



Welcome to the Winter 2018 edition of the Holy Rood Review

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2018 has seen continued success for our school community in our study, creative ventures, business outreach, sport and wider community involvement. We take this opportunity to thank you and wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2019.

Modern Languages Faculty



European Day of Languages – 26 September

In September we celebrated European Day of Languages at Holy Rood. Celebrations included a Bocce Competition (Italian Bowls) for S1 Italian pupils with S2 pupils taking part in a French Language and Cultural QR code Treasure Hunt. All classes S1-6 were involved in a range of activities to increase awareness of the importance of language learning during tutor classes and fun facts and figures regarding language learning were shared all week on the School plasma screen. Some of our senior pupils also had fun running a themed photo booth for pupils in the social area on European Day of Languages itself.

Also linked to celebrations for European Day of Languages S1 pupils were invited to take part in an



inter-disciplinary competition with the Expressive Arts Faculty, where they were asked to produce a poster to promote European Day of Languages. We were spoiled for choice and delighted with the pupils' efforts in combining their artistic and creative talents. Andra Anca was awarded first place, followed by runners-up Julia Malcher and Jewel Amarillo. Many of the posters are now on display in Modern Languages. Bravissimi!

1+2 Languages

As part of the implementation of the Government 1+2 Languages Policy, S1 pupils are currently completing a block of French alongside their Italian classes, linking back to language learned at primary school and consolidating this in a different context. The block of work will culminate in the creation of mini-books in French with pupils sharing information about famous people or their idols.



In the New Year.....Developing the Young Workforce

Business Brunch – Dynamic Earth

In January a group of S4 pupils will attend a Business Brunch at Dynamic Earth aimed at inspiring Scotland's future global workforce. Pupils will be immersed in a range of inspirational presentations, selected interactive workshops and marketplace galleries.

These opportunities will help pupils gain a deeper understanding of why successful employers view languages as a key skill in today's globalised world. Learners will not only discover the diverse range of careers and rewarding employment opportunities available within each of the sectors present, they will also have the chance to engage with and be inspired by a variety of dynamic employers who will share their personal journeys on how languages have benefitted them both personally and professionally.



Edinburgh 26th French Film Festival

A group of 44 S2 pupils enjoyed a wonderful experience during the 26th French Film Festival at the Film House in Edinburgh when they viewed the French Film "Belle et Sebastian" (with subtitles) – a heart-warming story set in the Alps.

Languages Work!

Soon, for a fifth year at Holy Rood the Modern Languages Faculty will host representatives from Business and Industry. Employees from a range of companies will run workshops for our S2 pupils. The aim is to show pupils that being able to speak and understand a foreign language is an important asset as they prepare to make curricular choices and consider pathways in to the world of work.

Also coming to the Modern Languages Faculty next term... S1 Italian Food Tasting and S2 French Breakfast – Watch this space!

Head Teacher's Welcome

Welcome to Holy Rood's Winter/Christmas Newsletter. As ever, you will find this edition packed with articles about life in and around Holy Rood. There have been numerous school highlights since my last Head Teacher Report and many of them are covered within this newsletter. However, I'd like to give a special mention to a few of them of which we can be particularly proud.

I am delighted to report that Holy Rood pupils continue to perform well in SQA National Qualifications, with some outstanding individual and group/subject performances. You may be interested to know a bit about how schools are measured nationally in terms of their attainment. Every exam is worth a certain amount of points and these are added up for each pupil. The average scores for the lowest, middle and highest ability groupings of pupils are then measured against these groups in other schools with similar characteristics. Schools are also measured against the national average. The good news is that the statistics show Holy Rood's overall attainment continues to stand up very well to this close scrutiny. The highlight for the school is the incredible performance of our S5 pupils which hit new heights this year. The % of S5 pupils attaining at least 5 Level 6 National Qualification Awards (that is Higher or equivalent) is 32.08%. In fact, taking into account all of the measures used to evaluate school attainment, Holy Rood's performance for S5 is very impressive as we exceed the national averages in all categories. The performance of pupils by the end of S6 is also very pleasing:

- **% pupils gaining at least 5+ Nat 5 awards has increased from 74.56% in 2017 to 85.96%**
- **% pupils gaining at least 1+ Higher awards has increased from 84.21% in 2017 to 95.61%.**
- **% pupils gaining at least 3+ Higher awards has increased from 60.53% in 2017 to 67.54%**
- **% pupils gaining at least 5+ Higher awards has increased from 39.47% in 2017 to 46.49%**

The media talks a lot about how schools perform when measuring attainment against deprivation, as this is an area of national concern. However, Holy Rood bucks the trend as this is another area of strength for us that has been noted by the City of Edinburgh Council.

We are very proud of our attainment which shows quite clearly that pupils are taking advantage of the excellent quality of learning and teaching provision in Holy Rood, as well as the support provided at home. This is a clear indication that our strong parental/school partnership stands our young people in good stead and prepares them well for their post school destinations. I pay tribute to the efforts of our whole school community for the individual and collective outstanding successes achieved. We must make sure we continue to build on this.

2018 has been a special year for all Catholic schools

in Scotland as we mark the centenary of the 1918 Education Act which was visionary legislation that brought Catholic schools within the structure of the state – this meant that denominational schools were to be funded by the state and not by the faith community, as they had been up until this point. In the century since 1918, Catholic schools have not only improved individual lives by unlocking the potential of many, many young people, but they have also contributed greatly to the culture and economy of Scotland and beyond. Numerous events have been held up and down the country to mark this centenary. As Head Teacher of Holy Rood and as Chair of the Catholic Head Teachers' Association of Scotland, I have been privileged to accept invitations to a number of Centenary Receptions (including those hosted in Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Parliament, Glasgow University and the Houses of Parliament in Westminster) and to hear, first hand, the praise and recognition forthcoming from many individuals including Nicola Sturgeon (First Minister), John Swinney (Deputy First Minister) and Patrick Grady MP. They were all in agreement that Catholic schools were and are good for Scotland. These events were even more enjoyable as I was accompanied by Holy Rood pupils who, not only held their own in conversing in such esteemed company, but who also performed musically to the assembled VIPs. Not to be outdone, Holy Rood hosted a beautiful ceremony and mass to which the senior pupils of Saint Augustine's and Saint Thomas of Aquin's were invited. The ceremony took place in the school grounds and involved pupils speaking about the history of their individual schools and paying tribute to those who had gone before in Catholic education. It was particularly moving to hear the Lord's Prayer recited in Italian, Polish and Irish as a tribute to the many immigrants who have come over the years to contribute to the success of our schools. Below is an extract from an e-mail I received from one of our invited schools:

"Thank you very much for your hospitality yesterday. Our seniors were most impressed with your school. It was a beautiful mass and the hospitality and welcome we received from your staff, but especially your senior pupils was very heartening. All in all, a well organised and beautiful way to mark the centenary of State funded Scottish Catholic Education."

Every year group in Holy Rood is working hard and has something on the go. At the end of October, P7 pupils (our future S1) enjoyed a 'Thinking Ahead' event. The purpose of this event is to promote the development of skills, to increase pupil understanding of the value of skills to employers and to support our comprehensive primary transition programme by allowing primary pupils an insight into life in High School. Our First Years are now well settled and enjoying the variety of curricular experiences they encounter in high school, as well as getting involved in the numerous

extra-curricular activities on offer (we have over 40 on offer). Our 'Sign up September' event was spectacularly successful with S1 pupils signing up for 433 activities, Many of these extra-curricular activities are provided by Holy Rood's Pupil Sports Council which is a great example of how Holy Rood encourages the development of leadership skills in our pupils. S2 are continuing with their CfE Broad General Education (BGE) courses and are starting to think about the personalization and choice they will have in their subjects at the end of the year. S3 has been working on individual Profiles and pupils are getting ready to embark on the Senior Phase of CfE where the BGE blends with preparation for the new National Qualifications at the end of S4. Our current S4 pupils, who will sit SQA National Qualifications in May have just completed their prelims and are currently on Work Experience. Prelims for S5/6 take place in the middle of January. Whilst pupils are working very hard on their studies, they are allowed to celebrate Christmas with plenty of end of term festivities on the go. Our annual Concert on 4th December was the best yet with 83 pupils involved in either musical performances or an excellent and professional performance of Peter Pan.

Scottish Attainment Challenge

Our work in addressing the equity gap and ensuring poverty is not a barrier to learning continues and we now have good evidence to demonstrate our successes. We are working hard to do all that we can to direct government funding to ensure that the cost of the school day does not prevent an obstacle to the learning of any pupil. We have just secured the services of a worker from an organization called CHAI who will be available to support any Holy Rood family who may need a little help with accessing financial benefits. More information will be made available on how to access this support. In terms of improving family engagement, attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, again we have good evidence that our strategies are paying off – all to the benefit of our young people and their families.

How others See Us!

Some snippets from our very many visitors and partners:

"Very impressive, a lot of very exciting things happening. Impressed by the quality of staff." (Councillor Ian Perry – Education Convener CEC)

"Thanks for a warm welcome to your wonderful school" (John Swinney MSP – Deputy First Minister)

"Thank you for looking after us." (Gayle Gorman – Chief Inspector education Scotland)

"Thank you for a warm welcome and fab learning." (Maree Todd MSP – Minister for Child Care and Early Years)

"Loved it. Great Young people." (Karyn McCluskey – Chief Executive Community Justice)

"Great Achievement by the students, supported by great staff." (Mark Doyle – Edinburgh and District Referees)

"A very impressive school. The students are very appreciative too." (Martin Clark – Edinburgh and District referees)

*"You guys were stellar! (Spacebus)
 "Congratulations on a fantastic achievement. I was delighted to present Holy Rood High School with their SportScotland Gold Award in recognition of the school's achievements with young people being at the heart of the culture, ethos and planning." (Michelle Bone – SportScotland)
 "A great visit! Love the vibe of classes." (Cindy Fu – The Chinese University of Hong Kong)*

As ever, everything we achieve is the result of our partnership involving parents/carers, school and of course our pupils. For this reason, I record my most sincere appreciation for the support received from all of the Holy Rood community, without which our achievements would not be as significant as they are.

Standards

In keeping with the established custom of highlighting the need to maintain our high standards, I include this regular reminder:

The school is dependent upon the support of parents in working with us to promote and maintain high

standards of application to study/homework, behaviour, attendance, punctuality and dress code. Holy Rood is a school to be proud of and we want our public image to reflect the values staff and parents promote. We have very few occasions when the work ethic/behaviour/dress of pupils falls short of our high standards, as the majority of our pupils have a very positive response to the standards set and expected by all of the Holy Rood community. School uniform is an area that can provide a particular challenge and **so I am making a special appeal to parents in this newsletter to work with the school so that we reach those high standards in uniform that we achieve in so many other ways.** Please continue to work with us to ensure all pupils wear the correct version of school uniform (e.g. "school" skirts/trousers – as opposed to fashion versions). It is also important to remind our pupils to conduct themselves in a proper manner as they travel to and from school. Your ongoing support is very much needed and appreciated.

Safety

In the interests of safety, the Police request that pupils

are not dropped off by car within or just outside of the school grounds – this is also important to ensure a clear run for the school buses and to prevent drivers parked in the school car park from getting blocked in.

Staffing Retirals

Since our last newsletter two of our long serving members of staff have retired. Ann Paterson was a member of our Admin Team and her work and relationships were Holy Rood through and through – the best! Joan Highton has also retired after spending the last couple of years on secondment to the SQA. Joan taught Geography and was a Pupil Support Leader for many years in Holy Rood. Joan's commitment to her pupils and colleagues was unquestionable – nothing was an obstacle to Joan in terms of meeting pupil needs. We wish Ann and Joan health and happiness in this next exciting phase of their lives.

Finally, I wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Lorraine F Legrix
 Head Teacher

Physical Education Faculty

Practical Performance

On Thursday 15th November our National and Higher pupils enjoyed their first practical performance assessment of the academic year. Acknowledging the importance of the event, pupils were excellent in organising themselves into their respective groups, ensuring a smooth start to the day.



Outside, the footballers, in the shadow of Arthur's Seat, were blessed with blue skies and sunshine. Curriculum Leader on a Monday, Mr Henderson, reported great success, commending the pupils for how well they performed throughout the various matches.



Inside, pupils participating in basketball, dance, and badminton matched this high level of diligence in their respective assessments, with assessors Mrs Duffy, Mrs Souness, and Mrs Smith reporting good performances across the board.

Extended gratitude goes to the pupils who arrived early



on the day to help set up equipment, and to Curriculum Leader Mrs Duffy, for overseeing the entire process. The faculty looks forward to the second practical performance in the new year.



Rock Trust U18 Sleep Out

Seventeen S6 pupils and three teaching staff participated in the Rock Trust Under 18 Sleep Out to raise awareness of youth homelessness in the City of Edinburgh and beyond. Prior to the event, Gary Neill from the Rock Trust gave a presentation to S6. Gary

highlighted that statistically more people in the 16-25 year old age group are homeless than in the population as a whole.

The Sleep Out took place on Friday 16th November on George Street and required all participants to spend the evening outside in the elements from 7pm - 7am. To date, the fundraising total is £1895.05 with gift aid still to be added to many of these donations. A massive well done to our pupils and staff who managed to fundraise. An amazing effort!



FACULTIES - COMPUTING SCIENCE AND DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

DIGITAL DAY – NOVEMBER 2018 - S3 Holy Rood Pupils participate in a National Digital Day Event

155 schools, Over 5000 students, 90+ different cities, 120 companies, 4,818,565 impressions on Twitter

On Tuesday 13 November 25 of our S3 pupils from Computing Science and the Design and Engineering Faculties took part in our first Digital Day Event at Holy Rood. This is a national event where brands such as Vodafone, the BBC and The Football Association invent challenges that schools have to overcome with help from a partnered agency. The objective is to introduce pupils to careers in the Digital Industry along with developing their teamworking, problem solving and creativity skills.

Our industry partners for the day were Rod Richmond and his colleague Fraser from Clean Digital, Mitchell Street, Edinburgh. Both Rod and Fraser did an excellent job of motivating our young Digital learners, explaining the challenges and supporting each of our teams as they worked on creating a solution for one of the Digital Day challenges.

Digital Day report by Callum Mitchell (S3)

At Digital Day we were given a challenge which was to get more people visiting Vodafone stores by using augmented reality technology. Our idea was an app that can be built into google maps, which will hopefully get people out of their houses. It is a fitness app that can be set to different speeds to take account of people's height, weight, health problems or any disabilities. With different challenges, events and other rewards able to be earned in stores, we think this app is something that Scotland needs.

We all thought that the Digital Day was good as both Rod and Fraser spoke to us about what jobs are available in the digital industry. They also helped us to create the idea for our app as they gave us advice and feedback on how our app would work.

Callum Mitchell, Lewis Stewart, Lucas McKenzie and Ryan Harkins were the winning Holy Rood team at the Digital Day event. Callum along with Sophie Evans and Kathleen McBride then developed their app idea further and prepared the Holy Rood entry for the National competition.

Thanks to our industry partners – Rod and Fraser of Clean Digital – for leading such an excellent event at Holy Rood. Congratulations and well done to the winning team.

Science Faculty

Advanced Higher Biology Excursions



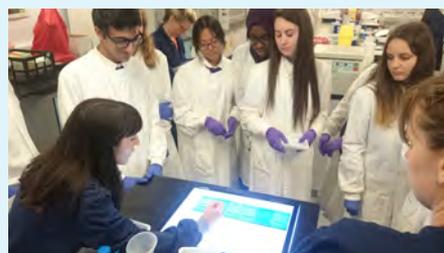
The Advanced Higher Biology class has had the opportunity to take part in two very worthwhile excursions this term. The First, a trip to The Scottish Seabird Centre, is described by Caitlin Fong and Sandra Sam below:

"We went to the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick with our Advanced Higher Biology class. In the morning we met Andrew who is an Educational Officer at the centre. He was going to take us on a



boat trip to Bass Rock and other islands where a lot of native seabirds would visit. We particularly enjoyed having the opportunity to see and learn about the birds up close. Some of the birds we saw on the boat trip included; the Puffin, the Gannet, the Kittiwake and the Shag.

In the afternoon we went rock-pooling. Beforehand we learned about the many different organisms that we may encounter. We found it surprising, as we didn't expect such a high amount of biodiversity. As we moved across the zones, split by water level, we sampled and viewed a variety of different plants and sea creatures. Some of the few we saw, which we were quite intrigued by includes; the Brittle Star, the Dog Whelk, Kelp, and the Dogfish."



The class also took part in an Advanced Higher Biology Workshop at The University of Edinburgh's King's Buildings in June. There they carried out DNA electrophoresis, micro pipetting, fluorescence microscopy, a tour of the protein analysis laboratories and had a chat with several research scientists. Caitlin and Sandra have summarised the highlights below:

"We also had the opportunity to visit the laboratories in the King's Building. The facilities were state of the art and more advanced than what we had at school. We met scientists who worked there and some who were currently doing research in biology. They led us through a research technique known as protein electrophoresis."

International Women in Engineering Day



In June, S3 girls studying Physics and Chemistry were invited to spend the day at Torness Nuclear Power Station by EDF Energy. As well as going on a tour of the power station they had the chance to try some hands-on science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) activities including taking part in a Build-a-Droid workshop. They were also able to hear





from some of the female engineers who work at the power station and explore the world of virtual reality through a 360 degree film which takes you inside the core of a nuclear reactor to find out how it works. At the moment just one in four people working in STEM careers in Scotland is a woman. The event aimed to address the under-representation of women in these roles by encouraging girls' curiosity for science. Everyone who came along seemed to have a great time and hopefully they were given something to think about when it comes to making subject and career choices in the future.

Digital Explorers Day



A small selection of S5/6 pupils had the chance to attend a Digital Explorers day run by TATA Consultancy. The event was aimed at young people thinking about a career in STEM industries and helped them in understanding the options open to them.

The groups debated A.I. and cryptocurrencies, put together and presented a "Dragon's Den" style pitch for digital businesses (team Holy Rood missed out on winning by 1 point!), learned about modern apprenticeships, and wrote personal statements with the help of industry specialists.

The organisers and volunteers both commended our pupils on their ideas, presentation skills and behaviour. One of the team leaders from Lloyds Banking Group extended an invitation for our pupils to visit their offices to gain insight into the work of their digital teams. We also received good feedback from the pupils, who definitely enjoyed themselves and found the workshop useful.

All those that attended have successfully completed the "Challenger" level of Industrial Cadets. This is an

industry-led accreditation run by EDT, which aims to develop young peoples' skills for the workplace. Through a range of workshops and a structured programme of activities, pupils can progress through the award to Platinum level and can gain access to the Aerospace Industrial Cadets Programme.

The S5/S6 group that attended the digital explorers was fantastic. They engaged really well in all of the activities, interacted with pupils from other schools, asked the panel experts relevant questions and their behaviour was impeccable.

Particle Physics

On the evening of the 3rd of September, I went with another Higher Physics pupil to a lecture at Fettes College, which was about "The Large Hadron Collider, the Higgs boson, and beyond". It was with Professor Aidan Robson. He had a very good speaking style that kept us interested in what he was talking about. First, we talked about different types of fundamental particles, which was an interactive part of the lecture. Then he went on to talk about LHC and how it works, which I thought was very complicated. However, he explained it really well, so it was fairly easy to understand. At the end of the lecture there were refreshments and we were also given the chance to ask any questions we had. It was a really great experience and was one of my favourite lectures (and I have been to lots of them!) Elyssa Molina (S5 Higher Physics Pupil)

Nuffield Science research placements



This year four of our S5 pupils (Bilal Azhar, Lewis Moorhead, Sandra Sam and Trisha Espallardo) were awarded Nuffield Science Research Placements. This was an amazing achievement given that, out of 450 Scottish applicants, only 75 young people were granted this highly prestigious opportunity to work alongside professional scientists (including quantitative social scientists), technologists, engineers and mathematicians. Each pupil dedicated their summer holiday to completing a research project, which clearly demonstrates their personal commitment to enhancing their STEM skills. The Nuffield placement culminated in a celebration day at the Royal College of Surgeons where pupils presented their own work to Scientists, peers, family members and teachers. Bilal, Lewis, Sandra and Trisha exhibited their work with enthusiasm and were very professional in their conduct. The Science Faculty is

very proud of their amazing achievements.

S1 Speedy STEM

Once again, our S1 pupils enjoyed a visit from representatives of Fife College who ran a short STEM event in the school. All S1 classes attended the event during the day to work on a selection of activities from building structures to making remote controlled cars. Pupils were able to develop their problem solving and team working skills throughout the session and it was a great chance for the new classes to work together with a common goal. The classes had a great time and the feedback from the pupils was hugely positive – in fact, for most of them, the only complaint was that they could not stay longer. We will look to see if this can be accommodated next session. Well done S1 for all the effort and enthusiasm.

Space Bus

In May, S2 and S3 Physics pupils got the opportunity to have the virtual experience of Tim Peake's space journey. On the first floor of the specially converted double decker bus they explained Tim Peake's journey and on the second floor you were able to actually experience his journey back to Earth in the Soyuz spacecraft with virtual reality. This one-off experience was very fun, informative and unique. We were very grateful to the sponsor, Samsung and the London Science Museum, for this opportunity.

Mobeen, Michal, Jian, Matteo – S3 Physics pupils



Studying Pathology

Four students in S5 were lucky enough to be able to take part in the Interactive Pathology week at the Royal (Dick) School for Veterinary Studies. During the visit they: studied blood smears, fine needle aspirates and tissue samples through a multi-head microscope with the professor of Pathology; diagnosed an infection in a sheep using microscopy and biochemical testing; viewed a post mortem of a sheep; observed (close up) various diseased organs such as liver with cirrhosis, kidney with cysts and dog embryos with hydrocephalus; and finally heard 3 talks by different kinds of pathologists - lecturer, researcher and forensic pathologist.



"I found this trip very interesting and I feel that it has really given me an insight into what it would be like to work in pathology. My favourite part was seeing different preserved specimens and learning about their abnormalities. I also really enjoyed the talk given by a forensic pathologist, where he explained some of his cases and taught us about what his job entails." - Madelaine Gomez Grouse S5

Mathematics Faculty

At this time of year, with the preparations for the Christmas holidays in full swing, it is good to reflect on the last few months. When deciding on the content for the newsletter, it became apparent how busy the Mathematics Faculty had been and how successful our pupil have been in the last 6 months. Here is a flavour of our department.

SQA Attainment

The department had its most successful SQA examination results. In S4 National 5 we had more passes than ever before and in Higher we achieved outstanding success in doubling the passes from 2017 with a 95% pass rate. We are hoping for similar success this academic year. This achievement does not just happen without hard work and effort and my congratulations firstly go to the pupils for their outstanding efforts, however none of this success would be possible without the significant contributions made by the teaching staff. Mathematics staff helped to provide meaningful progressive pathways for our young people to meet their goals and aspirations. Our success was partly founded on our work with SCHOLAR – the free study resource tool available to all S4/5/6 (all pupils have their own username and password).

The S4 Prelims will have passed by the time the newsletter is published. However, the S5/6 exams will be just around the corner starting on 15th January 2019. As a faculty we have produced many resources and have lots of additional material in the Numeracy Hub for all pupils to use. If you require resources to prepare for prelims they can be found at:

www.national5maths.co.uk
www.highermaths.co.uk
www.advancedhighermaths.co.uk
www.scholar.org

Attainment Challenge

We have provided an interesting and varied programme of events for parents and pupils this term. We have looked at improving Numeracy through playing strategy games, tarsias, 5-minute frenzies, treasure hunts and dominoes, as well as promoting the use of SumDog. SumDog is available to all S1, S2 and S3 pupils and each pupil has his/her own username and password. Mathematics staff supported the Attainment Challenge by preparing all resources for use on the night and for use at home.

Residential Study Weekends 2019

The faculty is again running 2 study weekends next March 2019 for National 5 and Higher/Advanced Higher Mathematics. However, we have expanded the theme of the weekends to include STEM (Science, Technology and Mathematics) and our colleagues from Science and DET will add their subject expertise to support our pupils in preparation for the SQA examination diet 2019. Both weekends will take place in the beautiful countryside of Aberfoyle at the Scottish Outdoor Learning Centre.

Hall of Fame

In 2017 we nominated Linnea Franssen (University of St Andrews) to the Holy Rood RC High School Mathematics Hall of Fame for her work on Mathematics within Cancer Care. This year, 2018, we welcome Dr Ruth Bowness (University of St Andrews) to the Hall of Fame for her work on Mathematical Modelling of TB. Our S1 in both 2017 and 2018 selected these women as role models in the ongoing work of Mathematics in the world and as Mathematicians who will change people's lives for the better. Ruth's prizegiving will take place on 18th December and you can follow the pictures on the Departmental twitter account, @MathsHolyRood



Overseas Trips

In June 2018 the faculty led a magnificent trip to Rome. Thirty-six S2 pupils and four staff visited the Vatican, St Peter's Basilica, the Trevi Fountain, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and the Botanical Gardens amongst others. We rode the Metro, we squashed into buses and walked the streets of Rome. The pupils were a credit to the school and their parents/carers and it was a brilliant way to finish off the academic year.

In June 2019 we are visiting Berlin and I am sure this will be another fantastic trip.

Competitions

Our students have participated in many competitions gaining awards. From the SumDog "Wee Sleep Out" competition to Enterprising Mathematics to UK Mathematics Trust Junior and Senior Challenges, our pupils continue to do well. The UK Mathematics Trust is a competition for all pupils at various stages in the school and they compete for Gold, Silver and Bronze awards against all schools in the UK. This year we achieved silver and bronze in the Junior category and 5 bronze at Senior level. Our best in school were Matteo Maiello (Junior) and Lewis Moorhead S6 (Senior) – congratulations!



Holy Rood RC High School – Awarded Gold School Sport Award from Sportscotland



Our school has been recognised with a prestigious national award for innovation and achievement in delivering school sport. The sportscotland Gold School Sport Award was presented to our staff and senior pupils by Michelle, Lead Manager at Sportscotland on Wednesday 7th November. The Gold School Sport Award is in recognition of our school achievements in putting sport at the heart of our planning, practice and ethos. This highlights that we have shown excellent practice across the core areas of the award and demonstrated an on-going commitment to increase young people's opportunities and engagement in physical education, school sport and leadership and provide clear pathways to life-long participation in sport. Being recognised for this award demonstrates the hard work of our Active Schools Coordinator, PE and other school staff along with our great Sports Council pupils and the wider community club coaches and volunteers. Holy Rood values sport very much and we are lucky to have so many staff and pupils involved in ensuring there are ample opportunities for our pupils to get involved. We have become one of only 5 high schools to be awarded gold status across Edinburgh and are extremely proud of this fantastic achievement.

Along with achieving our gold school sport award, it has been a busy time for our extra-curricular clubs. We have seen great development in those pupils who are attending weekly activities. Pupils have had the opportunity to take part in various competitive fixtures, as well as attending international rugby games and championship league matches.

Rugby

Rugby has had a massive increase in uptake this year with 25 pupils, a mixture of boys and girls from S1-5 attending our weekly training with Mr Dixon and Miss Berry. At the last session of this term we were fortunate to have expert coaching from Scotland 7s players Ally Miller and Joe Nayacavou. These international players shared their experience in Rugby and how enjoyable the sport can be at all levels. 9 of our pupils had the opportunity to attend the Scotland vs Fiji Autumn International at BT Murrayfield. For many of these pupils this was their first experience watching an international game – a very exciting match was



enjoyed by all. Eric and coaches from Lismore RFC have been in during curricular PE to deliver Rugby skills sessions to our S2 pupils. On top of all of this, 12 of our S2/3 pupils have participated in the School Sport Rugby Festivals. This has been their first experience of competitive contact Rugby which has greatly developed their self-confidence and teamwork. Six of our S5 pupils represented us at Portobello HS, along with Leith Academy pupils in the semi final of the Scottish Schools Plate.

Netball

This year our netball teams from S1 to S6 have entered the Schools Scottish Cup competition. Some of our teams have also played many friendlies with Portobello High School and completed in the Edinburgh School Sport Netball Festivals.



Dance

Our Higher and NAT 5 dancers have had a workshop from Simon Says Dance and our extra curricular clubs have been busy this term preparing their routines for the first Active Schools Day of Dance at Edinburgh's



International Conference Centre on Saturday 24th November. Our 2 dance groups performed brilliant routines and had a great experience at the show.

Football

This year we have entered an S1, S2, S3 and a senior football team into the Schools Scottish Cup. Our girls have also been hard at work during training with their 4 coaches from our S5/6 Sports Council preparing to attend the Girls Football Festivals



Ex Pupils Coaching our Clubs

7 of last years S6 pupils who were part of the Sport Council have come back to put their coaching qualifications to great use by supporting the delivery of our extra curricular basketball and volleyball. The Basketball Junior Boys team has been coached by Marc Robertson, Lee Wadsworth and Jason Stewart-Evans. Our girls basketball team is coached by Kayla Ho and Cameron Jackson. All 5 coaches have their Basketball UKCC Level 1 and have enjoyed leading the teams in their Scottish Cup games. 3 of our coaches who have their refereeing qualifications have refereed at some of our junior games. Mateusz Pasternak and Sourav Yadar have taken the lead on Volleyball and have attended the first of the School Sport Volleyball Festivals. The coaches have great plans to develop the after school sessions and buy new equipment and strips through the funding we received and some fundraising events.





Food and Textile Technology Faculty

This term the S5/6 Cake Craft pupils have had the opportunity to work with Stefano Marongiuste from Prestonfield House Hotel, who showed them how to improve their piping skills, the Higher Health and Food Technology pupils visited Nairns factory to learn all about Product Development, and S4 Hospitality pupils visited Domino's to learn about the high standards of hygiene required in the food industry, the bonus being making their own pizza.

Expressive Arts Faculty

Leith School of Art - Schools Outreach Project



Holy Rood pupils with their work in progress during a life drawing session.

Leith School of Art (LSA), known for its hands-on, high quality teaching, is an independent art school and registered charity, established in 1988. Twelve pupils

from three secondary schools were selected to take part in the fully funded School's Outreach Project which runs every Friday afternoon from September until March. The chance to try new artistic techniques brings increased variety to their portfolios, greatly increasing their chances of being accepted for further art study. Students work in an art school environment with a high tutor to student ratio allowing highly nurturing and individually-tailored teaching.

The three schools involved are Holy Rood RC High School, Leith Academy and The Royal High School. Students participating in the Schools Outreach Project exhibited work alongside enrolled LSA students in the Christmas exhibition. This was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to experience a high profile exhibition with a huge sense of achievement. Pupils are invited to apply for a fully funded Foundation Course place. For further information about the Schools Outreach Project, the Christmas exhibition or to support with funding, visit the website at www.leithschoolofart.co.uk, email the school on Enquiries@LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk or call 0131 554 5761.

Christmas Concert 2018

On Tuesday 4th December, the Expressive Arts Faculty put on a Christmas concert which featured a music performance at 6pm, refreshments at 6:45pm and a dramatic performance of Peter Pan at 7pm. A great time was had by pupils, staff, parents/carers and invited guests from the local old folks residential homes. What talented pupils we have at Holy Rood RC High School.



Duke of Edinburgh Success

During May, 20 pupils took part in two Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Firstly, the pupils completed a training expedition to learn the skills needed so that they were able to pass the externally assessed qualifying expedition later in the Month. They covered navigation, camp craft and group work skills during two days spent in the Pentland Hills. All the pupils that took part did exceptionally well and when they returned 4 weeks later their assessor was full of praise for the groups and was delighted to pass them all!

The groups have also been working their way through the Physical, Volunteering and Skill sections of the award and I'm pleased to report that the following pupils have now completed their Bronze award: Calum Fielding, Louise Ford, Martyna Gorska, Lydia McConnell, Pallavi Nair, Beck Newall, Gemma O'Neil and Christin Roy – well done.

The other pupils are nearing completion and should finish soon.

Design, Engineering and Technology Faculty

This year in Design, Engineering and Technology Mr MacLeod joined the team. Mr MacLeod comes to us with lots of experience and is enjoying working in DET. We have another new member of the DET team in Marty the Robot. Learners from S1 and S2 in DET took part in a competition and made it through to round 2. Marty is designed to inspire learners to learn to code. To take part in the competition Marty had to make his own dance video and learn how to navigate different challenges. Marty also joined Mrs Legrix for her introduction to the P6 STEM day.

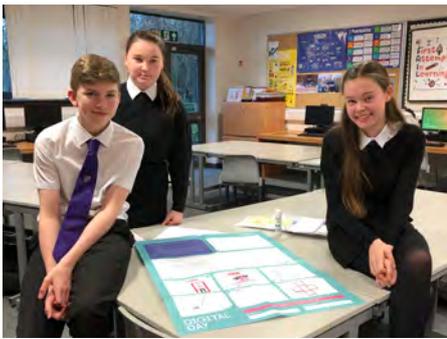


brief – but also consider the thoughts of the Curricular Leader responsible for the subject. Miss McNamee (CL DET) was apparently a nightmare due to her exact specifications on font, colour and layout! They are a very talented group and we are sure they will soon be working in creative industries.

Back in May all the P6 pupils of our cluster primary schools took part in a STEM day. Learners got the opportunity to make their own DET key fob. This involved using a template that had been prepared on the laser cutter. All learners developed their practical skills in the DET work shops and all left with a little piece of Holy Rood.

Cutter club and Wednesday Coding Club. The prefects are doing an excellent job with the younger pupils and it is good to see lots of enthusiasm being shared.

A group of S2 pupils represented Holy Rood RC High School at the yearly construction challenge. This involved them working as part of a team to solve a variety of different engineering challenges. This year the Holy Rood group came 2nd. Well done to the team and Mr Mitchell for organising.



Miss Grant and Mr Mitchell visited St Mary's Leith as part of their STEM week and delivered a variety of lessons. Coding with BBC micro bits and deserted island survival tasks.

This year the new DET prefects have been helping around the faculty by running lunch time clubs and helping at parents' evenings. Two new clubs have started in DET at lunch time: Tuesday – Graphics/Laser



Our S6 Advanced Higher Graphic Communication class got the chance to work for a real client as Mrs Imlach gave them the job of designing the school Health and Wellbeing posters. They all had to answer Mrs Imlach

This year the DET faculty has built on our Rewarding Success Postcards by introducing hot chocolate Friday. The DET teachers have been doing some professional reading during some of their faculty meetings and decided to further reward learners for positive behaviour and working hard in DET. So far two of the DET hot chocolate mornings have taken place. Who will be next to be invited? DET share success stories on the twitter account @DETHolyRood



A group of pupils from DET took part in the school digital day and have been selected to submit their app for the next round of the competition. Well done to Callum, Kathleen, and Sophie.

Later in December a group of senior DET pupils will be visiting the new V&A museum in Dundee to look at the showcase of Design.

WANTED!

If you have any study/ revision textbooks that you have bought and no longer use, we'd love to have them! Please give these materials to Mrs Y Brown in the Business Education Faculty or to Ms McCabe in the school library. A mystery gift will be available to every pupil who donates a revision textbook so don't delay!

Business Studies and Computing Faculty

Excellence in Enterprise Event – S5 – October 2018

Eileen Black, a business consultant, led our annual Excellence in Enterprise Event in October 2018 for a group of S5 pupils who are studying National 5 Business Management.



Pupils took part in a number of assessment centre activities improving their employability and enterprise skills – team work, problem solving, decision making, time management. They also met and worked along with industry partners who gave them good advice about applying for jobs, skills employers are looking for and career opportunities within their industries.

Our industry partners who supported this event included Dave Black, ex manager from Standard Life, Ciara Hayes – Education Officer from Fife College, and Erin Cameron – Standard Life.

Pupil feedback from the event –

I thought that this was a very good day. I enjoyed every minute of it. I learned so much about working in a team and communication. If I had the opportunity to do this again I would. I would strongly recommend this course for other pupils.

It was really good and I was kept on my toes. The environment was great fun to work in and I learned lots of new skills.

I learned lots and I found out that I have more skills than I thought, like working under pressure. I feel that I have improved my communication skills by working with people I wouldn't normally work with.

Thanks to Eileen, and her team of industry partners, for giving up their time to organise and lead this event for our senior pupils. Well done, to all those who took part in this event.



HIGHER GRADE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus, August 2018
A group of our senior pupils attended the Higher Grade Business Management Conference at Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus on 30 August.

The key speakers at this event were –

Cameron McLay	BasketballScotland
Gavin Bell	Facebook Ads
Emily Hutchison	Aldi
Emma Pellegrini	iProspect
Colin Reid	Bauer Media

Pupils and staff heard about the career path of each of the key speakers along with the role and importance of Marketing and Technology in their organisations.

After listening to all the key speaker presentations our pupils then attended a workshop where they worked in small groups along with pupils from The Royal High School, Edinburgh. Each group prepared a marketing plan which had the objective of increasing the competitiveness of Aldi supermarket.

The final part of the event involved all the pupils taking part in an interactive quiz in the lecture theatre followed by a question and answer session.

This was an excellent event which gave our pupils the opportunity to visit Napier University and find out about courses offered at this campus, learn about Marketing from business experts and take part in group activities with senior pupils from other schools. Pupils who attended enjoyed this event and learnt a lot from the key speakers involved.

Well done, to all those who attended.

ICT Girls Lunchtime Club

This session, we ran a lunchtime ICT Club for girls in S1 to S3 - 'TechFuture Girls'. It offers online and offline, bite-sized challenges in topics including crowdfunding, cyber safety, and health and fitness. Pupils experience the fun side of the digital world through creative projects based on real-life situations. They not only learn ICT skills such as coding and blogging, but also softer skills such as team-work and communication.

Well done to the S1-3 girls who attended this club. They all had a lot of fun working on the range of different IT challenges.



FUTURE EVENTS

Investment 2020 Careers Event – November 2018

A group of S5 pupils who are studying Higher Grade Business Management are attending the Investment 2020 Careers Event at Lloyds Bank, Scottish Headquarters, The Mound, Edinburgh on Friday 30 November 2018.

The programme for this event includes –

- Introduction to Investment Management and Career Routes
- Careers Advice - skills employers are looking for
- Meeting key personnel and trainees from 5 Investment Management companies.

Companies who will be represented at this event include Aberdeen Standards Investments, BNP Paribas, DST, Kames Capital, and Franklin Templeton.

This event is a great opportunity for our senior pupils to network with staff from the Investment Management industry and learn more about careers available in this particular industry.

Cyber Security Christmas Lecture Tour

A group of senior pupils - Higher Grade Computing Science and Higher Grade Administration – will be attending a Cyber Security Christmas Lecture, Craiglockhart Campus at Napier University on Thursday 12 December.

This is an annual event, supported by Scottish Government and industry. The Cyber Security Christmas Lecture tour will be visiting 6 locations across Scotland in December talking to over 2500 pupils.

The aim of this tour is to encourage the 12-18 age group to consider a career in cyber security. The lecture is promoted as 2 hours of interactive and light hearted presentations on a wide range of security topics.

Personal Finance Workshops

Our annual S3 Personal Finance workshops will take place next term for S3 Business Management pupils. Eileen Black, business consultant, will lead these workshops.

The Personal Finance workshops are always popular with our pupils. The main objective is to improve pupil knowledge about the opportunities and choices available to them when managing their own personal finances. Main topics which will be discussed are saving, borrowing, budgeting, debt management, credit, banks and credit unions.

Social Subjects Faculty



Geography Pupils collecting data for their Higher Assignment- pupils were studying coastal defence on Portobello beach from the sewage works to Joppa and wondering why the type of sea defence varies along the coastline.

Our new Social Subjects Superstars noticeboard celebrates the work, effort and enthusiasm of pupils in the Social Subjects Faculty.



Library news

Over the summer the Year of Young People initiative joined forces with The Edinburgh International Book Festival and gave 9 young people in and around Craigmillar the chance to programme, market and chair events at the Book Festival. Five of our pupils were fortunate enough to be chosen and had a wonderful time meeting authors such as Michael Morpurgo and David Walliams. The Executive Director of the Book Festival, Sophie Moxon (pictured), was so impressed with the work our pupils did that she asked them to introduce a session at the International Eurocities Conference at the EICC on 29th November. The picture shows Laurence Philpot and Martyna Gorska with Charles Landry (on the right), an international advisor on the future of cities and Mayor Aboutaleb of Rotterdam (on the left). People in the audience came up to congratulate the pupils after the session. The message is, clearly, that loving reading has many advantages other than that of improving your literacy skills!



Health and Wellbeing

This year we are asking all pupils, staff and parents/carers to take part in a survey which asks about the Health and Wellbeing Indicators in Holy Rood RC High School. The Indicators are: Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurture, Active, Responsible, Respect and Included.

The results so far have indicated that we will focus on Healthy and Respect for 2018/19. Parents/carers have been filling in the survey form at Parents evenings. If you wish to participate then contact the school and we can arrange the survey to be sent

to you electronically. Each faculty is about to receive their personalised HWB posters showing examples of what the HWB Indicators look like in different faculties. The posters have been designed by the Advanced Higher Graphic Communication pupils.



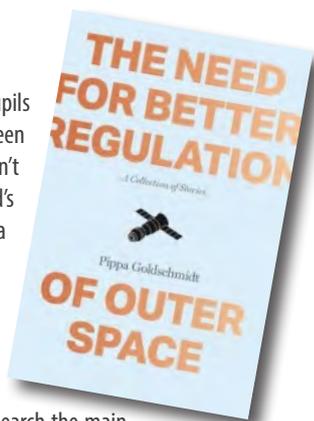
English Faculty

Inspiration for our senior pupils:

On 7th September, Advanced Higher English pupils attended a creative writing conference run by Edinburgh University in which Edinburgh-based writer Pippa Goldschmidt was the keynote speaker. Her background is in astronomy as well as being a novelist and poet, so she had an interesting perspective to share! They also took part in writing workshops led by ten published writers as well as teacher-led activities.

A Library for the 21st Century:

On Wednesday 10th October we took the Advanced Higher English pupils to the National Library of Scotland on George IV Bridge. It has thirteen floors and, at the very bottom, there is a road to the Cowgate that hasn't been walked along for 150 years! With over 7 million books it is Scotland's largest library and one of the leading libraries in Europe. They keep a copy of everything published in the UK – including knitting patterns!! The visit was designed to help students prepare for their dissertation topics and also to introduce them to using a research library, which may be useful for future study. We had a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour, including the public spaces, the General Reading Room, and one of the book storage areas. Our students were shown how to search the main catalogue, order books in advance, access e-resources such as full text journal databases remotely and where to go for further help and guidance. Our guide – an ex-Holy Rood pupil, whose father taught PE here too – had helpfully selected relevant materials for each pupil to aid them with the daunting task of writing their Advanced Higher Dissertations. Our pupils can now go back and confidently access materials for all their subjects or simply get a quiet place to study.



Shakespeare for S1s:

October brought Andy Cannon from Red Bridge Arts, as part of the Theatre in Schools Scotland programme, with a production of Macbeth – 'Is This a Dagger?' – for some of our S1 pupils. Who would have thought that such an iconic Shakespearean tragedy, with multiple complex characters, could be performed by just one person? Well, it was not only possible but utterly captivating to watch. This skilled actor brought Macbeth, Banquo, King Duncan, Macduff and even Lady Macbeth to life in front of our eyes in the compelling and devastating tale of ambition and betrayal.



Board Game Club

We've started an S1-3 board game club on Tuesday at lunchtime in the Literacy Hub. There's Scrabble, Boggle, Bananagrams and Don't Say It.

The club is happy to welcome new members!

Writers' Club

Mr MacLeod has started a Writers' Club, which meets on a Tuesday afternoon in the English Faculty.

Anyone who enjoys creative writing is welcome to join. We are currently preparing for entering some writing and poetry competitions and starting to share some of our talented writers' work.



Contact

How to get in touch with the School

If you are concerned about your child or just wish some information, please contact your child's Year Head or any member of the Senior Leadership Team. You may phone, write or e-mail. Whilst you are very welcome to visit the school, please arrange an appointment in advance to avoid disappointment, as staff commitments may mean they are unavailable to meet with you.

Call: 0131 661 5871

E-mail:

admin@holyrood.edin.sch.uk

Website:

www.holyrood.edin.sch.uk

Attendance Call Phone Number

Telephone: 0131 661 3247

(Please phone this number when reporting your child's absence)

TERM 2018/19

2019

Monday 7 January - Holiday

Tuesday 8 January - Staff resume

Wednesday 9 January – Pupils resume

Friday 8 February - Mid-term

Monday 18 February - All resume

Friday 5 April - Term ends

The Easter break incorporates the following two holidays:

Friday 19 April - Good Friday

Monday 22 April - Easter Monday

Tuesday 23 April - All resume

Monday 6 May - May Day Holiday

Tuesday 7 May - Staff resume

Wednesday 8 May - Pupils resume

Monday 20 May - Victoria Day

Tuesday 21 May - All resume

Friday 28 June - Term ends