

WHAT'S GOING ON AT CDHS?



Headteacher's Message

Dear school community,

school session 2019-20 will provide lasting memories for us all, some pleasant and some very unpleasant. You will look back to this session in years to come and it will always provide you with talking points and memories of catastrophically bad news being reported on TV, of not being at school, of not seeing your friends, of not being able to go to the shops etc and, for senior pupils, of not being able to sit your SQA exams. None of us could have predicted in August 2019 that we would lose over 17 weeks of the school term as a result of a global pandemic.

You have responded magnificently to lock down and most of you have made sure that you kept engaged with your learning on-line. This has not been an easy task as the whole idea of learning on-line and using Teams was foreign to both pupils and teachers alike. Seventeen weeks ago few teachers and few pupils would have been able to use Microsoft Teams effectively. Now a large number of you feel comfortable using the Teams software and some might even call yourselves 'skilled users'. As a group you have achieved a great deal over lock down and the following pages of this newsletter will be used to celebrate many of these successes.

I want to say a special thanks to the S6 pupils who are now leaving us to begin a new chapter of their lives beyond school. S6 have been particularly disadvantaged by lock down as they did not have the opportunity to take their leave of school in any of the traditional ways, having missed out on their final sports day, their final awards event and their S6 'prom' to name but a few. However, as a group the S6, for session 2019-20, were particularly successful in all of their contributions to the school over the duration of their six years at the school. In S6 you shone not only academically but also in the way you all participated willingly and enthusiastically at every opportunity whether that was presenting at school assemblies, running school dances, collecting food for the foodbanks or helping the janitors to stack chairs in the assembly hall. Everything was tackled with enthusiasm and a smile, you should be very proud of yourselves. You have sent out a clear challenge to future S6 pupils; you will be a hard act to follow.

Looking ahead to the next five weeks it is important now that you all take the opportunity to enjoy your holiday. Hopefully, lock down measures will continue to be relaxed and over the course of the summer you get a chance to experience some more 'normal' time with family and friends. At the moment we are anticipating a return to school on 12th August but there remains some uncertainty about what that return will look like. I will be in contact with you as soon as I have further information that I can share with you and your parents.

Until August I want to say thank you to you all for coping with the last 17 weeks; I want to encourage you to now enjoy the summer break, remember to go on a virtual activity day or two, and I look forward to being able to welcome you all back to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Take care,

Mr Smith

Messages to the School Community

To all of the Castle Douglas High School Community (pupils, staff, parent/carers and friends) have a wonderfully relaxing and fun-filled summer ☺. Let us hope for continued easing of Lockdown measures so that we can all enjoy plentiful activities with loved ones that we have missed so much. ♥ I look forward to seeing you all in August - however, school may look then! Stay safe and be kind ☺. Warm Wishes and Virtual Hugs, Miss Linton xxx

Thank you to you all for coping so well with the challenges over the past few months. Yet again you've proven to be a credit to yourselves, your families and the school. Enjoy your summer holiday and we can't wait to see you back in school in August. Take care.
Mr Prentice

Good luck to all the leavers and we wish you well. Looking forward to seeing you all in August. Have a lovely and safe holiday. Mrs Cook.

Mrs Brown, would like to wish everyone in Solway House a safe and restful Summer, take care everybody.

Thank you and well done to everyone who has continued to engage during the very difficult circumstances we have found ourselves in. As much as I have liked working in my 'comfies' at times I am very much looking forward to putting my shirt and tie back on and seeing as many of you as we safely can in August. Have a restful and enjoyable holiday and continue to do yourselves proud as you have done already. Mr Cathro.

These have been the most wonderful two years I've spent as a teacher. A heartfelt thanks to Miss Sellers and the ASN department for their patience and kindness shown to me. To Mr Smith and the amazing staff and pupils of CDHS. There is an ethos of kindness, care and respect in CDHS that I've never experienced elsewhere. Mr McNaughton.

Thank you to all the staff at Castle Douglas High School who have worked tirelessly and creatively to provide resources and materials for our young people to work through as well as staff who have made themselves available to support young people in a variety of different ways. We are very grateful.

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If you have a wider achievement success you would like to share please contact us on the email address at the bottom of the page.

Contact Us: Website - <http://www.cdhs.info/> Telephone: 01556 502821

Email: gw08officecastle2@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

P7 Induction

CDHS Virtual P7 Induction Days

Last week, our P7 pupils took part in our online transition activities for each of their subjects. It was lovely getting to know them on the team and the work they produced was amazing! They drew self-portraits for Art, took part in a virtual house sports competition, investigated a murder in History, researched information about different countries in Geography, wrote a letter introducing themselves to their English teacher and many more! The team has allowed them to get to know their new classmates and teachers and we will continue to keep in touch with the pupils over the summer to give them information about returning to school in August.

In addition to this, we have had over 40 P7 pupils in visiting the school for a tour and an activity with our Pupil Support team. We are looking forward to meeting our new S1 in August!

During the 'virtual' P7 induction each department set a task for the upcoming P7s. The Art department set a self-portrait tasks. As you can see below there are some budding artists coming into S1.



Well done to Emma Mariacci who was deemed the overall winner. Thank you to everyone who entered.

Well Done in Lock-Down

In Music, one of the lessons was to learn to play or sing 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' as a tribute to the NHS workers. Music was provided for keyboard/piano, guitar and ukulele - pupils with no instruments at home were able to download a free keyboard app on their phones to try it! We had lots of lovely videos of pupils' performances sent to us. One of our talented S2 pupils, Reuben De Silva performed a jazz version of the song on the piano including an original improvisation. You can see Reuben's video on the school Facebook page.

Miss Ramsay would like to say well done to all of her S1 and S2 Maths class pupils. Your effort and dedication over the past three months have been fantastic. Have a great holiday and I will see you all in August.

Miss Fowke would like to congratulate the following pupils on their hard work in English since school closed in March. They've set themselves up well to hit the ground running when we come back in August!

S2 - Robyn Brett, Bobby Gault, Daniel Graham, Euan Green, Ryan Kerr, Hannah McKie, Andrew Sinden and Lewis Swalwell

S3 - Sophie Bowles, Craig Brown, Sarah Brown, Shayne Currie, Maria de Silva, Murray Hope, Abbie Kirkpatrick, Kelton Roddie and Freya Spernagel

S4: Amy Craik, Alice Dougan, Rowan Margerison, Kate Mariacci and Anna Miller

S5: Rose Benson, Eve Hawthorne, Robyn Jardine and Katy Smith

The music department held an online Young musician competition where we invited any pupil to send in a video of them performing a piece of music of their own choice. We had a number of entrants and the standard was so high that it was difficult to pick out a first, second and third! Everyone that took part should feel very proud of their performance! Well done to all! After much deliberation, the final order was---
1st-- Will Stevens ---who played a medley on the bass guitar including a composition of his own.
2nd-- Reuben de Silva---who played a terrific jazz improvisation on the piano.
3rd--- Craig Brown ----who played a Scottish piece on the piano in memory of his grandad walking in the hills.

During lockdown, Fiona Edgar in 1S has taken part in a 3 week online violin course run by the acclaimed violinist, Nicola Benedetti. In March just before lockdown, Fiona played in an orchestra with Nicola in Dundee. Fiona also is part of the National Girls Choir, National Youth Choir and the National Youth Orchestra, she has continued these activities virtually during lockdown. Well done ,Fiona!

Miss Dickson & Miss Fowke would like to say a hearty 'well done' to the S6 Advanced Higher English Class: Cara Brown, Caitlin Blackett, Zoe Burgoyne, Georgiana Grimwood, Mairi Herrick, Siobhan Holt and Sacha Wylie. They have gone above and beyond in their preliminary work for the course over the past seven weeks and we are looking forward to working with them when we return in August.

Mrs Stockwell would like to say well done to Abby Fenwick and Bryan Holman have worked amazingly well during lockdown.

Well Done in Lock-Down



The Art Department also ran a Frida Kahlo Portrait Competition. Well done to all entrants and to winners Sophie Bowles and Katherine Eddyshaw and runner-up Reuben De Silva.

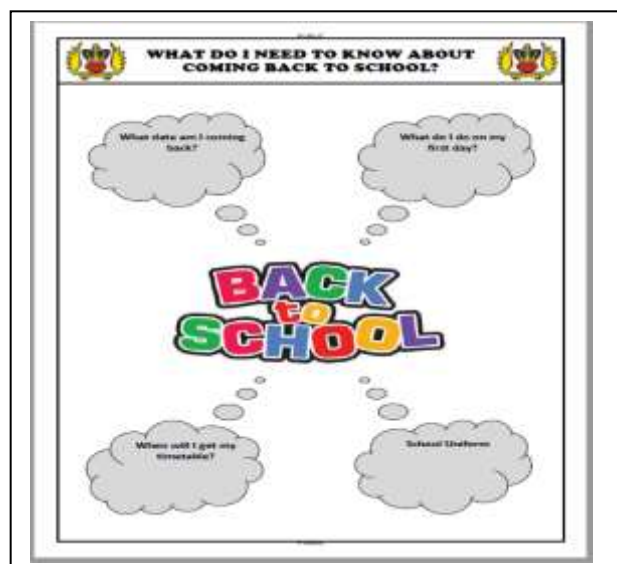
Virtual Activities Day

Wednesday 1st July would normally have been our annual Activities Day. Not wanting our pupils (and staff!) to miss out on their day of fun, we have arranged a 'virtual activities day!' No early morning starts and long bus journeys, no consent forms and no losing glasses on roller coasters! There are some fantastic trips on offer, some are even out of this world! Pupils can visit the international space station, park hop at Disney, ride the new Harry Potter coaster at Universal Studios, take a day trip to New York, meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace, snorkel at the Great Barrier Reef and many, many more! All trips are free and it doesn't even matter if it rains!

If you missed out here is the link http://www.cdhs.info/?page_id=2240

Returning to School

At this moment in time we are unsure of how our return to school will look in August. However, please be assured that we have plans in place and when we have more information we will share this information with you. We will aim to do this with social media posts, group call, expressions and the school website. We have also designed a poster that we can update that will give you all the formation you need.



Remembering before Lock-Down

Rotary Club of Castle Douglas

In March, Mrs Cook was invited to the Rotary Club to speak about funding for new instruments for the Music Department. The Rotary Club of Castle Douglas have very generously agreed to give £400 to CDHS for new instruments. This will boost the funds raised by our sponsored Playathon in December where pupils raised £370. We are very grateful of the support of our local community has shown us and excited about investing in new instruments for the pupils.

The Daily Mile

Promoting Health & Wellbeing, the staff and pupils of Castle Douglas High School joined the Daily Mile initiative during session 2019/20. The #FitForLife campaign engages participants in daily exercise and aims to foster lifelong activity and the physical and mental health benefits this brings. It was pleasing to see staff and pupils undertaking their Daily Mile's with some individuals deserving of special mentions. For surpassing 50 Miles completed and receiving their Blue Wristband; pupils Ryan Kerr and Mackinley Brown. Mrs McQuarrie was the most active member of staff and was encouraged by the enthusiasm of pupils Charlie McNaught and Georgie Butler. Charlie receiving his Blue Wristband and Georgie fast approaching the 50 Mile mark before the school closure. It is hoped participation continues to grow upon the resumption of school, our current pupils inspiring our new ones as the new S1 cohort join us in August.



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School Cross Country Championship 2020

On Thursday 13th February 2020 over one hundred students from S1-S6 participated in the annual school Cross Country Championship. Every student taking part was a credit to themselves. Below are the results of each age category, with those finishing in the top five being invited to represent the school at the Regional Championship. A huge well done and thanks to all involved.

Position	S1 Girls	S2 Girls	S3 Girls	S4 Girls	S5/S6 Girls
1st	Tara Parker	Kristina Campbell	Anna Miller	Erin Purcell	Amelia Craig
2nd	Kathrine Eddyshaw	Elspeth Hastings	Tessa Nicolson		Isla Black
3rd	Mariena Murray	Carla Nicolson	Ruby Walsh-Kirk		
4th	Libby Nelson	Callie Houston	Kacey Walker		
5th	Fiona Edgar	Sophie Bowles	Maisie MacIver		

Position	S1 Boys	S2 Boys	S3 Boys	S4 Boys	S5/S6 Boys
1st	Bobby Gault	Sam Barbour	Aiden MacDonald	Oscar Kirkpatrick	William Nash
2nd	Adam MacIver	William Ross	Charlie Cantlie	Will Livingston	Jan Keeley
3rd	Oliver Geddes	Angus Bryson	Asher Du Toit Burns	Korey Burns	Rowan Carnochan
4th	Andrew Davies	Tom Callander	Connal Marshall	Sean Broatch	Kyle Palmer
5th	Rory Telfer	Cameron Benson	Hugh Graham	Rory Carroll	Aaron Broatch

Regional Cross Country Championship 2020

On Thursday 27th February a number of Castle Douglas High School Students took part in the Regional Cross Country Championship, held at Kirroughtree. Having earned the right to represent the school from their performance in the School Cross Country Championship, all the students did us proud. Highlights from the day included: William Nash and Amelia Craig being crowned Regional Champions in the S5/S6 boys and girls events, respectively; Jan Keeley finishing 4th in the S5/S6 boys event, Nina Walsh-Kirk finishing 3rd and Isla Black 5th in the S5/S6 girls; The S5/S6 teams, as a result of these top performances won the S5/S6 team events for CDHS; Tara Parker finished 3rd in the S1 girls event; Anna Miller placed 3rd in the S3 girls event. These are just a few of the headlines from an excellent display from CDHS students this year.

National Cross Country Championship 2020

Castle Douglas High School had five students representing the school at the National Cross Country Championship, held in Irvine on the 3rd of March. Amelia Craig (S5) finished 60th, Anna Miller (S3) 63rd, Erin Purcell (S4) 78th, Ruby Walsh-Kirk (S3) 87th and Kristina Campbell (S2) was 123rd. CDHS finished 7th in the U16 girls team event which was a fantastic achievement. Well done to all of them for their strong performances against a very strong field. Thank you to all students, parents and staff that make these opportunities possible.

S2 Outdoor Education Experience 2020

Following the disappointing news that the Outdoor Service, based at Carlingwark was to be closed for this session, CDHS had to look at other options available if we were to continue to offer students at CDHS a unique and exciting outdoor experience. This year's S2 were given the opportunity to participate in a day of adventurous activity at Barcaple Outdoor Centre. As part of the PE S1-S3 BGE curriculum, students were developing personal qualities such as trust, leadership, confidence and determination. They got to choose from a variety of activities including; Abseiling, Tree Climbing, Canoeing, Archery, Zip wiper and Mountain Biking. All the students took a positive attitude to their learning, often being asked to step out with their comfort zone, and can take a great deal of satisfaction from what they achieved. Well done to all students, and staff, completing each activity!



Ski Trip 2020

In February, 114 pupils and 12 staff members travelled to Courmayeur in the Aosta Valley Italy, for a week of skiing in the Alps. What a fantastic week for all this turned out to be. The conditions for skiing were perfect, almost rivalling the views from the mountain. At the beginning of the week, the majority of pupils, who were beginner skiers, were introduced to the basics and practised their skills in the "bowl". We also had intermediate and advanced groups of skiers who were able to head off and explore the fantastic routes the mountain had to offer. As the week progressed, so did all skiers skills, where come the final few days, groups were able to test themselves on the routes and experience the fantastic feeling of skiing down the mountain and finishing at a scenic café for a hot chocolate reward. Additional to the skiing, pupils experienced activities when not on the slopes such as ice skating, games nights and a disco where they showed off their traditional Scottish country dance skills. Throughout the week, all pupils were a credit to Castle Douglas High School, behaving exceptionally and being well mannered to all adults, especially their Ski instructors and group coordinators. Amazing memories to last a lifetime!

Pictures and videos can be found on the school Facebook page.