

Hawick High School
Headteacher Update
Week commencing 02/10/18



Dear Parent/Carer,

I write this update just prior to the October holiday after a successful term here at Hawick High School. There have been an incredible number of positive achievements and successful events since we returned from the summer break.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

At the start of the term 13 pupils and 4 staff from Hawick High School took part in an exciting expedition in order to earn their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Award. They set out from Hawick to Newcastleton along the old railway route, with the aim of the expedition to investigate whether the line was suitable to be restored. The three day trip was challenging but the dedication shown by all was exemplary and enabled them to successfully complete the journey. Well done to all.

S1 Bowhill Trip

In September all S1 were given the opportunity to participate in their tutor trip to Bowhill accompanied by their tutor (as far as possible) and S6 helpers. The purpose of the trip was to develop core skills, such as communication and team work, through a variety of outdoor educational activities organised by the Bowhill staff.

Nick Faldo Golf Competition

On the 7th September the annual Nick Faldo golf competition was held at Hawick Golf Course where. Around 30 students from S1 to S6 took part. All young people taking part were a credit to the school and their community with a group of visitors to the course commenting on how pleasant and helpful the pupils had been.

The results are as follows:

Nick Faldo Competition	Hawick High School Ladies Trophy	Hugh Macmaster Trophy
Winner - Scott Landles	Winner - Sophie Allott	Winner - Harry Scott
Runner-up - Liam Graham	Runner-up- Alyssa Jack	Runner-up - Euan Welsh
Third - Blair Grant	Third - Eve Williamson	Third- Robbie Landles

Well done to the winners and many thanks to Jackie and Nick at Hawick Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course every year.

S6 committees

At Hawick High School we are keen to involve young people in school improvement and community involvement. This year our S6 students have identified a number of committees which they would like to develop as part of this agenda.

The **Achievement Committee** will focus on identifying and celebrating success and wider achievement of young people at all levels across the school and throughout the community. They plan to establish and update an achievement board at a central point in the school. Successes will be celebrated on a regular basis showcasing the positive contribution that so many of our young people currently make to the school and community. The committee will also have representation on the staff working group focussing on improving positive recognition. These student representatives will attend whole school meetings to look at best practice and contribute to the discussion and ideas on how to best capture and promote whole school and wider achievement.

The S6 **Developing the Young Workforce Committee** are looking to enhance links with local employers to demonstrate the hard work ethic and interpersonal skills that the vast majority of our young people have. They are also discussing the possibility of undertaking short 2/3 day work placements with local employers where they will get an insight into the world of work. They plan to present on how well equipped they feel currently for that environment. Allowing us to identify and support them so that at their point of exit they feel "ready" to flourish and thrive in that environment.

The **Charity Committee**, whilst not a new S6 committee, are planning to operate a little differently this year. As well of raising money for two good causes they would like to be a little more 'hands on'. This year both charities in receipt of support from the school will be based locally in our community and our young people will give up some of their time in a volunteering capacity to help out. The good causes which they have elected to support are *The Dementia Café* and *Heads Together*. It is heart-warming to see that the young people of Hawick High School are so committed to championing their community.

In addition to these committees this year we are offering Personal Development to our S6 students. This course supports and enables young people to evaluate and develop their 'soft' skills such as team work, leadership and communication by way of organising activities and events.

Last Friday the S6 are organised the **Macmillan Coffee Morning** this was very well attended by members of the community and raised well over £600. Many thanks to all whom attended.

This term has seen some excellent performances from some of our students. Aidan Maybury finished in first place in the S5 category at the U18s Borders Cross Country Championship in Bowhill while Tom Huggan in S4 and Robbie Jack in S1, became Scottish U15 and U13 Obstacle Racing Champions at Mactuff. Congratulations to them all.

Some of our students have also had the opportunity to take part in some innovative and thought provoking lessons this term. This week saw a number of students take part in a lesson delivered by **Jamie Patterson, an Artic explorer**, in preparation for Young Geographer of the Year Competition entitled 'What makes the artic unique?'

Dr Robertson's S1 class had a visit from a **local optician today (Lee Street)**. She taught the class about the structure of the eye and how opticians use knowledge of lenses to help people. It is fantastic to have members of the local community contributing to and enhancing the curriculum by making real life connection to school and the world of work.

Last week all S1, S2 and S3 students took part in a session delivered by Gemma Gibbons, Olympic Silver medallist. It was an extremely positive event. The students were a credit to the school and I'm certain they all took away some important messages on what it takes to be successful in all aspects of life.

I hope this give you a flavour of the work of the school this term. My thanks to all of the staff, partners and young people who have contribute to these successes.

Vicky Porteous

Headteacher