



Newbattle News

Return to school Wednesday 20th August 2008

Newbattle Shines in Government Spotlight

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Newbattle is now regarded as a school leading the way across the nation and that's official! During June the school hosted two separate visits one from Maureen Watt; Minister for Schools & Skills and another from local MSP Rhona Brankin; Labour Party spokesperson on Education, Young People and Lifelong Learning. Both politicians were keen to view for themselves the innovative and exciting learning opportunities that are being provided at the school and they were rightly impressed.

Work under the Schools of Ambition banner continues and both MSPs were able to view a range of activities related to strengthening provision in the wider arts & sport, vocational & enterprise education and developing leadership skills. They were able to see for themselves pupils designs for a range of hats and fascinators whilst appreciating the work of the S3 Art Academy. A visit to the school's contact centre saw pupils engaged in a lesson on cinema booking.

Our Football, Dance and Basketball academies have already been praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education. Both MSPs were able to witness the tremendous skill, talent and enthusiasm shown by our pupils in our sporting academies. Next port of call was to the final rehearsals for the school's summer musical extravaganza 'Summer Beach Party' before enjoying refreshments in our newly refurbished Hospitality Suite.



Pictured above - Minister for Schools and Skills, Maureen Watt is greeted by Mr Taylor and pupils.



Rhona Brankin
—MSP

Maureen Watt remarked on the warmth of her welcome and the commitment of the Scottish Government to deliver all of the funding promised to Newbattle to complete the various strands of work initiated.

Rhona Brankin spoke about her visit the next day during an education debate in the Scottish Parliament. She remarked, "As someone who spent many years working in education, it was a genuine pleasure to see such enthusiastic and motivated pupils taking a real pride in their school and in their achievements".

PARLIAMENT TRIP

A group of pupils and staff were invited to the Scottish Parliament on Friday 6th June to take part in the Annual Scottish Schools Magazine Awards ceremony. Out of over 60 entrants from across Scotland our 'Newbattle News' was shortlisted in the category of 'Best Online Presence' – a feat which we are very proud of. Despite the fact that our school magazine has only existed in its present form for two years, we were able to hold our heads up high against the best in the country.

The presentations were made by a range of journalists, politicians and industry leaders, with the journalists marvelling at the pupil talent



showcased in the school magazines. Minister for Schools and Skills, Maureen Watt – a recent visitor to our school – congratulated the participants and winners for their efforts. Rachel Wright, our Head Girl of 2007-08, received the certificate of commendation for Newbattle amidst handshakes, video

cameras and flashguns going off around her.

Following the awards ceremony pupils and staff were taken on a fascinating tour of the Parliament building. This included a visit to the debating chamber itself which is so often seen on TV and a description of the impressive lintel above its entrance. This arch entranceway was in fact originally part of Arniston House in Midlothian.

Now that we have been shortlisted in this year's awards, there is only one way to go. Onwards and upwards for Newbattle News.

TIMOR VISITS N.C.H.S.

On Tuesday the 13th May six teachers from East Timor visited Newbattle High School. They were given a warm welcome followed by a tour of the school grounds. They were involved in English, Biology, Art and Geography lessons and took part in a question & answer session run by the pupils. They were later involved in S1 and S2 Citizenship Workshops run by Miss Hendry and Miss Frame.

Their visit marked the end of a two year project involving Newbattle's very own Citizenship Group and a number of international Charities and businesses; including Mercy Corps, Scotdec and Timor Aid. The aim of the Project was to build connections between Scotland and East Timor. Both countries have new parliaments and are currently updating their education policies. East Timor was also in need of friendship and hope for their young people due to their violent history and in some cases ongoing conflicts.

Between the 1970s and late 1990s over 500,000 of the population were murdered. It is only now, in 2008, that

East Timor is beginning to recover.

As part of the project pupils on either side of the world produced a video about their community and country. These videos were shared and later premiered at the Scottish Parliament. All pupils and teachers involved attended the Parliament on the Tuesday evening and listened to many influential speakers. The opening address was given by Linda Fabiani (Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture) who later commended the Newbattle Group for their dedication and hard work.

The Newbattle teachers and pupils hope to strengthen the friendships they have made with East Timor. They are currently communicating and sharing ideas through a website called think.com. For the first time, Pupils in East Timor have been able to make friends with pupils outside their country.

Linda Fabiani said, "we should be proud of our young people. This is the first western link made with East



Timor." For the Newbattle Citizenship Group, this comment highlighted the significance of the project. A small group of people in Newbattle High were helping to shape the lives of people on the other side of the world.

"Citizenship is about knowing your rights and your responsibilities. It's about being a good person and a good member of the local and global community. It's about participation and knowing that you can make a difference."

Check out our website on www.newbattle.org.uk

INSPIRING YOUNG DANCERS

Telford College recently visited Newbattle C.H.S. helping to inspire our young dancers to greater achievements. Two 4th Year BA Degree Students delivered two workshops to mostly Dance Academy pupils which were enthusiastically received by dancers from S1 to S6. This event was a fantastic experience for both novice and experienced dancers as the BA Students did a superb job at getting the best out of our pupils and challenged them to grow as dancers physically and creatively.

As the students reach the end of their



studies they have perfected their choreography/performing skills of which we were privileged to witness in an hour long performance and discussion. The four dances performed by the twenty 4th year students were breathtaking. Each piece was followed by a discussion with our pupils which helped inform them of the inspiration behind each dance.

These are exciting times for our Dance Academy pupils who have been involved in recent projects such as the Dance Festival and the Fashion Show. The Dance Academy has exploded within the last two years seeing many young people growing in confidence and improving as dancers.

With many more projects in the pipeline for the next year there will be even more dance successes in the future. Watch this space for details of future projects!!!

CONGRATULATIONS

Following a rigorous selection process which included facing an interview panel the following S6 pupils have been appointed to Senior Prefect posts. We can look forward to great things from these pupils. They are all committed to contributing to Newbattle's ongoing success in recognition of all that the school has done for them in the past 5 years.

Head Boy: Scott Mackie
Head Girl: Fiona Corse
Depute Head Boy: Joe McTernan
Depute Head Girls: Mairi Sutherland and Kirsty Whyte
House Captains - Lammermuir: Elizabeth Simpson and Sarah Latta
House Captain - Moorfoot: Tammy Russell
House Captain - Pentland: Connor Cessford
Sports Link: Grant Dalgleish

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RETIRAL CREW

Pictured with Headteacher, Mr Taylor are from the left Mr Knox (Technical), Mr Crichton (PT Technical), Mr Blyth (PT Business Studies), Mr Gilroy (PT Science) and Mr Clark (PT Chemistry). Mr Taylor highlighted the fact that this group of staff had given nearly 200 years of excellent service to the education of children in the Lothians. All of Newbattle and the wider community wish them a happy and well earned retirement.



Check out our website on www.newbattle.org.uk

S2 UNIVERSITY WEEK 2008

As a school we are continually striving to make sure that each and every pupil achieves their full potential. With this in mind, a group of Newbattle second years have recently returned from a week long residential trip to Edinburgh University. This trip, which has been running annually for over ten years, is designed to open pupils eyes to the opportunities in Higher Education that are available to them if they continue to work hard.

As usual, it was a very difficult

task to select only 30 pupils from the wealth of talent and ability in S2. Those who were selected enjoyed the student lifestyle: living in Pollock Halls; going bowling and on the Witchery Tour; as well as attending specially designed lectures in subjects as diverse as Law (where they took part in a mock trial) and Engineering (where pupils built their own robots and raced against the clock).

Mr C Mitchell said "It was fantastic to see the youngsters

realising the array of different things they could do. I'm sure that the trip has helped to raise their aspirations and show them what they are capable of achieving." Mr Clark and Mrs Jansch agreed that the pupils were a credit to the school and really entered into the spirit of discovery the trip tries to encourage.



BY YON BONNIE BANKS...

A dedicated and intrepid group of S3 pupils moved nearer the completion of their natural connections outdoor learning programme by undertaking the Journeying element in October 2007. Led by Mr Smith, pupils Darren, Nicole, Michelle, Zara, Amanda and Amy were fully kitted out at the equipment store at Greenhall Centre on the Friday morning before picking up accompanying teachers Ms Frame and Mr Bayne. Menus and a shopping list were planned and food collected on the way to the destination of the West Highland Way at Loch Lomond. Setting off in good weather from Milarrochy, at the entrance to the Ben Lomond National Memorial Park, the group walked through some varied and stunning scenery stopping only to feed the cows or skim stones in the loch. Using skills learned in previous elements – Finding Your Way and Working Together in particular – the group navigated their way until the overnight destination of Rowardennan Youth Hostel was reached. A healthy tea was

cooked and consumed in record time and then a marathon game of hide and seek outside in the grounds took place with bats and moths in abundance. The Saturday morning dawned dry and very still making



Loch Lomond mirror-like. Packed lunch making followed breakfast, rucksacks were re-packed and a group photo taken outside the hostel by an Australian family who were visiting Scotland in a week! Armed with maps and compasses the group set off up the track to Ben Lomond before heading east over rough ground. The group learned in small groups how to follow a bearing and the final track was successfully found. Downhill all the way to

"The group walked through some varied and stunning scenery stopping only to feed the cows or skim stones in the loch".

Blairvockie, passing some interesting wildlife including fly agaric mushrooms, and walking boots quickly made way for trainers to rest the weary feet. The minibus was a lot quieter on the way home (apart from the snoring)..... Journey over and now looking forward to Helping the Environment.



CAREERS SCOTLAND

The modern Dalkeith Centre at 29 Eskbank Road (opposite the old bus garage) has been open to the public since March 2008. School leavers and adults looking for work can get help with:

- Personal career
- Planning/examine options
- get advice
- Make decisions about the future
- Advice on job seeking, application forms and CV preparation

The following can be used free of

charge:

- Computers for the preparation of job applications and CVs
- Local and national newspapers
- Internet recruitment sites and on-line vacancies
- Mailing service for job applications
- Photocopier
- Fax and telephone
- Careers books, leaflets and magazines

Careers Scotland Website - www.careers-scotland.org.uk

Dalkeith Careers Centre Opening Hours are:

Monday – Thursday 9 am —5 pm
Fridays 10.30 am— 5 pm

Call into your local Careers Scotland Centre – 29 Eskbank Road, Dalkeith – no appointment needed.

Telephone – 0131 663 7287 or 0845 8 502 502



STAFF FOOTBALL

2008 saw a revival of competitive staff football and the emergence of Newbattle teachers as a force to be feared throughout Midlothian and other surrounding councils. As the fixture list was finalised initial fears were we good enough? Manager Mr Moore (self titled Jose) had organised 9 fixtures including derby matches and the obligatory foul-fest against the 6th years. The pre-season 1-1 all draw against Ross High highlighted several weaknesses, most notably the dubious fitness of all non-P.E staff, and showcased fashion disasters such as Mr Martin's 1978 Argentina World Cup goalie top.

Next on the agenda was perhaps the most important match against the notoriously hot tempered 6th year. Teachers were still smarting after the previous year's defeat and with a more settled team, were relieved to "ease" past 5-2, featuring goals from Moore, Clarke (not of Chemistry), Baxter, Mitchell, and a three yard

screamer from Porteous. A victorious 7-3 goal-fest followed against Boroughmuir, aided by two of their players getting lost and missing half of the first half. In our first away match against an East Lothian select Newbattle pulled out a season defining performance, coming from behind to win 5-2. A win dedicated to Mr Martin who ended his illustrious staff football career by breaking his arm punching a ball against Boroughmuir. Rumour has it that shares in shin guards and magic spray have plummeted after this announcement.

Good form continued with hard fought back to back derby fixtures against Lasswade and St David's. By now word of the unbeaten run was getting around the school and pupils could be heard whispering about Dickson's left toe, and consulting kit-cleaner Mr Baxter on how to iron perfect creases and deal with starchy collars. However, our good luck ran out with a narrow

'As the fixture list was finalised initial fears ran riot around the Newbattle camp'.

defeat away to social work team "Working Together". The defeat was hard to take but with two remaining tussles against Leith and Trinity, this fairytale season can still end on a massive high. The writers of this article wish to thank everyone involved especially all 19 members of the squad (including teachers, student teachers, and a never-ending conveyor belt of janitors) who have given up their own time to represent the school.

Check out our website on www.newbattle.org.uk

ICE, ICE BABY!!

The rock climbing group reached new heights when they went to the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven, Saturday 15th March!

The group left at 8 am. It took almost 3 hours to travel to the 'Ice Factor'. The Ice Factor is a large indoor activity centre. The centre has a climbing wall, a shop, a café and most importantly a large indoor ice wall!! ..Oh yeh!

The indoor ice room is essentially a gigantic freezer. It contains around 500 tonnes of snow which has been

packed and maintained by hand to create a variety of climbing routes. Underneath the ice room, there are 15 metres of concrete. This is needed to hold the massive weight of the ice. The wall itself is over 1400metres. WOW!!

To climb the ice wall the group had to wear some daunting footwear; shank boots and crampons. Each climber also equipped themselves with two huge ice axes. Everyone had to make sure they were wrapped up warm as temperatures in the room were as low as 50 degrees below zero.

The group climbed the ice wall for over 2 hours before thawing out in the warmth of the café.

"Ice, Ice Baby" Vanilla Ice

By Leah G, Michelle C

**If anyone fancies coming along next time
..see Mr Bayne!**



HATWALK 2008

After the huge success of this years Peak Performance Fashion Show we were invited to include some of our pupils' hat designs in the charity catwalk and exhibition *Hatwalk*. Hatwalk included hats designed by experienced milliners and pupils from six schools. Seven of our pupils were also invited to model some of the designs on the stage. Pupils whose work was selected for the catwalk part of the event were:

Robyn McArthur S2, Samantha Glodeck S4, Sammy Dillon S2, Christopher Sayers S2, Andy Miller S5, Yvonne Barton S5 and Fiona Corse S5.

Pupils who represented the school as models were: **Fiona Corse, Lauren McDowall, Yvonne Barton (S5), Emily Lawrence, Amy Dickson, Chelsea Gilchrist and Stacey McCaig (S2).**

All of the hats designed as part of Peak Performance were included in the exhibition to coincide with the show.

This event was a great opportunity to use their new found modelling skills and to contribute and take part in a high profile event out with school. It took great commitment and enthusiasm from our pupils to attend rehearsals and four performances. Although some of our hat designers were too shy to model themselves, congratulations are due to all of our pupils who contributed to the event. A big thank you to the parents involved in transporting pupils to and fro.

The event took place at St Stephens', Edinburgh and the event was supporting the teenage cancer trust, "Remember Zoe

"Although some of our hat designers were too shy to model themselves, congratulations to all of our pupils who contributed to the event".

Appeal".

We are hopeful that pupils involved in hat design and Peak Performance in 2008/09 will get the chance to take part in next year's Hatwalk.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

In this issue, we continue our regular feature where we celebrate the successes of our pupils both within and outside of school. If you are aware of any achievements that you think we should know about, contact **Mr D Watkins** at the school using the contact information on the back page

- The S1 reader of the year last year was **Dionne Telfer** (now in 2KL), who read an amazing 57 books! The S2 reader of the year was **Jade Weir** (now 3CM) who read 42 books.
- **Carlene Rae 2CM, Kyle Fleming 2IL, Chris Duncan 2IL and Laura Mackie 2EP** represented Newbattle at the Enterprising Maths competition at Meadowbank stadium in June, where they competed against the other best S1 and S2 mathematicians from every school in the Edinburgh area.
- **Ashley Weir 2KL** got an amazing mark of 100% in her first year German exam
- **Robyn McArthur 3CM** has been named Young Scientist of the Year
- **Shelby Moodley 3FP** – took part and won a prize for tenor drumming and piping at the European Pipe Band Championships in Greenock last year
- **Natasha Stevens 3BM** – took part in the Lothian Disability Sport games and achieved 1st place in the 25m Adapted Breast Stroke and 1st place in the 25m Freestyle Front Crawl events

- Six S4 pupils recently completed the Natural Connections Outdoor Learning course, which they have been completing over three years since they were in S1. They are **Zara Galbucci, Michelle Cawley, Nicole Liehne** (all 4BM) and **Darren Brown, Amanda Cleghorn** and **Amy Ronaldson** (all 4AM).

- **Calum Mackie 4IL, Bronwyn Roe 4IL, Nicola Smith 4GP and Adam Kennedy 4JL** have all been highly commended by their French teacher for managing to get full marks in their writing prelim; for which they must have given up a lot of their time preparing – well done!

- **Martin Black 4BM** has been highly commended by his PE teacher for becoming an outstanding leader in the Football Academy. Mr Foley says that Martin single-handedly organised and motivated his team (the AZ Miners) last year; and led them to league success with his “superb and focussed people skills”. Martin also plays for Hunterfield Boys’ Club. Well done, Martin.

- Six pupils who were in S4 and S6 last session represented the school in the Ikea design competition for their work in Craft and Design. **Claire Halley 5CM** and **Shaun Moore 5EP** were entered for practical ability. **Natalie Snedden 5EP** and **John Dubickas 5AL** were entered for their design folios. **Ewan Wilson 5BL** was

entered for computer modelling; and **Kirsty Kilanowski** in S6 was entered for her product design folio.

- **Paula Birrell 6L** and **Connor Cessford 6P** were instrumental in helping to promote several school events this year. As part of the Peak Performance Business group, Paula was responsible for developing the wonderful image used to promote the Peak Performance Fashion show, which was used on posters, programme, gift tags and T-shirts. Paula also designed the programme. Meanwhile Connor, with only one day’s notice, produced the post for ‘An Evening at the West End’ show, and translated the image from the cover to the programme.

- In the school awards ceremony, three pupils who were in S6 last year have picked up music awards. **Simon Charters** won ‘Most Improved Musician’. **Melissa Davidson** won the award for “Outstanding Contribution to the Music Department”, whilst **Paul Wilson** won ‘Composer of the Year’.

Paul Wilson, who recently left Newbattle after completing S6, achieved a pass with credit in the Young Enterprise examination, which is marked by the University of Strathclyde. This put him in the top 15% of all entries over Scotland this year.

RECENT LEAVERS AND FORMER PUPILS

We would also like to celebrate the success of former Newbattle pupils who have gone on to achieve success in the wider world. If you know anyone that we could feature in a future issue, please contact **Mr D Watkins** at the school using the contact information on the back page

- Congratulations to **Calum**

Russell, who left Newbattle in 2004. Calum, who still has two younger brothers at the school, is a carpentry and joinery student at Jewel & Esk Valley College, has been named **best first-year apprentice** in the Scottish Association of Timber Trades Teachers competition, run jointly with the Scottish Qualifications

Fiona Esson, who left Newbattle in 2006, was featured in the SQA exhibition “Inspirational Art Tour” which was shown in both Edinburgh and Glasgow. The exhibition showed examples of the best art folio work in Scotland.

Newbattle Community High School

64 Easthouses Road
DALKEITH
EH22 4EW

Phone: 0131 663 4191
Fax: 0131 654 2611
website: www.newbattle.org.uk
Email:
newbattle_hs@midlothian.gov.uk



Our School of Ambition

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Staff Resume	Monday 18 August 2008
Pupils Resume	Wednesday 20 August 2008
Autumn Holiday	Friday 12 September 2008
	Monday 15 September 2008
All Resume	Tuesday 16 September 2008
All Break	Friday 17 October 2008
Staff Resume	Monday 27 October 2008
Pupils Resume	Tuesday 28 October 2008
Term Ends	Friday 19 December 2008

Newbattle Attainment and Achievement

The **2008 SQA Examinations** have come and gone and we all await the results in anticipation. Expectations are high - especially as our students did so well in 2006 and again in 2007 – the Higher results last year being a notable highlight. Like last year, the atmosphere in school during the 2008 exam period was very positive with an excellent attendance at examinations and the SQA invigilation team again 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 hoping to build on our recent successes and we expect that the huge effort focussed through the *Schools of Ambition* project and other initiatives will positively affect performance in 2008. Results are due in early August.

Good luck to all of our hard-working students!



COMPETITION

Ignition Driving School have kindly donated a prize of 1 free introductory driving lesson.

To be in with a chance of winning the prize, please answer the question below:

What age do you have to be before you can legally drive?

To enter the competition simply log on to:

<http://www.newbattle.org.uk/competition.html>

Closing date for competition is 29th August 2008.

To book lessons call 07866 607 499.

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