

What's Happening in 6th Year?

6th Years are enjoying success in their Committee Work and the Press Group has first tabs on what's happening. Social Education offers some opportunity for the committees to get together, but the majority of work is in the students' own time.

Here's where we are so far:

The Press Committee has had a variety of commitments this session and has attempted to deal with them head on. Olivia Hoppé, our chair person, has been strong in advising the group on how to deal with different aspects of publication and information gathering. We have published a number of articles in the Border Telegraph as well as compiling this Newsletter. We aim to hopefully produce more newsletters for the enjoyment of our 'undiscovered readers'. From all on the press committee, we hope you enjoy the read.

The 6th year Activities Committee recently held a paintballing trip to A1 Paintballing Centre outside Edinburgh. The trip was a great success with a total of 42 willing volunteers ready to brace the outdoors in an adrenaline filled war zone of 'paint'. The committee has plans to overdose the adrenalin junkies in future activities so 6th years who like a good time keep a lookout on what's coming up.

The S1 Activities Committee said, "We have been working tirelessly to organise both the Robinson Crusoe Pantomime excursion and a 'Futureglactic' laser quest trip later in the school year. In addition we are planning a variety of fundraisers. So keep your eyes peeled for our posters. To infinity and beyond".

The Dance Committee is in the midst of adding the final touches to their 'Michael Jackson Tribute Disco': Wed 28th October. Tickets (£3) are on sale in the Hub every lunchtime. The dress code is either Michael Jackson themed, casual or general fancy dress. So if you are a die hard fan of Jacko or you just fancy a wee night out grab your tickets ASAP.

The Sports Committee recently held a football tournament which was a great success. They are now planning their next event - a dodge ball tournament for S1-S3 and S4-S6. Teams of seven will pay a pound per player to battle it out in the tournament.

The Year Book Committee is currently swamped with pictures to use in the S6 Year Book. Each S6 student will have their own unique memento of life at EHS. In Social Education, individuals have been posing for photographer Cailean Fraser to capture them at their best. Also baby photos are wanted from those S6 who have still not handed them in—asap!

The S2 Activities Committee said, "Our committee has been extremely productive so far, thanks to much help from teachers, the dedication shown by our leader Andrew and the group's focus. We have organised a trip for second years to see Peter Pan in Edinburgh, with the assistance of Mrs Weston and Mr Bryson. We are also planning a bowling trip. Everyone is looking forward to what we have in store".

Enterprising Team to visit Scottish Parliament

Part of the S6 induction programme was an Enterprise Day. Teams competed against each other to set up a social enterprise.

SHP Enterprise, the company who led the day's challenge, was so impressed by EHS they invited the winning team to have lunch at the Scottish Parliament later this month.

Ronan Runciman is pictured here collecting the competition trophy on behalf of his team.



Planning new adventures

As well as planning for university, some of our sixth years are planning Gap experiences. Olivia Hoppé and Sarah Geidesz have been selected to participate in the Borders Exploration Group's next project: voluntary work in Chile.

Olivia and Sarah will embark on the adventure with a group of 16-25 year olds and 10 leaders. Community projects may include working in an orphanage, building houses in rural areas and repairing health clinics. Olivia said, 'I am delighted to have been given such a wonderful opportunity to experience another way of life and offer assistance where it is needed.'

Angus Yellowlees is all set to spend 9 months in Zanzibar, teaching school children English. Lewis Driver is also hoping to assist others as part of the Project Trust. Lewis has already taken part in a selection week at the organisation's centre on Coll. Cameron Poppelwell is hoping to be in Canada next year, working towards his Grade 2 Snowboarding Instructor qualification. He then hopes to spend the summer in California instructing BMX at Camp Woodland. Eilidh Fraser is also planning a Gap experience to combine her love of art with her passion for travel. She is hoping to teach Art to underprivileged youngsters in South America or Africa.

Dates for your diary

Thurs 5 November : Earlston's Got Talent (Tickets on sale)
Tues 10 Nov : S4/5 Careers Evening
Wed 11 - Fri 13 Nov : In-service Days
Wed 18 Nov : S1 Parents' Evening
Fri 20 Nov - Fri 4 Dec : S4 prelims and S4 study leave
Mon 30 Nov : St Andrew's Day holiday
Wed 9 Dec : S1/2 Christmas Dance
Thurs 10 Dec : S3/4 Christmas Dance
Tues 15 & Wed 16 Dec : Christmas Concert
Thurs 17 Dec : S5/6 Christmas Dance
Fri 18 Dec : Last day at school before Christmas
Tues 5 Jan : School reopens for new term



THE EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL BUGLE



THE NEWSLETTER OF EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Autumn 2009

A Message From Miss Strong

Welcome to another school year at Earlston High School. This newsletter is a new style for us and has been compiled by the S6 Journalism group, who have been very active already writing for the School News section of The Border Telegraph.

Congratulations to them and I hope you enjoy catching up with our news.

SHOWTIME

The Sound of Music

The June 09 summer show was—as always—a sell out and phenomenal success. The hard work and dedication of the



Music and Drama department, led by Mr Jeff Thomson, resulted in 'a spectacular show worthy of the professional stage' as a member of the audience noted.



The show's leading lady, Jessica Hardwick, was exceptional as Maria Von Trapp. Her talent for acting and singing will develop further this year as she embarks on an introductory course at RADA (Royal Academy Of Dramatic Arts). Aimée Hislop played the Mother Superior and Aimée too is destined for fame in the future. Aimée was granted a place at the famous Italia Conti School in London and we wish them both all the very best.

Usually, Mr Thomson announces the next year's show on the last night, but this year he broke from this tradition. He wanted to consider the facilities at the new school and spent many an hour in the summer reading scripts. Earlier this month he announced his decision: High School Musical. Those of you who attended our Open Evening will have seen how apt the show is for our new premises.

Auditions for lead roles have already been completed and go to: Angus Yellowlees (Chad), Emma Finnen (Gabriella), Kieran



Crews (Troy), Kayley Henderson (Sharpey), Daniel Wilson (Ryan), Rowan Hayworth (Taylor), Rebekah Chapman (Miss Darbus), Robert Turner (Coach Bolton)

The End of An Era

On Thursday 25 June we marked the end of our time in what is now fondly referred to as 'The Old School'. The afternoon was a celebration of our time there and we had amazing fun. It was a carnival like atmosphere and everyone enjoyed a whole host of activities.



Mr Rae has always said that 'Physics is Fun' and both he and Mr Weierter (both Physicists) certainly proved that they knew how to party!

Mr John Weierter retired in 2008 and our last day at the old school was Mr Rae's last day before enjoying his retirement. Neither of them were acting their age though when they donned the Sumo wrestler suits.

A highlight of the afternoon was the gigantic 'Strip the Willow'. We filled the playing fields in one long line up, which everyone enjoyed.

The afternoon's festivities concluded with 'Auld Lang Syne', ably led by Mr Renwick, who was accompanied by two of our pipers—Kyle Paisley and Callum McGee.



Kyle then played a lament and we respectfully paid tribute to the old school building.



Leavers' Evening—S6 say goodbye

It's almost a tradition for sixth years to love Anne Taitt, our school librarian, especially as they spend so much time in the library—studying or pretending to study!

At the Leavers' Evening in June, the sixth years enjoyed celebrating their time at Earlston High School and after the official ceremony everyone enjoyed a buffet supper and ceilidh. Here's Anne pictured with Ritchie, Will and Ailsa.



All Change—an update on staffing

As we move into the second half of this autumn term, here is an update on staff changes since the summer.



We welcomed four new members of staff to EHS in August (pictured top to bottom): Mrs Drummond-Thomson (RME), Miss K Williamson (Biology), Mr Henderson (PE) and Miss Lees (Art).



Mr Smart (PT Biology) and Ms Thoday (Art) have reduced their time to three days and Mr Anderson (Biology) and Miss Lees (Art) are their job-sharing partners. Mr Rae (PT Physics) retired in June after nearly 30 years with us. Mrs Stewart Murray (Guidance and Modern Studies) left us just before the Oct holidays to relocate to Northern Island.



Congratulations to Miss S Wood, who takes up her new Guidance duties to support those pupils who were with Mrs Stewart Murray. Also to Mr N Westgarth on his promotion to Principal Teacher of Science.



Sadly, on 26 September a former colleague, Mr Bob Laidlaw, died after a short illness. During his 38 years at EHS he made an enormous contribution to school, as well as being an excellent guidance teacher, who consistently showed an amazing amount of patience, compassion and understanding towards all children in his care. He retired in 2007 and was just as enthusiastic about teaching on his last day as he was on his first. Our thoughts are with his family. He will be missed by many.

Impressions of our new school

We have now settled into our fantastic new building and everyone is enjoying the amazing new facilities. Here's what the teachers say...

'The new school is a dynamic, energetic and exciting working environment for both pupils and staff.' Mrs Weston

'It's a joy. It's full of light. I sense triumph!' Mr Bryson

'The kids have really responded to the new facilities and are setting new records with their fitness testing. Everyone is enjoying the challenge.' Mr Renwick.

Heads of School

The new term is always busy and especially so for the newly elected Heads of School. Four sixth years were elected by their peers and teachers to represent EHS in the year ahead.



Robert Turner and Rory Byers were elected as Head Boy and Depute; Elspeth Murray and Jan Baird were elected as Head Girl and Depute. They are thrilled to be in post and have already given presentations at the SBC Head Conference, the Special Assembly and at a recent Earlston Community Council meeting. Soon they will be addressing the first years again at the Success Assembly, when they will be presenting the juniors with their certificates. They are also looking forward to the social events, especially at Christmas time, when they are invited to the Dances of other secondary schools in the Borders.

Academic Success

At the Special Assembly for S1 and S6 pupils in September, sixth years were congratulated on their success in the SQA exams. The students pictured below were announced as this year's Dux Medallists.



(Left to Right) Kayleigh Henderson, Elspeth Murray (Head Girl), Louise King, Amy Parlett, Sarah King, Mark Runciman, Marc Sutherland and Jennifer Smith all achieved 5 "A" grades at Higher. They were presented with their awards by Mr James Aberdein, guest speaker at the assembly.

Congratulations also to Dux medalists Olivia Hoppé and Aisling Holling who also achieved 5 'A' grades.



More impressions... the pupils say:

'Very big, very new and I'm loving it!' Lesley Kerr (S1)

'Big, colourful, exciting and you can get a bit lost to begin with.' Joe Thomson (S2)

'There's a lot more practical work in PE and amazing facilities. Leisure PE has loads of choice of activities: fitness, football on the astro-turf, volleyball...' Ryan Goodfellow (S5)

All in a day's work—S4 work experience

The week of the 5th October was remarkably quiet in school as we were missing 167 fourth years. They were having a taste of the real world on their week of work experience. This is the first time absolutely everyone in the year group has been placed and we are very grateful to employers, local and further a field, for offering placements.



Cameron Rodgie spent his week assisting at S and M Scott's garage in Earlston. Car owners in the Borders were likely to encounter EHS students at virtually every local garage as this is always a popular choice. Similarly, local vet practices



allowed students to shadow their vets and BGH patients may have met with one of the seven students on placement there. Eion Smith enjoyed his week at Radio Borders—little did he know he would have fame and celebrity status when he became Bobby the Beaver, the radio station's mascot for the day at the Crucial Crew event for primary pupils.

The Scotsman, Border Telegraph and Southern Reporter also had new reporters on their teams, courtesy of EHS. We had students in Lockerbie, Livingston, Leith, Newcastle, Norfolk to name a few, as well as every town in the Scottish Borders. **A huge thank you to employers.**

S1 Transition project—Travel

First years in every subject have been working on their Travel project as part of the work which started on the two day visit, was continued at primary and then completed here at EHS. Now we are in October, the project is complete and classes are moving on to new work.

In English, each class created a new island and invited other classes to visit and hear presentations about the island's culture, geography, history etc. They then produced information booklets about the island and wrote creative stories set there. 1W even made a 3D model. In Craft, Design and Technology, pupils made Travel-lite torches and in Maths they calculated the cost of travelling on holiday.



The visitors say:

'It's got a university feel' 'It's so light and spacious.'

'Wow! I wish it was like this in my day!' 'Great for sports.'

'It almost makes me want to go back to school!'

'Games Hall is amazing.' 'Do you all have maps?'

Higher Geography Field Trip

On Monday the 14th and Tuesday the 15th of September Mrs Renwick, Miss Morgan and Mr Tucker took 26 pupils on a two day trip to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales. During the Lake District visit we looked at the effects of tourism in Windermere, heard a very interesting talk from a National Park Ranger and saw some glaciated features (like corries and u-shaped valleys).

On our day in the Yorkshire Dales we had a walk to see some surface limestone features and then we visited a cave to see some underground limestone features such as stalactites and stalagmites. The hostel where we stayed was very nice and we had a lovely meal after a hard day's work! The pupils got a lot out of the trip as they were seeing what they learn in class for themselves!

Samye Ling Tibetan Centre - 9th October.



The 28 students in the S5/6 Higher RMPs class travelled to Samye Ling to experience life as a Buddhist Monk/Nun for a day.

They enjoyed a tour of the Temple and the grounds and their discussions with Monks/Nuns who are based at the centre. Lunch was taken in the centre's refectory which served a range of vegetarian meals. A highlight of the day was sitting in on the afternoon's Mahakala Prayers - not what many people would call prayer (Horns, cymbals, drums etc).

Samye Ling was the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre to set up in the West. The centre was founded in 1967 and is currently under the guidance of Abbot Lama Yeshe Losal Rinpoche.

This trip forms part of the students' course on Buddhism, which is one section of their Higher RMPs. They have been looking at the teachings and practice of Buddhism and they will now be able to relate their knowledge and understanding to how Tibetan Buddhism is lived out in a monastic setting.



In the photograph, Sean Quinn is spinning a prayer wheel with apparently 72 million mantras/prayers in it! For more information on Samye Ling visit -

<http://www.samyeling.org/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=16&pid=1>

Enjoying the new facilities.

