

Hillside School Bulletin

Number 10

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We wish everyone all the very best for the Spring and Summer. We are welcoming visitors back to our school and our young people have been enjoying making the most of the many opportunities that our local community offers.

Our young people continue to enjoy full access to the curriculum, including many health and wellbeing opportunities, and this year's Hillside School Sports Day will take place on Wednesday 15th June.

We are introducing the SQA National Progression Award in Tenancy. This includes units of study in Personal Finance, Cooking and Successful Tenancy. This course will help some of our older students to develop and evidence knowledge and skills that will be useful in adult life.

Our young people in the senior phase have been working hard on their qualifications. Recent successes include SQA National qualifications in: English and Literacy, PE, Maths and Numeracy, Woodwork, Art, Admin and ICT; Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies; Biology and Social Studies. Some of our young people have successfully completed ASDAN short courses in Gardening, and Beliefs and Values.

Our Skills Development Scotland (SDS) consultations for young people have returned to being face-to-face. Carrie, our SDS advisor, has been supporting young people with their college

applications, CV writing, job applications and introductions to the My World of Work website.

Our School Council representatives have been working with senior managers to prepare for improvements to the availability of wifi throughout our residences.



Making musical instruments in Woodwork

Our parent and carers' forum is open to all and has returned to being a face-to-face event. The next meeting is at Hillside on Thursday 16th June.

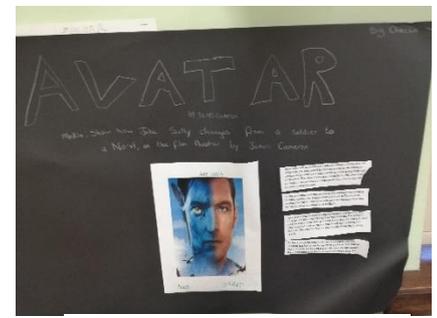


A volcano project in Geography

Our afternoon volunteering group has been working on projects around our campus and in Aberdour village. The group also received a tour of East End Park, home of Dunfermline Athletic, as a reward for their efforts.

Some of our young people have been enjoying sessions at the Beacon swimming pool in Burntisland. We have also had success with our after-school one-to-one swimming lessons.

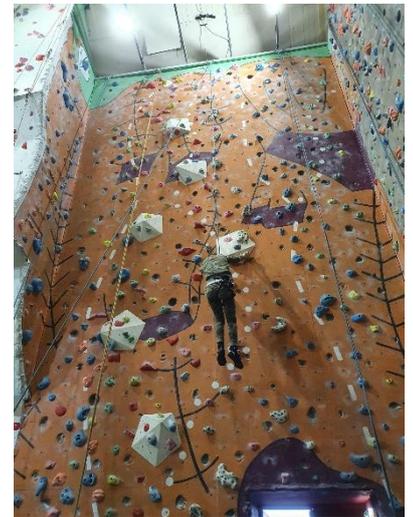
This term, some of our young people have been working on



Avatar poster work in English

media analysis in English. They have worked well in learning about colour, sound, camera angles, and the characterisation of the main character, Jake Sully, in the film Avatar. Learners have produced excellent posters that explore Jake Sully's journey from being a human soldier to joining the Na'vi (alien) tribe.

Our young people have linked analysis techniques they learned last term for the short story The Landlady, by Roald Dahl, to their analysis of the movie. Well done to all learners for showing adaptability in their learning and for adding to our colourful classroom displays.



Challenging ourselves at Alien Rock

Some of our young people have been enjoying afternoon climbing sessions at Edinburgh's Alien Rock. Having never climbed before, they have demonstrated high levels of confidence, with Lorenzo particularly keen to reach the top every time! As their confidence

grows, the young people are encouraged to attempt specific routes, challenging themselves further.



Group work with our social work student, Dawn

Our Friday car wash has operated for the past two terms. The aim has been to make as much money as possible for a chosen charity. Through the hard work of our young people, we have managed to raise £250 for Guide Dogs for the Blind. This will hopefully enable them to train two new puppies for a whole year. This is a fabulous achievement and all involved should be proud of their endeavours.



Evidencing our new skills in SQA Cycle Maintenance

In Bike Mechanics and Maintenance, we have been focussing on attaining SQA National 3 and 4 qualifications.

The standards for National 4 require our young people to be able to identify problems with their bikes and then be able to fix them. Common wear and tear issues centre around brakes, bottom brackets and headsets.

Our young people work out whether the parts need to be

repaired or replaced. Replacing involves measuring and ordering the parts with the correct specifications.

The young people use a range of specialised tools: Cup Tappers, Lockring Tools and Bearing/Cup Press Tools, in addition to a range of spanners.

During the process, candidates select between various types of grease, WD40 and liquid oil, to release the components for final set-up.

Another critical part is the correct placement of cups, cones, washers, bearings, lockrings and securing nuts. The correct torque must be applied to the lockrings and securing nuts, so that the parts move freely and without any 'play'.

In Woodwork, our younger students have made board games, such as Nine Men's Morris, and toy boats. We have also been making instruments, including Baliphone (penny whistle saxophones), basket shakers (Caxixi) and one-stringed Ash bows called Berimbau. We are going to make xylophones, using cross-half joinery and red wood batons. Often, we use recycled wood.



Some of our young people recently enjoyed a short break in Blackpool

Our senior phase students have been progressing well with their SQA Practical Woodworking coursework. We have successfully completed our first National Progression Award qualification in Carpentry and Bench Joinery. Jordanlee completed his framed studwork and then converted it

into a potting table. We have also been putting the finishing touches to our garden shed, ready to house the potting table and other garden furniture.



Putting the finishing touches to our NPA shed

Golf has been popular this year, with afternoon trips to Wellsgreen near Leven, with our young people also completing Personal Achievement and Improving Wellbeing qualifications.

Very recently, the Care Inspectorate carried out an inspection of our service, in particular gathering evidence for Key Question 7.1: Children and young people are safe, experience warmth, compassion and get the most out of life. We have been given a Quality Grade 5 – Very Good, and we are all very proud. The published inspection report will be available soon.

The inspectors praised our commitment to working together to improve young people's outcomes. They recognised the confidence that young people and their families have in our service. The inspectors also praised the effectiveness of individualised supports. We will now produce an action plan to take forward our improvements and our commitment to The Promise.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about some of our great work.

David Noble, Head of Education
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