Summer at Selkirk High School is an amazingly rich and busy time. Students are engaged in Exams, Work Experience, Exodus, Common Riding, Sports Day, P7 Visits, Prizegiving, STEM trips ... the list goes on.

On top of all this, students are also preparing for the new academic year: the Head Team and prefects are appointed, timetables are organised and new classes with new teachers get underway.

Highlights for me include meeting our new S1 students again - what a talented and characterful bunch they are! And my first experience of the Common Riding just reinforced for me what a special place Selkirk is. To see so many young people so positively engaged in their community’s history and values was simply inspiring.

What a pleasure it was to take part in Exodus Week and to see our young people widening their comfort zones and putting their values into action in a whole range of contexts at home and abroad. Losing my bet with Dillon and having to fling myself in the water was not part of the plan!

As thoughts turn to the new session, it was a privilege to start working with the new Student Head Team. They, along with the prefects, are inspiring and I know the staff look forward to teaming up with them after the holiday.

What an honour it was to share in the success of so many of our young people at Prizegiving. A truly fantastic occasion which reminded us all of the emotion and privilege and meaningfulness of working with the great young people of Selkirk High School.

Great challenges await us all and I look forward to August with excitement and optimism. In the meantime, I’d like to wish staff, pupils, parents and the great contributors of our school community, the most magnificent of Summers!

Mr Bryson

I N S I D E T H I S I S S U E

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Check this out! Selkirk High School has now achieved the Rights Respecting Schools Bronze Award - Well done to Molly McLean, Katie Highton, Aiyana Gibb and Alice Reed for leading this!
Congratulations to the Student Leadership Team 2018-19

The appointment of the Selkirk High School Head Team took place this week, after an entertaining and challenging process.

After a student and teacher vote, the 4 pupils with the most votes underwent a three-stage process to establish the Head Team for 2018-19.

First, came the Challenge: guided by a parent, the students had to work as a team in the service of the school, meeting proprietors in the High Street and inviting them to contribute to the school prizegiving raffle. They returned with great quantities of gifts!

Secondly, they engaged individually with a panel of S3 students before finally rising to the challenge of an interview with the Headteacher and Depute. Congratulations to Michael Bell (Depute), Luis Mendoza (Head), Emma Duncan (Head) and Kate Scott (Depute). You were all brilliant.

Congratulations also to the prefects (some of whom are pictured to the rear) who have received a mighty compliment as so many students and teachers voted for them to take up this position of responsibility. All teachers are delighted at the prospect of working with this impressive team 2018-19!

Welcome to our new S1 Students!

The High School welcomed the new S1 students on Wednesday and Thursday for the P7 visit, the latest in several transition events this year.

Alongside a varied and challenging timetable of classes, including a joint project in critical thinking in English, the new students were guided and mentored by their S4 VIA (Values In Action) Heroes.

There are 26 VIA Heroes in S4 and each has responsibility for 3 new students. Their aim is to develop confidence and positive peer pressure and it was clear from the feedback from our new S1 that some great friendships were born.

The S4 VIA Heroes will be working through a programme of activities with their charges over the next year, receiving training as they go along.

It’s always a great privilege to meet our new students and everyone at the High School wishes them the very best.

Liam Skeldon S4 leading his new S1 charges in Values In Action
On Monday 18th June, we were visited by a group of students from the Traditional Music School of Excellence in Plockton led by Dougie Pincock. They performed to, and with, our students as part of an afternoon workshop.

A number of students from Kelso High School joined us for what became a real experience! Clarsach, guitar, accordion, drum kit, cello, pipes and fiddle were on display at the highest level. It was an excellent opportunity for our students to play alongside and be motivated by students who excel in music.

**SHS A Centre of Excellence for Traditional Music**

In the evening, a concert in Ettrickbridge Village Hall showcased these very talented musicians. The evening began with a performance by our own Sam McKinnon S6. His opening sets were outstanding and well received by the enthusiastic audience. Well done Sam.

Everyone who experienced the wonderful array of talent on Monday night was rightly proud and inspired!

**Youth Music Initiative** 6 of our pupils recently took part in an exciting Youth Music Initiative Songwriting, Recording, Audio and Video Production Project.

“The key aim was for all participants to enjoy the sessions and to seize the opportunity to be creative in an informal school setting. In turn, we hoped they would benefit from the social, practical and soft skills the project generates and encourages: teamwork, communication, co-operation, listening and following instruction, understanding new software, leadership skills, understanding and operating recording equipment, understanding and reporting on their achievements and successes. We also hoped that the group would write and record some decent tunes!”- Grant Pringle, tutor

This was certainly achieved by all the pupils who took part, as they all scored the project a resounding 10 out of 10. They created three brilliant songs, writing the lyrics, recording the music and singing together. They also had time to create music videos to accompany their work. The videos look very professional, are entertaining and could certainly be trending on ‘youtube’!

We hope to have another project running next year, and to welcome Grant and Dawn back to work with us again.
PLATTLING Although 10 students and 2 staff again visited our twin town of Plattling in Bavaria in Germany to celebrate 20 years of linkage, it was a week of firsts for all! For some it was their first time abroad or in Germany; for others the first time in a theme park or trying Turkish and Greek food! As ever, we were looked after splendidly by the twinning committee and the mayor. Close links were made this year with the secondary school there, with students participating in joint excursions. All came away from this visit with ideas of how we would like a new school to function – just without the heat!

As it was extremely hot, we did go to the outdoor pool to cool down on a couple of occasions, as well as being tempted to a few ice-creams! We also visited a glass factory and saw how glass formed, decorated and engraved. Two people even had a go at blowing it!

The girls were an absolute credit to the school and town, with everyone praising their politeness and friendliness to everyone, their engagement with all activities and their willingness to have a go! What most impressed me, was how well the group operated collectively, looking after each other, encouraging and ensuring that everyone was included. A week of Values in Action in Germany!

S6 Challenge: Perthshire Our new S6 students enjoyed an exciting and challenging residential stay at Comrie Croft near Crieff. The week was packed with organised events and activities such as white water rafting, walking up a Munroe, canoeing, abseiling and mountain biking. Evening activities focussed on team building, creativity and leadership skills. Students and staff worked together and supported each other throughout the week as we strived to put our Values into Acion. Our students commented, ‘a fantastic experience, challenging but memorable’ and ‘I learned what sort of person I am and what my best skills are. I really progressed towards becoming a more rounded person’ and ‘I learned that I could do each of the activities even though I thought I couldn’t.’
S3 Cities of Scotland  During exodus week, 9 S3 students along with Miss Swan and Mrs Dodds embarked on a trip around different cities in Scotland. We visited the 5 Sisters Zoo in Livingston; Edinburgh tourist attractions and spent two days in Glasgow staying overnight in a youth hostel.

All of the students tried at least one thing that they had never done before while on the trip, whether it was ice skating, bowling, seeing a theatre show or riding the subway. It was a perfect opportunity for our students to develop teamwork skills and put our values into action. A great week was had by all and we all left with a new found appreciation for all of the wonderful activities that are on our doorstep and a new respect for how awesome our country is!

HOMEBASE

We were lucky enough to have a week of great weather and great company. There were 13 students taking part in Homebase this year and they participated in a wide range of activities. We went tubing on a dry slope, had a picnic at Dalkeith Country Park, visited Dynamic Earth (the show dome was amazing), visited the Scottish Parliament, saw Concorde at the Museum of Flight, had ice creams on North Berwick Beach and finished off with a trip to Light Water Valley in North Yorkshire. Every student joined in, they created friendships with pupils outside their peer group and demonstrated resilience when tackling new activities. They showed how Values in Action can be transferred from school to outside the community. We had lots of positive feedback from different organisations all saying that the students were a credit to SHS.

ARDECHE  On Friday 1st June, 24 pupils and 3 teachers set off on their adventure to France. Their first destination was Mimosa. When they arrived they met their groupie, Amelia, who took them on a site tour and showed them to their tents. Later on that afternoon the group completed their first activity, fun boats at Mimosa beach. Their first evening activity was Dragons Den, when groups of 5/6 had to invent something to help with her job. The following day wasn’t as sunny as the previous but it was clear to see that the whole group had lots of fun, catamaran sailing and on the banana boats. In the evening, the group played a game called guess who, during which 6 pupils dressed up as celebrities. The winner was Kelan who dressed up as Will Smith. On the last full day at Mimosa, the group up paddle boarding then game of rounders. Mr Lyall’s The group ended their last night

The following day the group the where they’d be canoeing, beach they met their new completed an activity called of activities to collect materials group met the river team, canoeing approximately 16Km.

On Thursday 7th June, the group departed Le Mas and ended at Sauze Plage, finishing with ice cream. The bus that was meant to take them back to Segries was very late so the group experienced some torrential rain, thunder and lightning until one man let them sit in his bus until the other bus arrived. The group returned to Segries, packed their bags, had a shower and ate their tea before heading to Calais to get the ferry back to Doer to return Selkirk after an action-packed, enjoyable week. Emma Jamieson S3
Prizegiving 2018

Congratulations to all prizewinners 2018. An inspiring evening. Many thanks to the wonderful office staff and janitors for their help in supporting the event and to the marvellous Parent Partnership for their support.

Values In Action: congratulations to the new S4 VIA Heroes for the hard work they have put in preparing to mentor the new S1. The P7 visit was a great success and a positive programme of pupil-led support will continue throughout their first year at SHS.

S2 STEM DAY On Thursday 21st June all S2 pupils at Selkirk High School had the opportunity to take part in the Big Bang Borders event held at Borders College.

The aim of the Big Bang @ Borders College is to inspire young people to consider a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) related roles. And it certainly as inspiring! The day consisted of a variety of STEM activities from Immersive Hybrid Reality and Virtual Reality to team tasks and STEM Challenges. Activities, workshops and interactive stands included sectors covering: Engineering; Construction; Food and Drink; Digital; Science and Maths.

Some of the most popular activities included a virtual reality spacewalk and a Rocket Car Challenge. Two of our pupils have since received certificates for their Rocket Cars - Cian Hendrie for fastest Rocket Car and Rebecca Cessford for best design. Cian will also be receiving an additional certificate as Borders College have arranged for his name to be added to the fin of the UK Bloodhound car as a prize for being the fastest!

All in all, this was a fantastic opportunity for our S2 pupils to find out more about many different STEM related careers and talk to companies about the STEM related jobs they offer in their organisation.
Our shared values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Relationships lie at the heart of all we do at Selkirk High School. Whether in the classroom or workplace, on the stage or sports field or in our wider experiences, every individual in the school community is challenged to put our values into action.

Selkirk High School is for everyone. Every individual is encouraged to participate fully in the life of the school and to contribute to its continual enrichment. All students, whatever their identity, background or ability, are individually supported to be who they want to be and encouraged to be ambitious in their learning and personal development.

As a community we are very proud of the academic and wider achievements of our students. Across the curriculum, every student is supported to develop confidence in literacy and numeracy and in their health and wellbeing. Together with our partners and parents, we strive to provide academic, creative, work-related and leadership experiences which allow all our students to feel included and successful from S1-6.

At Selkirk High School we are determined that every individual leaves the school with the skills, knowledge and values – as well as the independence, critical awareness and leadership – to pursue their dreams with confidence, ambition and success.

Looking Ahead…

Our Improvement Priorities 2018-19

Priority 1: Raising Attainment and Wider Achievement for all

Priority 2: Developing Employability and the Skills Agenda

Priority 3: Developing Universal and Targeted H &W

How? Through Meaningful Learning

Developing a Meaningful Curriculum Offer for all
Developing Relevance and our Golden Skills in every classroom
Developing Pupil Leadership and Mental Health awareness for all
Developing the Learner Journey from S1

Attention All Parents and Carers!
We need your help!
Please come to our Curriculum Consultation Event in September (Date TBC)