



# **St Thomas of Aquin's Newsletter**

**August to December 2023**

**As we come to the end of another successful term at St Thomas of Aquin's it is always a pleasure to put together this newsletter and reflect on all the creative learning and teaching, trips, events and opportunities that our young people participate in and enjoy.**

**Thank you, as always, to our dedicated teachers and support staff who make these experiences a reality for our young people.**

**I hope you enjoy the newsletter as much as I have enjoyed collating it.**

**S Mariani**



At the start of term, senior pupils taking Business Management had the opportunity to visit Edinburgh Napier University to listen to talks from lecturers and business owners. The pupils went to Napier's Craiglockhart Campus and they really enjoyed seeing the university and attending a 'lecture' type conference. Speakers included the owner of 'The Little Parlour' ice cream shop in South Queensferry where the owner talked to the pupils about taking over a business during the Covid-19 Pandemic, with a focus on the challenges and successes that came from selling ice cream and coffees to locals during lockdown and subsequently after to tourists when normality returned, which created a substantially wider market. Thereafter pupils listened to talks from Invest2020 about jobs within the investment sector and from the Managing Director of Scottish Women's Premier League which greatly inspired the pupils. The pupils then went into seminar rooms and completed a marketing task where they chose a business from the talks to promote and create an advertising campaign. The pupils really enjoyed the trip and were an asset to the school.



# Higher Biology

Higher Biology pupils have visited the Surgeon's Hall Museum to study mutations as part of the first unit. They were given a workshop on the genetic source of mutations and then were shown real examples of body parts that illustrate the mutations they have been studying. These mutations included Patau's syndrome (which results in a body having one eye socket and a hole in the heart), Achondroplasia (a mutation which affects the growth of bones) and many more! This experience and the samples they studied are not available to the general public so this was such a unique and memorable experience for all.





# Congratulations to our S6 MVP Mentors

## MVP Overview:

S6 mentors have signed up to be part of the implementation of the MVP programme. Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a peer education programme providing young people with the language and framework to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying and other forms of abuse. S6 will now go in to S1-S2 classes and deliver lessons relating to MVP topics.

## S6 Pupil Voice:

We thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the training days at Skyscanner and would like to thank them for providing us with the space. "I am excited to put the training in use and teach younger pupils what we learnt during these days"



# Advanced Higher Biology lab skills development

Throughout the last month, Advanced Highers have been on an in depth lab skills topic looking at how scientists work in industry and the techniques they use.

Some equipment they've been using:

Agar plating, micropipettes and microbiology dilutions (growing yeast colonies at different concentrations)

Centrifugation to separate particles based on their density

Colorimeter to detect concentrations of unknown samples of solutions

Gel electrophoresis to catch criminals who have fled the scene of the crime!

Haemocytometers to conduct cell counts under a microscope

ELISA technique for identifying diseased individuals and the spread of infection using a colorimetric test

Complex statistical analysis and graphical representation of their results – including error bars, statistical significance and reliability/precision/accuracy

The ELISA experiment was done in conjunction with the company TimStar – our S6s used horse antibody to work out spread of infection. They discovered that our head boy was the original source of the “disease”.

Lucienne, our TimStar visitor, then gave them a STEM talk about career progression and laboratory work in the real world – she mentioned everything from the celebrities she's met, countries she'd worked in and even her discovery that supermarket meats were sometimes contaminated with harmful bacteria like E.Coli!

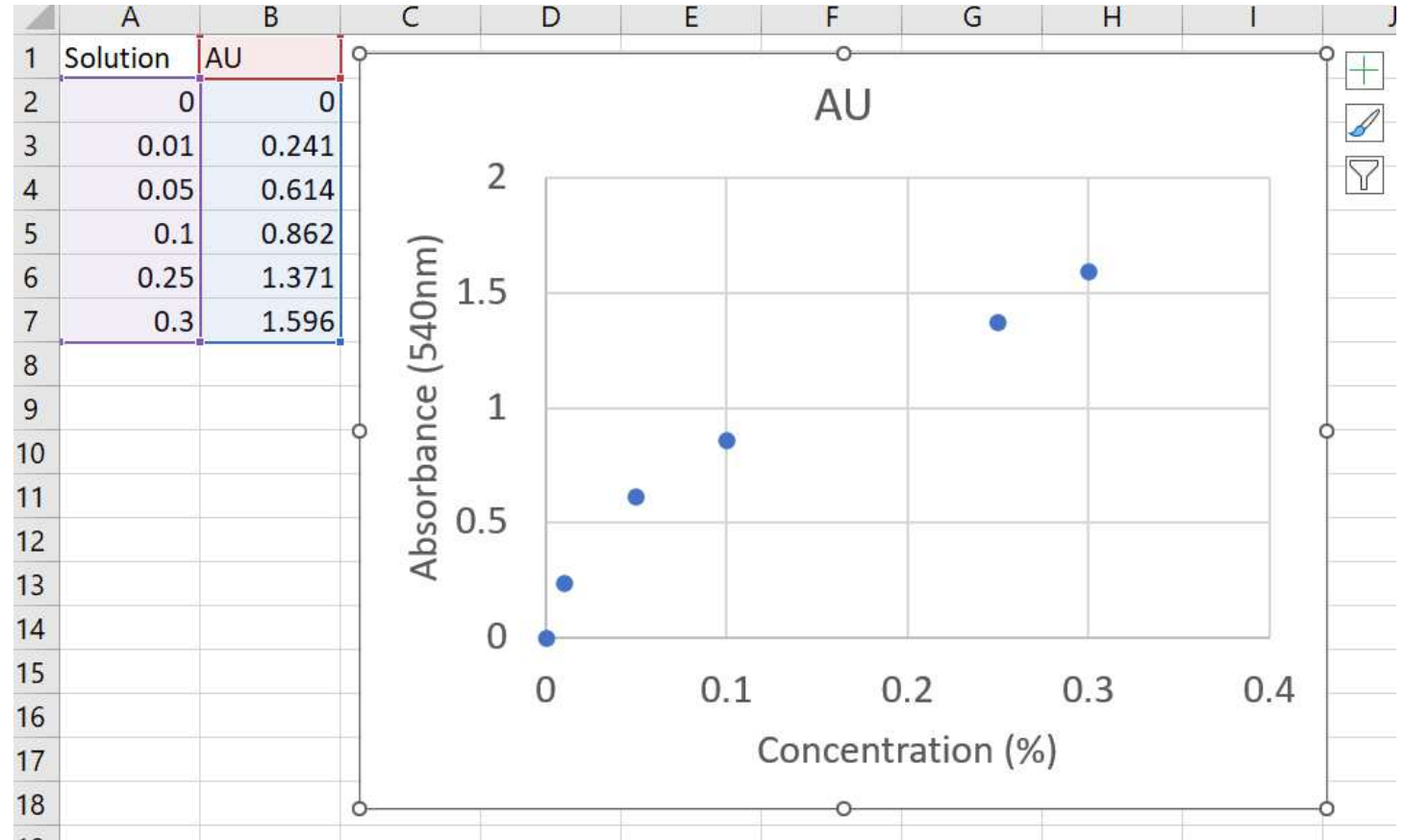
**S6s happy at  
work plating  
micro-  
organisms on  
agar plates**

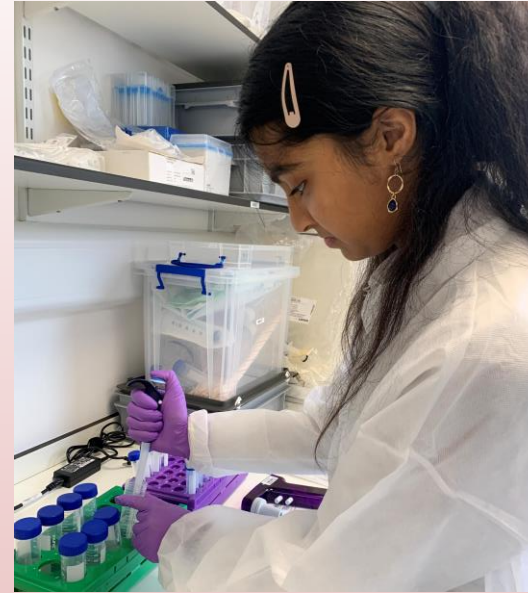
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**Small example of our data collected – although this looks simple, a lot of hard work and analysis involved!**

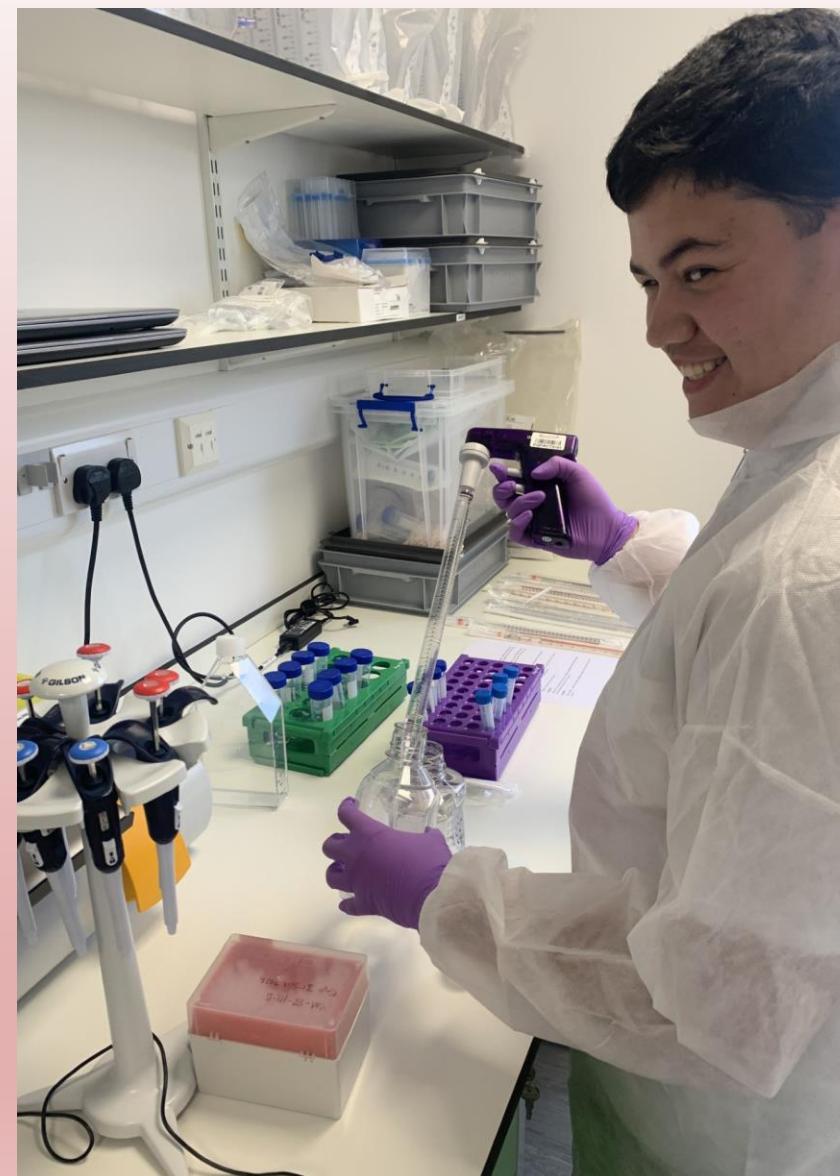
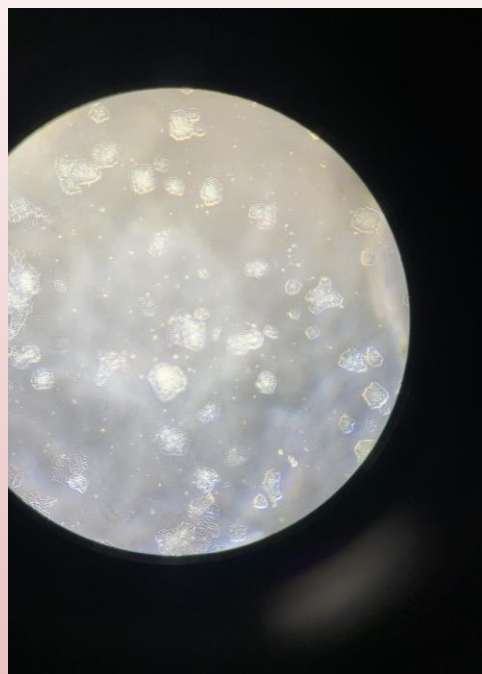


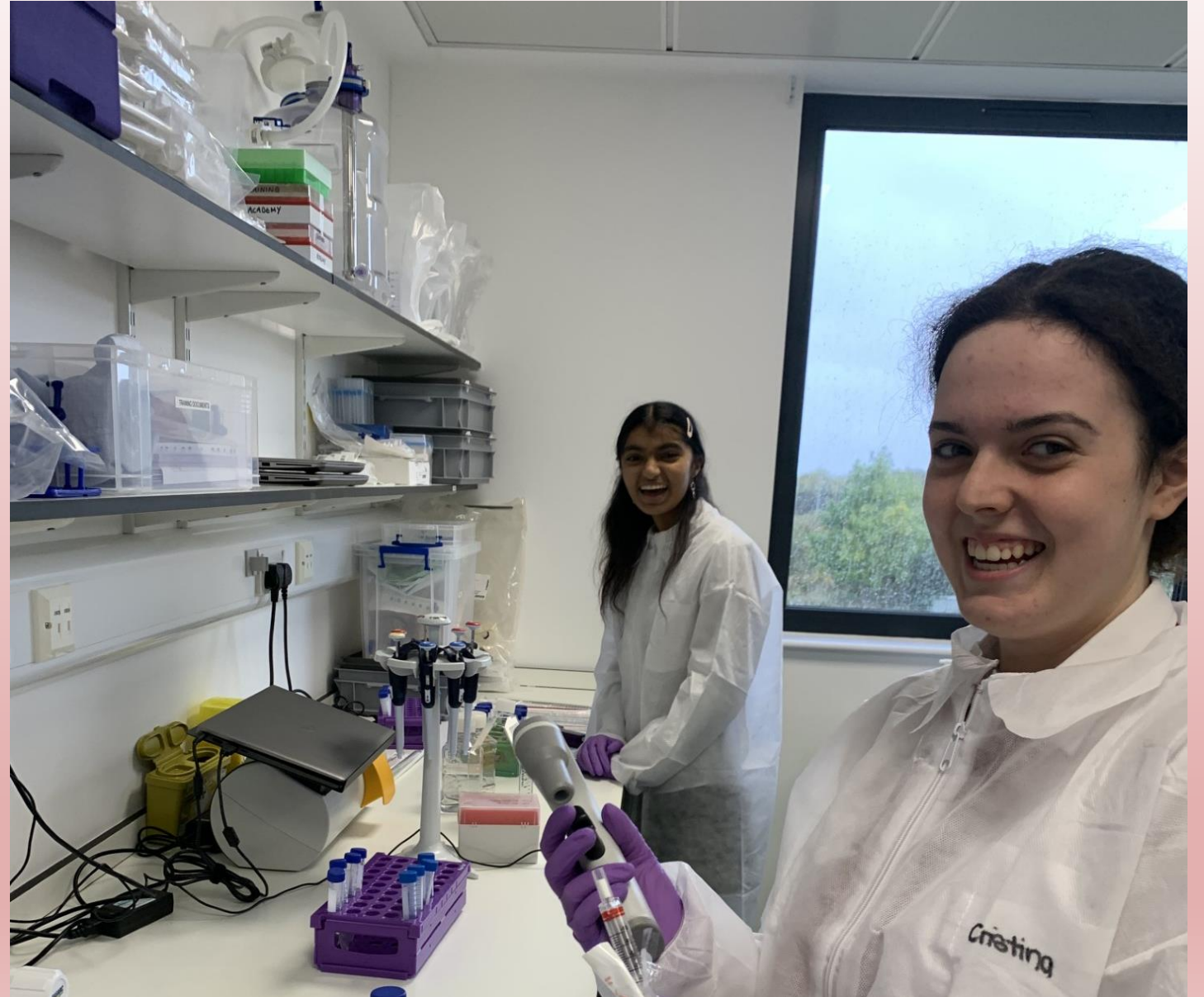


## **Roslin CT** **Biology trip**

Mr Linden's S6 Advanced Higher Biology students have been participating in lab experiences over the past month. They have been the first pupils in Scotland to participate in this exciting opportunity to work in a stem cell laboratory. RoslinCT are an offshoot company from the Roslin Institute which cloned Dolly the sheep! They gained lots of experience in the real work setting of a laboratory and had a fantastic time. Some of the pictures include microscopy of stem cells, suiting up to work in a clean room and general laboratory techniques for biotech industry!











## Science S2 Trip – Careers Hive

All S2 pupils attended the Careers Hive to talk to scientists working in STEM – they participated in skills workshops, interacted with equipment and attended a live Q and A session.

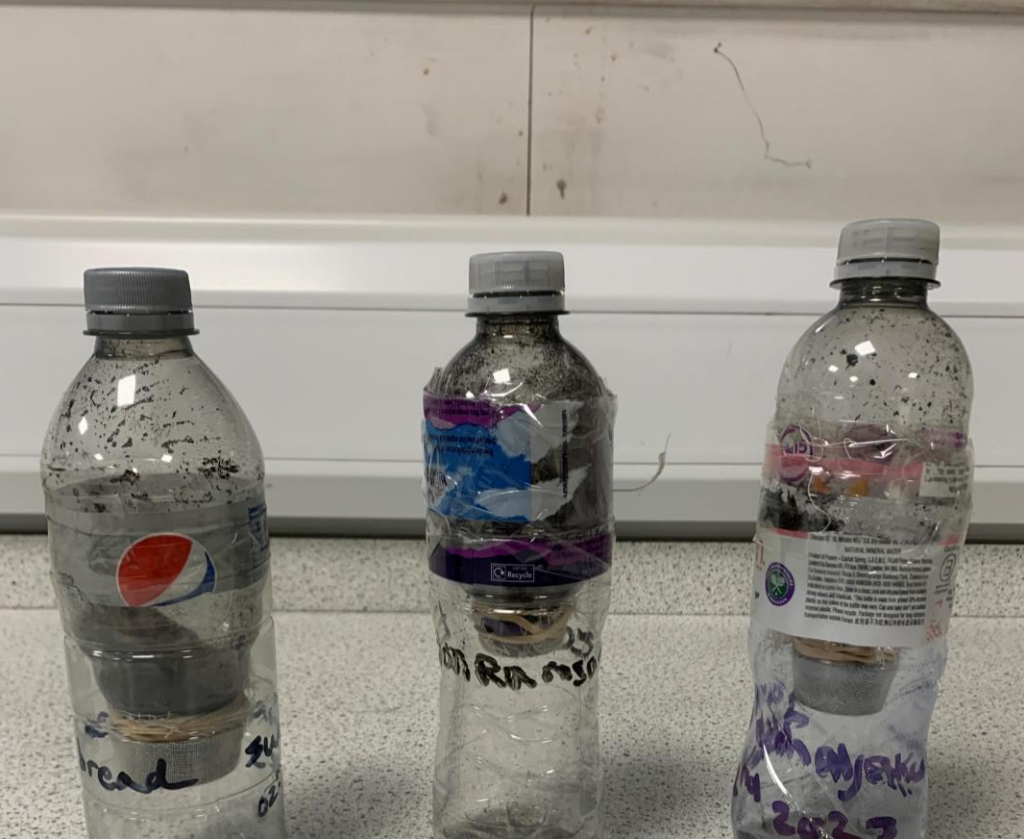
Some of the pictures include upside down concentration test, building engines, coding for robotics, 3D printing and satellite design.





In October, a speaker from Artmemis Funds, Mr Niznik came to speak to S4 pupils about Customer Satisfaction. He talked about the businesses and funds that he had managed over his career, such as Moonpig and his role in the company. He spoke about how to satisfy your target market to enhance sales and how to offer customers the highest quality service to encourage loyal customers who would repeatedly purchase the card design service. This really helped pupils prepare for their National 5 assignment which they will be starting in November.

Towards the end, pupils were able to ask the speaker questions, and these included any business related advice for the young people. In addition, they asked how the speaker chose his career path and how the business world had transformed mainly from technological advancements and innovations. The pupils really enjoyed Mr Niznik's talk and it generated many brilliant ideas for their upcoming assignment and classwork to work towards their National 5 qualification



## **Meadow's pollution study**



**Mr Linden's S1 class have been working hard and studying the environment and pollution. They conducted a litter audit in the Meadows and will then produce a survey that they will use to ask members of the public their thoughts on littering in the Meadows. They have made lots of other things biodegradation bottles, recycled paper and will produce a report!**





## Visit to Michael Laird Architects



Mahir Ahmed visited the offices at Micheal Laird Architects, one of the largest practices in Edinburgh.

"It was an amazing visit. We got to see all the lovely work that MLA have done in previous years and also got to see some pictures and paperwork of the architecture projects that they are currently working on. We were all shown some examples of university architecture folios that some of the architects and interior designers completed at Uni to give us an understanding of what the studying part looks like. I also got a good chance to speak to the interior designer there. Thank you so much for organising"



# BOOST

**The Future Assets competition teams went on a trip to a finance and business event in St. Andrews Square.**

**The event was filled with fun games and educational activities to encourage girls to enter STEM and the business world. During the event there were discussions on stereotypes and the discrimination that women often face.**

**There were workshops to help us find our personalities and a dragon den style challenge to test our entrepreneurial abilities and skills.**







**S6 Natali Rawat**



**Natali Rawat (S6)** was not only recognised but **won** her category - **Proud to be Me** - at the Saroj Lal Awards Ceremony!

*"Growing up in Scotland, Natali has been surrounded by more 'traditional' Scottish culture/ dress/ foods/ music etc, particularly in her younger school and social life. As a result, Natali found herself rejecting her own culture, not wanting to draw attention to herself, rather to blend in with her peers."*

*As a core member of the school's Rights Respecting Group (RRG), Natali has grown more comfortable in herself and no longer wants to reject her culture to blend in, she wants to show that she is proud of who she is, of her culture and heritage. Natali has worked on producing resources and organising events to promote and celebrate rights throughout the school community. Currently, focusing on Article 2: No Discrimination. As part of this work Natali produced this diptych to share throughout the school community to celebrate not only her Indian heritage but to celebrate the culture and heritage of her state, Uttarakhand."*





Our team, ready to see if they can do better at a COP 28 conference than the real countries will try to do this Month in Dubai





Gwen and Susan (role of fossil fuel lobbyists) are sitting calmly as their instruction for the day was to be evil



Our journalists are ready and are coming up with a plan!



- Oliwier has big boots to fill as he is representing China



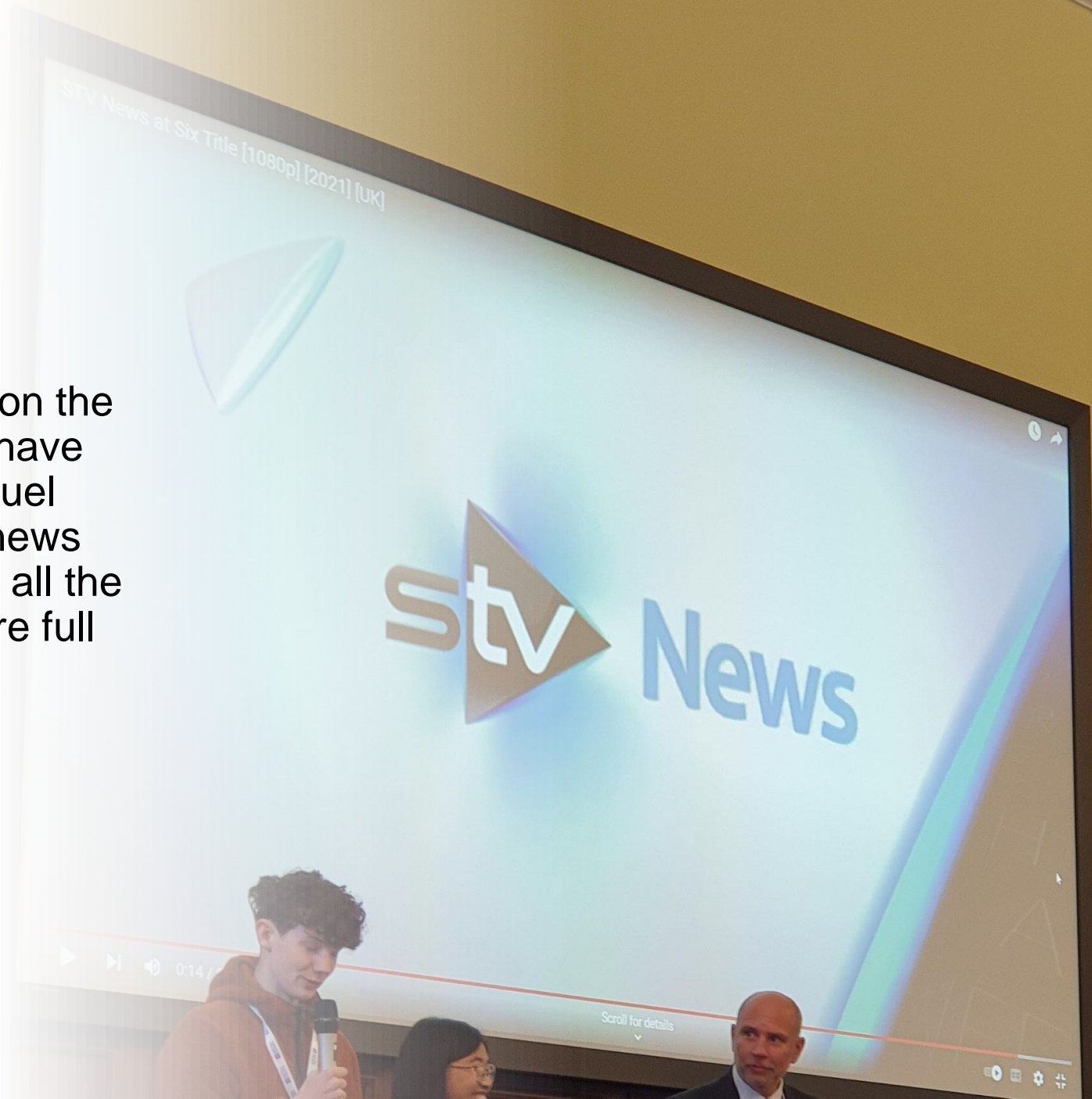


Lily and Elaine are representing France and get to sit the EU table (full of drinks and sweets – all part of the power game played at COP conferences)





- Rowan (who has taken on the role of a journalist) might have been bribed by the fossil fuel lobbyists to make a fake news announcement (in front of all the delegates)! His pockets are full of candy (bribes)



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Climate activists taking their role seriously and dramatically revealing their banner as the countries were making pledges



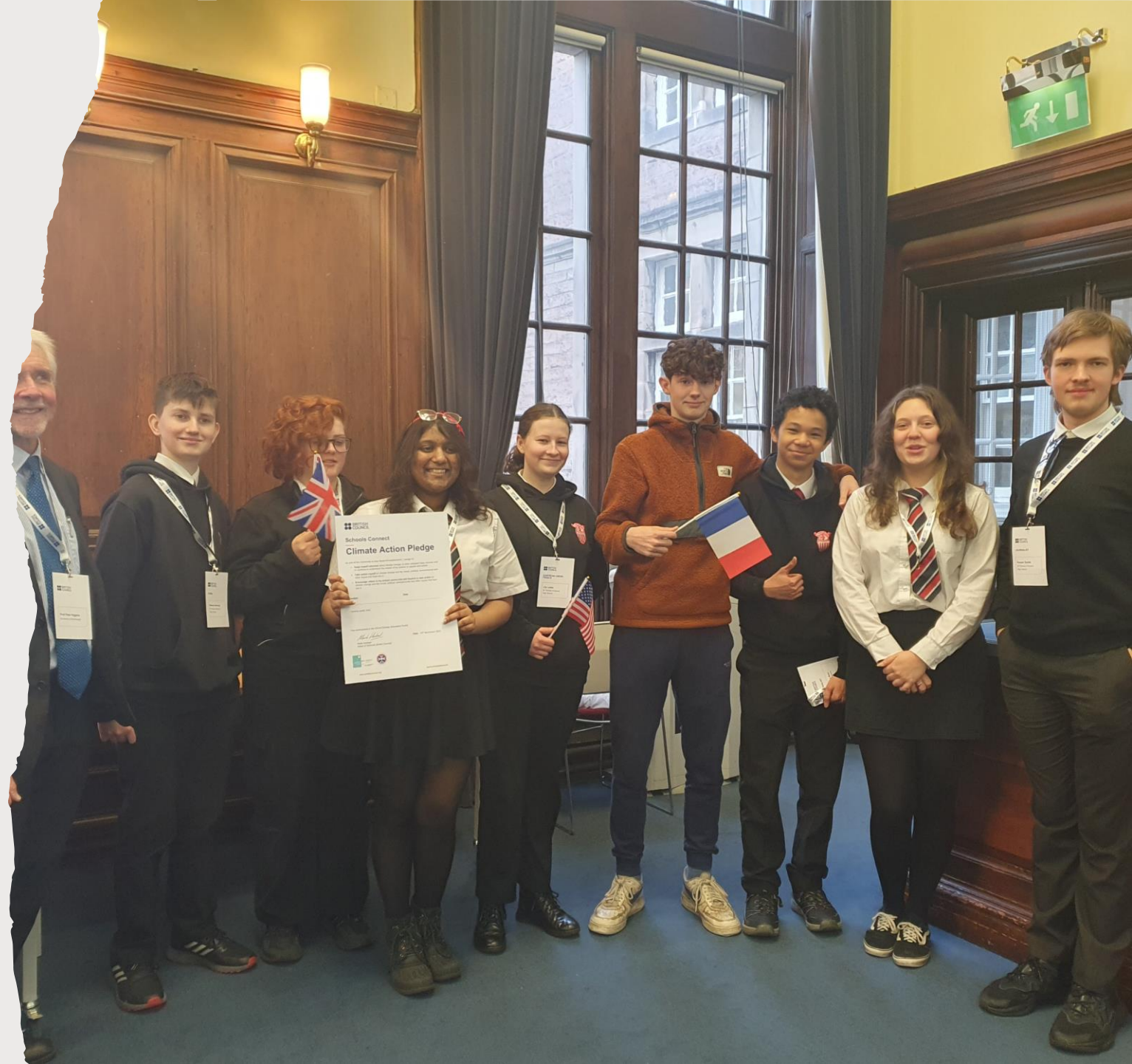


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We even got interviewed and  
made it to the news!



Our team at the end with  
Prof. Higgins





# S3 Environmental Science trip

We had a fantastic day out - got to hug a wind turbine, compete in a treasure hunt, figure out what type of blade is more efficient, and just spend great time together!





## S4 Business Speaker



Before the Christmas holidays, the S4 pupils (National 4/5) had a very exciting and interesting visit from a speaker from Investment 20/20. Ms Wilson spoke to the pupils about the recruitment and selection process. They learned about all the various types of assessments they may come across when applying for jobs. She gave them very helpful advice on how to prepare for assessment centres and practice questions.

This experience was really helpful for pupils for after school when they enter the World of Work and exposed them to interview tips and how to decide and find out information on what career they may wish to explore after school. In addition, she gave the pupils a lot of interesting tips for all potential routes for after school such as apprenticeships, World of Work and college/university options. All the all, the pupils really enjoyed hearing about the recruitment and selection process.

# Bronze Duke of Edinburgh!

We have 76 S3 pupils signed up to their Bronze DofE this year! All the pupils have now started working towards their 3 sections: Volunteering, Skill and Physical. We have pupils volunteering in a wide number of organisations and charities this year such as: The Yard, Salvation Army, St Peters Church, Sisters of Mercy, Manor Grange Care Home, Marie Curie and Out of the Blue Drill Hall. Other pupils are helping out in their local communities by volunteering at church, helping elderly members of the community or conducting litter picks!



**YOUTH  
WITHOUT  
LIMITS**





# Silver Duke of Edinburgh!

We have 20 S4 pupils signed up to Silver DofE this year. All pupils have now started working towards their 3 sections: Volunteering, Skill and Physical.

The pupils will be completing a Practice and Qualifying expedition in March and April next year!



**YOUTH  
WITHOUT  
LIMITS**



# Gold Duke of Edinburgh!

7 S5 pupils successfully completed their Gold Qualifying expedition in the October holidays. The pupils walked from Ullapool to Bonar Bridge over 4 days. A huge achievement!

Congratulations to : Alexander Black, Andrew Oloju , Kirstin Riach ,Ruhika Viralam , Emily Kidd ,Natalie Lesniowolska ,Stephanie Okeke !



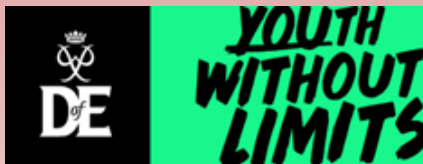


# Call for Duke of Edinburgh parent volunteers!

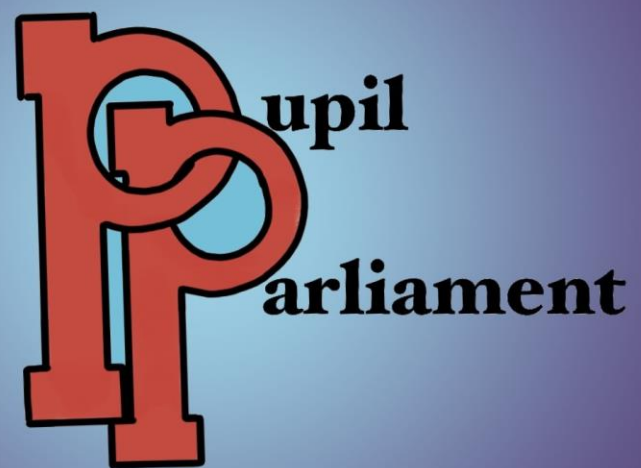
Do you or someone you know hold a Mountain Leader or Lowland Leader qualification? Would you be interested in volunteering with the DofE programme at St Thomas' ?

If so, please get in touch with Mrs Rocke via the school admin email.

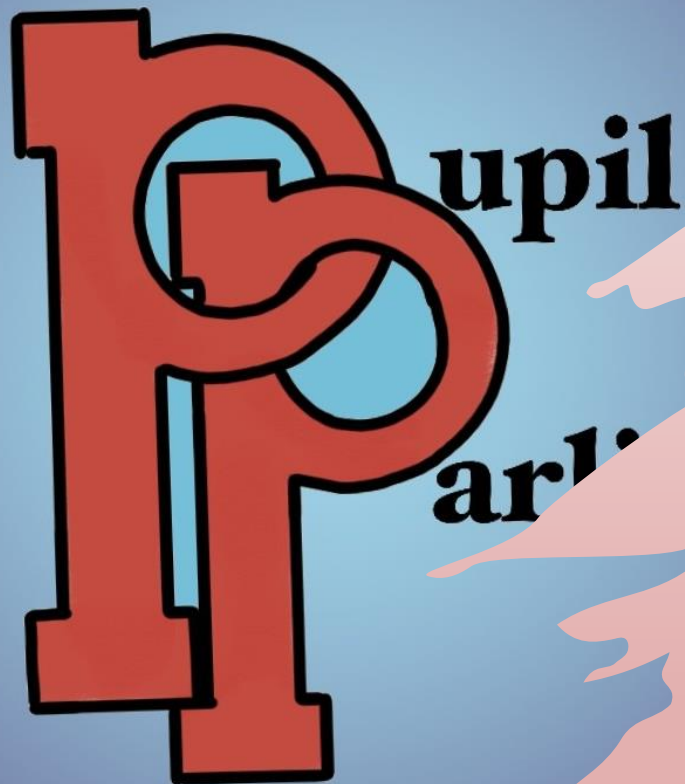
Many thanks!



# Pupil Parliament







The Pupil Parliament has met with S1-3 and S4-6 separately and the focus of these meetings was to consult pupils on their views on the school. These views have been shared with the Senior Leadership Team and will then be fed back to pupils to vote on before Christmas. The Pupil Parliament has also met with Ms Mariani to consult on the creation of a survey to assist Learning and Teaching within the school on the use of iPads. Here are the Pupil Parliament Representatives receiving their new badges. They have also designed the Pupil Parliament Logo.

In addition, Owen Conway and Elaine Koshy have been busy running for a highly coveted position to represent their constituency for the Scottish Youth Parliament. Elections will resume in the new year.

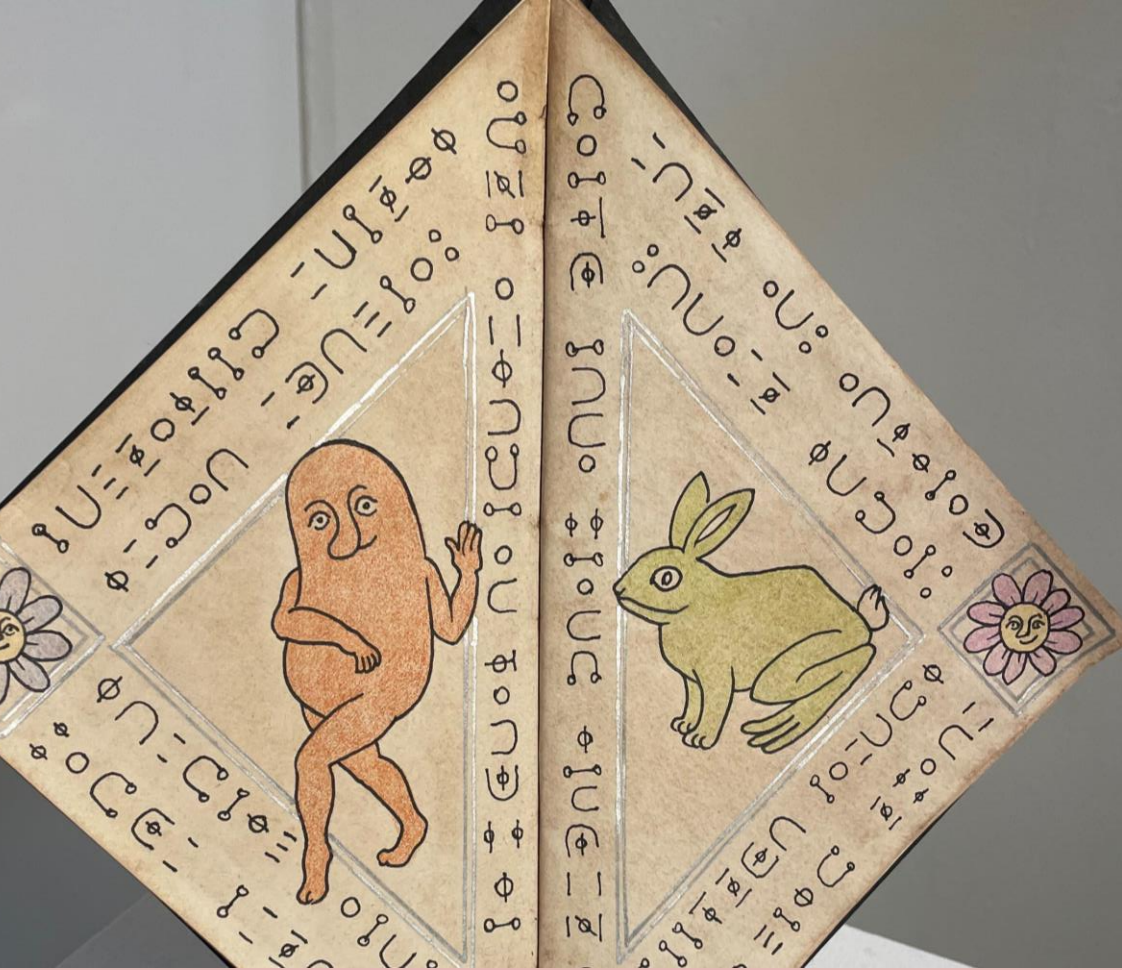
Finally, the representatives are running the Christmas door competition again this year with a prize for the best dressed door and also the most eco friendly door.

# Volunteering

Giotina Tseliou, Amna Shahzad, Shahd Salama, Najeeba Hayat, Gunjan Rawat, Natali Rawat, Samiyah Sohail and Elora Anderson gave up their Saturday morning and afternoon on a very miserable day to come and serve afternoon tea to over 100 members of the local community at Butterflies Café in Marchmont St Giles Church. It got very busy and hectic, but they dealt with everything brilliantly. Nicci (café manager) and Karen Campbell (the minister ): **A huge thank you to the girls for their outstanding work today. They received so many compliments from the attendees. We are so impressed at their positive attitude - they went straight in and were so capable and competent. A box of thank you chocolates will be coming their way soon!**







## Book Festival Trip

Our S2 recently worked with creative writer Ryan Van Winkle in order to create their own planet. Pupils worked hard throughout this unit to come up with interesting and unique aspects of their planet. Ryan then collaborated with artists from the Book Festival to create real life artefacts relating to their planet. Ryan acted as a tour guide and brought pupils through the 'museum' which was dedicated to showing off the different features of their planet.



"I thought the expedition was excellent. The amount of effort that was put in was evident and I thought the artists were amazing. Thank you, Ryan, for bringing out the creative side in all of us."

"I enjoyed everything. It was planned beautifully, and the models were amazing. The amount of work put in was fantastic and it was surely worth it because I am sure everyone left with their mouths open. The best part was the scroll. It looked ancient and freshly dug out. It made me feel like it was a real relic and story that happened in history."

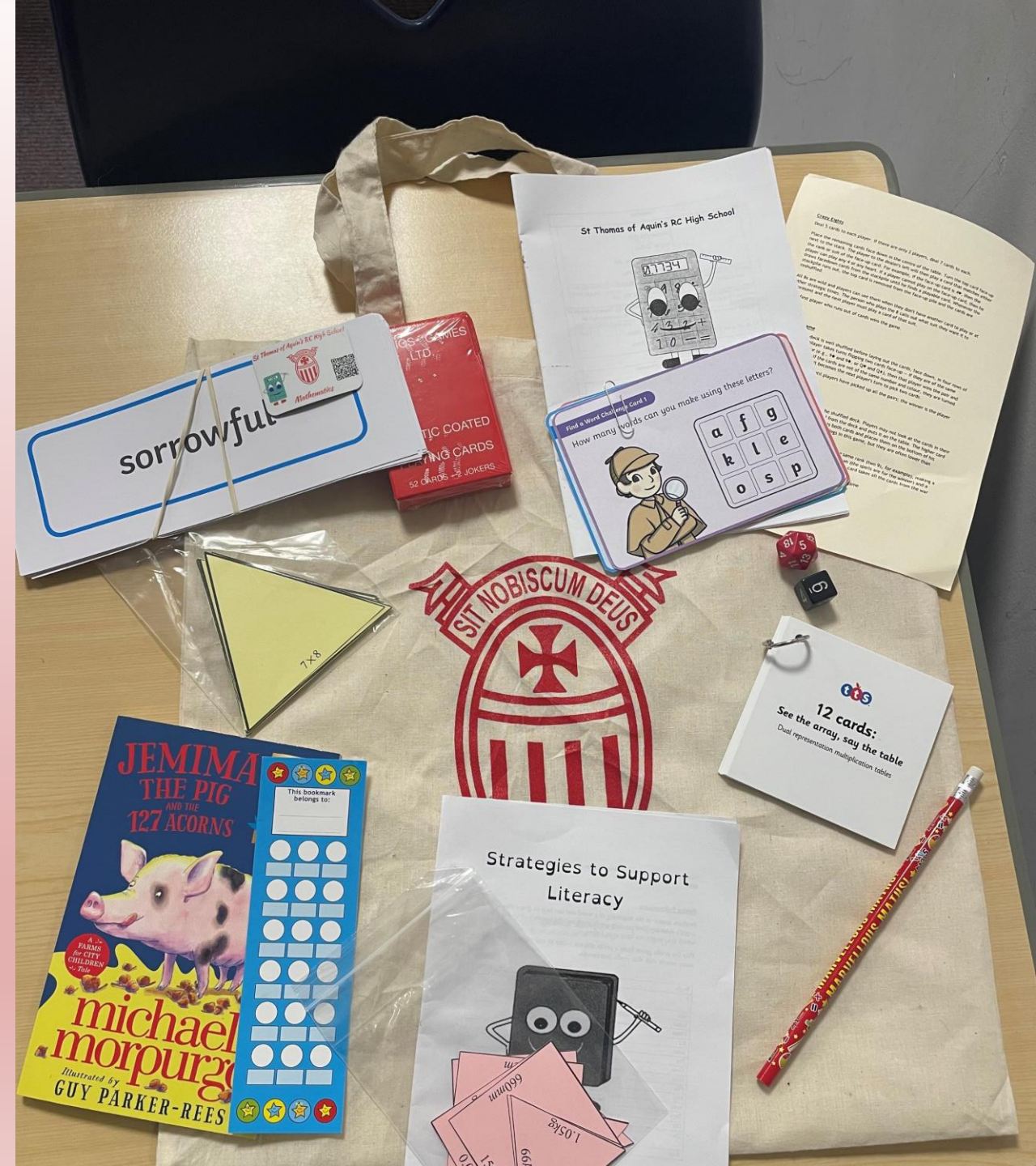
"The book festival with Ryan was a one-of-a-kind experience! I loved having Ryan explain everything and I loved the monster at the front which led into other places. I also loved seeing other schools' work and even some of my class's work. The art they made showed off their talent. My favourite part, though, was at the end when receiving post cards, seeing that some of my friends wrote the text in the cards! It was so cool!"

"It was amazing seeing all the exhibits. It was extremely creative, and I loved every part of it. I loved exploring each thing and I can't think of a single part I didn't enjoy. My favourite part was walking through the mysterious tunnel and my favourite exhibit was the book, it was so creative."





**Parents and pupils were recently welcomed into the school to attend the S1 Parental Engagement evening. Here, they were given information on what we do at St. Thomas of Aquin's to support literacy and numeracy across learning. Parents were advised on how to support their young people at home and were provided with a range of activities and resources to practise with.**

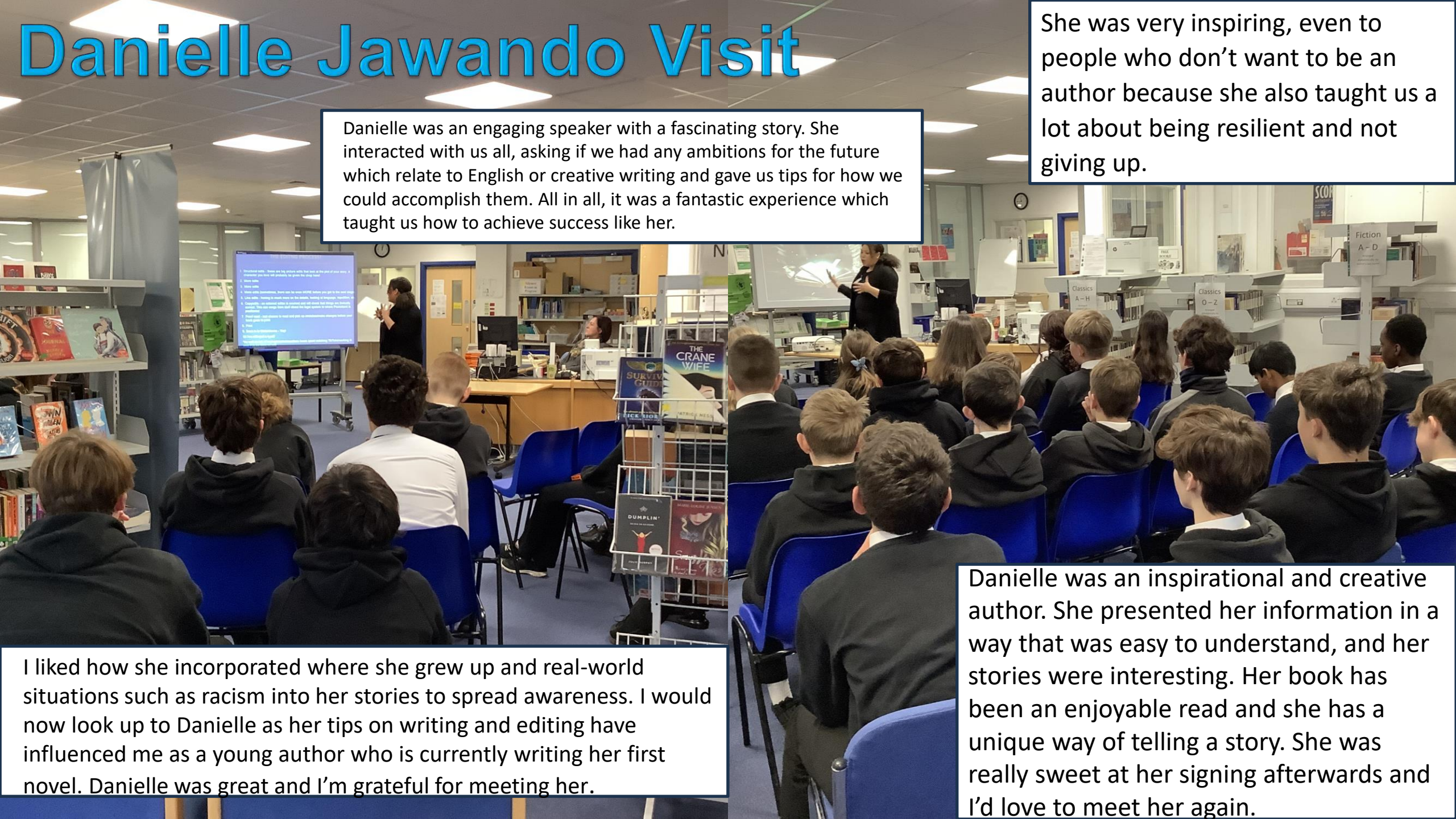




S1 pupils have been taking part in peer tutoring after school every Wednesday. Here, they have had the opportunity to pair up with our senior pupils to work on and consolidate their literacy and numeracy skills. This has helped to build our pupils' confidence and has allowed them to learn from one another.







# Danielle Jawando Visit

Danielle was an engaging speaker with a fascinating story. She interacted with us all, asking if we had any ambitions for the future which relate to English or creative writing and gave us tips for how we could accomplish them. All in all, it was a fantastic experience which taught us how to achieve success like her.

She was very inspiring, even to people who don't want to be an author because she also taught us a lot about being resilient and not giving up.

I liked how she incorporated where she grew up and real-world situations such as racism into her stories to spread awareness. I would now look up to Danielle as her tips on writing and editing have influenced me as a young author who is currently writing her first novel. Danielle was great and I'm grateful for meeting her.

Danielle was an inspirational and creative author. She presented her information in a way that was easy to understand, and her stories were interesting. Her book has been an enjoyable read and she has a unique way of telling a story. She was really sweet at her signing afterwards and I'd love to meet her again.

# S1 poetry

S1s in 1.2 took the opportunity to show off their fabulous poetry skills at the end of a poetry unit focussing on inclusivity. Pupils used their newfound knowledge and skills to write a book of poetry on themes such as gender, race, and age. Ms. Murray, the guest judge, was particularly impressed with pupils' stage presence, use of sound devices and mature approach to some challenging topics. Choosing their best poem to compete in the slam we crowned three victors:

Best overall performance: Ruby Oladejo, 'Why?'

Best use of stylistic features: Alice Tribout, 'Parents'

Most thought provoking message : Anna Najdrowska, 'Cheers to Mum'



# S3 Guest Speakers

The week before the Christmas holidays, S3 pupils were very lucky to be visited by Josh from 'The Larder', a third sector organisation in West Lothian. The pupils learned about the aims of the organisation such as how it aims to fight poverty and hunger and its story, dating back to 2011 when it was founded. Afterwards, Josh showed the pupils the bakery shop, how it is run and where it is located and how these led to various prestigious awards such as the 'Social Enterprise Award' in Scotland. He then explained the impact on the local community of 'The Larder' through a Training Academy, their Catalyst Kitchen, their volunteers and partners and their overall success. Lastly, our speaker told pupils how they could be involved with third sector organisations such as 'The Larder' when they are older to help and give back to the community.



Before the end of term, another S3 class were very lucky to be visited by the social enterprise, 'Social Bite'. The speakers talked to pupils about the objectives of their organisation, by explaining how they are helping to end homelessness. The speaker showed the pupils where their shops are in Edinburgh and how they help people within the community by providing them with employment in their shops and then how this leads to helping to end homelessness. Thereafter, they spoke to the pupils about ways to be involved with Social Bite and how they could be apart of the social enterprise when they are older. It was a brilliant way to bring the theory and course content alive for pupils as they have been learning about the third sector in Business classes this term.





The week before the Christmas holidays, S2 pupils were very lucky to be visited by Gail and John from 'The Army's National Charity - Army Benevolent Fund'. The speakers talked to pupils about the objectives of their organisation (charity) and about a range of military people they have supported and how they have supported them. It was very interesting to hear about all the different people they have helped through stories and videos. Thereafter, they spoke to the pupils about ways to be involved with the army and how they could be apart of it when they are older. It was a brilliant way to bring the theory and course content alive for pupils as they have been learning about the third sector in Business classes this term.



# S1 Business Product Innovation Competition

Over a few consecutive weeks, pupils were visited by entrepreneur Ami to talk to them about product innovation. Firstly, our speaker explained to them what product innovation is and talked about the development of a product from the prototype to the final product customers can buy. Thereafter pupils completed the marketing mix on Apple's iPhone to identify and explain the type of product, the prices, the places they are sold and any promotional deals. After, our speaker told them about a very exciting competition where they are to come up with their own product and develop it. The pupils are really looking forward to developing it over the next few weeks and have really enjoyed this project.







## S1 BUSINESS BAFTA WINNERS



As part of our S1 curriculum the learner's must create their own chocolate bar. The learner must complete a variety of different activities including creating their own TV or Radio advert to promote awareness of their product!

We then select a winner per PG group for most creative advert!

Well done to our winners!







# The St Thomas Times

*A pupil-led creative enterprise*



## A Festive Film Review

‘Drive’ is a masterfully crafted film, created by director Nicolas Winding Refn and starring Ryan Gosling. Its intense storyline, gripping acting, and action guarantee you won’t be bored during this film viewing.

Gosling plays his part as the main character extraordinary. He portrays confidence yet a lack of social skill. Bryan Cranston plays Shannon in a very unique way. This film honestly made me wish he had taken more film roles as the down-on-his-luck criminal. In this role he brings the energy and feel of his comedic role but with the capability of his roles in various dramas.

**\*10/10\***



***A snippet  
from our  
upcoming  
Christmas  
issue...***

***Have a read of our  
full issue for more!***

# Wellbeing Hub update - Winter 2023



**New accommodation!**

**New pupil voice!**

**New partnerships!**





The Hub now occupies a space in Room 2.33.

Here we run our regular support interventions.

We also invite partners into the Hub to support our young people and develop their skills and confidence!

# Having your say...



## MY WELLBEING


This form is designed to give you a chance to give your views on your own wellbeing, and the types of things that we might work on to support your wellbeing. Remember:

- This is not a test
- There is no score at the end
- There are no wrong answers
- Honest answers are the most helpful

Hi, Darren. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

\* Required

1

Please put your name in the space below. \* 

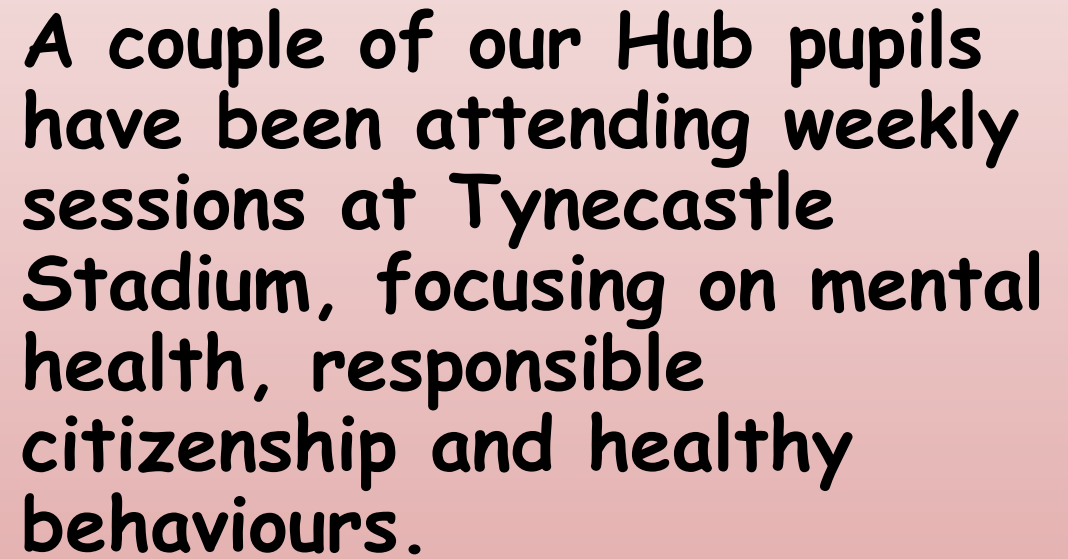
Hub pupils now have the opportunity to reflect upon their wellbeing using an online form.

This also allows our young people to direct the support we provide for them in the Hub!





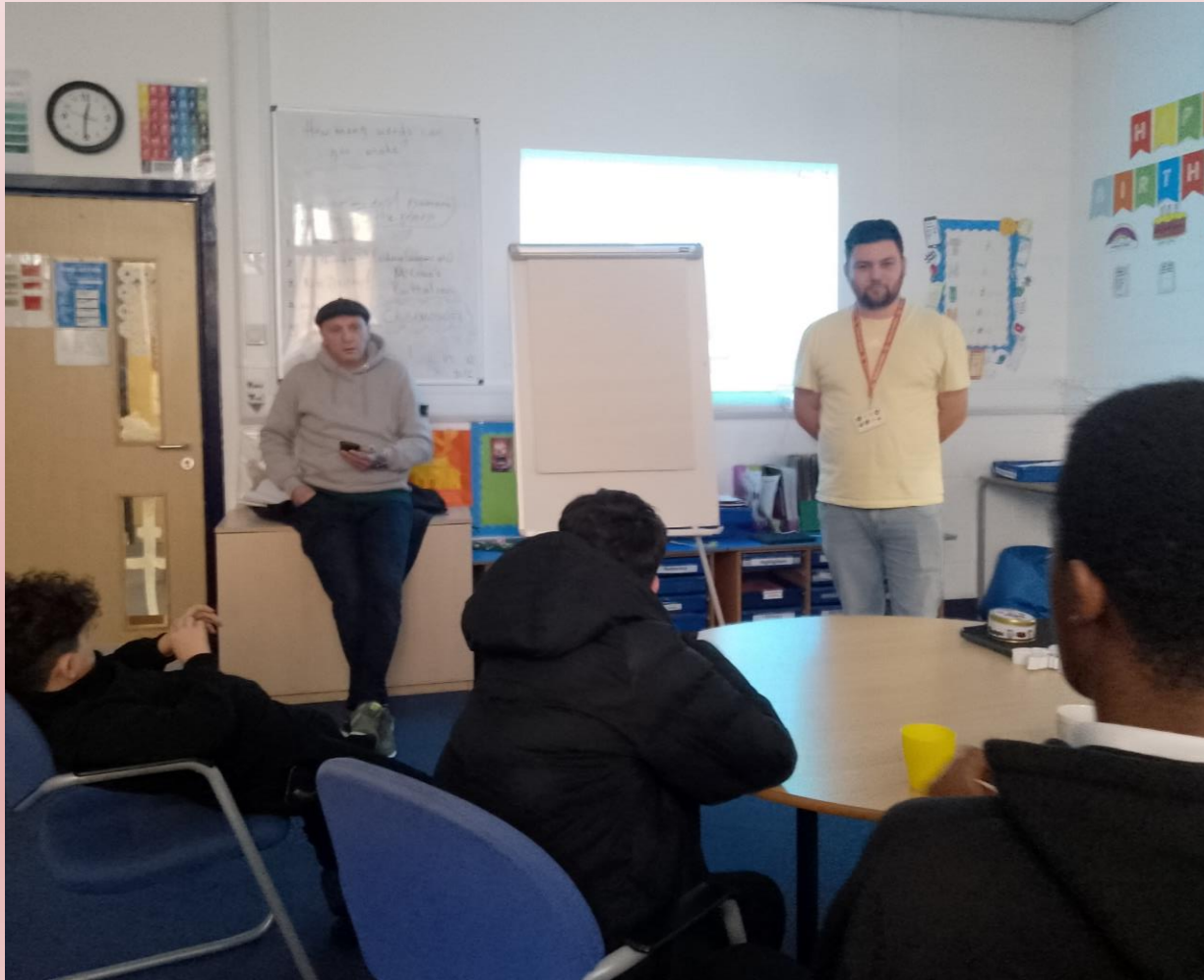
These sessions focused on leadership and teamwork skills, whilst also developing problem-solving skills through literacy, numeracy and physical tasks!



Watch this space for a St Thomas' cohort in the new year!



# Making Side-Steps to make progress...



Representatives from the Action for Children organisation have been working with a group of our Hub pupils.

This group focuses our pupils on staying safe in the wider community!

# Taking Action...



Alan Reid, St Thomas' Active Schools Coordinator, has begun a 6-week programme with some of our young people.

This programme looks to develop teamwork and resilience through physical activity!



# Christmas Door...



The Hub went all out for the Christmas door competition this month.

Hub pupils all contributed to make our Christmas door the thing of beauty that it is!

# Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year...



## ...from staff and pupils from the Wellbeing Hub!





The image is a collage of school-related items. It features three pencils: a red one at the top left, an orange one at the top right, and a green one at the bottom center. A light green rectangular piece of paper is partially visible behind the orange pencil. A blue and purple gradient paper strip, tilted diagonally, contains the text 'Support for Learning' in white. Below this strip is a grey and black gradient paper strip. The background is a light pinkish-red.

# Support for Learning

# SOCIAL HORTICULTURAL THERAPIES

Social and therapeutic horticulture is the process of using plants and gardens to improve physical and mental health, as well as communication and thinking skills

After gaining funding from “Dobbies grow your own communities” our pupils have planted- spinach, onions, potatoes, rhubarb, sweet peas, carrots and wild flowers







# THE GREEN TEAM

CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH NATURE



For five weeks 9 pupils took part on a number of different tasks with the Green Team. These included: conservation tasks, environmental education, nature connection activities, bush craft skills ,personal development, etc.

All the pupils achieved the John Muir Award and the Saltire Award, Well done!





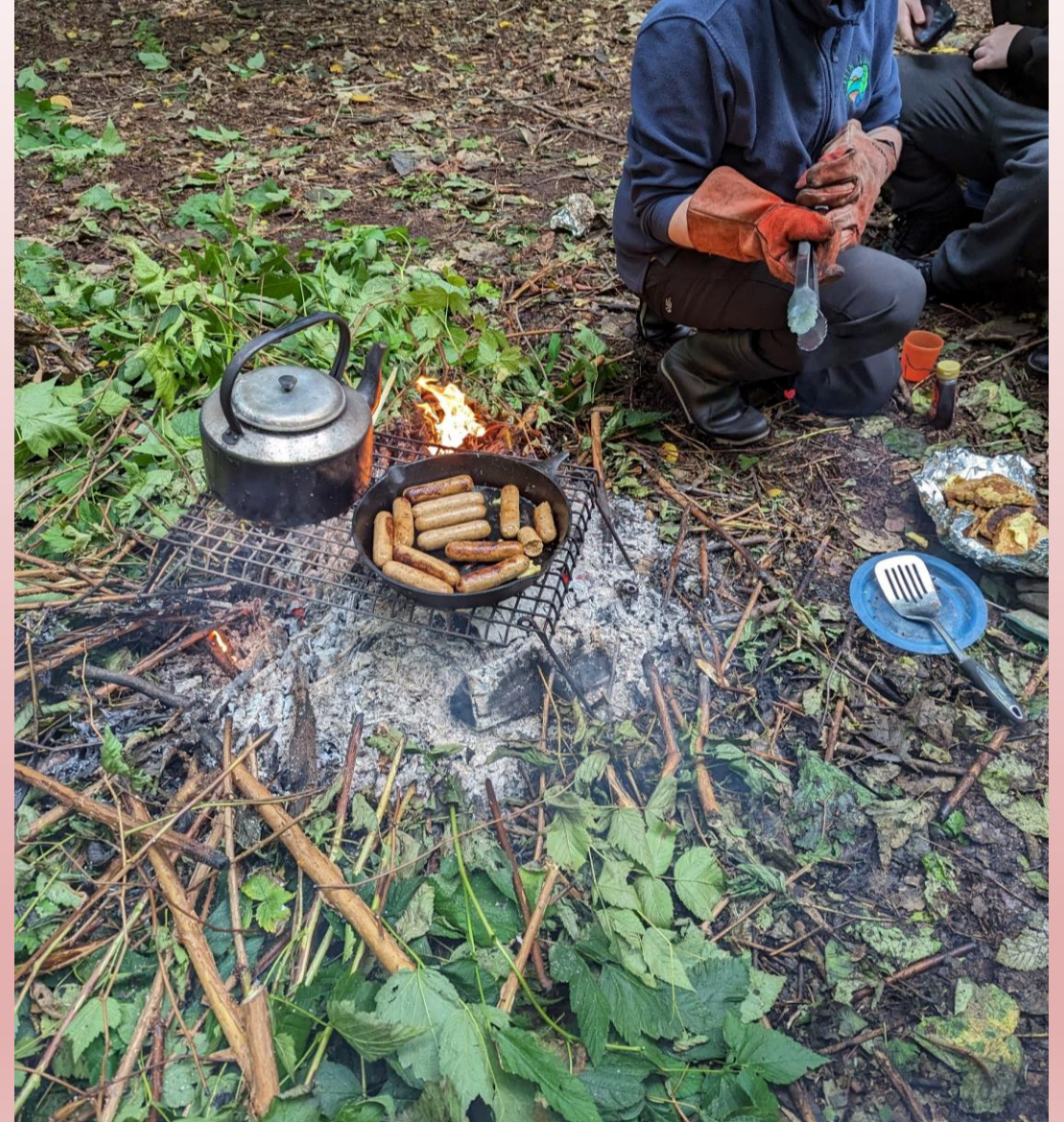


















# Library

It has been busy time in the Library with various activities, clubs and an author visit.

In August S1 and S2 pupils had a trip to Edinburgh International Book Festival to attend Burning Bright: A Writer's Journey with S F Said. Some pupils also took part of online event with Nikesh Shukla. All pupils who took part received a free copy of "Tiger" by SF Said or "Stand up" by Nikesh Shukla.

In September some S6 pupils attended Advance Higher English workshop at Edinburgh University delivered by Robert O'Brien who is one of the Liaison Librarians. They also had a tour around the Main University Library. The same pupils also took part of an Advance Higher English workshop organised by the National Library of Scotland that also included a tour around the library. Pupils found both events very helpful and registered with both institutions as users. Both visits gave them knowledge and access to resources helpful with writing their dissertations as well as improved their research and bibliography writing skills.

In November we hosted a book writer Danielle Jawando presenting her latest book called " When Our Worlds Collided" to some S1 and S2 pupils as a part of Book Week Scotland. The event was very successful and pupils received a free copy of her book.

Our pupils have continued to be enthusiastic reviewers for 'Teen Titles' magazine –several contributed and their reviews have been already published with more awaiting of publication in future one.

Three library clubs were re-activated: Lego, Anime and S1-S2 Book Club. All run successfully and will be continued.

We also celebrated literacy events and run various activities with English S1 and S2 classes throughout the semester. Our new and big activities this semester were: Story Quest when pupils created and wrote stories together as part of Scottish Book Trust activity and Blessing Unicorn when pupil designed unicorns for an exhibition in the Central Library in March 2024.





# **LITERACY INTERVENTIONS- PEER READING, SPELLING, EAL VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND COMPREHENSION**

The library literacy interventions have been in full swing this term. We have finished the term with our traditional Christmas party! Well done to everyone for your hard work!



# Digital Day 2022

On November 7<sup>th</sup> 30 S3 pupils were involved in BIMA's Digital Day. Lloyd's banking group came into the school and acted as our digital partners helping our students through the day. The S3 students learnt about the Lloyds banking group job roles and what a day in the life of their jobs would include learning about digital careers. They were then set a challenge by VUE Cinemas to find a way to get young people into the cinema through a digital promotion.

Well done to our winners this year:  
Moksh, Olivia, Mat, Alex & Aiden.



# Digital Day 2023

Well done to all pupils involved in the day as many other teams produced great ideas for the VUE project. Miss Stalker, Mr Lodge, Mr Rouse & all the digital partners were very impressed with all the hard work that went into the presentations. The designs have been entered into the national competition which will be announced in January 2024.







# Cheerleading Club

**St Thomas' Cheerleading team has been working hard to produce a routine for next year's Scottish Schools Cheerleading Competition.**

**At Cheerleading we work on perfecting dance routines, stunts, tumbling and working as a team.**





## **Idea award S2 and S3 Computing Science**

**Many pupils are still working hard to gain the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA is an international award-winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills.**



# S1 Computing

Our S1 Computing classes have been working on internet safety, staying safe online, creating websites and have now moved on to the robotics unit learning about the importance of sequencing when programming our robots. They have explored using line following code. We have this year been working on debugging errors within our program code too.

## Starter Task

### Fix the Algorithm!

Algorithms are **sequences** of instructions or commands which achieve a **goal** or solve a problem

What does this algorithm do?

Forward 3  
Right 90°  
Forward 2  
Left 90°  
**Forward 3**  
Right 90°  
Forward 2  
Left 90°  
Forward 2

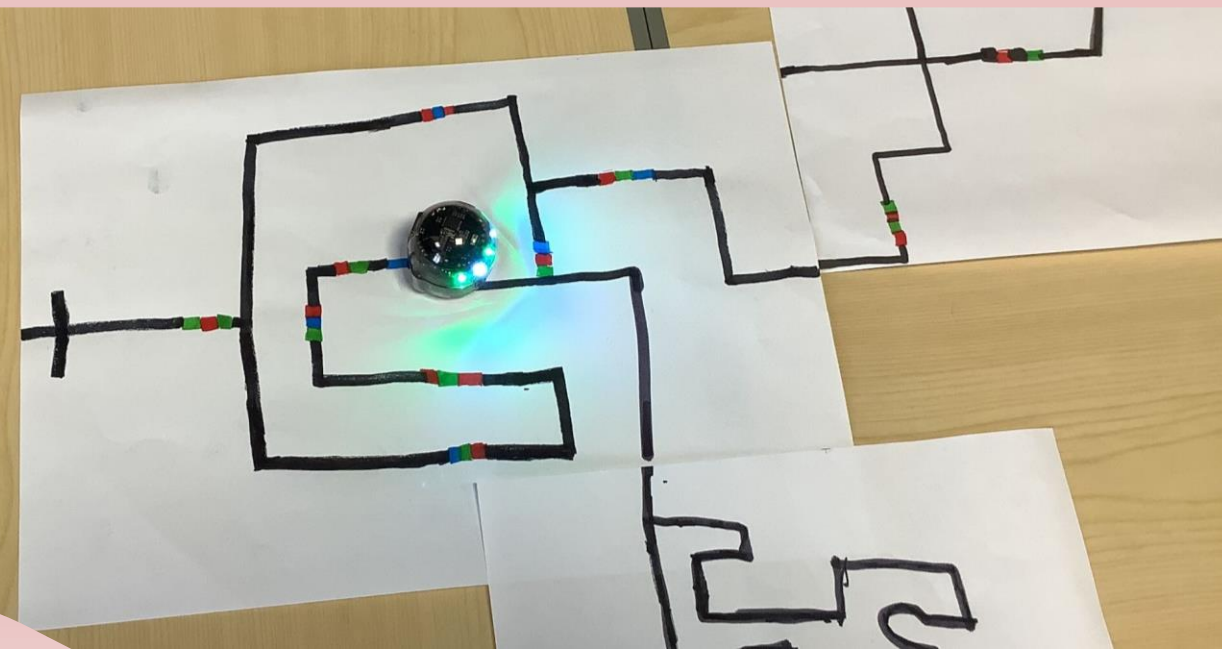
2. Find the errors in this one!

#### Directions to the Diamond

Directions	Debugged Directions
Forward 3	
Right 90°	
Forward 2	
Left 90°	
Forward 1	
Right 90°	
Forward 4	
Right 90°	
Forward 1	
Left 90°	
Forward 3	
Left 90°	
Forward 3	

### Debugging Algorithms

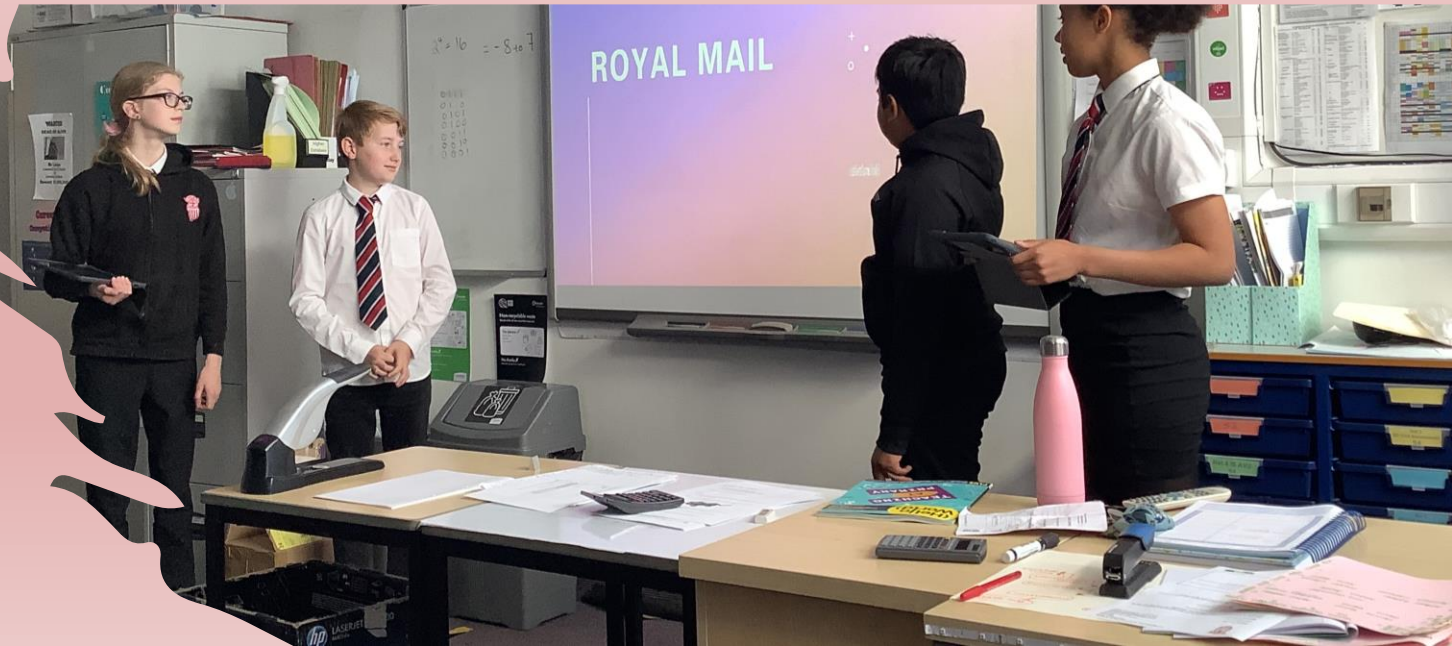
path tile lava tile boulder explorer/start necklace gold coins skull emerald treasure chest diamond Egyptian artefact crown pile of treasure ruby



# S2 Computing

S2 Computing students have been working on converting numbers from our numbers to how the computer sees numbers using Binary and using the binary game to help understand how it works.

They have also been working as a class to complete a digital challenge in groups.





# S3 Computing

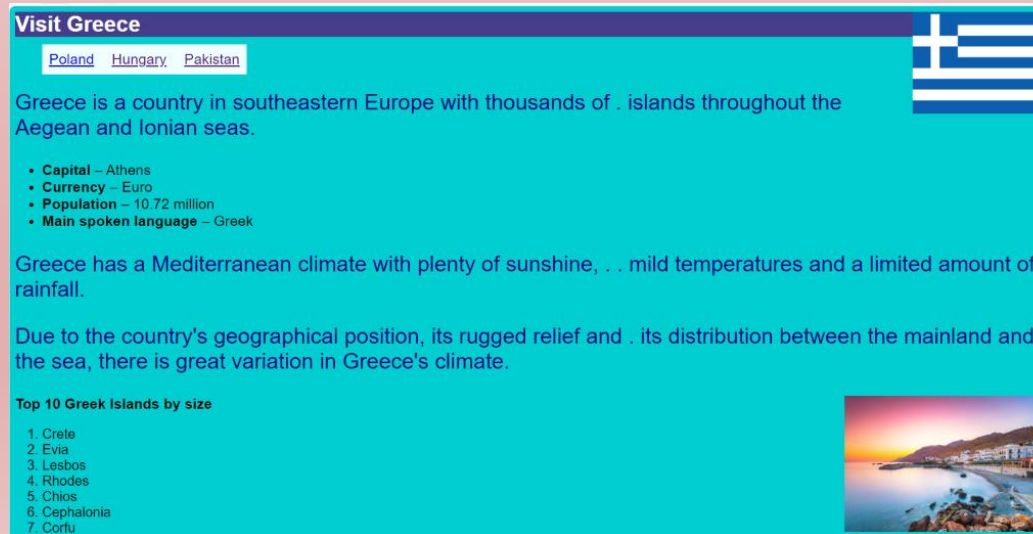


They have also been working on developing their understanding of computer security & precautions they should be taking.

Researching real life security threats and completing challenges where they can act as a cyber specialist to solve crimes for Police Scotland.

They were given the choice how they wanted to present back an example of someone who was prosecuted for a cyber crime. Some chose posters, podcasts, videos and presentations. We also pretended to be cyber criminals and created our own phishing emails.

A task we completed after the summer was making a website to promote visiting different countries and promoting different cultures.



Dear Customer,

We have recently had to de-activate your bank account. We need you to verify your account before we can start it up again.

To verify follow these steps:

1. Press [//VERIFY-yoUrE-BAnK-AccOUNT;:Today](#)
2. Put in your account nu. + password so that we can verify it is you
3. Put in your current account balance and we will take care of things from there.

If you do not do this by 18/11/2023 at 23:59 your account will be permanently deleted and you will no longer be permitted as a customer in this business.

Thank you for being our customer

## NETFLIX

**! Subscription suspended !**

Dear Netflix user,

Unfortunately, due to problems with your card payment your Netflix account has been temporary suspended. To be able to continue using your account, update your payment details within the next 24 hours, otherwise your account will be permanently put on hold.

**UPDATE DETAILS**

Need help? Visit [help center](#) or [contact us now](#).

-netflix team

# National 5 Computing

Within S4 Computing we have been focusing on our three units. Computer systems, Web design & Development and Software Design and Development.

We have been focusing on submitting our code with internal commentary so that others can understand what the code is doing.

We have also created a very colourful website with information about Scottish tourist attractions.

```
task 20.py - C:\Users\140677086\OneDrive - The City of Edinburgh Council\S4\Computer scie...
File Edit Format Run Options Window Help

#task 20
name = "" #set up string variable
target = 0 # set up integer variable
total = 0 # set up integer variable
total2 = 0.0 # set up float variable

#get input for name, assign the value
print("What is your name")
name = str(input())

#get input for target, assign the value
print("what is your target average?")
target = int(input())

#fixed loop to get the amount of miles cycled each week
for loops in range(0,4):
    weekmiles = int(input("How many miles have you cycled this week "))
    #running total for the total miles cycled
    total = total + weekmiles

#actual average miles cycled found by dividing total by 4
total2 = total/4

#displaying the actual average miles cycled per week
print(name, "You have averaged", total2, "miles per week")

#conditional statement to see if the cyclist met their goal average or not
if total2 >= target : # if the actual average is greater than
    #or equal to the target average a congratulations message will be printed
    print("Congratulations you have met your target")
else: # otherwise a sorry message will be printed
    print("Sorry you have not met your target")

Ln: 25 Col: 30
```

## TOP 5 SCOTTISH TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

### The Outer Hebrides

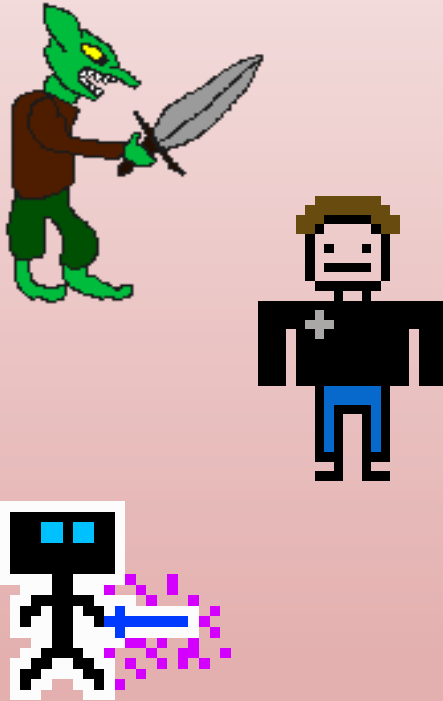
The Outer Hebrides can boast some of Europe's most beautiful stretches of sand.

### Skye

A visit in May or early June is recommended with lambs frolicking against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks.



# Computer Games Design



Within Computer Games Design our class are now working on creating their final games either using Unity, Construct 3 or Game Maker as it's important that they have had choice about what platform they prefer.

Here are some examples of some game assets created by the games design class this year.

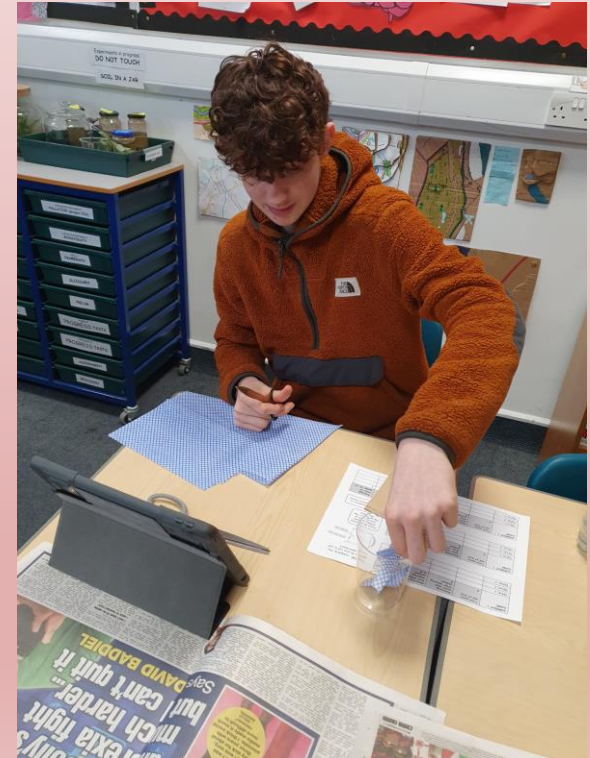




S3 Environmental Science is having a look how prepared are cars around our school for the Low Emission Zone that is coming this June to Edinburgh.



# Environmental Science







Some of the Backstage Crew ...



## S5 & S6 NET Ministries Retreats

Monday, the 4th of December 23



# NET Ministries Retreats

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- Net Ministries



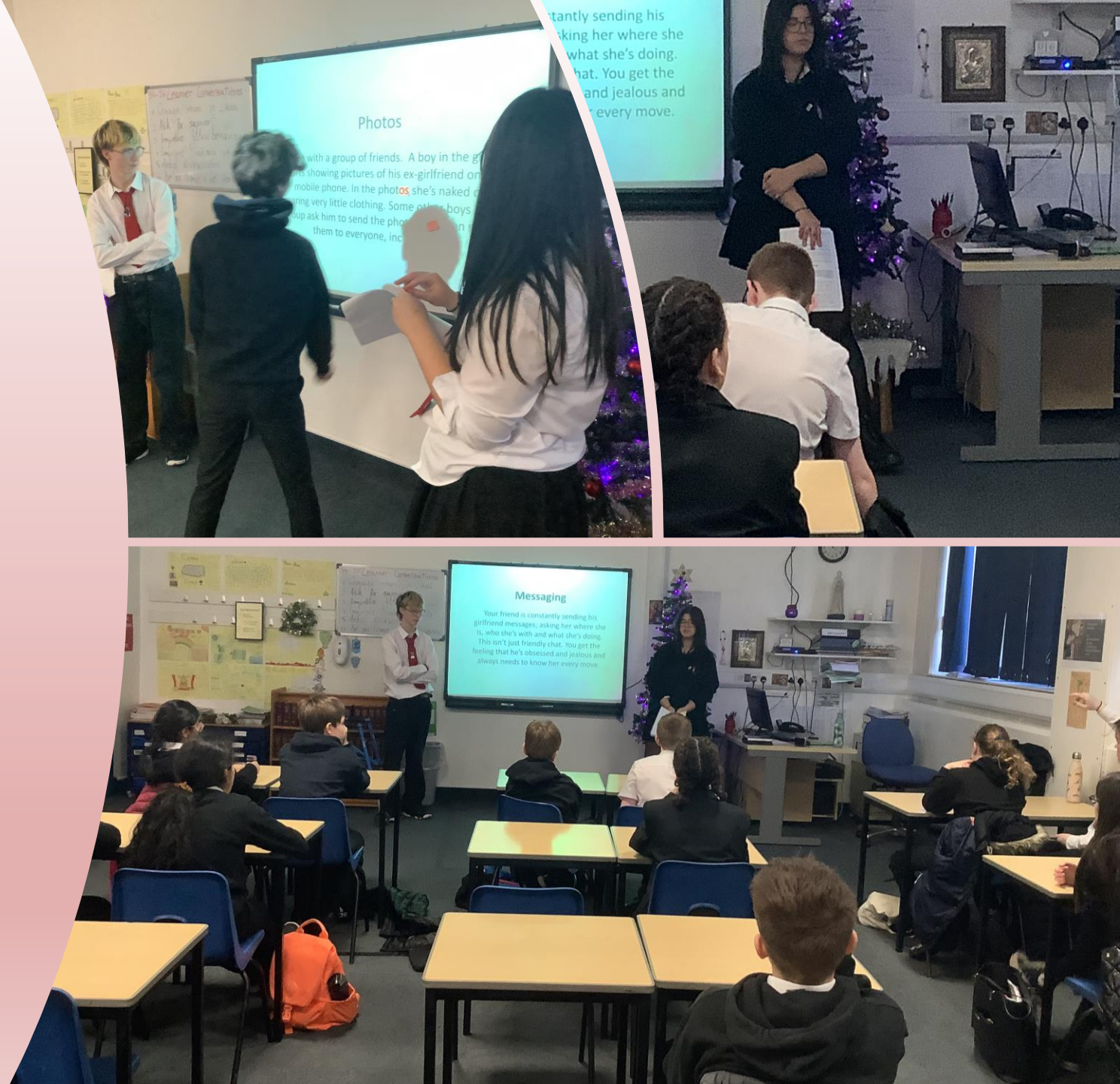


## **NET Ministries**

**Encouraging young people to love Jesus and embrace the life of the Church.**



# MVP Mentors in Violence Prevention



# MVP delivered in RE

**Melinda & Luke (S6)**  
delivering the MVP  
session to the S1 and S2s.







# Mass at the Sacred Heart Church

**‘No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven.’**

***(St Augustine)***





**Dominika & Scott (part of Caritas) getting ready for Advent**



# Caritas Pupils helping with the retreats



Cardinal O'Brien, Archbishop Conti, Bishop Devine, VIP Guests and the S6 Pupils fill the Clyde Auditorium.  
Photo by Paul Mc Sherry 07770 393960 2nd June 2012.



# **November Candlelit Remembrance Services**







## AH MODERN STUDIES CRIME AND LAW CONFERENCE

12 of our Advanced Higher pupils attended the annual Crime and Law conference at George Watson's College at the beginning of December. Pupils heard from Lindsay Miller, a Deputy Crown Agent, who opened the conference with a keynote speech about her work on the Lockerbie bombing case. Throughout the day, they attended various workshops pertaining to their dissertations, and spoke to presenters from groups such as The Scottish Centre for Conflict Resolution and Heavy Sound, which supports people who have been incarcerated. At the end of the day, Cat Dalrymple (Interim Director of Justice for the Scottish Government) gave a powerful and inspiring closing speech about the current state of Scotland's Criminal Justice System. Overall, this was a fantastic day and gave our pupils much to think about!

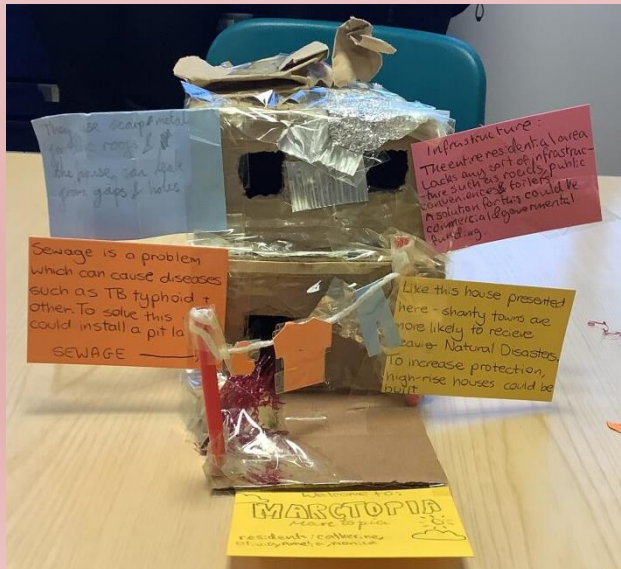


## GEOGRAPHY

Josh Patterson joined the Social Subjects department as part of his Post Graduate Diploma in Education, and he was assigned an S3 Geography class.

The class were learning about the issues and solutions in shanty towns with a focus on Dharavi (Mumbai) (made famous in the film Slumdog Millionaire)

As part of the case study, pupils got the opportunity to work in groups and get creative by making their own models. The class did a brilliant job as you can see from the photographs and learnt so much about these fascinating communities !

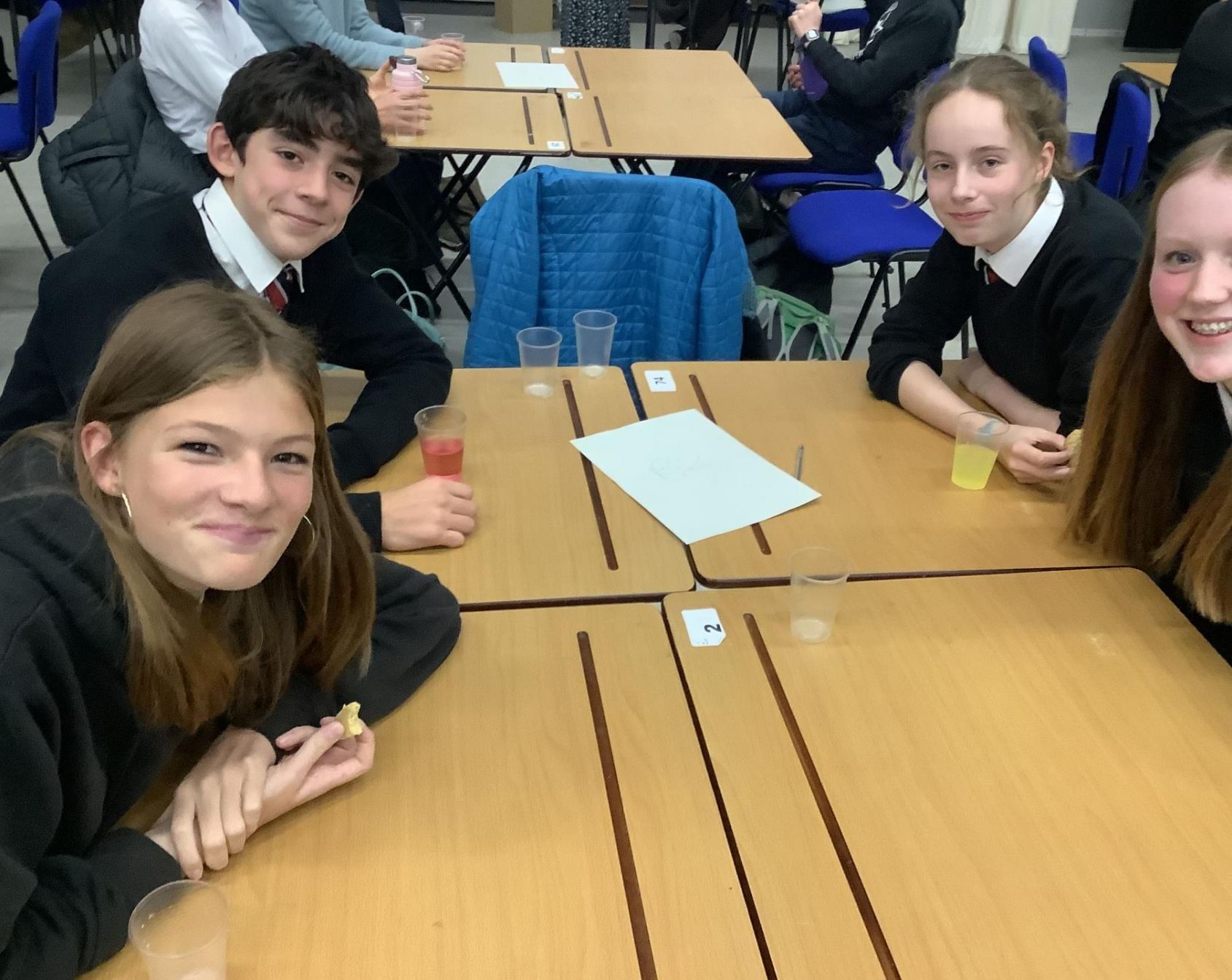




# S1 Pupils receiving Sumdog certificates in Maths







S4 Pupils  
attended  
Enterprising  
Maths  
Competition  
at  
Meadowbank





Numeracy and  
Literacy peer  
mentoring with senior  
pupils and S1 pupils

@STT\_Maths

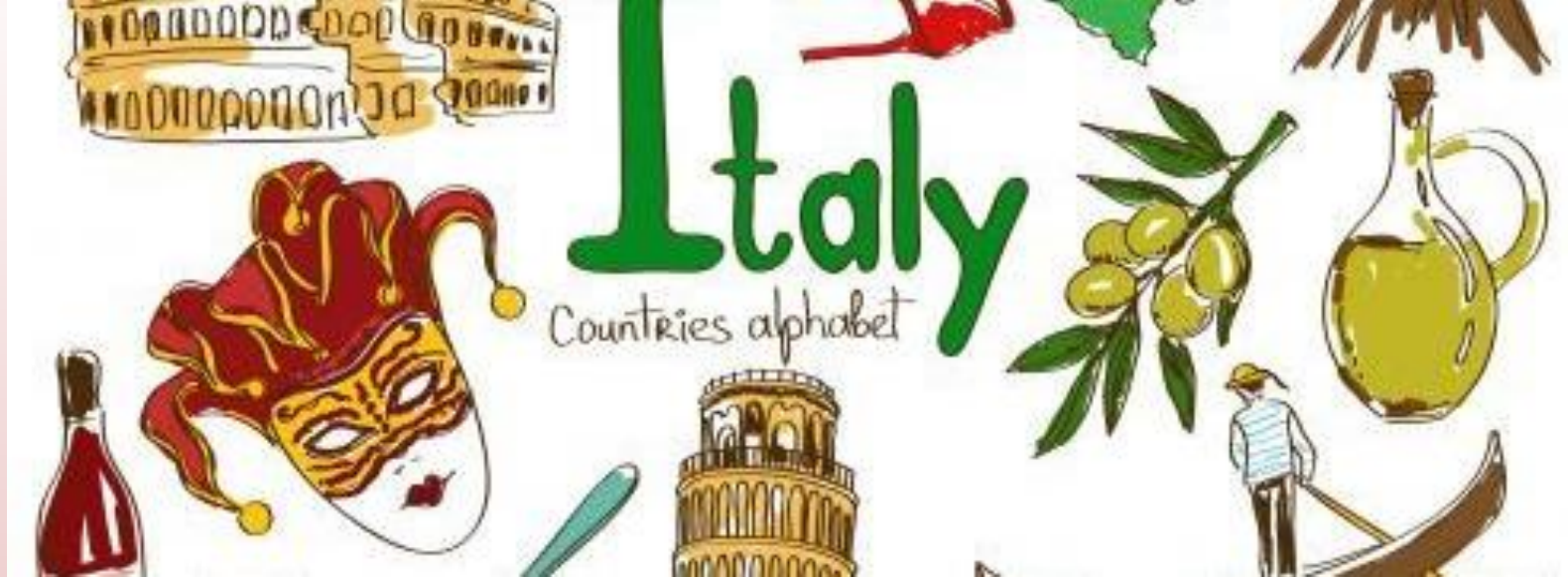
## Senior pupils gaining an extra qualification

This term around 30 pupils in the senior phase who have knowledge of French, Spanish, Italian and German from their home heritage are preparing to add an additional qualification to their SQA entries in 2024 through the St Thomas flexible route. Pupils are not required to choose the subject nor study the course; they prepare for the assessments with the support of the languages faculty and can then gain the language qualification. Plans are underway to extend the offer in 2025 to Polish, Mandarin and Arabic with the support of City of Edinburgh Education.





# Italian Club



**Ms Balistreri has founded an Italian club for understanding Italian language and culture. Pupils took part in November in an Italian event at the University of Edinburgh and joined a city-wide Italian network for students to socialise across schools. The club has begun a common project with Italian speakers and learners from other schools and the University of Edinburgh.**



# St Margaret's feast day

On the 16<sup>th</sup> November we celebrated the feast of St Margaret. The S6 St Margaret's House Captains did a wonderful job decorating the school foyer in blue and arranged a bake sale during break time to raise money for charity. All St Margarets pupils attended an assembly in the hall. We reminded ourselves of the story of St Margaret who turned her back on an easy comfortable life and devoted herself to serving the poorest of the poor. We reflected on the importance of sacrifice and service of others.



# St Andrew's feast day

The St Andrew's House captains Artemis Kola and Ruby Gordon organised a successful St Andrew's Feast Day celebration. It was a fun filled day with a bake sale and face painting to celebrate.



S3 Fashion and Textile Trip to 'Beyond the Little Black Dress' Exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland in October. A chance to see some very imaginative, exciting fashion couture from lots of famous designers. Our fantastic students took notes, sketches and brought back some creative style ideas for their paper 'Little Paper Dress Unit'. We hope you agree, these are amazing paper garments.







# Fashion and textiles winners



**Two of our lucky S6 pupils who received two free sewing machines gifted to the school. These pupils were sewing beginners this year in S6 and have developed their skills to make these sophisticated back packs. This is a textile project for Higher Fashion and Textiles, made from dry wax remnants from a Scottish manufacturer. Well done all S5 and 6 Fashion Pupils.**



# PE trip

On 25 November PE staff and pupils travelled down to watch the Manchester City v Liverpool game. Such an amazing experience for all those who participated.







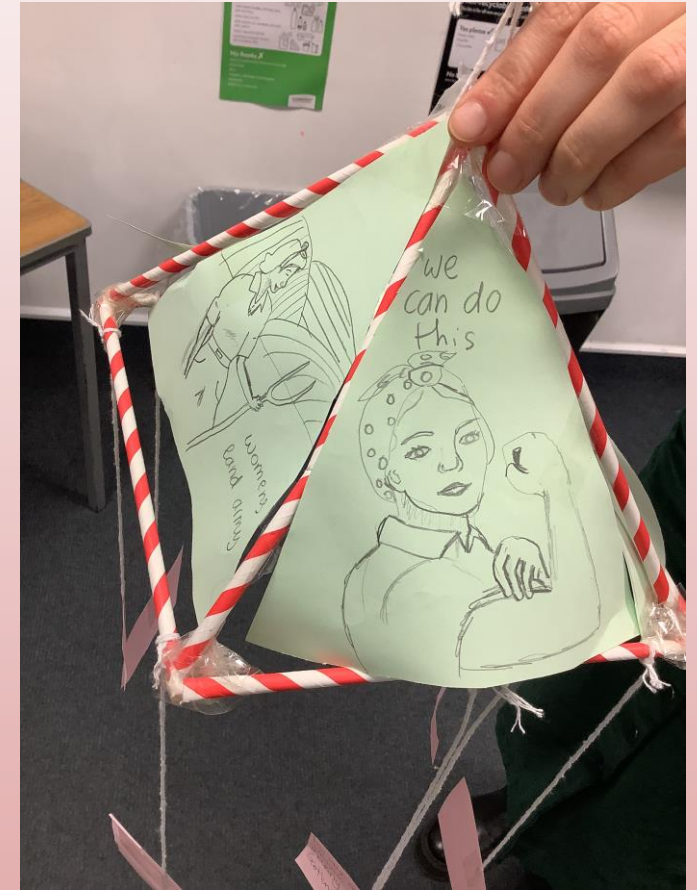
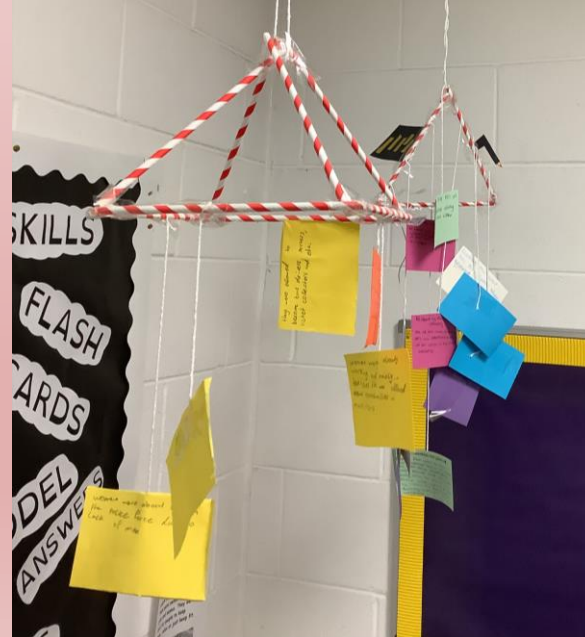
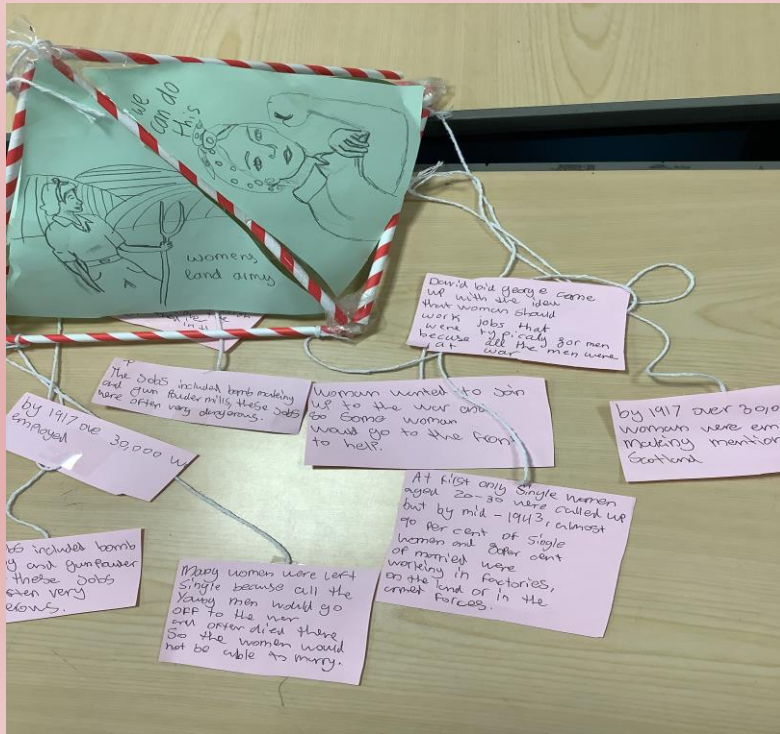
# S4 Business Trip

On the last week of term, S4 pupils got to visit the Chocolatarium in Edinburgh. Firstly, they got to taste some chocolate and then find out about the history of chocolate. This involved tasting chocolate where the cocoa beans are grown in different parts of the world and talk about the different flavours. They were told about the journey of chocolate from how it is made to the different varieties of quality and tastes compared to big brands such as Cadburys. Thereafter pupils got to try the varieties of flavours with chocolate mixed with ready salted crisps flavour to haggis flavoured chocolate. Afterwards pupils made their own chocolate designs. Firstly, they chose a mould and white, dark or milk chocolate and then took the chocolate piping bag and piped it into the mould. After this they chose toppings such as marshmallows, glitter, brownies or gold sugar and put the chocolate in the fridge to set. Afterwards they were packaged into sealable bags and given to the pupils to take home. Overall a very exciting school trip that was greatly enjoyed by all!





**History** with Miss Sharp, S3 classes have been working on the domestic impact of WW1. This is part of a larger unit of work on the 'Era of the Great War'. S3 have shown off their creativity and problem-solving skills by building hanging mobiles out of straws, paper and string! The mobiles crammed full of key information and facts about the vital work of women on the Homefront. Great effort from all the



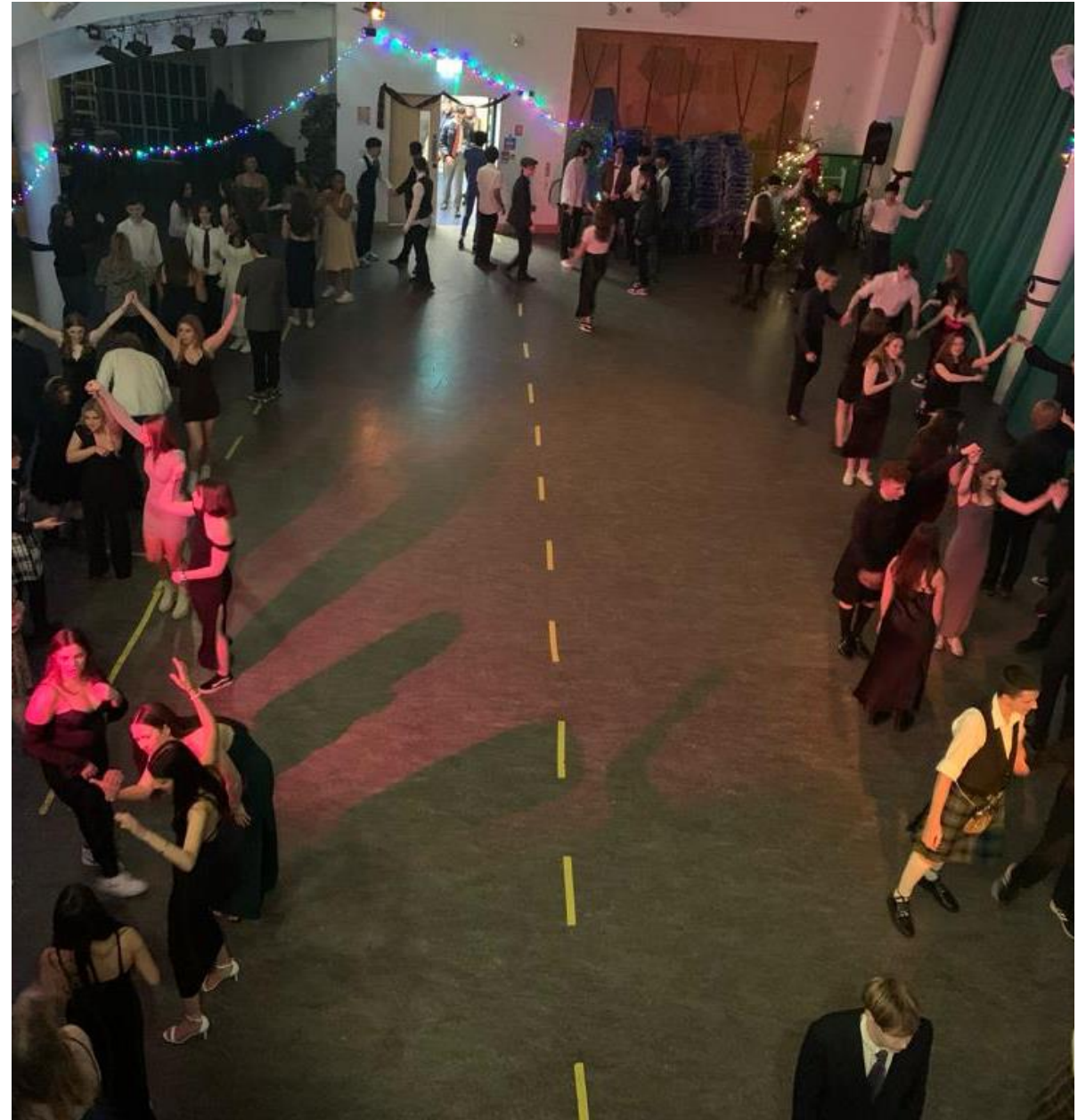




# Senior Christmas Ceilidh

















# Christmas Concert

We celebrated our Christmas Concert this year in Central Halls Tollcross, a wonderful performance space that gave the performers a real sense of occasion.

All the different school ensemble groups performed a wide variety of pieces. The School Orchestra opened the evening, followed by The Wind Ensemble, The String Ensemble, The Clarsach Group, The Choir, The Guitar Ensemble, The Percussion Ensemble, The Jazz Band, The Allstars and The Trad group who paid tribute to the passing of Shane MacGowan by playing 'Fairytale of New York'

Every year we encourage all the S5 and S6 music class to perform, this year they excelled with 2 pieces, 'Band on The Run' by Wings and 'God Only Knows' by The Beach Boys with the Orchestra as a finale.

This year for the first time we were able to invite P7 pupils from our associated primaries (St Mary's St Peter's, St Mark's and Holy cross) to perform. They gave a wonderful performance of a gospel tune 'Soon and Very Soon' and a beautiful Bob Chilcott piece 'Can You Hear Me'.

Our Head Boy and Head girl did a great job of comparing the show. There was much positive feedback from parents and staff at just how talented our pupils are and how hard they work turning up for rehearsals every week. We are very proud of them!

Next week, we are looking forward to doing some carol singing on George Street to raise money for one of our favourite charities Children First before taking a well -earned break for the holidays.





























# Christmas carols



**Our lovely choir singing  
carols outside The Dome  
George street to raise  
money for the Children's  
Hospital charity**









**Merry  
Christmas to  
everyone in  
the St Thomas  
of Aquin's  
community**

