

# Deans Newsletter

January 2020



@deanschs

Deans Community High School

Head Teacher: Pauline Allison

Students have had a busy start to the term, particularly those in the senior phase who have just completed their prelim exams. All will now be receiving feedback from their teachers on how to improve and it is important that all students make the most of this feedback and take steps to work on this. The school offer a wealth of support for students in helping them to achieve, including masterclasses, twilight sessions and digital learning, however this is only effective if students make the most of the support. Should you have any concerns or queries over this, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House or Head of Year.

*Pauline Allison, Head Teacher*

## Great Success for Personal Development Events Senior Citizen's Coffee Morning

On Monday 16th December, Mrs Brown's S5 PSE class welcomed members of our community for a coffee morning, planned as part of their Personal Development course. The morning was filled with lots of chatting, quizzing, bingo and sing-a-long with part of the brilliant school brass band.

The guests were very complimentary of the school and in particular the students who organised and participated in the event - a fantastic morning was had by all!



## Charity Cinema Afternoon for Jak's Den

On Thursday 19th December 4H3 organised a charity cinema afternoon with sweets and the movie 'Elf' as part of their Personal Development course.

The event was well organised and, as a result, ran smoothly on the day with over 180 students in attendance and raising over £300 in aid of Jak's Den.



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# Developing the Young Workforce



## Future Asset Roadshow - West Lothian College

Future Asset is a charity which runs workshops for girls across Scotland introducing them to investment and highlighting possible future careers in asset management and the financial industry.

Four senior girls attended the roadshow at West Lothian College where they worked with investment professionals to manage a portfolio, in the Future Asset Investment Game, choosing where to invest their clients' money. The girls worked in teams developing their interpersonal skills, problem solving skills and resilience.



## S1 STEM Project

Eight S1 students took part in a STEM project over a period of 6 weeks at Craigshill Library. During this time the students carried out a number of projects including building and coding a robot in order to perform a number of tasks.

Students used a 3D pen and 3D printer, designing and creating a number of items including a pair of glasses and a replica of the old style handheld games console.

## SKY ADA Lovelace Day

Six of our S2/S3 girls attended the Ada Lovelace Day run by Sky in Livingston. They took part in workshops focussing on Robotics and Website Design. The girls worked in groups with students from other school in West Lothian, generating ideas for a client in order to create a user interface.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed their experience with sky, developing creativity, coding, evaluating, problem solving and IT skills and finding out about new career possibilities.



## The Royal Navy

The Royal Navy met with the 'Subs in Schools' students who are taking part in a competition to create an underwater vessel.

During the visit they discussed hydrodynamics and answered questions the students had about the tasks involved. The competition is in April at Faslane.

The Royal Navy also spent the afternoon with 40 students from S1 looking at coding and robotics. The students demonstrated their problem solving and creativity skills while completing a number of coding tasks with the robots.





# Developing the Young Workforce



## PWC Experience

Five senior students attended a coaching day with PWC at their offices in Edinburgh. The students took part in a Dragon's Den style activity building communication, problem solving and creativity skills, while developing their idea for a school initiative.

PWC provided students with information on their STEM, Technology and Business careers as well as highlighting the apprenticeship programmes they run with The University of Edinburgh.



## Historic Scotland Event

Twenty five students in S2 attended the Historic Environment Scotland Careers Event in Linlithgow, showcasing careers within the Tourism, Culture and Heritage sectors.

The event was interactive and provided students with the opportunity to learn about various job roles from archaeologists and historians to stonemasons, visitor service staff and education officers.



## Science Career Talk

Dr Scott Paterson from Bristol University gave an interactive and informative presentation on different career opportunities for Science students.

Dr Paterson shared with us his progression pathway and the types of things undertakes as part of his day-to-day job.

## Career Ready

Career Ready students have continued to engage with the Career Ready Masterclasses and build relationships with mentors. We welcomed parents and our mentors into the school to network, celebrate the success of the summer internships and discuss the focus for the year ahead.

## Smart STEM

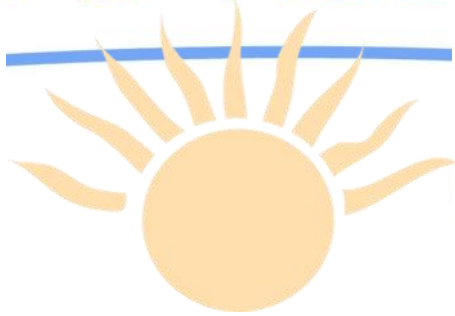
In December a group of S1 girls attended a 'Smart STEM' event at West Lothian College which was run by The Sky Academy.

The focus of the event was 'Women in Technology' where the students developed their leadership and communication skills throughout the day while engaging in a variety of workshops.

They also got to direct and record an advert which was showcased at the end of the day.



# CAREERS ADVICE



## Careers Adviser Support

Careers Adviser "Drop In" sessions:

- S4/S5/S6 - Wed P4 & P5 (Evelyn Rogers)
- S1/S2/S3 - Tues lunchtime (Mick McGuire)

You can contact Evelyn direct:

- E: [evelyn.rogers@sds.co.uk](mailto:evelyn.rogers@sds.co.uk)
- M: 07887824725 or T: 01506 434249 (local centre number)

## Parents Evenings

You can request a meeting with the Careers Adviser using the online booking system for these events. We are keen to work with parents and encourage you to contact us at any time.



**DEANS**  **Where Next?**  
*An Invitation...*  
to all students and parents/carers to visit our



**on Wednesday 12 February 2020  
from 6.00 - 8.00pm.**

This is an excellent opportunity to ask employers and organisations about the **SUBJECTS** and **SKILLS** needed in various occupations.

Information on **PROGRESSION PATHWAYS** will also be available.

Please feel free to pop in for as long as you are able to.  
More information from Lorraine Clark or Emma Ward.



Forty eight S5/6 students gained a better understanding of the degree options and structure at the University of Edinburgh Campus visit.



Speed Networking session to learn more about the student experience.



Nice to see former students Megan (4th year History & Politics) and Iqra (4th year Medical Sciences) talking about their experiences.



Deans Community High School, Eastwood Park, Livingston EH54 8PS





## Food Bank Donations

Dear Mrs Hodgson,

Thanks once again to your S5 PD Class. You must be very proud of them. The Food Bank were delighted to receive the parcels, as they focus on families in need at this time of year. Kathleen Neilly, the Food Bank manager, told me how grateful she was for the donations, and that they will make sure that the boxes are given to the most appropriate families.

*Neil Weatherston, Campaigns Development Officer*



## Restondene Intergenerational Video Project

Deans Community High School have revived their contact with Bield Housing through visiting tenants at their Restondene accommodation between June and December 2019. A small group of students visited weekly, with the school Family Link worker, to run activities with tenants such as reminiscence, interviews and retro crafts as a way of gaining early work experience and building up social skills. We made a film - 'The Life in Our Years' - to document the project, with lots of support from Alison, our Graphics Technician. (You can view the film on our website)

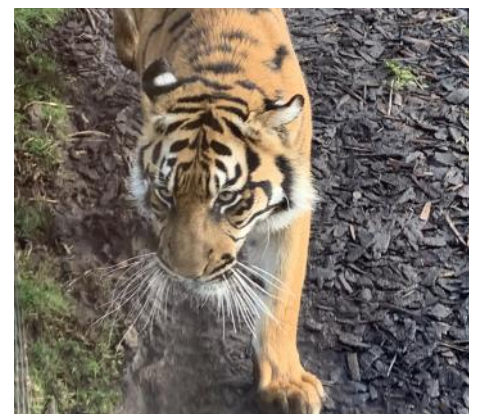


Everyone involved enjoyed the viewing at our end of term celebration for students, their families and the Restondene tenants.

Thanks to the Living Memory Association for allowing us to borrow items from their unit and to Restondene staff and tenants for their participation and support.

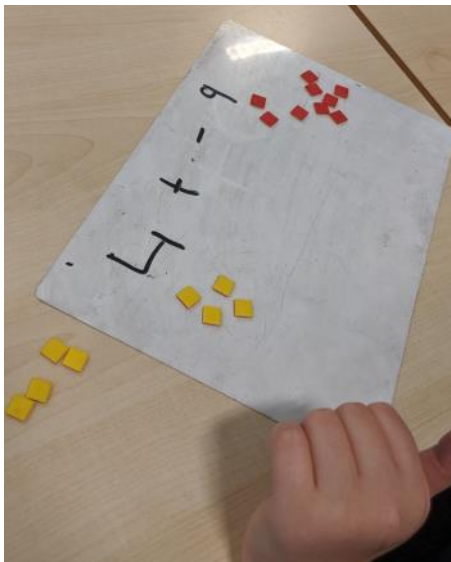
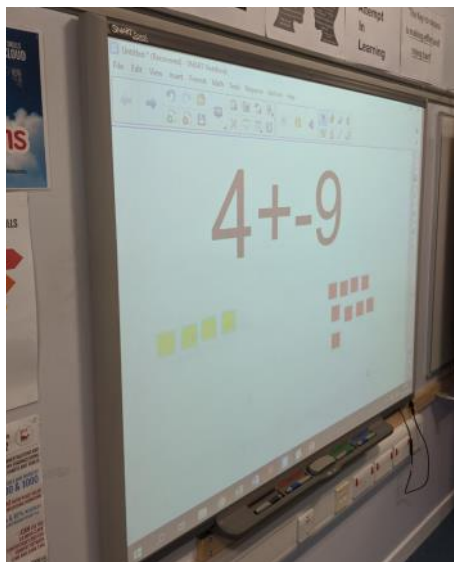
## Higher Design Students Themed Tour of Edinburgh Zoo

DMG students thoroughly enjoyed their recent themed tour of Edinburgh Zoo for the Higher Design assignment. They learned more about what was required for design assignments to help provide animals with safe play and feeding vessels that support enrichment and welfare of the animals. It was well worth the visit!





## Algebra Tiles Project in Maths



Deans Maths Department are one of 20 schools across the Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) who are undertaking an improvement project 'Highly Impactful Teaching at National 5'.

Part of the training involves the use of 'Algebra Tiles' which are proven to develop students conceptual understanding of negative numbers and early algebra work.

Mr Duncan, who is the lead PTC on the project said ***"there is no doubt that this training has had a positive impact on our student's, not only with the targeted S3 group but also with the S1 and S2 we have taught using these strategies. If students can master negative numbers and algebraic terms it puts them in a really strong position to build on that understanding in National 5 Algebra"***

The project group are also working with the Children's and Young People's Improvement Collaborative to look at ways of tracking and implementing the training long term.

## Mince Pies and Carols for Christmas



Students, parents and staff gathered in the school library at the end of term for some mince pies, singing and music to get us in the Christmas spirit. Hosted by the school Family Link Worker and our BGE Leadership students, with entertainment provided by Mrs Gordon and members of the school choir, it was a lovely way to end the term.



Parents were welcomed by Christmas Carols on arrival and during the gathering and we had a sing-a-long as a finale.

Thank you to our Morrisons Community Champion for providing a selection of tasty mince pies and to Evelyn Rogers (SDS) and Susan McCabe (Library) for all their help on the day.





# Top Tweets...

**Deans Community HS** @deanschs · Nov 22, 2019

WL Student Leadership Team Conference @deanschs. Wonderful to see West Lothian's student leaders working collaboratively to bring about meaningful change. @broxburnacademy @BathAcadNews @JamesYoungHS @Linlithgow\_Acad @StMargaretsAcad @StKentAc @WestCalderHigh @LoveWestLothian



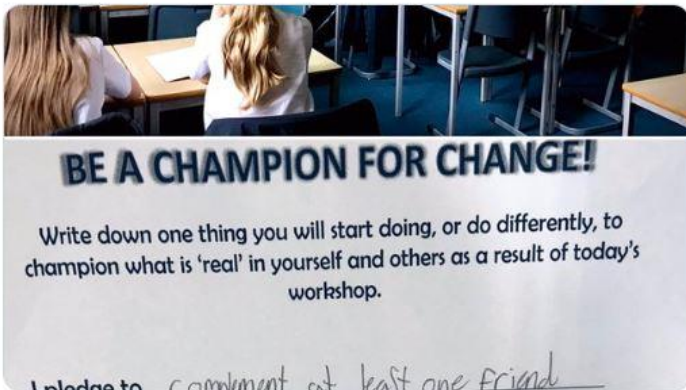
**DYW West Lothian** @DYWWestLothian

Absolutely brilliant morning with the @deanschs pupils who took part in the highly interactive & engaging @jupiterartland workshop. Pupils embraced their creativity & demonstrated skills such as team work & negotiation while creating their proposals & designs #creativity #dyw



**DCHSBeReal** @DchsBe · Nov 8, 2019

Well done to our BeReal Champions and Ambassadors who took S1 PSE lessons this week to help show the importance of harbouring positive body image. Our first years were all very engaged and even made their own pledge to do something to promote body confidence at DCHS... 🙌🏆



**Widening Participation Team** @UniofEdWPteam · Nov 21, 2019

#YourEd pupils from @deanschs @PortobelloHigh @StDavidsHS @stahsnews are challenging themselves in business and IT-oriented activities hosted by @PwC\_UK\_Careers before pitching their ideas to the Dragons 🐉



**Knightsridge Primary** @KnightsridgePr1 · Nov 28, 2019

Thank you to colleagues & Science ambassadors from DCHS @deanschs who joined Primary 7 classes this afternoon. Lovely to welcome an ex pupil back to KPS too @KnightsridgePr1 #Clusterworking #scienceisfun



**DCHSBeReal** @DchsBe · Nov 11, 2019

A study done this year showed that "focusing on everything your body can do – rather than how it looks – can contribute to a more positive body image". So take a second, think of all the amazing things your body can do and give yourself a little confidence boost! 🌟







# Expressive Arts



## Scottish Concert Band Festival

Both Deans Community High School Wind Band and Deans Cluster Brass Ensemble achieved Gold Awards at the Scottish Concert Band Festival in December.

All of the students performed brilliantly and are looking forward to performing in Perth at the national finals in March 2020.



## Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

Congratulations to Anya McLaren (S2), David Ross (S4) and Calum Rintoul (S5) who all passed their Grade 3 clarinet exams in December. Congratulations to S3 brass students Megan Millar and Sarah Brown who both passed their Grade 5 exams with Merit. Also, congratulations to MJ Bal (S6) who passed his grade 7 piano exam. Excellent achievements!



## Skerryvore Gigs

Congratulations to all the DCHS pipers and drummers who are part of the West Lothian Schools Pipe Band who performed with the fantastic Skerryvore at the sold-out Howden Park Centre in December.

A brilliant opportunity which Leo Brown (S1) stated: ***"It was the best night I've ever had performing!"***



## SKY Performances

'You better watch out', Deans Community High School Brass Ensemble and Soul Band spread plenty Christmas cheer at Sky in December.

Well done team!

## Christmas Concerts

Well done to all students involved in the Christmas Concerts! Both nights were a great success showcasing some of the wonderful talent here at Deans and the cluster primary schools.

## Music Camp

Students from all year groups enjoyed a very busy weekend away filled with rehearsals and outdoor activities at Broomlee Centre.

Mhairi Paterson (S5) said ***"It was amazing and I loved it! I can't believe I've never been before. I can't wait for next year!"***

## Higher Drama Theatre Trip

In November the Higher Drama class attended a performance of Frankenstein at the Theatre Royal Glasgow. This theatre trip is part of the Higher Drama course as the students are required to analyse a live theatre performance.

The trip was enjoyed by all and it provided the students with an excellent live theatre experience alongside preparing them further for their exam in May.



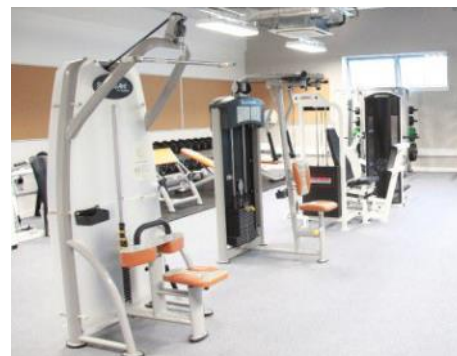
# Physical Education News



## Handball Success

The Deans A team (10 pts) and B team (9 pts) finished 1st and 2nd respectively at the recent West Lothian handball qualifiers! The teams battled against tough opposition in Broxburn Academy, St Margaret's Academy and West Calder High School.

Next up, the final! Well done to both teams!



## The Fitness Room

The fitness room will be supervised every Monday lunchtime for any students who would be interested.

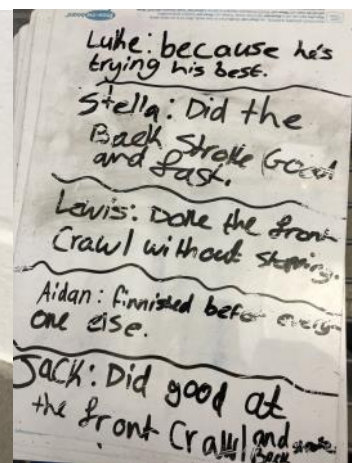
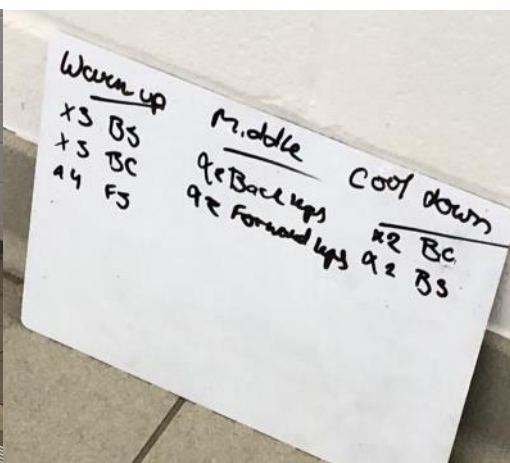
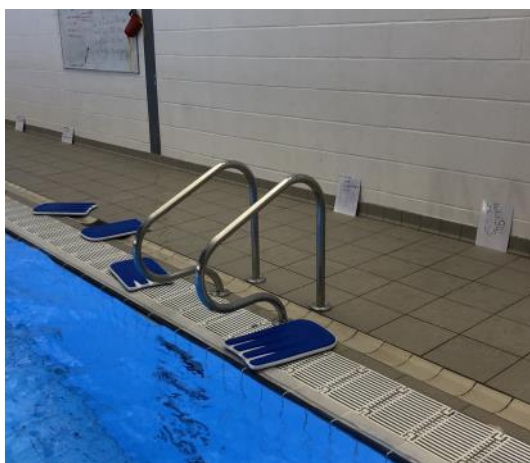
Use the upstairs changing rooms and head to the fitness room at the start of lunch to take part.

Open to all year groups!

## S2 Swimming

Second years used "show me" boards to create their own training programmes for swimming.

Non-participants selected their "swimmers of the day" based on the students' effort and attitude towards their training.



twitter

Follow us on Twitter:

@DeanschsPE

(Deans CHS PE Dept)

## Dates for your Diary

S5/6 Parents Evening	06	Feb
All Break	13	Feb
Staff Resume	18	Feb
Students Resume	19	Feb
S3 Parents Evening	20	Feb
S2 Parents Evening	25	Feb
Course Choice Week	02	Mar
All break	03	April
All resume	20	April



twitter

Follow us on Twitter:

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(Deans CHS)



## Active Girls Day a Great Success

Huge thanks to everyone who came to Active Girls Day. The afternoon was a great success with lots of sports taking place! Thanks to our student leadership team for organising it and well done again to all in attendance!



## S4-6 Rugby Finals

What an incredible effort from our girls rugby team at the S4-6 Rugby Finals. With only four players, they managed to win 3 out of 4 games to finish second in the tournament. Well done!



**@Deanschspe**  
**@ActiveS Deans**

## TIMETABLE

Day	Sport	Venue	Coach
Monday	Fitness (Lunchtime)	Fitness Room	Mr Robertson
	Dance	Dance Studio	Miss Riddell
	Rugby	Outside/Small Gym	Mr Croser
	Volleyball & Badminton	Sports Hall	Mr Robertson
Tuesday	Netball	Sports Hall	Mr Yardley
Wednesday	Basketball	Sports Hall	Miss Evans
	Gymnastics	Small Gym	Ms Campbell
Thursday	Table Tennis (Lunchtime)	Dance Studio	Mrs Simpson
Friday	After School Sport Tasters/ Inter house & WL Schools competitions (dates to be confirmed)	ALL	Sports Captains



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)**

