



## Newbattle News

Return to school Wednesday 22nd August 2007

### Inside this issue:

1000 x 1000 Exhibition Website Relaunch	2
Library News Sports Award Fast Track to Success	3
Media Studies Charity Committee News	4
News Flash Gala Days	5
S2 University Week Winners	6
Prom 2007 Football Report	7
News in Brief Attainment and Achievement	8

### Our School of Ambition



The 2006-2007 session is drawing to a close and we can rightly look back on it as another busy, exciting and successful year.

Our youngsters are more confident about their learning and are for the most part clearly enjoying school. As a school of ambition we are witnessing a large take up in subjects related to the wider arts and sports. As youngsters feel more confident about themselves and participate more in the arts and sports, it will enhance their attainment across the curriculum.

Highlander Hotel, was a proud moment for us all. It was particularly pleasing to see our senior students resplendent in ball gowns and full highland regalia displaying a confidence and self belief which will stand them in good stead for the future.

The conditions for further improvement, motivated teachers and pupils, greater confidence and drive and staff and pupils who are proud to be part of Newbattle Community High are now in place. We have used our Schools of Ambition status to cement a particular way of thinking that we've had for a number of years. We have tried to build on the momentum that has already gathered. There has been a journey of constant improvement.



Our largest ever number of fifth and sixth years are coming back to school next year. We've gone from a school with twelve sixth years to more than seventy, in a decade. For pupils moving on, the school has

been working with Careers Scotland. Members of the guidance team have been identifying pupils who are at risk of falling into the (NEET) group — Not in Employment Education or Training category. In August some of our Christmas leavers will start on a work preparation programme.

This year's senior prom, held in Edinburgh's Carlton



There's a new spring in the step of pupils and staff at Newbattle Community High. We are truly a school of ambition where our pupils can and do achieve great things.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

C.B. Taylor (Headteacher)

## The 1000 x 1000 Exhibition: A Year of Achievement and Success

As we reach the end of the academic year, and draw breath before the start of the next one, it is very pleasing to be able to reflect on so many successes being enjoyed by Newbattle's pupils and staff.

In June we saw the biggest collection of cross-curricular work ever seen in the school. In many ways it was the culmination of an incredible year for our school. The 1000 x 1000 exhibition was full of work and electronic slide shows produced by pupils in classrooms across our school. The show emphasised diversity, ambition, creativity and media handling skills, critical thinking and enjoyment in education.

I believe we had a truly unique event on our hands as I cannot think of any other secondary school in Scotland which has held an exhibition of work from every pupil on its roll with contributions from so many subject areas.

This event simply reinforces the Newbattle belief that every youngster has something worthwhile to contribute, given the opportunity.

The talents and gifts which our pupils possess are truly breathtaking. The exhibition made the many esteemed guests, staff and parents who attended the opening feel very proud to be part of our school community. I was, however, also filled with a sense of

humility. Seeing this exhibition made me realise how fortunate we are to be entrusted with our youngsters' education. If we, as teachers and parents, help these youngsters to achieve their potential we will undoubtedly have a bright and thriving future to look forward to together.

Finally, my thanks to those in our community who give so much of their time and energy, above and beyond the call of duty, to provide our pupils with these opportunities to shine.

J. Wilson  
Depute Headteacher



## Website Relaunch

Newbattle Community High School's website at [www.newbattle.org.uk](http://www.newbattle.org.uk) was relaunched at the end of June 2007.

Boasting a smart new corporate look, the website has been overhauled to offer a comprehensive summary of news, events, information, term dates, departmental information and more...

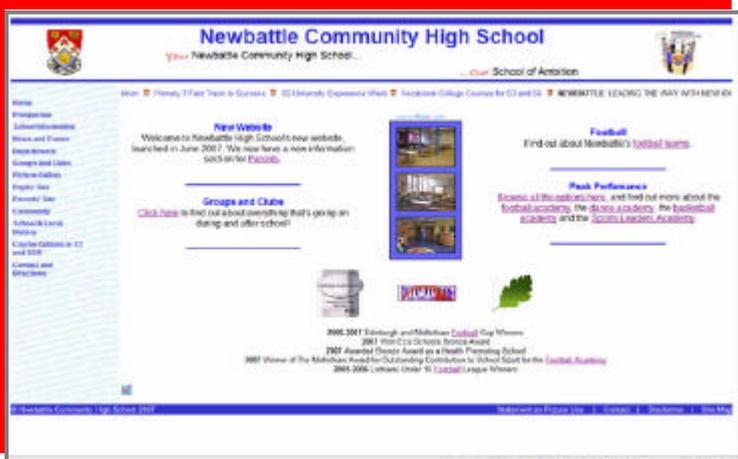
The website now also contains a section for Parents at [www.newbattle.org.uk/Parents/index.html](http://www.newbattle.org.uk/Parents/index.html), which contains links to information that parents and carers of Newbattle pupils might find useful.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the future development of the website, please contact Mr D Watkins through the school office.

*Boasting a smart new corporate look*

## 2007 YOUNG MUSICIAN WINNERS

- Craig Flanagan
- Owen Gillespie
- Bottom of the Night
- Paul Wilson
- David Wilson



## Library News

In June, Ms Paton, (job share librarian Monday and Tuesday) hosted a visit from a librarian who came all the way from Wisconsin, USA. Marian Gaboriault volunteered to do a placement here so that she could broaden her knowledge of Scottish libraries. It was really good timing for us, because in June, we also ran a book sale for senior students and staff so we had an extra pair of hands to help! All books had 10% off, and it was a great chance for seniors to choose books for personal study, and for staff to sort out their summer reading.

We are planning a trip for S2 pupils to see Anthony Horowitz at this year's Edinburgh International Book Festival in August – pupils will be accompanied by English teachers Mr Greig and Ms Wozniak and librarian Mrs Cameron, and looks set to be a great day out.

Also in August, the Library will be launching its very own lunchtime book group. It will take place on Monday lunchtimes, and Library access will be restricted to book group members only at that time. So come along – new members will always be very welcome. We plan to

take part in this year's Royal Mail Scottish Children's Book Awards.



## Outstanding Contribution to Schools' Sports Award

This new Midlothian award was won by Newbattle Community High School's Football Academy Project for significantly increasing participation in local sport. Every week 63 young people take part in this innovative project where they improve their talents in football as well as their fitness, self-esteem and social skills. The project has also enabled young people to visit places such as the Hearts Academy at Riccarton and St. James's Park, Newcastle.



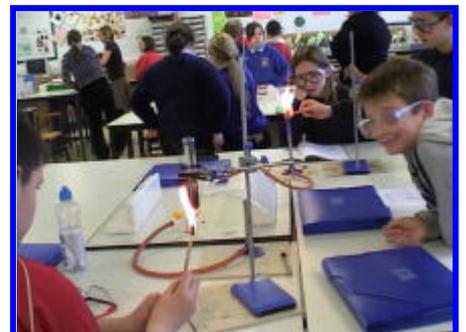
Ex England manager Kevin Keegan shows Newbattle pupils his skills. (top left)

Academy pupils display the Scottish Cup at Hampden. (bottom left)

## Fast Track To Success

April signified the conclusion of the first year of the 'Fast Track to Success' programme. The successful completion of the programme was celebrated with a graduation ceremony. It was particularly pleasing to see so many Primary 7 pupils supported by their family members and teachers. The programme of teaching and learning started in October and lasted

for 18 weeks with each participating pupil receiving lessons in English, Mathematics and Science. The lessons were completed with pace and rigour and were reportedly fun and exciting. The pupils will now have the opportunity to build on these successes in the years to come at secondary school.



## Media Studies and Opt in for Art: ZomRomCom

During March and April the Media Studies Int 1 group worked very successfully with Edinburgh's Fruitmarket Gallery to produce two short films as part of the Opt In For Art Initiative.

Students worked in two groups, one on a short zombie opening credit sequence and the other on a very different 'Romcom'.

Both film sequences were designed, filmed, acted and edited by pupils with a professional animator coming into school each

week to advise the students. The zombie movie was produced by Fraser McKay, Thomas Shearer, Thomas Grieve, Chelsea Smith and Amanda Smith while the Romcom was created by Siobhan Wallace, Michael Blaine, John Davidson and Keith Black. Students were extremely pleased with the results of the project as this also constituted a vital element of the Int 1 Media Studies course. The results looked very professional and took pride of place at a public exhibition at the Fruitmarket

Gallery in Edinburgh during April/May.

It is hoped next year's Media Studies group will also have the opportunity to become involved in a similar initiative in 2008.

D. Mitchell

TUNE IN TO YOUR COMMUNITY  
RADIO STATION **BLACK DIAMOND**  
FM 107.8

## Charity Committee News



This past session has been a busy year for the CHARITY COMMITTEE.

- The funds raised for GOODWILL VILLAGE from the Dress Up Day was in excess of £300.
- A fantastic amount of goods were collected for the XMAS BOXES and sent off by the Integration Team to various needy families in our community.
- Sadly, Noel Donoghue, a former maths teacher at Newbattle, passed away and a £100 donation was remitted to MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE.
- Mrs M. Lyall raised the substantial amount of £301 for GOODWILL from her birthday bash.
- RED NOSE DAY was a great success with in excess of £300 being raised.

- Mr J. Mutch's FAIR TRADE initiative was successful and raised pupils' awareness about exploitation in third world countries.
- Mrs C. Hamilton in PE raised in excess of £800 for the SWIMATHON event. The funds will go to the MARIE CURIE CANCER RESEARCH programme.
- POPPY DAY was also successful with Newbattle contributing to a total of more than £3000 in Midlothian.
- £359.11 donated to THE SICK KIDS FRIENDS FOUNDATION from Newbattle's annual Stars in Your Eyes

Special thanks to Miss R. Forbes who has joined the committee and is already planning several new initiatives. Also to Mrs A. Hall and

POPPY DAY was also successful with Newbattle contributing to a total of more than £3000 in Midlothian.

Mr D. Mitchell for their valuable time. Thanks also to all the pupils who helped raise money for the various worthwhile causes.

Mr A. Harris,  
Secretary



## News Flash

### EDUCATION VISITS/ RESIDENTIALS

As a school we continue to buck the national trend with over 350 pupils enjoying the experience of a residential education visit. Cluster camp again visited Dounans in Aberfoyle, our Modern Languages Department went to Germany, RMPS to Rome and again, nearer home, our golf club toured St Andrews whilst S6 students participated in an outdoor leadership course at Glencoe. 30 pupils stayed in the Pollock Halls in Edinburgh at the S2 University week.

### AWARD DAY

Tuesday June 19th was a very special day in school. During the morning Shirley Sweeney, retired auxiliary, presented awards to a large group of our pupils. In the evening the school mounted its annual award ceremony with the main hall full to capacity. Presenting the awards were Alan White, former pupil and community manager with Hearts F.C., Councillor Jim Muirhead, Chair of Education and Communities and Lorna Leslie, School Board Chair. A wide range of awards recognising attainment and achievement were presented.

### EVENT DAY

As the session drew to a close pupils enjoyed a range of activities ensuring everyone finished the term on a high. Edinburgh Zoo, paintballing, M&D's theme park, Blair Drummond Safari Park, Multi Sports, karaoke, ceramics, bowling and white water rafting were some of the activities on offer.

## Gala Days' Sweet Success

Willie Wonka and his chocoholic Newbattle friends participated in this year's Mayfield and Newtongrange Gala cavalades. Pupils and staff created the prize winning floats during Art & Design classes. Both Gala Days were blessed with fabulous weather which resulted in thousands of people lining the streets to cheer us on.

On arrival at the Mayfield and Newtongrange parks our pupils were able to enjoy the gala ceremonies, events and many attractions. Our communities are rightly proud of these brilliant community events.

**Long may they continue!**

*'thousands of people lining the streets to cheer us on'*



### SPACE SCHOOL WINNER

Connor Cessford recently got through the first round of space modules in a competition run by NASA. He attended a presentation at Glasgow Caledonian University where he met astronauts and engineers from Houston, Texas.

Connor will now go forward into the next round to win a place at Space School in Houston.

## S2 University Week 07

In March a group of 30 Newbattle pupils joined with a similar group from Beath High School in Fife to undertake the annual week long residential trip to the University of Edinburgh. This group of academically high achieving youngsters were a credit to the school in the enthusiastic way they threw themselves into this taster of university life, living in halls of residence, enjoying a wide variety of specially designed lectures and fun social activities.

Pupils distinguished themselves with their behaviour, attitude and hard work in several University departments including Informatics, where robots were built and controlled over a series of obstacles, and Chemistry, where there were all kinds of dramatic explosions!

The staff involved in the trip, Mr C Mitchell, Mrs Jansch and Mr Dick agreed that it had been one of the most enjoyable and successful trips in this programme that has been in operation for over ten years.



There is no doubt that the future for Newbattle pupils is bright!

## Winners



Natasha Stevens  
Gold Medal Winner  
Lothian Schools Athletics  
Championships for athletes with a sensory disability.

### TESCO VOUCHER REPORT

Nearly 6000 vouchers were collected. It is hoped to purchase an electric guitar and amplifier for use in the Music Department.

Thanks to everyone who helped collect this massive total of vouchers.

### DRESS CODE

#### S1-S4

- Royal blue or black sweatshirt
- White polo shirt, blouse or shirt
- Plain black trousers, black jeans or black skirt

#### S5- S6

- White shirt and school tie
- Plain black trousers, black jeans or black skirt

**THOMPSONS**  
INTERSPORT

For all dress code items visit  
**THOMPSONS INTERSPORT,**  
Jarnac Court, Dalkeith.



Well done!



Darren Landells  
'Be In It To Win It' winner  
Darren won a portable DVD player.

## Newbattle Prom 2007

Well to begin with, on behalf of the class of 2007, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of our teachers. Without you we would surely not be where we are today! This last year has been a great experience and we have all learnt and grown so much over this period. To top off this exceptional year was our amazing prom, and for this we would like to say a massive thank you to our prom committee. You guys did a great job!

It was great to see everyone all dressed up and looking so grown up. Reflecting back over all the memories really made us realise how much we are going to miss school (but don't tell anyone!) Yet, we must remember that the friendships that we have formed over the years will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Just to finish off we would like to say we have definitely had the time of our lives!



Lois Nelson (Head Girl) and Kelly McGarry (House Captain)

## Football Report 2007

A successful season at Newbattle with around 80 boys taking part in regular competition across four age groups.

Pride of place this season goes to the Under 13 side who took a while to settle but after Christmas produced a series of excellent performances and were the winners of the Charlie Wood Memorial Trophy (the EMSFA Under 13 Cup) beating Lasswade 2-0 in the final match thanks to two goals from top goalscorer Ryan Somerville. The side enjoyed a great run in the Scottish Under 13 Plate competition winning at Denny, Mintlaw and Peterhead before losing to St Mungo's 3-2 in a superb semi-final.

The Under 15 side had been bridesmaids in each of the two previous seasons but finally got their hands on some silverware

deservedly winning the EMSFA Under 15 Cup at Musselburgh. This side now go forward to the Dana Cup in Denmark in July.

Our Under 16s qualified for the Lothian Championship League and finished fourth. They made history by taking part in the first schools match played at the new multi-million pound Meggetland complex losing out to Portobello 2-1 in a spectacular Lothian Final.

The annual awards ceremony saw the following chosen as Player of the Season for their respective sides : Under 13 - Callum Gilzean; Under 14 - Conar Ramsay; Under 15 - Ewan Wilson; Under 16 Sean Gillies. The top goal scorer was James Guy with 23 goals.

### *Winners of the Charlie Wood Memorial Trophy*

(the EMSFA Under 13 Cup)



**Newbattle Community High School**

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Our School of Ambition

<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>	
Pupils Resume	Wednesday 22nd August 2007
Autumn Holiday	Friday 14th September 2007
Autumn Holiday	Monday 17th September 2007
Mid Term—All Break	Friday 12th October 2007
All Return	Monday 22nd October 2007
Term Ends	Friday 21st December 2007

**SCHOOL MEAL PRICE INCREASE**

Due to a decision by the Council the price of a school meal for High School pupils will increase by five pence (5p). This increase will take effect as from 20 August 2007, the price charged after this date to the Pupil will be **£1.70**.

**MEET THE MANAGEMENT TEAM — PARENT FORUM COUNCIL**

Plans are well advanced to replace our School Board with a Parent Forum Council. Are you interested in supporting your child's education? Have your say, please come along to a Meet the Management Team evening on Tuesday September 04 at 7.00pm. Enjoy cheese and wine as the evening unfolds.

**Newbattle Attainment And Achievement UPDATE**

The **2007 SQA Examinations** have come and gone for another year and we all await the results with bated breath. Expectations are high - especially as our students did so superbly well in 2006 with a performance by the S4 year group in those exams rated as the best in the history of the school. The atmosphere in school during the 2007 exam period this year was very positive with an excellent attendance at examinations and the SQA invigilation team reporting outstanding behaviour and attitude from the students. It is never easy to judge performance immediately after leaving examinations but my own impression is that the candidates generally thought they had done well.

We are hopeful of a very good set of results from S4 again and are anticipating real quality results from the S5 and 6 group. Results are due in early August. Good luck to all of our hard-working students!

Mr G. Moffat  
Depute Headteacher

**DEPUTY HEADTEACHER APPOINTMENT**

**MRS MARGARET FERGUSON, WHO HAS BEEN ACTING FOR THE SESSION, WAS APPOINTED TO THE SUBSTANTIVE POST AT THE END OF TERM. WE WISH HER EVERY SUCCESS IN HER NEW JOB HERE AT NEWBATTLE.**

**FINALLY.....**

**After many years of loyal service, three members of the teaching staff are retiring at the end of the session. Mr Bob Jenner (Guidance/History), Miss Margaret Mackenzie (French) and Mr Albert Harris (English) are all looking forward to new challenges as they retire from teaching. We wish them all a long and happy retirement.**