## Deans are Scottish Schools' Handball Champions for the Fourth Time

Deans Community High School made the short trip to Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility in Motherwell recently, looking to regain their title as Scottish Schools' Champions having lost out to Kelvinside Academy last year.

In what was a very competitive tournament, the Deans players won all of their group games against the 6 other schools present. This meant they faced a determined Auchinleck team in the 1st v 2nd place final. After a close start, Deans powered through the gears as the game progressed and ultimately won 13 -4.

A fantastic team effort from all of the players involved means Deans are now the S5/6 Scottish Schools' Handball Champions for the 4th time in 5 years.

A great achievement for the Handball Team!



Eastwood Park, Livingston EH54 8PS  
Telephone: 01506 282155  
[www.deanscommunityhighschool.com](http://www.deanscommunityhighschool.com)  
email: [wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk)





# Expressive Arts



## Rotary Young Musician of the Year

Rebecca MacDonald (S4) and MJ Bal (S5) represented Deans in the Rotary Young Musician local heats at Heriot Watt University in January.

Rebecca competed in the Vocal Heat and MJ performed Piano in the Instrumental Heat. Both did very well and got some great feedback from Dr. Steven King, Musician in Residence at Heriot Watt.



## Legally Blonde

Rehearsals for the next school show are well under way. If anyone is still interested in being on the stage in the school show, it's not too late!

Speak to your Music or Drama teacher ASAP as auditions will take place in March and our cast will be announced soon after.

Watch this space for more updates....



## Percussion Ensemble - Success!

Deans Percussion Ensemble competed in the SBBA Scottish Championships in February. They won their heat with a performance of Soup's On and Double Trouble from Harry Potter. They are now Scottish Champions! Well done to the Percussion Ensemble and their instructor, Ms Naish!



## Gold Awards for Bands

In December Deans Cluster Wind Band and Deans Senior Wind Band took part in the Scottish Concert Band Festival at Inveralmond.

Both bands were awarded a Gold Award and went on to perform in the Finals at Perth Concert Hall this month where they both achieved Gold again.

Well done to all students and to their conductor Mrs Scobie!





## February was LGBT History Month

We showed support and raised awareness in a variety of ways throughout the month.

### House Assemblies

Assemblies were held by the School and House Captains for all year groups to help inform students and raise awareness of LGBT History Month.

This year the theme was based around **CATALYST: 50 Years of Activism**. The theme marked the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall protests in New York in 1969, and the birth of the modern Pride movement.

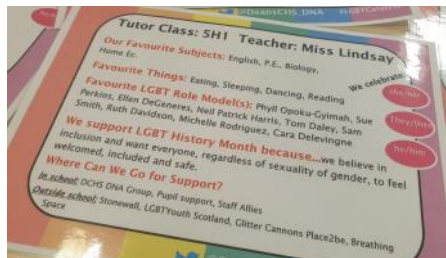


### Staff Profiles

Staff Allies have been showing support by putting up personal profiles about themselves. These profiles showed their support, their preferred pronoun as well as information about where students can be directed for support.

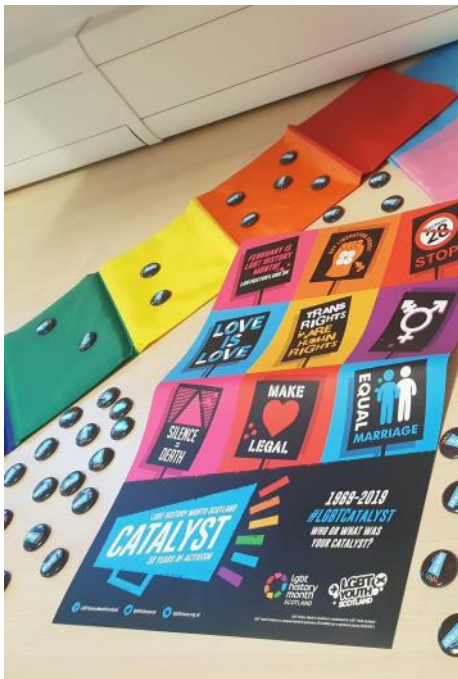
### Tutor Profiles

Tutors also showed their support for LGBT History Month by displaying their tutor profiles which included information about their LGBT Role Models and why they support LGBT History Month.



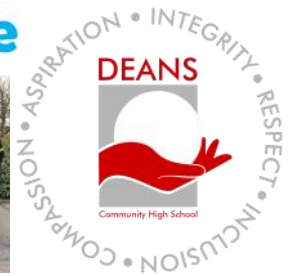
## Purple Friday and LGBT Youth Scotland Campaign

On Friday 22nd February students raised money for LGBT Youth Scotland by taking part in their Purple Friday campaign. Students accessorised their uniforms by wearing purple to show support.





# Developing the Young Workforce



## Students Gain Skills and Insight into Careers in the Retail Industry

Retail students, Jessica Bailie, Brandon Tregartha, Sarah Louise King and Tayler Steel visited Livingston Designer Outlet over a three week period attending workshops that give them skills and an insight into careers in the Retail Industry.

The students took part in the following workshops and the students gained a lot of valuable skills and tips for following a career in Retail. It has also allowed our two Retail students to gain some of their unit passes for their final qualification in Retail.



**Visual Merchandising** - The students were shown around the Designer Outlet by Janette Woods who is the head of Visual Merchandising for the outlet. She explained the ins and outs of the profession and allowed them to try their own hand at some Visual Merchandising by dressing up mannequins.

The students were really enthusiastic and creative in their dressing of the mannequins.

**Careers in Retail** - This was led by the store manager of Fred Perry and was very insightful into the process of gaining a job in the industry. He gave the students valuable tips from CV writing to how they should conduct themselves in interviews in the industry.

This was a great opportunity for the students to learn some insight into how to gain a job.

**Customer Service** - This was led by Karen Ainslie, who is head of Customer Service in the outlet. She went over the importance of Customer Service and explained the skills required to ensure customers receive excellent customer service at all times while shopping.

## S2 Careers Week

We welcomed over 20 professionals into Deans for our week long S2 Careers Week. Pupils engaged in a number of sessions throughout the week, linking their subjects to different career paths.

Professionals from a wide range of careers shared their job role with our students, as well as their subjects at school and the career path they took to get to their chosen career.

Many employers put on a hands-on session for our students, engaging them in activities and allowing them to see equipment in practice.



## My World of Work Ambassadors



The Ambassadors have attended S2 PSE lessons, some S1 PSE lessons and recently attended the S3 Parent's Evening where they showcased the My World of Work website highlighting how useful it is for our students when researching their careers paths and choosing their subjects for next year. Pictured at the S3 Parent's Evening are:

Awais Ghaffar - 3C1  
Claudia Miller - 3C1  
Amar Oyegun - 3C1  
Jac O'Neil - 3C1  
Eve Robertson - 3D1  
David Ross - 3H1  
Fraser MacColl - 3C2

Our other ambassadors include:

Lexi Taylor-Duff - 3C2  
Anna Nyquist - 3H3  
Sophie Ure - 3D1  
Azzam Fasel - 3C2  
Jessica Gorman - 3H2

## Former Students Promote STEM

Former Deans Community High School students Mark Lang and Cory Dunnigan returned to the Science Department on Thursday to speak with students about the importance of the STEM subjects and how these subjects have shaped their careers. Mark is now a Naval Engineer, in charge of weapons systems, and Cory is now a Junior Doctor. Both studied the Sciences and Mathematics at Deans until they left in 2011 and they discussed how the skills and knowledge they learned at school through these subjects, had set them on the path to their current careers.



Students from S2, S3 and senior students were given time to listen and ask questions on Mark and Cory's personal experiences of STEM subjects and how these subject have contributed to their success in their careers. Students were very appreciative of their advice and guidance especially at a time of course choice for S2 and S3, with many senior students considering their future careers.



## S5 Students Experience Mock Interviews

All S5 students were given the opportunity to further develop their employability skills through Mock Interviews.

Deans welcomed 16 Business Representatives from a range of local companies into the school to conduct the mock interviews.

Students were asked 3 interview questions and provided with written feedback on their answers as well as tips for future interviews. Well done to all of the students who were interviewed and a big thank you to the Business Representatives for their support.





## STEM Assemblies for S2 Students

Members of our community from STEM-related jobs recently presented to our S2 students in the theatre. The purpose of the assembly was to make students aware of STEM and how STEM-related subjects can help their educational progression through the use of speakers talking directly about their own experiences. There is a STEM employment growth which will continue for the next 10 years. This means there are more opportunities for students progressing through the modern apprenticeships, College and University route to fill these spaces. There is also a major uneven gender balance in these jobs where females make up a very small percentage.

## It is now official: Literacy is fun!

The students in the photograph below attend Deans Community High School EAL (English as an Additional Language) Base on Friday mornings. Ms. Montgomery delivers ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) as part of a partnership programme with West Lothian College and EAL students from all over the county study for SQA qualifications designed to improve Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening, reinforcing literacy across all areas of the secondary curriculum and helping to ensure more positive destinations after leaving school.

The course is delivered to students working at a variety of different levels through a number of different learning and teaching styles, with students evidencing great success as they move between school and college in classes at Early Literacies stage and then into Nationals 2, 3, 4, 5 and Higher.

The photograph demonstrates great teamworking as students take time out from textbook lessons to put into practice their understanding of Prepositions such as in, out, around, through, over, under, behind, in front of . . . all consolidated within the context of playing football.

EAL students are fully integrated into the ESOL lessons and over time learn the skills of working together to forge friendships with those from other schools and other nationalities and quite importantly, becoming tolerant and accepting of working collaboratively within mixed group/teams. The sharing of expressions in different languages and the laughter and appreciation of goals scored (sometimes in the wrong net) make this particular activity a thoroughly enjoyable way to learn.

### Who says Literacy has to be boring?

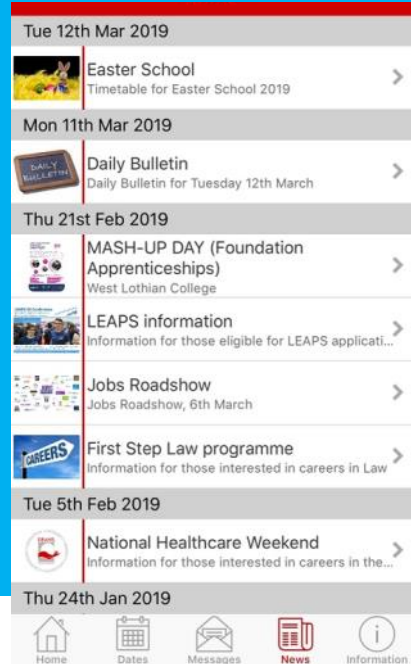


## Dates for your Diary

All Break	05	Apr
All Resume	23	Apr
All Break	03	May
Staff Resume	07	May
Students Resume	08	May
Victoria Day Holiday	20	May
All Break	28	Jun
Staff Resume*	19	Aug
Students Resume*	20	Aug

\* to be confirmed

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(Deans CHS)

## British Cycling Level 1 Leaders

We held a very successful cycle training and assessment day for our British Cycling Level 1 leaders;

Jamie Steel  
Stephen Gillon  
Arran Gregory

Margaret Stevenson  
Douglas Anderson  
(Ewan Farr was ready for it all but broke his hand the night before!!)

Nicola Robertson  
Alan Davidson

The team had put in extensive preparation, with Mr Steele, leading up to the day, and this paid off with all 7 of them passing and now being BC Level 1 leaders.

The was led by Carl from British Cycling who traveled down from Fort William where he works for the School of Adventure studies.

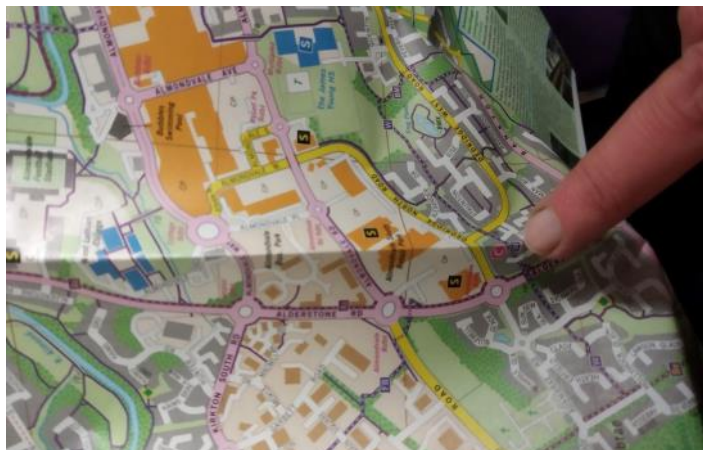
The day consisted of some theory training, some practical work on bike repair and maintenance, a cycling techniques workshop and finally a chance to show their leadership skills by leading the group round the local bike trails.

Well done all and watch this space for more mountain bike things in the school soon.

Mr Steele would like to thank both Lowport and British Cycling (Christine Fox in particular) for their huge help with getting the school BC Level 1 accredited and now the new team.

The school has now started to trial a Bike Excellence Award for S1 students to choose, run by the new Level 1 BC Leaders.

**We need your help** - What Mountain Biking activities would you like to see at Deans? Speak to Mr Steele or one of the new leaders about what you would like to see in the school and we will make it happen.



# Sporting Success at Deans Community High School

## Scottish Schools Indoor Track and Field

Well done to David Threlfall who represented Deans at the recent Scottish Schools Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Emirates Arena.

David competed in the high jump, managing to clear 1.7m. Well done David!



## Girls Basketball Team

Well done to the S1-S3 girls basketball team for finishing joint 3rd in the girls basketball competition.

A superb effort from all involved!



## Sports Leaders Ceilidh Event Enjoyed by All



Well done and thank you to everyone who came along to the Christmas Ceilidh this year. Great to see over 200 students dancing and having fun.

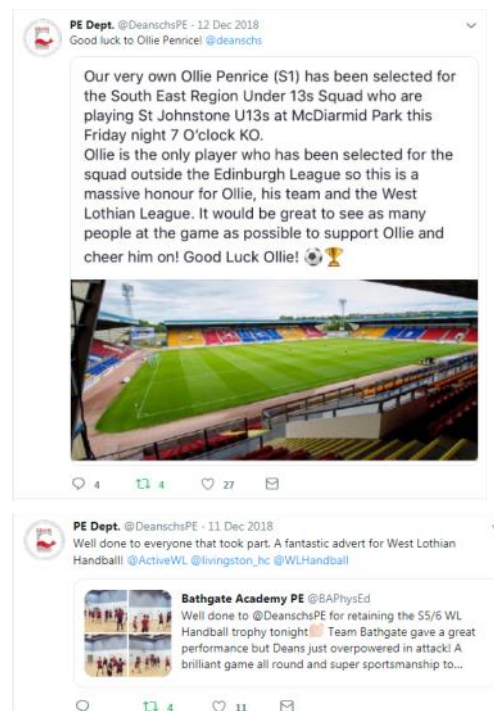
Congratulations to the Sports Leaders for organising and leading such a successful event.



## @DeanschsPE



Follow us on Twitter: [@DeanschsPE](https://twitter.com/DeanschsPE)



**PE Dept. @DeanschsPE · 12 Dec 2018**  
Good luck to Ollie Penrice! @deanschs

Our very own Ollie Penrice (S1) has been selected for the South East Region Under 13s Squad who are playing St Johnstone U13s at McDiarmid Park this Friday night 7 O'clock KO. Ollie is the only player who has been selected for the squad outside the Edinburgh League so this is a massive honour for Ollie, his team and the West Lothian League. It would be great to see as many people at the game as possible to support Ollie and cheer him on! Good Luck Ollie! 🏆

**PE Dept. @DeanschsPE · 11 Dec 2018**  
Well done to everyone that took part. A fantastic advert for West Lothian Handball! @ActiveWL @Livingston\_hc @WLHandball

**Bathgate Academy PE @BAPhysEd**  
Well done to @DeanschsPE for retaining the S5/6 WL Handball trophy tonight! Team Bathgate gave a great performance but Deans just overpowered in attack! A brilliant game all round and super sportsmanship to...





## West Lothian Schools Gymnastics Competition

Huge congratulations to all the gymnasts who represented Deans at the WL Schools Competition. You were all amazing!

Special mention to the Level 3 team, Anna Glasgow, Cara Flood and Jodi Troup who won the Level 3 team trophy. Anna also won individual gold, Cara silver and Jodi Bronze. Well done girls!

Level 2 gymnasts Zoe Dunn, Emily Roberts, Neve Mitchell and Charlie Keay won bronze medals, a great achievement!

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 in PE and extra-curricular sport.

### Miss Riddell

- S1 - Hannah Dickson
- S2 - Connor Fraser
- S2 - Kodie Butt
- S3 - Awais Ghaffar



### Miss Evans

- S1 - Katie McCluskie
- S2 - Steven Tait
- S3 - Jake Leighton
- S3 - Neve Young



### Ms Campbell

- S1 - Louisa Barrie
- S2 - Kacie Walker
- S3 - Ashley Merson
- S4 - Ethan Wrinn



### Mr Croser

- S1 - Ryan Hentges
- S1 - Sarah Smith
- S1 - Zaki Choudhry
- S1 - Nicole Blacklaws



### Mr Yardley

- S1 - Holly Hurst
- S1 - Emily Scott
- S2 - Jennifer Carter
- S3 - James Anderson



### Mr Robertson

- S1 - Anya McLaren
- S1 - Max Burdon
- S2 - Megan Millar
- S2 - Karen Sturrock



	School Name	Points	Number of events attended	Comps Won
			31 events	
1	St Margaret's Academy	181	31	3
2	Bathgate Academy	179	31	2
3	Deans CHS	168	31	2
4	Linlithgow Academy	112	18	4
5	St Kentigern's Academy	109	20	
6	The James Young HS	96	16	
7	Inverlmond CHS	86	20	
8	Broxburn Academy	81	18	2
9	Armadaale Academy	80	18	
10	West Calder HS	62	16	
11	Whitburn Academy	22	6	

Here is the up to date league table! We are still sitting in third place behind St Margaret's and Bathgate Academy but we're not far behind!

Huge thanks to everyone that has made it possible to attend all 31 events so far. Still a long way to go so if you haven't already, get involved!



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)

