

SPRING NEWSLETTER

LIP SYNC BATTLE



Massive well done to all the acts, judges, hosts and technicians at the Lip Sync Battle on Wednesday night! What an event!!

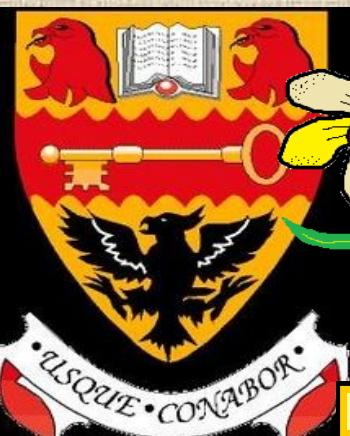


**LASSWADE
HIGH
SCHOOL
2019**



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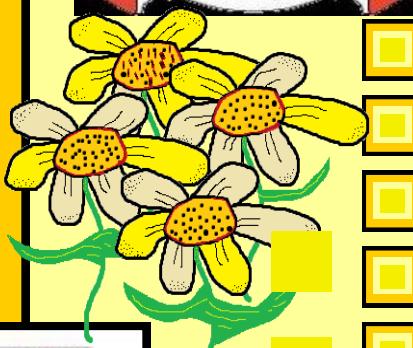
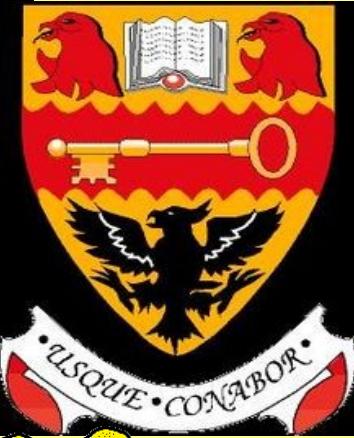
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LIP SYNC BATTLE 2019

Well done to everyone who participated in Lasswade's Lip Sync Battle before the Easter Holidays.

The event proved hugely popular and raised an excellent £500 for the South African Journey to Change Project.



LIP SYNC BATTLE



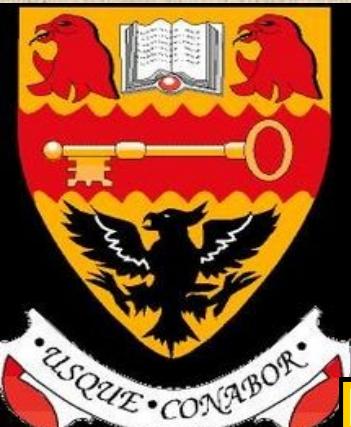
Massive well done to all the acts, judges, hosts and technicians at the Lip Sync Battle on Wednesday night! What an event!!

We raised over £500 for the South African Journey to Change Project!

LASSWADE'S

LIP
SYNC
BATTLE

2019



COLUMBA 1400

COMMUNITY

PROJECT



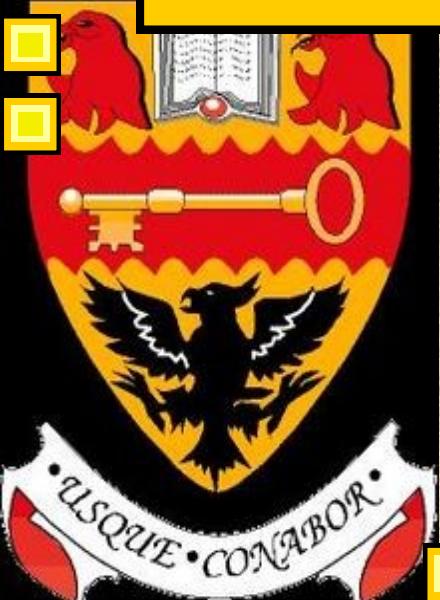
The hard-working students from the Columba 1400 Community Project have once again been putting their talents to good use.

After a trip to Skye in October to undertake leadership training and confidence building, the students from S2 have been working hard to improve the local community through volunteering.

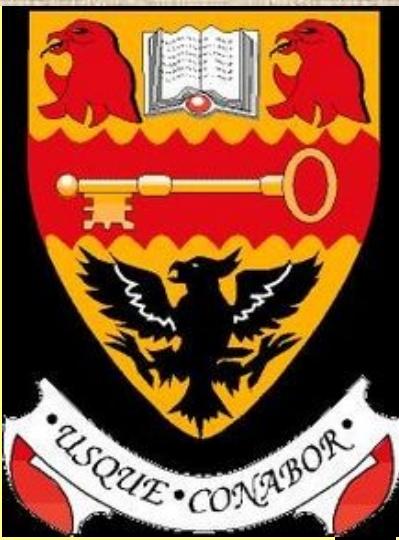
They have recently been volunteering for three afternoons helping the residents of Springfield Bank Care Home enjoy activities such as Connect Four and Bingo. The students then put their efforts into making beautiful Easter Cards for the residents they have been working with.

In addition, they are also passing on this Easter Basket which contains knitted chicks and chocolate eggs to ensure that the Springfield Bank residents have a great Easter experience.

Well done to the Community Project, who will be continuing to volunteer with the nursing home in the future as they work towards their Saltire Award for volunteering.



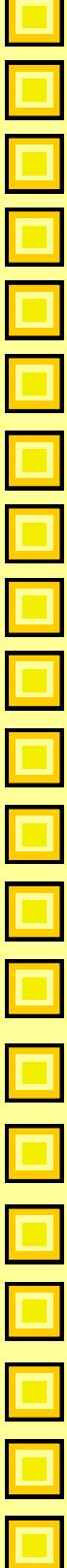
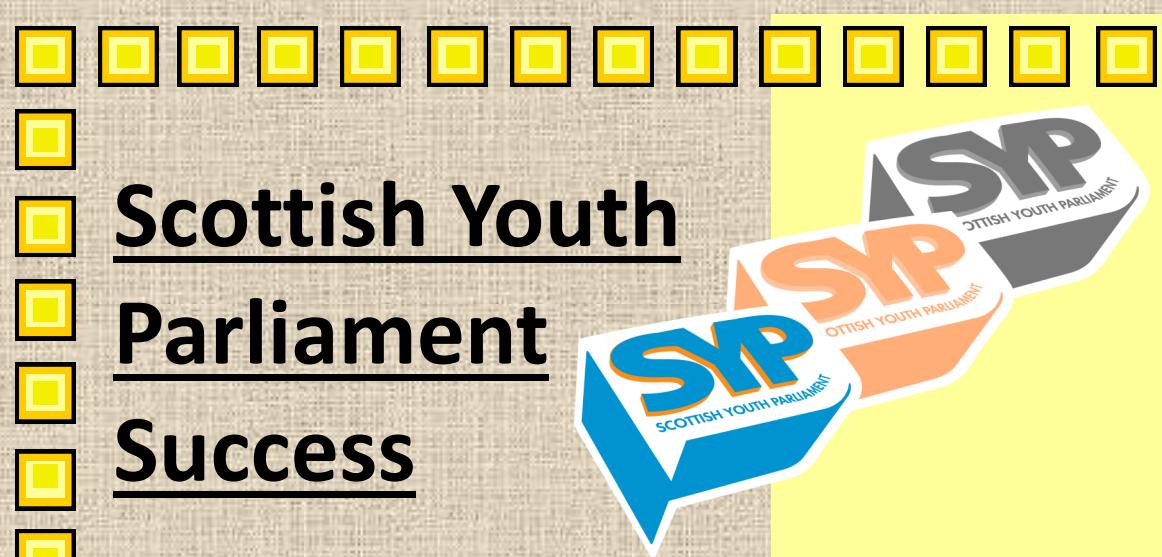
Scottish Youth Parliament Success



Congratulations to Blaine Ferguson, S4, who has been elected as one of two Midlothian representatives for the Youth Parliament. A total of five candidates received over 2,200 votes in a very strong turnout of 45% of eligible voters with the result announced in the Midlothian Council Chambers by Dr Mary Smith.

Blaine was delighted at the result and his work will begin in earnest in June. We hope that his campaign issues of; Mental Health, Education and Transport. He has no plans to solve Brexit. Yet!

Thanks also to Mrs Nicolson and her 'Democracy Warriors' who supported the voting process through the school.



DANCE

SHOWCASE

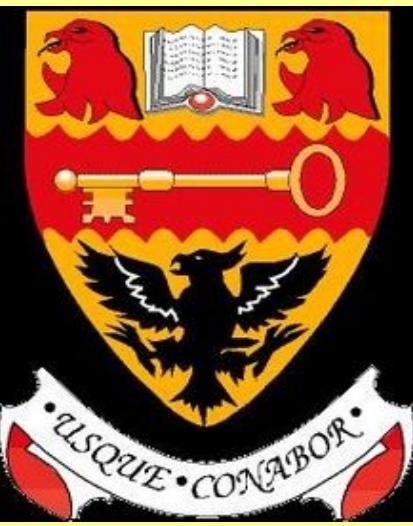
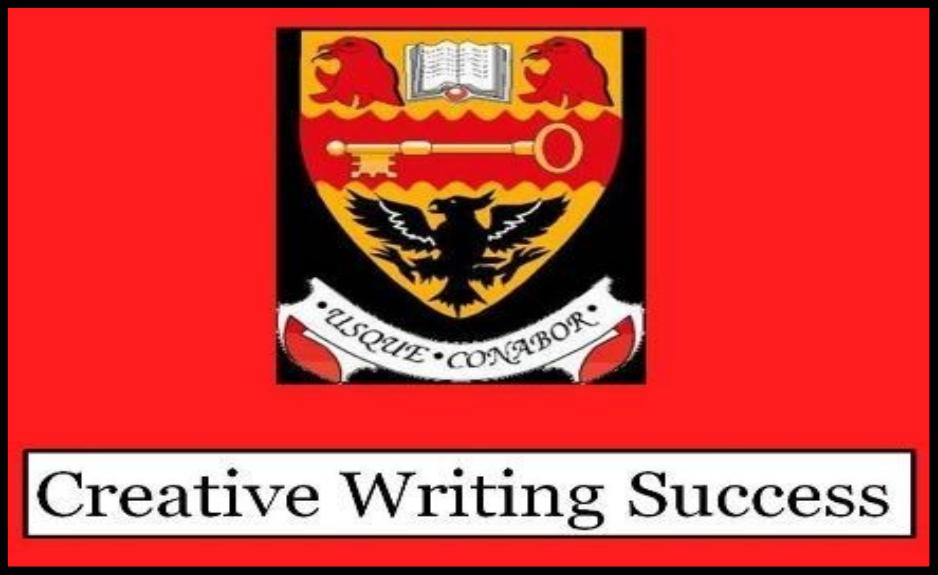


Lasswade High School's many talented Dance students delivered an energetic and thought-provoking programme of events on Thursday the 21st of March in the Assembly Hall.

The well-attended event featured a series of one-off performances, as well as pieces from the INVICTA dance group and specially choreographed routines from National 5 and Higher students.

The event was hugely enjoyable and inspirational. Well done to everyone who participated!





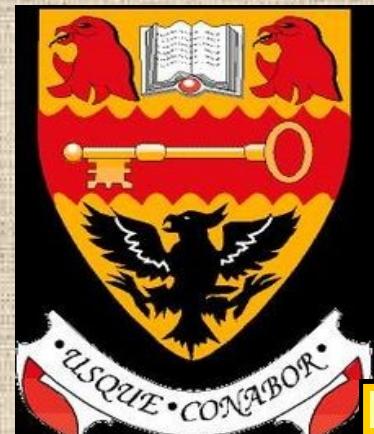
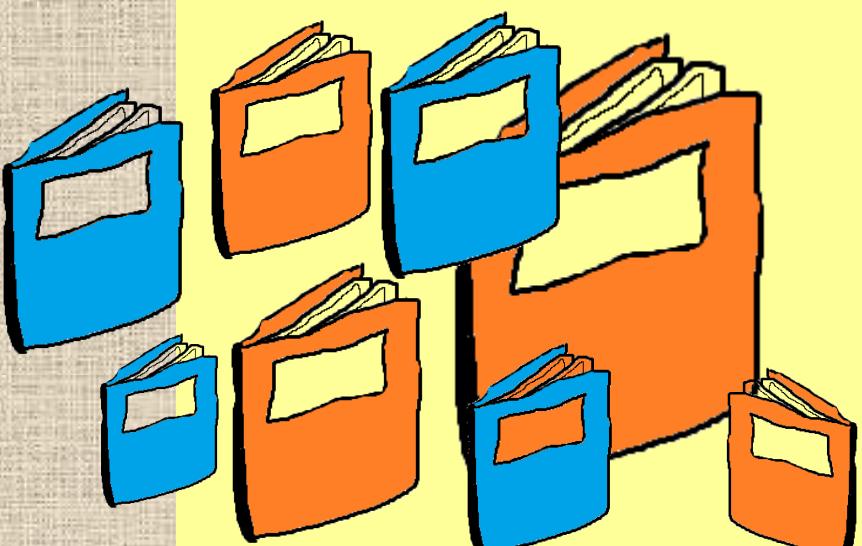
Creative Writing Success

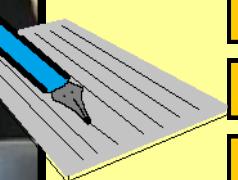
Congratulations to six very talented writers from Lasswade High School whose work has been selected to appear in the national Young Writers latest writing anthology.

Following on from the success of last year's group, these students have written a 100-word story about "The End of the World."

Well done to Ella Livingstone, Aaron Campbell, Calum Turnbull, Sam Crawford, Emily McGhee and Alisha Yasin.

Excellent work!



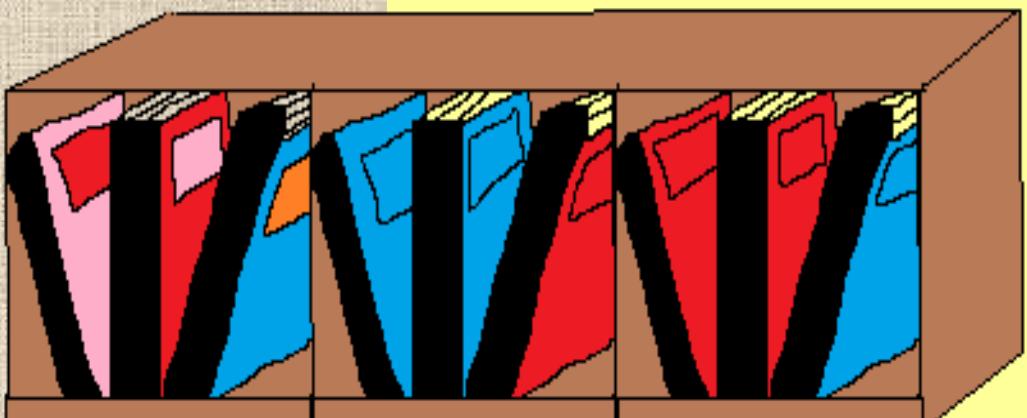
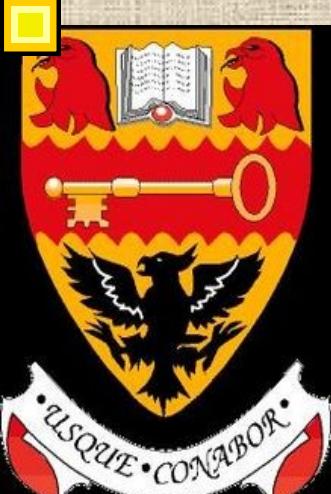


World Book Day 2019

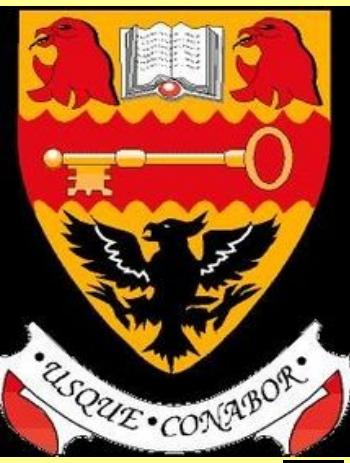
On the 7th of March 2019, World Book Day events took place nationally.

Here at Lasswade, the English Department celebrated the occasion by dressing as a series of well-known literary figures; Gatsby from *The Great Gatsby*, Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations* and Stanley Yelnats from the popular novel *Holes* to name but a few. These costumes were extremely popular with students. The library also ran a series of events including designing a World Book Day token.

This is the 22nd World Book Day, and every year the event aims to highlight the importance and pleasure of reading, and to ensure as many young people as possible have a book of their own.



STUDENTS PERFORM DRAGON DANCE



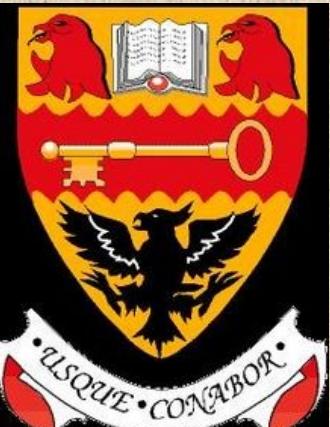
VOLUNTEER

volunteer!

VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEER

On the 9th of February this year the Usher Hall in Edinburgh hosted the Official Chinese New Year Concert and Reception. Ten students from Lasswade High school performed a dragon dance that was widely appreciated by all who attended. As a consequence of their participation, the students received volunteer certificates from the Asian Association Of Culture, Commerce and Education In Europe. Well done to the students involved!



Volunteer!

VOLUNTEER





LGBT History Month Scotland

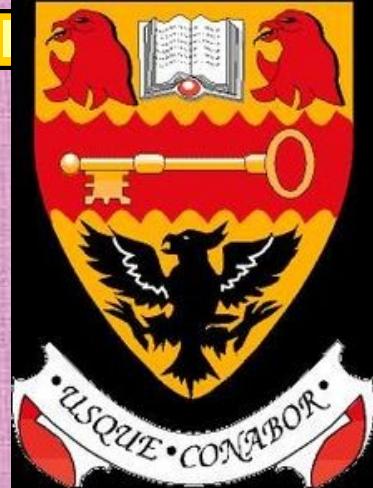
I AM AN ALLY.

I AM NOT GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, PANSEXUAL, INTERSEX, OR ASEXUAL.

I JUST SUPPORT THIS CRAZY THOUGHT THAT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS.

Purple Friday 2019

Show your support for equality and inclusion by wearing something purple on Friday 22nd February



PURPLE FRIDAY

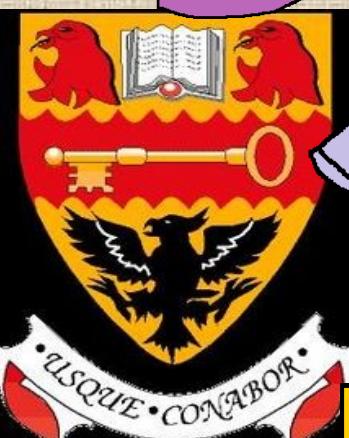
Lasswade High School participated in LGBT Youth's Purple Friday on Friday the 22nd February.

The volunteer company Talking Books came in to lead a practical workshop with our S1 students.

There was a short presentation by Talking Books before the groups engaged in discussion.

Students were asked to wear something purple as part of the non-uniform day.

The Equalities Group also sold cupcakes at break time.



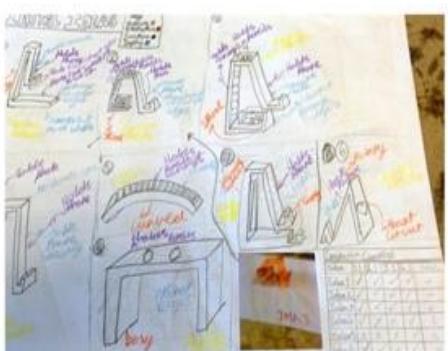
Sunny Doig
Mount Esk



Sunny has been awarded Designer of the month for her practical work in developing her S2 sweetie dispenser of Jack Skeleton. She has used **Critical Thinking** to problem solve and make independent decisions on the evolution of her product including selection of materials and manufacturing processes. This is a great example of development work showcasing Sunny's **Creativity** and resourcefulness in creative design.



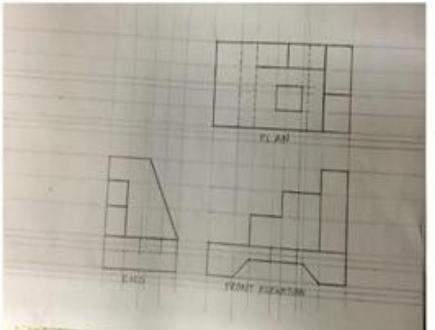
Sarah Forrest
Mount Esk



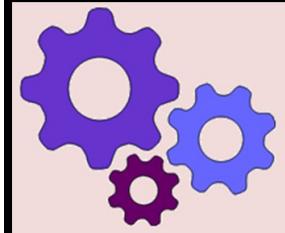
Sarah has been awarded Product Designer of the month for her folio work in her plastics line bending project. She has used **Critical Thinking** to problem solve and make independent decisions on evaluating her ideas. She has communicated her ideas through sketching, and written annotations which consider each design factor. This is a great example of development work showcasing Sarah's **creativity** and in design work.



Kiana Ho
St Anne's

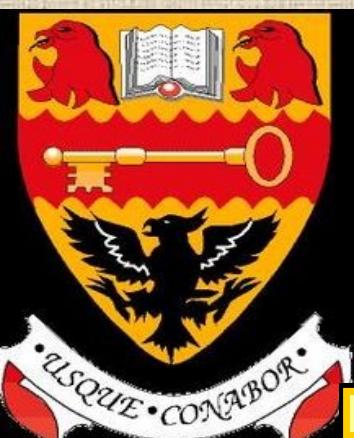


Kiana has been awarded Graphic Designer of the month for her folio in Orthographics. Whilst not strictly a design task she has impressed others with her **Critical Thinking** to problem solve and solve problems with independence. She has Communicated the solutions to each task to a high quality using real world standards and conventions in engineering and design. Well done Kiana!



Huge congratulations are extended to Kiana Ho, Sarah Forrest and Sunny Doig for their fantastic design work which earned them special recognition this month; Kiana for careful engineering and design, Sarah for development work and creativity, and Sunny for resourcefulness and independent decision-making.

Superb work, well done!



SWIMMING SUCCESS

Well done to the Lasswade High students who competed in the Scottish Schools Swimming Championship.

Eilidh Armstrong S1

Iona Wilson S3

Natalie Jones S3

Jamie Ferguson S4

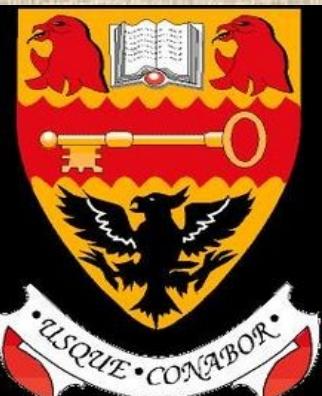
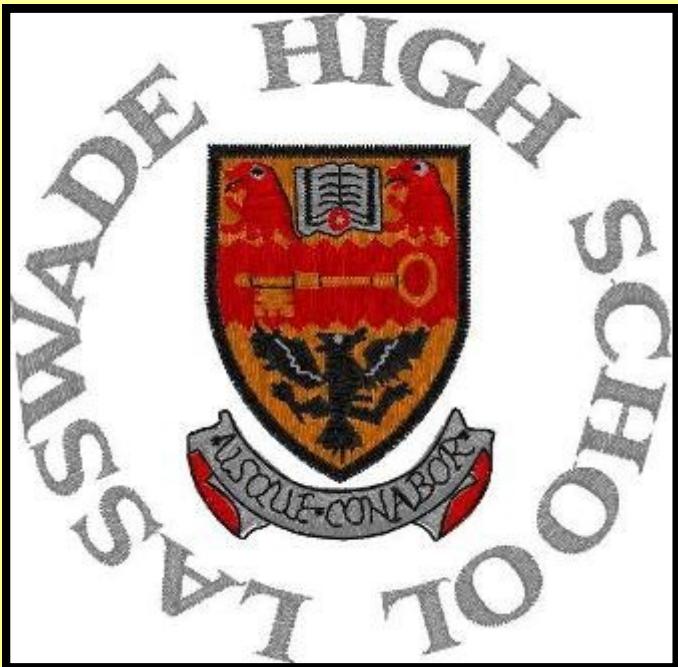
Lewis Thomson S5

Qualifying for the event is an achievement in itself and as always the pupils were a credit to the school.

Natalie Jones won a silver in the girls 13/14 years 100m freestyle

Lewis Thomson won 2 silver medals in both the 15/16 years boys 100m and 200m Breaststroke

Fantastic work, well done everyone!



JOHN MUIR AWARD

Our S2 students – who gained their Gold JASS award last year – were invited to set up their own John Muir award group this year.

During the last term, these young people have managed to build up their confidence and become friends. Naturally they decided to continue this positive collaboration throughout their second year of school.

The John Muir Award group is established by our Outdoor Learning Department. So far our students have discovered and started exploring the wonderful wild places dotted across Midlothian such as Gore Glen, Springfield Mill, Penicuik Estate, Vogrie etc. Regardless of the weather they are braving the wind, cold and rain in their efforts to improve our natural environment. We are proud to share their enthusiasm and effort in helping out the Midlothian rangers with their conservation work.



They have volunteered in making a fire pit with sitting logs at Springfield Mill; they have cleared up cycling/walking paths at Auchendinny, as well as securing slippery steps in the woods of Gore Glen.

Well done!

We all hope that our community will appreciate the hard work and fantastic contribution from the young Lasswade rangers.

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SPORTS PERSONALITY 2019

Nominees



This year, *Sports Personality of the Year* was won by S4 Rugby player Joe Noble. Joe has been playing rugby for Lasswade Rugby Club from a very young age. He now plays for the Lasswade U16 team among many other achievements.

Joe won his an award on an evening that also welcomed Mark Martin, John Souttar, Gary Locke, Ross Ford, Corrie Scott and Mark Bennett as special guests, and awards were presented for *Player of the Year*, *Team of the Year* and *Coach of the Year* in addition to many other awards.



JOE NOBLE



Rugby

LAUREN MURIE



Trampolining

HARRIS SPRATT



Football

NATALIE JONES



Swimming

This comes at a time when Lasswade High School became the first secondary school in Midlothian and one of only 18% in Scotland to be awarded the coveted 'sportscotland Gold School Sport Award' status for excelling in sport across the school.

We congratulate the nominees and the many other students who continue to achieve excellence in sport.

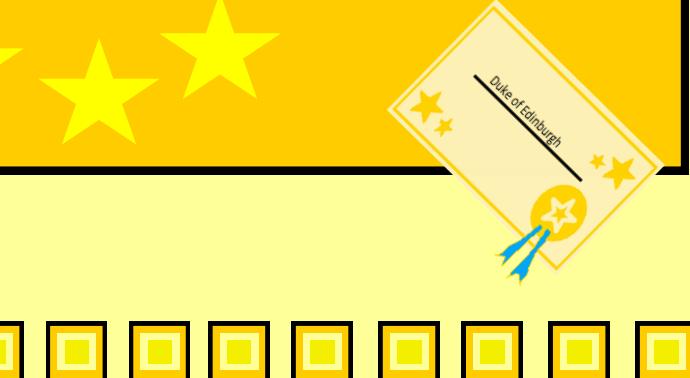
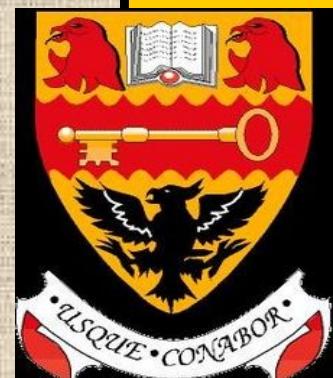
Duke of Edinburgh

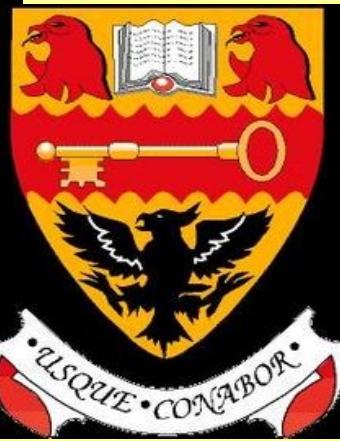


S3 pupils working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award have been working on a range of activities, including the National Navigation Award Scheme.

As part of the skills required to go out on expeditions, pupils have had to learn navigation skills including map and compass work. As well as the basics required for their expedition, the pupils were able to learn the skills, and exhibit competence, in the range of areas needed to qualify for the Gold Star Award in the NNAS Young Navigator Award, a nationally-recognised qualification. This was a great way to complete the skills requirement of their DofE award whilst gaining an additional qualification.

As well as skills, the pupils have been working on volunteering activities as part of their award, including assisting local clothing charity "Button Box" and cleaning and maintaining the schools minibuses to keep them in tip top condition for users from the school, other schools and the wider community.





GYMNASTICS SUCCESS

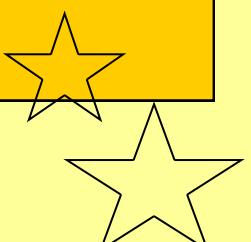


At the Lothian Schools Floor and Vault gymnastics competition, all Lasswade teams involved performed amazingly!

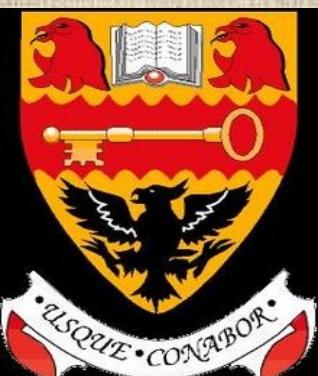
Gold: Level 1 team: Aimee Oag, Mikaela Wooton, Libby McNeil and Amy Johnson.

Bronze: Level 2 team: Rebecca Marr, Cerys Newton, Lucy Foster and Aimee Scott.

Gold: Level 3 team: Samantha Chazan, Cameron Okrzega-Gibbs, Emma Aitken and Jemma Holland.



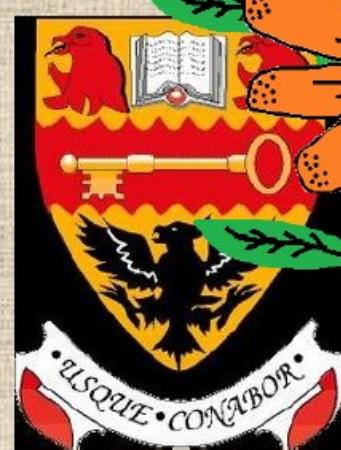
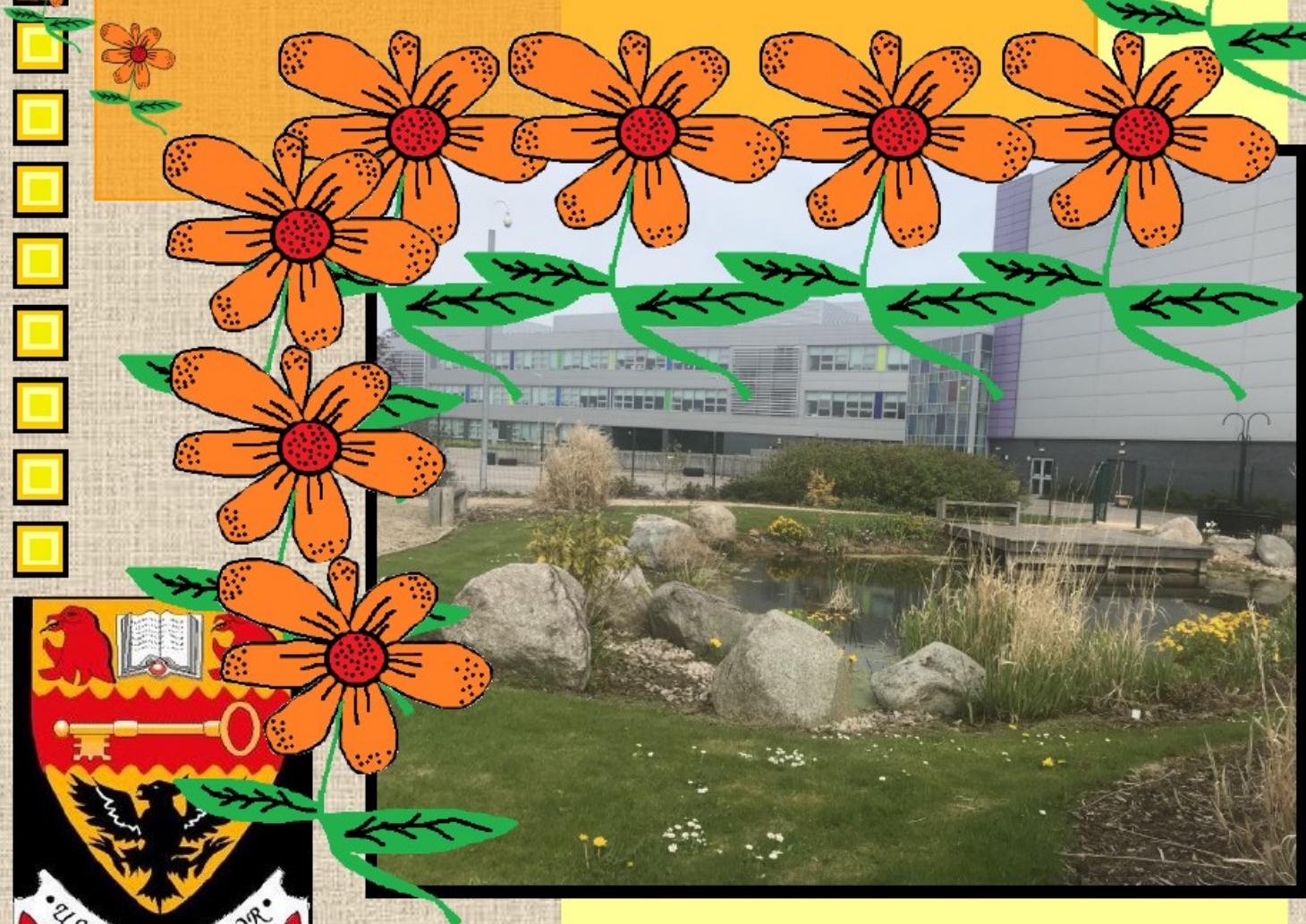
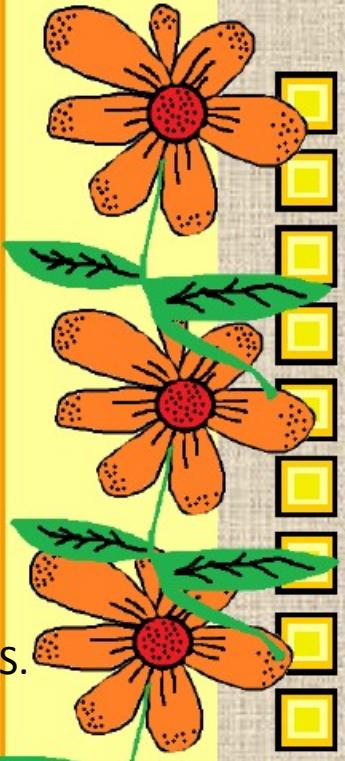
Huge congratulations to everyone who took part!

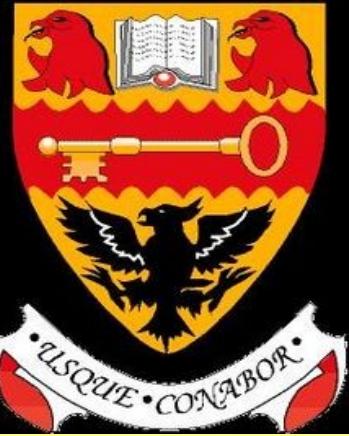


The School Garden



The excellent school garden is flourishing in this great spell of weather. Potted strawberry plants are currently being sold for 50p. Last year, the garden was able to raise £262 from selling produce, and this has been used to purchase seeds, compost and 12 fish for the pond. The garden also has an after school club that runs from 3.30pm until 4.45pm, and classes take advantage of this excellent space to hold outdoor lessons.





Multilingual Debate

Convincing a room full of people to vote for you is one thing... but doing so in five different languages is quite another!

This year, the Modern Languages department was able to take all of the Higher French candidates on a trip to Heriot Watt university campus to watch the annual multilingual debate. It proved to be very impressive and a well worthwhile day out.

The topic of the day was “single-use plastics should be banned completely”. That covered everything from plastic sachets and food wrapping to disposable medical equipment: a complex topic in any language. Speakers – made up of university lecturers and PhD students – presented their arguments in French, German, Spanish, English and Mandarin in turn. Meanwhile, Heriot Watt language students sat in booths translating what was being said into English in real time: quite a feat! The audience had headsets so that we could tune into the different translations. The arguments were nuanced: single-use plastics play a key role in sanitation, hygiene and medicine, making these affordable in third world countries. On the other hand, if alternative options were mass-produced, these would also come down in cost... but would this cause financial disasters, health problems, and deaths?

The audience was given the opportunity to participate through a question and answer session and through a vote. One vote was taken before the debate, where the overwhelming majority voted in favour of banning single-use plastics. The debate clearly had an impact, however: the final vote was a very narrow victory for the team against banning single-use plastics. A real coup!

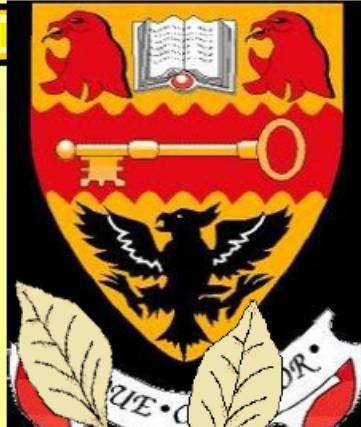
It was a great opportunity to see the study of languages at university level “in action” for our Higher students, and several left with Heriot Watt prospectuses... clearly feeling inspired! I would also personally like to thank those who came on the trip. They were some of the only school students in the room to take off their headphones to listen to the French without a translation, and their enthusiasm and exemplary conduct were commented on by several people that day. You did yourselves and your school proud.

Looking forward to hearing what topics are in store for us next year...!



Here are two conservation articles

written by students in the John Muir Award



Red Squirrels

The red squirrel, is native to Scotland and is found in the North of Scotland, it is extremely rare to find them near Edinburgh and Midlothian. They mostly inhabit remote parts of Scotland and Northern England. They have distinctive reddish-brown fur and large ear tufts.



Grey squirrels are a familiar sight for us; we often see them in trees and occasionally in a garden, there are approximately 2.5 million squirrels in the UK, so there is a good chance you will see one at least once in your life, but what you don't realise, is that grey squirrels carry a disease, called the squirrel pox virus, which is fatal to red squirrels.

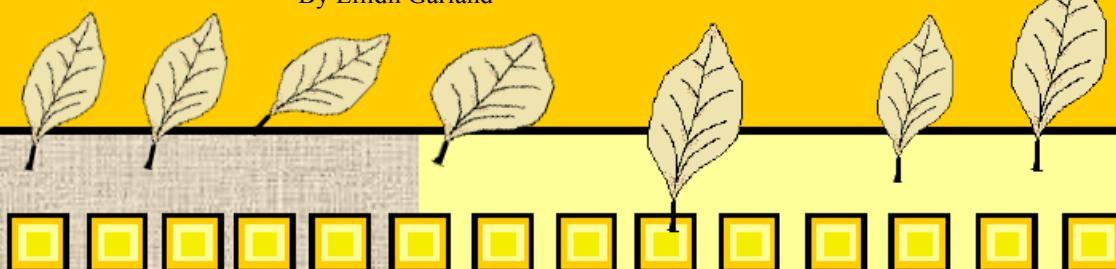
Grey squirrels are the reason red squirrels are endangered. There are around 140,000 red squirrels left in the wild, this number may seem like a lot but it definitely isn't. The red squirrels have been in the UK for 10,000 years, whereas the grey squirrels have been around for 149 years.

The grey squirrels originally came from Northern America. They came over to the UK during the Victorian times.

There are many ways we can help the red squirrels survive, we can help maintain their habitat, by keeping dogs and pets away from woodland areas with the sign that will read "red squirrels habitat," these squirrels only stay places where they feel safe and a constant food supply, with dogs running around they will feel threatened and as if they are in danger. We can also help maintain a healthy environment, red squirrels forage constantly for foods such as, nuts, seeds and certain types of fruits, if you are ever casually walking in a woodland area where red squirrels are present, it won't hurt to drop a mixture of seeds and nuts here and there.

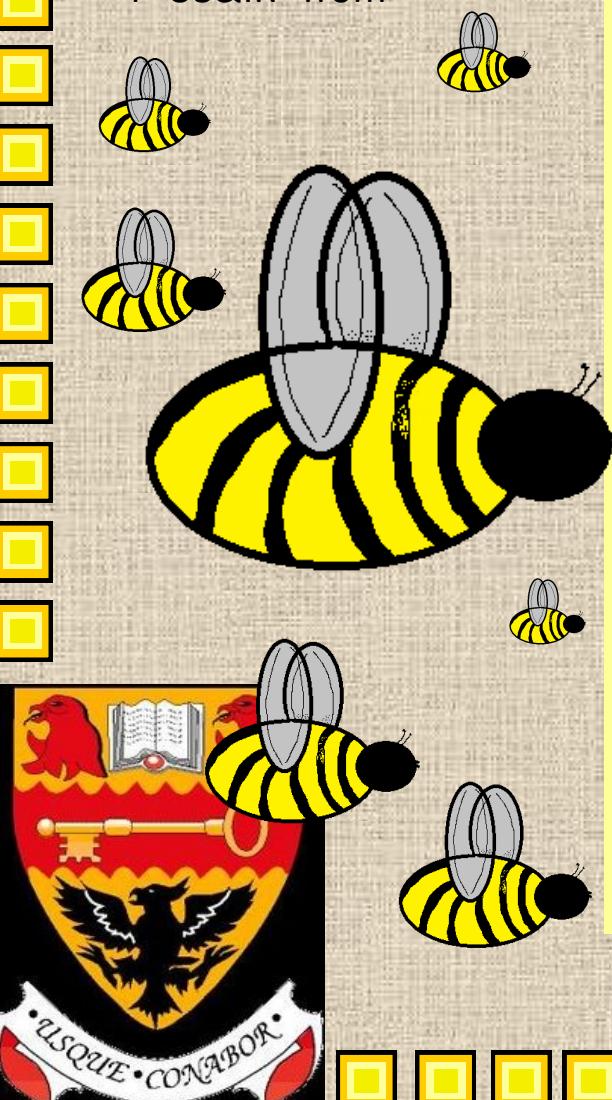
The red squirrels deserve to stay, they don't deserve to have to leave, I hope you agree.

By Eilidh Garland





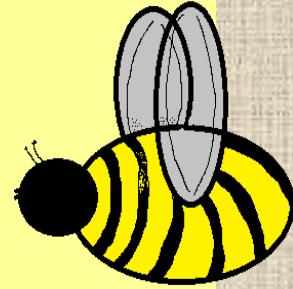
photos from, <https://www.businessinsider.com/monsanto-weed-killer-ingredient-hurts-honeybees-2018-9?r=US&IR=Trom>



Honey Bees

by Kirstie Phillips and

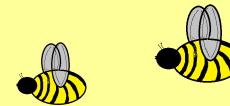
Verity Bell



Let's Bee Friends

Honey bees are dying out due to destruction of habitat, lack of forage/pollen and pesticides. We need to save them as they pollinate 70 of the around 100, if we lose bees, we could also lose all the plants they pollinate, the animals that eat those plants and so on up the food chain.

Threats to Honey Bees



Habitat loss: bees need certain conditions to keep them happy and healthy.

Diseases: they can become too weak to fly or reproduce and, in some cases, getting infected can lead to death.

Pesticides: to protect their crops some farmers use pesticides, but these chemicals can also cause serious health issues including nerve damage, muscle spasms and death.

How to Save Honey Bees

Plant bee friendly flowers: some bees rely on garden flowers to provide nectar and pollen.

Buy honey from your local bee keeper: this will help your local bee keeper cover the cost of keeping bees, and foreign honeys are often mistreated so that they have a longer shelf life.

Bee friendly: bees are good neighbours when they are treated nicely, if a bee hovers in front of you move away slowly and best into a shaded area.

