


# Deans Newsletter

October 2019

 @deanschs

Deans Community High School

Head Teacher: Pauline Allison

## Examination Results

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2019-20 session. Our students got us off to an outstanding start by once again achieving a wonderful set of examination results. 36% 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, 67% gained one or more Highers or equivalent, 51% gained 3 or more Highers or equivalent and 34% achieved 5 or more Highers or equivalent. In Advanced Highers, 17% gained one or more pass. Congratulations go to all students on their success, all of which was achieved through hard work and perseverance throughout the year.

## 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/article/30584/Improvement-Plan>, you can access a summary of the plan in this section too. 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/article/30585/Standards-Quality-Report>.

## Staffing News

We have had a number of staffing changes across the school. Mr Krausen left to take up a new post as PTC Maths at Inveralmond CHS and Mrs Thain retired. We have a number of new staff joining us this session: Mr Bee (Art & Design), Mr Cummings (Computing), Ms Lynch (Business Education), Mr McBride (Modern Studies/History), Ms Garrod (Maths) and Ms Luke (Music).

## 'You Said, We Did'

Last session we asked for the opinions of parents/carers, students and staff on a number of areas. As a result of this we are making changes to the curriculum, have increased the number of days our school counsellors are available, bought in lockers for S4 students and introduced blazers to all year groups. We very much value your views and appreciate you taking the time to help us improve the experiences of our students here at Deans.

## 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.

Students who are not in uniform will continue to be challenged by staff. 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

All Break	11	Oct
Staff Resume	21	Oct
Students Resume	22	Oct
Assessment Week* (*Senior Phase)	22	Oct
Music Camp	25-27	Oct
S1 Parents' Evening	13	Nov
S4 Parents' Evening	26	Nov
All Break	20	Dec
Staff Resume	6	Jan
Students Resume	7	Jan
Prelims Start* (*Senior Phase)	7	Jan
All Break	13	Feb
Staff Resume	18	Feb
Students Resume	19	Feb
S3 Parents' Evening	20	Feb
S2 Parents' Evening	25	Feb

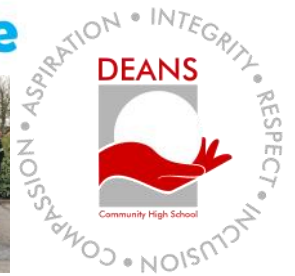


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# Developing the Young Workforce



## Career Ready

Career Ready is a structured two year programme which links employers with schools and colleges in order to help young people prepare for the world of work.

At Deans, Career Ready 2019 is off to a great start! We have successfully appointed three new Career Ready students who attended the Career Ready Launch where they met their mentors and engaged with other Career Ready students.

Our year two Career Ready students successfully completed a four week internship during the summer holidays with their mentors workplace - NHS Scotland and BNY Mellon and are looking forward to continuing the Career Ready programme this year.



## Young Professionals

This month fifteen of our senior students attended the Young Professionals Conference at Dynamic Earth.

Students heard from a number of keynote speakers from a range of the worlds leading businesses and engaged in a variety of practical workshops.

Our young people gained a good insight into the career opportunities available within these businesses with a big emphasis on the skills needed by applicants.

## Mock Interviews

Fifteen of our Business Partners interviewed S4 students during our Mock Interview event recently. They provided our students with excellent feedback to help prepare them for future destinations.



## Equal Engineers Event at Napier University

A group of S3 students travelled to an Equal Engineers event at Napier University in Edinburgh. The students got a lot of useful information from the event and had the opportunity to speak with a number of employers to discuss educational progression routes such as apprenticeships and graduate programmes.





# Expressive Arts



Tech Day



The Legally Blonde Tech Day gave senior students the opportunity to start their NPA in Technical Theatre with the help of some professionals. Thanks to Murray at MM Sound and Lighting for showing us the ropes! Watch this space for more news and pictures from Legally Blonde.

## New Drama Studio

Over the summer holidays we gained the addition of a brand new Drama Studio. This fantastic new facility is kitted out with state of the art lighting and sound equipment and is a brilliant new performing space.

Students from S1 to our new Higher Classes are already enjoying this new addition to the Drama Department.

Watch this space for future Drama work at Deans...



## Music Exam Success

Fifth year students Rebecca MacDonald and Linsey Esplin sat their Associate Board Grade 5 Music Theory exams recently.

Both students passed with distinction.

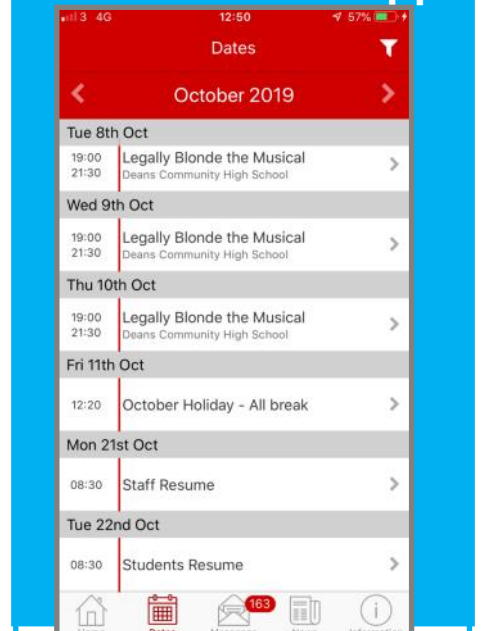
Well done girls, this is a fantastic achievement!

## West Lothian Schools Pipe Band Success

The West Lothian Schools Pipe Band placed 2nd in the World Pipe Band Championships recently. Congratulations to all of the band and their tutors Mr Canning and Mr Ross on such a fantastic achievement. The band were also runners up at the Scottish, British and UK Championships this season.



## Download our App



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# LIBRARY

## Roald Dahl Week

The Roald Dahl week was a great success with lots of displays and activities for our students.

The students loved all the displays, especially Willy Wonka and the BFG - a number of them loved being able to take a selfie with their favourite character. They also really liked being given a golden ticket and having to push the doors of the factory open to enter the library.

Lots of them had fun sticking gruesome stuff onto Mr Twit's beard.



## UNO Club

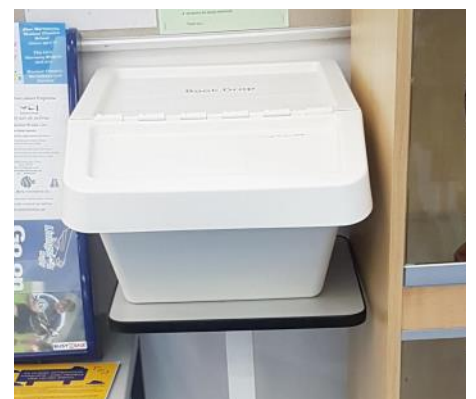
An UNO Club has started up in the library for all year groups. Come along and join in Monday lunchtimes and Monday to Thursday breaktimes. Due to the popularity of the club, Scott Forbes, the organiser, is appealing for more UNO cards. If you have any that you don't use any more please hand them in to the Library FAO Scott.



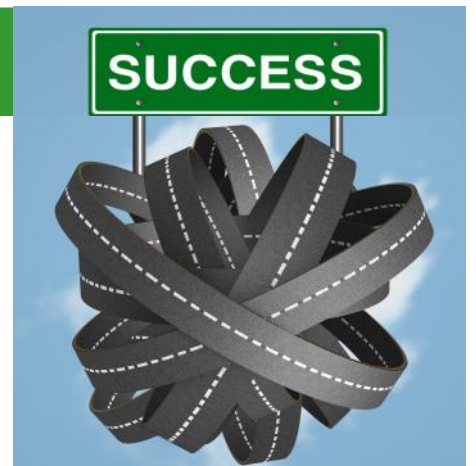
## Book Returns

Please return any overdue Library books you have and remember there's a book drop box at reception you can return them to, if you are not able to return them to the Library.

The Library is always happy to receive any donations of books, board games, etc.



# Pathways to Success



## Further and Higher Info Evening Feedback

The Further and Higher Education Information Evening was a great success. Our visitors from universities and other agencies were impressed with the enthusiasm of our students throughout the evening.

If you attended and have not filled in our feedback yet, please remember to do so.

The link is: <https://bit.ly/2kJ8GiB>

## UCAS Convention

S6 students who attended the UCAS Convention at the Royal Highland Centre recently got to ask lots of questions and find out information about a number of universities.

The students who attended really enjoyed their day and as this event took place on a school holiday they should be praised for their dedication.

The students pictured are writing on the 'Dream Wall'.



## Edinburgh University - YourEd Partnership

Edinburgh University delivered a session for all our university applicants. This is the first time the University has done this and we are delighted to be part of this partnership.

The students involved got a lot from the day and the feedback shows that their confidence increased following the session.



# HEALTH and Wellbeing...

## Be Real Campaign



We hosted our first BeReal Campaign meeting recently and to our delight we had an incredible turnout from our students. The BeReal group has been set up in order to promote positive body image and confidence in and around the school and the campaign will be run by our BeReal Ambassadors and Champions.

It was incredible to see 55 students, from S1 all the way through to S6, turn up to the meeting and with so many staff already backing the group we are confident it will really help make a positive change.

If you missed the meeting but have a keen interest in becoming an ambassador or have any ideas you would like to share please see Miss Riddell in P.E.

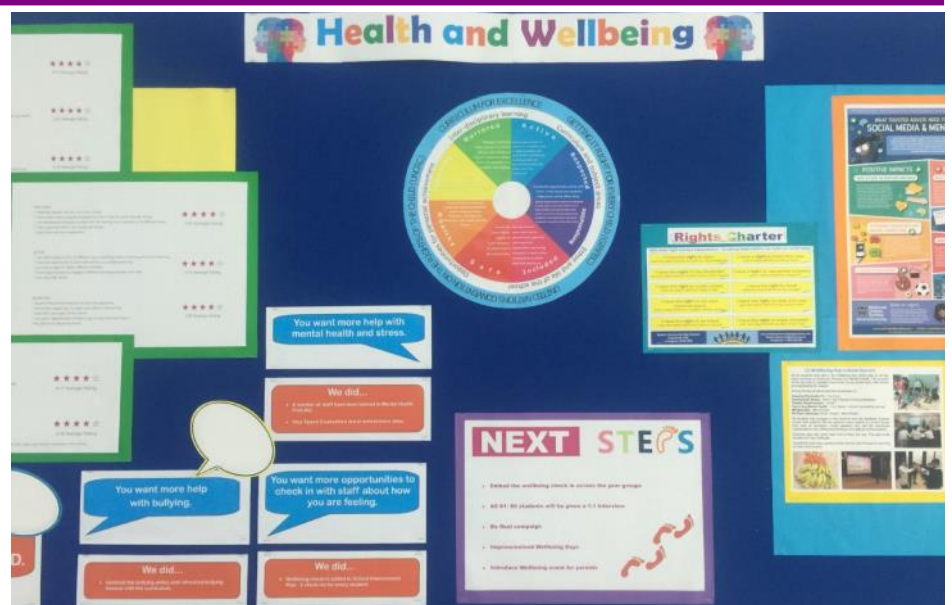
Thank you to everyone who turned up to the meeting, it's overwhelming to see such an amazing response.

## Well-Being Check-in

The well-being check-in is a new initiative in school to get a snapshot of how our students feel about their well-being.

All students were asked to complete a well-being check-in where they rated themselves on the well-being indicators.

Following this, students will now have well-being conversations with a member of school staff throughout the session.



# HUMANITIES

## Students Enjoyed Cairngorms Experience

A group of 2nd and 3rd year students enjoyed a fantastic few days away in the Cairngorms during the final week of last session.

The group enjoyed a variety of activities and experiences, learning about the history and geography of the area, and visited some of the most popular tourist attractions. The weather was also fantastic.

A huge thanks in particular to Mrs Hodgson for organising such a successful trip, and to our senior student helpers, Kieran Rhodes and Piper Cluness, who were a big help to the staff team.



Enjoying the beach at Loch Morlich

## Charity Fundraising

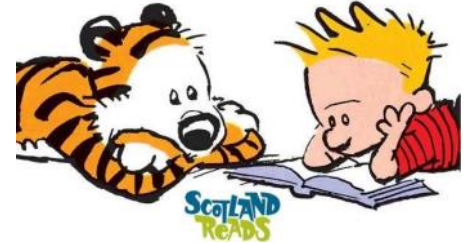


All S4 RME classes are organising events to raise money for Jak's Den. Hazel, from Jak's Den, has been into speak at assemblies about what the charity does. We are looking forward to bake sales, cinema afternoon, etc.

The S6 Charity Committee organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning for staff in the Library which raised £240.07.

## Scotland Reads

Our S6 students involved in 'Scotland Reads' have started volunteering at cluster primary schools.



## Lessons from Auschwitz

Hannah Longson and Mason Mackenzie are the school's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Ambassadors. They are visiting Poland this month (with Miss Lindsay) and their role is to educate others in the school when they come back.

## Ambassadors

**Humanities Ambassadors:** Rory Elliot, Andrew Havelock, Zahra Khalid, Hannah Longson, Mason Mackenzie, Francesca Raducu, Amanda Stout, Aimee Wardlaw, Travis Woodhead. This group will be organising Remembrance and Holocaust Memorial Day events as well as representing the Humanities Faculty at council events and parents' evenings.



## European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages took place in September. S1 students participated in a fun quiz designed by Miss Cabezudo, where they had to go all over the school finding clues in different languages and answering questions. Winners from each class got some great prizes!

***Merci, gracias und danke to all who took part!***

# Spotlight on... SCIENCE



**Excellence Awards**



**'A' Grade Mugs**

'A grade' Higher Chemistry students receiving their Periodic Table mugs.



**Student Talk**

Former students returned to the Science Department to speak about how to be successful in exams and in the sciences. They gave advice on how to get ahead in further and higher education, after successfully completing their 1st year at university.

Our students were given time to listen and ask questions on the former student's personal experiences of successfully navigating through National 5s, Highers and Advanced Highers. They were also given hints and tips on study and work life balance.

The former students also spoke about their experiences of life at university and the increasing opportunities in the Sciences.

Students were appreciative of their advice and guidance especially at this time when they are starting to plan and prepare their study routines.



**Science Club Rocket Launching**





# Physical Education News



## Young Ambassadors



The PE department are delighted to announce that this year's Young Ambassadors have been chosen.

Rachel McLean and Ellie Foster will work to promote sport and PE within Deans CHS and provide further opportunities for our students to take part in physical activity.

Well done to both girls for being selected!

More announcements about our student leadership team will be made shortly @deanschspe.

Here are some highlights of 2018-19 in PE and School Sport! Almost 40% of the school roll taking part in some extra-curricular activity is phenomenal and really highlights the commitment of our young people here at Deans. Thank you to everyone that contributed to this success last year.



## Deans CHS 18-19

- Distinct participants - 394 in 18-19 (39.6% school roll) 2016 - 226 (33.6%), 2017 - 446 (45.4%)
- 18 school and community club links
- Gold sportsScotland School Sport Award maintained
- 228 activity sessions took place - extra-curricular
- 33 activity sessions blocks - extra-curricular over 4 terms
- 100% of extra-curricular delivered by school lead volunteers
- 55% of participants in extra-curricular activities were female
- 13 activity blocks were offered throughout the school year  
Including:  
Netball, Dance, Basketball, football, badminton, gymnastics, rugby, handball, Swimming & others



@Deanschspe  
@ActiveS\_Deans



## Sarah is Representing Scotland at Judo

Best of luck to our very own Sarah Smith in S2 as she travels to Walsall, England to represent Scotland at the Commonwealth Championships in Judo.

**Good Luck Sarah!**



## Students Selected for Coach Academy

Well done to Charlie, Dion, Ellie, Emily, Harvey, Katie, Kirsty, Matthew and Robbie who have all been selected for this year's Coach Academy West Lothian intake.

The students were chosen following two selection dates during the Summer.

Coach Academy will help to develop their skills and qualities as leaders as well as further develop the students employability skills.

## After School Sporting Opportunities

This term's after-school clubs are now up and running! All clubs are open to all age groups and abilities so please get involved!

**Just come along on the day. Everyone welcome!**



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**@ActiveS\_Deans**

# TIMETABLE

Day	Sport	Venue	Coach
Monday	Girls Football (LT)	Sports Hall	Mrs Coulter
	Dance	Dance Studio	Miss Riddell
	Rugby	Outside (weather pending)	Mr Croser
	Volleyball & Badminton	Sports Hall & small Gym	Mr Robertson
Tuesday	Netball	Sports Hall	Mr Yardley
Wednesday	Basketball	Sports Hall	Miss Evans
	Gymnastics	Small Gym	Ms Campbell
Thursday	Table Tennis (LT)	Dance Studio	Mrs Simpson
	Hockey / Football	Outside (weather pending)	Mr Caskie
Friday	Football	Please speak to Mr Yardley, Miss Evans & Mr McBride	

## After School Dance Club

Huge thank you to Nicola from PSA who did an amazing job of leading a recent after-school dance club session. What. A. Pro!

There is always plenty of space for anyone who would like to come along (Mondays after school). See Miss Riddell for more details.



## Kieran Rocks!

We were delighted to hear that former student, Kieran Allan has been selected by Glasgow Rocks this season as a professional development player.

Kieran said:

*"I'm absolutely delighted to join the Glasgow Rocks as it is giving me the opportunity to play and train at one of the highest levels, with some of the best players and coaches in the BBL. This opportunity is also allowing me to further my education at Glasgow Kelvin College as a member of the Rocks Academy."*

Congratulations, Kieran!

Credit: Radisson RED Glasgow Rocks



## Top Fielding Award

Congratulations to S1 student Lennon Fordy who won the U12 Fielding Award 2019 at Livingston Cricket Club.

Lennon has been a member of the cricket club since they visited his school in Primary 3. He trains every Sunday and enjoys his match every Friday throughout the season.

Well done Lennon!



West Lothian School Sport Partnership 2019 - 2020

# secondary schools sporting calendar

September 2019			December 2019			February 2020		
Wed 11	S1-S3 Girls Handball	Bathgate Academy	Wed 4	S4-S6 Volleyball (Boys & Girls)	West Calder HS	Thu 20	S1-S3 Girls Basketball Finals	Bathgate Academy
Wed 18	Cross Country Entry Deadline	N/A	Fri 6	S1-S3 Girls 7 a-side Football Finals	Broxburn Academy			
Thu 19	S4-S6 Girls Basketball Finals	Bathgate Academy	Fri 13	S4-S6 Girls 9 a-side Football Finals	Bathgate Academy			
Wed 25	S1-S3 Girls Handball Finals	Bathgate Academy						
Fri 27	Rugby S1-S2 Boys Rugby 7's S3-S4 Boys Rugby 7's S1-S3 Girls Tartan Touch Rugby 5's S4-S6 Girls Tartan Touch Rugby 5's	Linlithgow Rugby Club & Linlithgow Academy						

October 2019			January 2020			March 2020		
Wed 2	WL Cross Country Championships	Dechmont Law	Tue 14	S3-S4 Basketball Finals	Bathgate Academy	Fri 20	S1-S3 Netball Finals	St Margaret's RC Academy
Thu 3	S5-S6 Basketball Finals	Bathgate Academy	Fri 17	S4-S6 Girls Netball Finals	St Margaret's RC Academy			
			Thu 23	S3-S4 Handball - Boys Only (East & West Conf)	East: Deans CHS West: Armadale Academy			
			Tue 28	PE Competition Network Meeting	Bathgate Academy			
			Thu 30	WL Gymnastics Competition S3-S4 Handball Finals - Boys Only	Venue TBC Deans CHS Armadale Academy			

November 2019			May 2020		
Sun 3	WL Swimming Championships	Deans CHS	Fri 15	Multi-Sport 2 S1-S2 Boys Rugby 10's Finals S1-S3 Girls Tartan Touch Rugby 5's Finals	Livingston Rugby Club
Wed 13	S5-S6 Handball - Boys Only (East & West Conf)	East: Deans CHS West: Linlithgow Acad	Wed 20	S1-S2 Handball (East & West Conf)	East: Inverlmond CHS West: Armadale Academy
Fri 15	Multi-Sport 1 S1-S2 Giant Heptathlon S3-S4 Boys Rugby 10's Finals S4-S6 Girls Tartan Touch Rugby Finals	Armadale Academy	Thu 21	WL Gymfest	James Young HS or Astro
Tue 19	WL Dance Competition	Howden Park Centre	Wed 27	Track and Field Entry Deadline	N/A
Wed 27	S5-S6 Handball Finals - Boys Only	Linlithgow Academy Deans CHS	Thu 28	S1-S2 Basketball Finals	Bathgate Academy

League Points Scoring					
Competitions in green:					
1st - 11pts	4th - 8pts	7th - 5pts	10th - 2pts		
2nd - 10pts	5th - 7pts	8th - 4pts	11th - 1pt		
3rd - 9pts	6th - 6pts	9th - 3pts			
Competitions in black: 3pts for attendance					

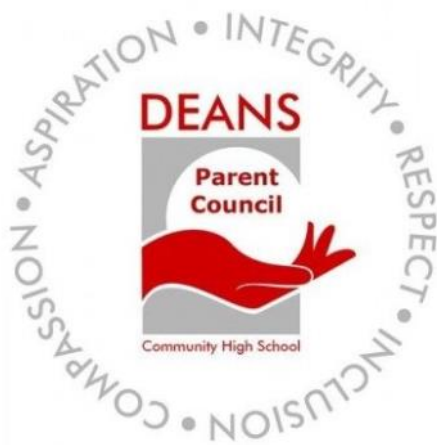
  

June 2020		
Wed 3	S1-S2 Handball Finals	Inverlmond CHS Armadale Academy
Wed 10	Track & Field Championships	Grangemouth Stadium
Mon 22	PE Competition Network Meeting	Bathgate Academy

➤ For more information please contact:  
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telephone: 07917184112

[www.activerestlothian.com](http://www.activerestlothian.com)

This is the West Lothian School Sport calendar for this year. There are plenty of sports and events to get involved with. If you'd like to take part, speak to your PE teacher who will give you more information.



## Parent Council

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

Meetings are held every two months in the Conference room and the dates are advertised in advance on the school website.

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 Monday 25 November.***

## Our School Uniform

- Deans jumper/tank-top or plain black jumper/cardigan.
- Plain black school trousers or skirt.
- Black school shorts or black chino type shorts (not sport or denim).
- 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, black and white Converse, etc).
- S1-S6 black school blazer. (recommended).



## School App for Parents

Please download **School App for Parents** that lets you see news, events and receive important messages.



Scan the QR Code or search for **School App for Parents** in the Google Play or Apple App Store. When you have downloaded the app please search for our school name to see our events, news and receive messages.



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)**

