

# Deans Newsletter

December 2020

 @deanschs

Deans Community High School

Head Teacher: Pauline Allison

## Christmas Charity Events

Personal Development classes have been organising various charity events and collecting items for West Lothian Foodbank's Reverse Advent Calendar.

This is a mixture of S4 C group and S5 PD & S6 Leadership students.

One of the student organisers said, ***"We are happy that we are doing something for our communities and doing our best where we can"***.



## Christmas Jumper Day



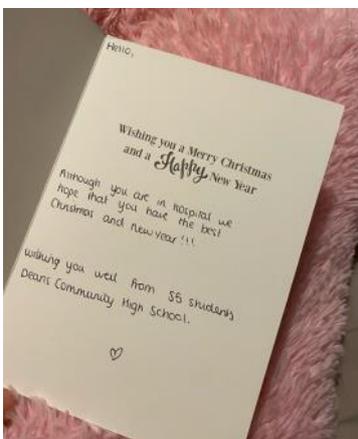
## Dates for your Diary

All Break	18	Dec
Staff Resume	05	Jan
Students Resume	06	Jan
All Break	12	Feb
All Resume	18	Feb
Course Choice (Starts)	22	Feb
Course Choice (Ends)	26	Feb

## Dates for your Diary



School session dates are on the school website and app.



## Christmas Greetings

Our group reflected on loneliness at Christmas and decided to write out cards for all the people in hospital or care homes during this time. We loved the idea because it's a kind, compassionate gesture and it shows anyone feeling lonely that they have people caring about them.

We bought Christmas cards and each wrote our own message and decorated them.

By doing this we hope that it will bring a smile to their faces.



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



## Christmas Stockings

Mrs Clark's S5 Personal Development class decided to make up Christmas stockings for children, and donate these to the West Lothian Foodbank.

Students publicised the idea and collected donations of toys, sweets and toiletries from students and staff. Then every present was wrapped (a steep learning curve for some of the students who'd never wrapped before!!).

A total of 20 stockings filled with goodies for children of different ages will be delivered to the Foodbank in the next few days.



*Thank you everyone for the kind donations.*



## Inclusion & Wellbeing

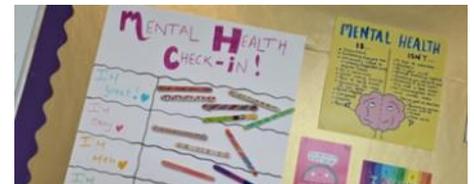
We have been made to feel really welcome and are enjoying being based at Deans and supporting the students here.

We have been building positive relationships during our 1:1 sessions and small groups. All students have engaged well with our Mental Health check-in board when they come to our room.

Our wellbeing groups have been focussing on coping skills, building self-esteem and building resilience.

We are really pleased with our Christmas door & decorations created with the help of our students.

*Miss Ferri & Mrs Johnstone - WL Inclusion & Wellbeing Service*



Spotlight on... **SCIENCE**

Chromatography  
Salt crystals  
Cells

In S1 Science we have been able to start up some controlled experiments in class where students can gain their practical skills. In our Chemistry topic, we were learning about a separation technique called Chromatography. We tested out this technique by investigating which colours make up the main colour of a felt tip pen. The results are shown in this picture of the students work. They were amazed to find all these different colours inside a pen!



Also in S1 Excellence Awards, the Practical Chemistry award students took time to make a saturated salt solution by dissolving salt in warm water... after leaving this solution for a week they were able to come back to some crazy salt crystals that had been formed onto their piece of string!!

In our Biology topic that we started recently, we have been looking at cells under the microscope. S1 have looked at prepared slides of fly legs, butterfly wings and many other amazing things, whilst also creating their own onion skin slides to look at the cells under the microscope and identify some of the structures they have been learning about in class.



Contact Susan  
In the Library.

**Donations  
of books  
always  
welcome.**

  
Follow us on Twitter:  
[@deanschs](https://twitter.com/deanschs)  
(Deans CHS Twitter)



# Decorated Doors in Deans CHS



## Computing Challenge Competition

During November students in S1, 2 & 3 took part in 'The Bebras Computing Challenge' which introduces computational thinking to students.

This is a National competition and **Lexi, Dylan, Bendi** and **Dorka** achieved scores in the top 10% nationally.

Students who achieved the best score in school for their year group are **S1 - Kriti, S2 - Lexi** and **S3 - Owen**.



***Congratulations to all of you and well done to the other students who achieved Distinctions and Merits too.***

## Climate Change Investigators and Scotland's Climate Assembly

This month, Ayesha, Tyler and Nadia, our Climate Change Investigators here at Deans, have continued their work with the Children's Parliament team and their project in partnership with Scotland's Climate Assembly.

Earlier this year, 100 adults were selected across the country to meet and discuss climate change issues as part of a citizen's assembly who will gather monthly until March 2021. The Children's Parliament decided to do the same and selected 100 children across Scotland to ask them their opinions on climate change and their expectations on what Scotland should do to tackle it better.

Back in October, together with 8 other students from S1 - Lana, Kristy, Summer, Aiden, Jason, Kemi, Dianne and Rosie - our three Investigators took part in a survey about their opinions and knowledge on climate change, and their replies were compiled with the ones of 89 other students across Scotland.

On 7th November, the adults were shown the first film presenting the findings of the survey and introducing the children involved, so that the panel could hear the voice of the children of Scotland on the issue of climate change and include them in their decision making.

The Investigators' responsibilities this month included creating a map of Livingston to show the impact of climate change on the community, interviewing some staff about their view on climate change, recording the voice over for the new film and attending meetings online with the Children's Parliament team and the other investigators.

The new film was shown on 12th December to the adult panel and we are very proud of the hard work and dedication that Ayesha, Nadia and Tyler have shown when working on it!

Our students have done an amazing job of representing not only our school but also their community. Their efforts, their enthusiastic and caring attitude and their interest in this cause have been praised by the Children's Parliament team and have definitely put them on Santa's best list this year!!

We are looking forward to continuing this inspiring and very important journey in 2021.

You can find some updates on the Children's Parliament Instagram and Twitter pages.

Here are links to the videos made by the children and presented at the two Climate Change Assemblies:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AysKVajr3JA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI1lu8--k4w>

<https://www.climateassembly.scot/>





# Decorated Doors in Deans CHS



## Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Our Depute, Mrs Bleach, was delighted to present Rebecca in S6 with her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

*"It takes a lot of dedication and resilience to achieve the silver DoE award over and above commitments in and out of school, not to mention the challenges faced by covid 19.*

*It is fantastic to see Rebecca being rewarded for all her hard work."* Mrs Bleach



## SDS - Career Service for Students

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is the national skills body who deliver the career service in schools. The SDS adviser for DCHS is Evelyn Rogers. Evelyn will work with school students at various points throughout their time at school through groupwork sessions, drop ins, and one-to-one appointments, especially at key times such as subject choices. This support is designed to help students understand their options and build their career management skills.

**Evelyn is very keen to offer support to students with their plans and wants to encourage students to get in touch with her.**

- ◆ Evelyn is based in the school library and offers an appointment system to anyone keen to meet with her.
- ◆ If you are not attending school just now Evelyn will arrange to call you at home on a day and time that suits you.

Skills  
Development  
Scotland

**Get in touch!**

E: [evelyn.rogers@sds.co.uk](mailto:evelyn.rogers@sds.co.uk)

M: 07887824725

Skills  
Development  
Scotland

## Developing the Young Workforce



Follow us at: [@DeanschsDYW](https://twitter.com/DeanschsDYW) for up-to-date DYW information and opportunities

Developing the Young Workforce aims to help prepare our pupils for the World of Work!

A screenshot of the school website's navigation menu. The 'DYW' (Developing the Young Workforce) section is highlighted, and a dropdown menu shows options for 'Career Advice', 'DYW Bulletin', 'Information', and 'Work Experience'. Below the menu, there is a section titled 'DYW BULLETIN' with a link to the most recent bulletin.

DYW Bulletins are uploaded regularly to the DYW section of the school website and app. Here is the link to the most recent DYW Bulletin which is on the school website:

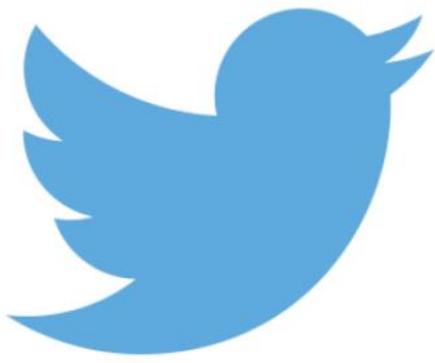
<https://sway.office.com/66HPmhZH90xMDWO1?ref=Link>

Career Ready is a two year programme for students in S5 and S6. The programme aims to help provide our young people with support and guidance in kick - starting their chosen career.

We have successfully recruited five students onto the programme this year who will work with a mentor from the world of work, take part in masterclasses and gain an insight into the workplace through an internship.



preparing young  
people for the  
world of work



# Top Tweets...

**PE Dept.**  
@DeanschsPE

Well done to everyone that took part in the recent virtual cross country event! A great effort by all. Pupils can see the finalised results on the notice board tomorrow.

Thanks also to the Sports Leaders who created, set up and marshalled the course. 🍌 @deanschs



22:42 · 02/11/2020 · Twitter for iPhone

**PE Dept.**  
@DeanschsPE

We were delighted to hear that former Deans pupil, Ciaran, has signed a 2 year USA Golf Scholarship which will see him study at Iowa Lakes Community College from August 2021. This has been a dream of Ciaran's for a long time. We wish him the best of luck!

@deanschs @ActiveS\_Deans



**PE Dept.**  
@DeanschsPE

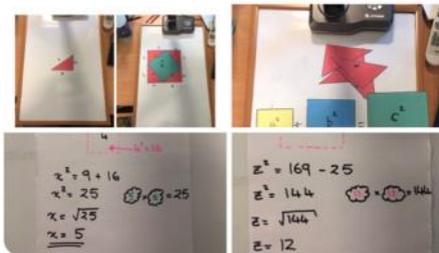
The weather's on our side with 4th year core today! ☀️ 🌊



09:22 · 25/11/2020 · Twitter for iPhone

**Mr McConville**  
@McConvilleMaths

Watched @misterwootube's video of how he taught Pythagoras, had to try it myself and it actually got kids to shout out the theorem for me! Loved it, took the chance to try a more pictorial approach to solving missing lengths in right angled triangles 📐



11:42 · 03/12/2020 · Twitter for iPad

**Deans Community HS**  
@deanschs

Consent packs for vaccinations from NHS Lothian are out now for students in S3 (and S4-6 who have not yet received their vaccinations).

[deanscommunityhighschool.com/article/671116/...](https://deanscommunityhighschool.com/article/671116/...)

12:22 · 11/12/2020 · Twitter for iPhone

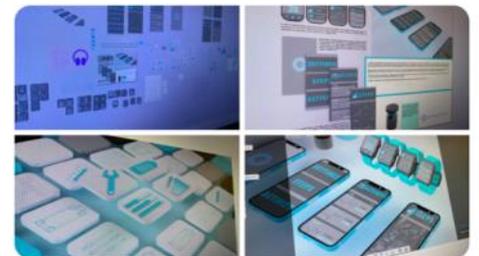
**DMG dept.**  
@dmg\_deans

Some magazine spreads from our Graph Comm students...



**DMG dept.**  
@dmg\_deans

GC students working through their current project...

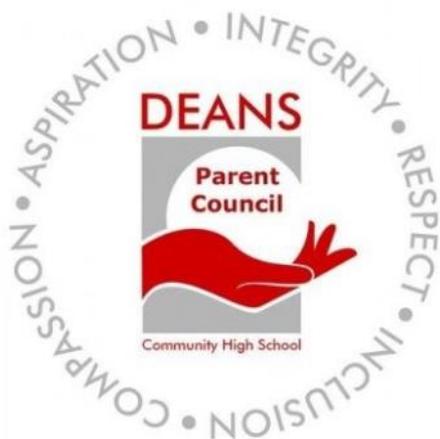


11:33 · 01/12/2020 · Twitter for iPhone

**Deans CHS Language Ambassadors**  
@chs\_deans

Feliz Navidad! Feliz Navidad! Feliz Navidad! Próspero año y felicidad!





## Parent Council

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

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 contact the school for more information.***

***Email: [wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk)***

## 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: [wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk)**

