

Hawick High School

Headteacher Update

Week commencing 12/11/18



Dear Parent/Carer,

It's hard to believe that the month of November is upon us. Hawick High School continues to be very busy with lots of exciting new initiatives taking place. Furthermore our young people are continuing to be recognised for their outstanding contributions both in school and in the community; it gives me great pleasure to share this with you.

Scottish Schools Road Race

Early in October Ava Hughes, Irvine Welsh, Robbie Welsh, Maisie Ballantyne, Thomas MacAskill, Eilidh Jaffray and Fraser Clyne took part in the Scottish schools road race championships in Falkirk. It was a very competitive field with Scottish, British and European champions running. Each race contained a minimum of 120 runners and our students performed really well. They were a credit to the school and Hawick.

Improving Literacy at Hawick High School

Hawick High School is committed to improving literacy at all levels. I am delighted to share with you two fantastic initiatives led by Mr McEwan from the English department which aims to celebrate and support writing in our school.

Hawick High Herald

Over the past few weeks an incredibly dedicated group of students have been working on a school newspaper – our very own Hawick High Herald! Maddy Hume, Zoe Imray, Jakub Raczynski, Lucy Brennan, Irvine Welsh, Michael Imray and Connor Mitchell have all contributed stories to this edition, having given up several Wednesday lunchtimes to make this happen.

Hawick High Review

The first edition of the Hawick High Review has been published this term. The Review is the creative writing magazine of Hawick High School, and is dedicated to promoting some of our best student work. This edition consists of folio pieces from the following former and current senior students: Valentino Franken, Alexandra Hounam, Taylor Cumming, Christy Anderson, Rhea Middlemass, Michael McFadden, Molly Marshall and Callum Knaggs. Copies have been distributed around the school, and at various locations around the town, so keep an eye out for them!

Aladdin

At the end of October the budding stars of our school took to the stage for our annual theatre production; this year it was the turn of Disney's Aladdin to get the Hawick High School treatment.... and what an outstanding job they all made of it. The performances both dramatically and musically were fantastic. All of the young people involved in the production, either on stage or back stage were great ambassadors for the school and embodied the attributes of confident individuals and successful contributors. Well done to them all.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the parents, students and staff who came along to support. I know this was very much appreciated by both the staff and young people involved in the production. A real Hawick High School team effort.... truly fabulous 😊

Developing our Business and Community Links

One of the School Improvement Priorities at Hawick High School is to develop partnerships with local businesses to ensure our curriculum meets the needs of all young people and effectively prepares them for the workplace of the future.

This term has already seen a number of initiatives with our local partners to start the dialogue on how we can effectively work together to support the workforce of the future.

Business Breakfast

On the 26th October at our Business Breakfast, Hawick High School welcomed our partners old and new. At the breakfast staff and pupils gave an overview on what the needs of the school and young people are and how we can utilise the knowledge, skills and experience of our partners to raise awareness of industry demands.

Poppy Project

In collaboration with Developing our Young Workforce Borders, and the local branch of the Royal British Legion 300 first- and second-year pupils have spent the past few weeks designing and creating poppy artworks for public display to mark the centenary of the First World War ending. In the run up to Remembrance Sunday classes are adopting industry type roles such as quality controller, cutter and manager to get a taste of real-life jobs in the local textile industry. It's fantastic to see our students working together; they have been tasked with a real-life brief and have been working extremely hard as a group to produce some wonderful work for such an important cause.

Hawick High News

My last words in this update are dedicated to Hawick High News a sector leading initiative of the student voice in our school. Hawick High News is 10 years old this October and, as you are all no doubt aware, has kept parents, carers and the community updated with the achievements of the young people of Hawick High School throughout this time. Over the years the presentations have become slicker and increasingly more professional....we even have our very own studio. Former student Ruairidh Tait, from Radio Borders, was most impressed by the progress made by Hawick High News on his recent visit. He met our news correspondents and gave them some advice and tips for the future.

Happy Birthday Hawick High News... here's to the next 10 years.

Vicky Porteous

Headteacher