Interhouse Results the story so far

After 6 rounds of competitive competition Ettrick are marginally ahead in the race for the Munro House Cup with Yarrow hot on their heels. In 2015 there will be the chance for more House Points with Table Tennis, X Country and Sports day all scheduled to take place.

School of Rugby

For the past 3 years Selkirk High School has been awarded the School of Rugby status (SOR), one of only 30 schools across Scotland. The SOR initiative provides schools with a package of resources which allows a structured rugby programme to be delivered to promote rugby within schools. This includes a focused programme for S1 and S2 pupils, who receive up to 5 curricular and extra curricular sessions per week. The SOR provides a context for learning inside and outside of the classroom, allowing all students experience rugby, and help to maintain the fitness and physical literacy of players and in turn contribute to their greater educational attainment.

Message from the Rector...

Welcome to our 2014 Christmas Newsletter

It has been another busy term and I hope the articles and pictures give you a flavour of what we’ve been up to. Before you read on I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents, members of the community and our partner agencies for their continued support. This newsletter is testimony to a successful relationship and shows that we have much to be proud of. On behalf of us all at Selkirk High, “We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”

Mrs Burgon

Girls in Engineering

On 17th December we visited Heriot Watt University to take part in two workshops aimed at encouraging more girls to study engineering. In the Electronic Engineering workshop we were given hands on experience of soldering circuit boards and then we applied all the skills we’d been shown by making an organ that played Christmas music. In Chemical Engineering we adapted a recipe to make the perfect slime and in doing so learned about scaling up processes in industry. The day was really interesting and an eye opener. We worked in a proper lab and experienced what engineering would involve which wasn’t what we’d thought. We think more girls should have the opportunity that we had.

Polly, Robyn, Olga and Catherine S2

Work Experience with a difference

Leah experienced life as a Junior Reporter at the Border Telegraph and saw how the paper is put together. Highlights of the week included joining police on a dawn drugs raid, carrying out her own interviews and having her first articles published.

Young Chef Challenge

Congratulations to Rebecca Mitchell and Sophie Wiseman who qualified for the Regional Young Chef Challenge round which was held in Selkirk High School on Tuesday 2nd December. The girls were competing against 2 pupils from Berwickshire High and one from Langholm High School. Sophie came 1st and Rebecca was runner up. Yet again, the girls impressed the judges with their excellent cookery skills and high standard of hygiene. The District round will take place in January at Lothian College, Livingston.
Drama Club

Ernie’s Incredible Illucinations

On Wednesday 19th October at 7pm, Selkirk High School Drama Club performed “Ernie’s Incredible Illucinations” The play, by Alan Ayckbourn, is about a young boy who imagines things happening to his family, but then they come true! The cast included Paige Riddell, Katie Highton, Paige Grahame, Kinga Gargala, Joshua Little, Jessica Little, Elisha Little, Callum Crawford, Lily McKenzie, Amber Forbes-Walker and Codie Brown. An outstanding performance from the youngster which was very well received by the audience who thoroughly enjoyed their evening.

Gardening Club at SHS

Rosalin, Daisy and Bethan met Miss Robinson from the Science Faculty at the school’s greenhouses to interview her about her Gardening Group. The group consists of S3 pupils at the moment, but any student from any year is welcome to join. These pupils get the opportunity to grow a selection of vegetables including potatoes, onions, leeks, tomatoes, courgettes and garden flowers. The group meet every Tuesday, although it may be that this day changes to allow more students the opportunity to come along. The budding gardeners successfully applied for grants from “Food for Thought” and “The Tree Council” to build an orchard and a soft fruits garden. The Orchard will be looked after by the S2 Rural Science classes and the Gardening Group. The soft fruit grown in the soft fruit garden will be rhubarb, raspberries and gooseberries, and heritage apples. Miss Robinson said. “This is a great opportunity to learn how to be self sufficient - growing your own fruit and veg is also cheaper and tastier” We all agreed that this was something we might like to take part in.

Remembrance Day

Since attending our first Young Ambassador’s conference in October at Ratho Climbing Centre in Edinburgh, we have been involved in several projects aimed at encouraging sport and healthy living in Selkirk High School and in our community. These projects include being a part of Selkirk’s Community Sport’s Hub and as students of Selkirk High School describing what sporting improvements can be made to increase opportunities for our fellow students. We also plan to start a Girl Discussion Group and to Introduce a Young Ambassador’s Award at our annual Prizegiving Ceremony in order to congratulate, and give recognition for students’ contributions to sport, whether coaching or playing sport.

Music News

Another busy term in the Music Department. After several Saturday morning rehearsals, Dominic Burke participated in an excellent Regional Orchestra Concert on Sunday 23rd November in Galashiels Academy. Congratulations to Dominic who is one of the principal percussionists.

Several of our guitarists participated in a weekend music camp at the end of October in preparation for the Regional Guitar ensemble concert in March.

Something for everyone!

48 pupils and 4 staff are off on the Music trip to see the musical “Wicked” in Edinburgh’s Playhouse Theatre on the afternoon of 3rd December. Promises to be a great spectacle.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas!

Big Issues

Marisa Cove, Caitlin Scott, Eilidh McColm and Michael Moody prepare for their presentation on Islamic State.

Was Britain right to get involved in the bombing of Islamic State? Should gay couples be allowed to get married in places of worship? Should be British Government have stricter laws on immigration? These are just some of the issues tackled by S5/6 students on Big Issues Day in November. The purpose of the day is to give students an opportunity to research and discuss the “big issues” of the day as part of their RMPS programme. This year, students were joined by visitors from very different walks of life; the local chaplain, members of LGBT, a local councillor and three senior members of the police counter terrorism unit. After a morning spent researching the issues and interviewing the visitors, students were challenged to create an engaging presentation to their peers. These ranged from PowerPoint presentation and a version of the news, to a satirical film about immigration. Well done to the senior committee who planned the day and kept everything running smoothly. Thanks also to all the senior students who took part in such a mature and co-operative way.
Every Tuesday morning for 12 weeks the S3 ‘Skills for Life’ class has been working at the Haining, developing new skills and carrying out conservation work. They have cooperated with pupils from Hawick High School and enjoyed activities such as den building, coppicing, and tool making. At the end of the course each pupil was presented with the John Muir Discovery award.

The Parent Partnership has had another busy year working with the school and SBC to promote the interests of the students. We are delighted to again be providing the homework diaries for all pupils in the school; as one pupil states: “My SHS diary is well used as it helps me to keep note of when homework is due and events happening both within and outside the school. It helps me to plan any revision and I like the daily quotes/facts along with the helpful tips at the bottom of the pages.” We continue to support the school in any way we can, for example, the SHSP 50:50 Club has helped to provide funds for developing ICT within the school. If you haven’t already joined, it is still possible to do so by going to the school website and downloading an application form for January to May for £5. Further Fundraising Events are being planned—details to follow soon. The SHSP is there for all parents/carers so if you are interested please come to the next meeting on Monday 12th January at 7pm in the Board Room – all are very welcome.

Two Scottish teachers journeyed to Durban to voluntarily work with the Jabulani Project. The project aims include - to empower people from Scotland and South Africa to make a difference and add lasting value to society; to provide opportunities for young people from both countries to meet and interact and in a variety of contexts; to improve the creating opportunities for social and economic determination. The teachers did a lot of aid work while they were there and found the conditions and circumstances in which young people are living deeply upsetting. Therefore, upon return, the two created a splinter project named ‘Journey to Change’. Two student committees, one in Lasswade High and one in Selkirk High are taking the project forward and have agreed to do this by organising a conference to take place on the 6th of February. The Conference will aim to support young people bring about positive change in their own way, through mediums of their choosing, by providing them with inspiration, knowledge, confidence and skills to effect positive change locally, nationally and internationally. The Selkirk committee have responsibility for looking at equality from a Scottish perspective. As part of the project we hope that seven students from South Africa will participate in the conference so we can learn from each other and together strive to eliminate inequality in the world. The seven pupils will also be visiting Selkirk High School. The Selkirk High committee, like our Lasswade High partners, are dedicated to addressing such important issues and are working hard to organise the conference.
This session our Charities Committee have chosen to support the national charity SADS (Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome) and, equally as worthwhile, the local charity Stable Life. To date committee members have organised bake sales, a Christmas raffle, the making and selling of Christmas decorations, and Dress Down Days. Plans for next term include a music/talent show so look out for more details in the New Year and we hope to see you.

Movember Day

As a member of SHS Senior Management Team, and Selkirk Rugby Club, Mr Marshall has taken part in Movember. This is something in which more and more people are taking part to fundraise for men’s cancer charities. It started on 31st October and we looked forward to seeing Mr Marshall fresh faced again in December.

On Tuesday 16th December, the Eco Committee Group organised an “Action Day” which involved S1 and S2 students participating in various activities. The Committee also asked for both staff and students to support the “Wear What You Want Day” day by wearing something green in support of the Eco Group. A fantastic sum of £297.00 was raised on the day.

Creative Fashion

As part of Selkirk High School’s Creative Fashion course, a three-day trip to London was organized for December 3rd-5th, to offer us the chance to learn a little more about different aspects of the fashion industry. After an early start and long morning of travelling, we arrived in London around 1pm. After dropping off luggage we headed straight for the Vivienne Westwood studios where we were shown around and told about the different stages of work that the designs go through before completion. We were also shown the archive which held all of Westwood’s greatest outfits since the ’70s - from heavily beaded dresses to outrageously high-heeled shoes. What a spectacular collection. In the evening, we headed to the London Eye where a fantastic view of the lit-up city could be seen from the very top. Below was a market selling things such as food, jewellery, clothing and even candles. Tuesday was just as interesting, if not more. First on the list was a visit to Central Saint Martins University. Our tour consisted of learning how the students work in the fashion areas of the Uni and what can be achieved while studying art, and a drama. The large building offers students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study and achieve to the best of their ability. In Somerset House we viewed a gallery of photographs by Guy Bourdin which focused on manipulating legs and shoes into landscapes. Women were the main focus of the works. Fashion shoes, coats and even the odd piece of jewellery here and there were used to highlight how the photographer wanted us to view his images. In the evening we headed to the Victoria Apollo theatre to see Wicked, the untold story of the witches of Oz, where fantastic frocks, acting and singing were enjoyed. On our last day in the city, we headed to Johnstons of Elgin where cashmere garments such as jumpers and scarves are created and designed. Though extremely expensive and therefore unaffordable for us, learning about the different stages of development was very interesting!

Student Councils

Newly elected council reps met for the first time in September and are already considering issues that concern students, and the school. For example… should we abandon polo-shirts for shirts and ties? School uniform now includes sensible footwear so what is our definition of sensible footwear? Healthy debate and discussion to be had. Share your thoughts by e-mailing us at selkirkhs@scotborders.gov.uk.

Prelims

S4, 5, and 6 Prelims begin the first day back after the holiday (Tuesday 6th January). Timetables have been issued and the terms of study leave explained. Both can be accessed on our website. Good luck to students and remember the plan….a healthy mix of study and time out.