



Newbattle News

Return to school Monday 22nd August

Reading Day at Newbattle



Thursday 26th May saw Newbattle celebrate its second annual Reading Day! Reading day is an opportunity for the whole school to engage in the pleasure and enjoyment of literacy. This year we had a special visit from acclaimed children's author Keith Gray who spent the morning working with pupils doing writing workshops and talking to reluctant readers to try and engage them. The pupils really enjoyed the sessions with him and were enthralled as he read sections from his new book 'Ostrich Boys'.

As well as this, the Newbattle Newsroom made a welcome return reporting on the various events of the day. A group of enthusiastic pupils from S1, 2 and 3 gave up their time to interview staff and pupils throughout the day and write up informative articles to go into our Reading Day newsletter 'Newbattle Times'. They all worked exceptionally hard to put the newsletter together and proved once again that Newbattle pupils are enthusiastic and eager to try new things. They revelled in the opportu-

nity to be independent and responsible and did themselves proud with their efforts.

A copy of 'Newbattle Times' is available to view at our school website www.newbattle.org.uk.

Miss Carruthers and Mr Porteous created a fabulous display of Teachers' Favourite Reads this year. It is clear that at Newbattle the staff are keen readers and the display is in the library to allow both staff and pupils to gather ideas for their summer reads.

A huge thank you must go out to all staff that were involved. Activities reported around the school ranged from a reading tree in Modern Languages to research in CDT and all S1 pupils made a personalised bookmark in Home Economics. The day really highlighted the importance of reading across the whole school.



Miss McKenzie
English Dept.

Contents	Page
Inspiration for Newbattle Newbattle on Youtube	2
Keith Gray at Newbattle S2 University Week Newbattle Netball	3
Cluster Camp CDT Former Pupil	4
Measles Alert Race for Life S3 Dance Academy	5
S1 Chemistry Workshops Careers Advice Hockey Club Tall Ships	6
Celebrating Success	7
Comments from Senior Management	8



Steve Inspires Newbattle Pupils to Go for Gold!



Newbattle On YouTube

The school now has an account on video-sharing website YouTube, which we will use to upload videos of pupil work (and events both past and present) and other videos relating to the school.

Find us at www.youtube.com/newbattlehigh - and if you have your own account on YouTube, you can subscribe to us to be automatically notified when we add new videos.

Already on the site are performances from this Christmas' *Stars in your Eyes*, a video of Rhona Brankin MSP talking about Newbattle in the Scottish Parliament, and the RMPS Christmas video about the meaning of Christmas 'Is Santa Real?'

Mr Watkins
Webmaster



There was much excitement at Newbattle High School recently when lucky pupils were given the opportunity to handle a genuine Commonwealth Games gold medal.

The medal belonging to Scottish Gymnast Steve Frew, who won it at the 2002 Commonwealth games in Manchester, was the first ever Gymnastics Commonwealth Games Gold Medal for Scotland in the history of the Games.

Steve who has had an international career spanning 23 years visited the school to speak to pupils about how he achieved this success despite having to face many obstacles along the way. Steve from a mixed-race background and small for his age did not find it easy to be accepted when growing up in a small Scottish town. However by the age of 14, he was the only Scottish gymnast in the Great Britain team. In 2002 he managed to fulfil his childhood dream by winning a Commonwealth Games Gold medal. This was despite only being able to devote himself to gymnastics on a part-time basis due to limited funding and not even being identified as a possible medallist.

Mr Foley Head of PE said,

We had a brilliant day in PE with Steve who was speaking to children as part of our 'Inspiration through Sport Day'. He worked with around 170 children from across the school. They were divided into four groups to discuss issues such as setting goals and achieving your dreams in any field despite adversity. The reaction to Steve from the pupils was very positive and handling the gold medal was a real highlight for many of the children. He is a great role model and has left us all feeling very motivated!

Steve said "I have been to Newbattle three times now and love the energy and focus on sport that is here, and working with the PE staff and pupils to promote positive healthy lifestyles, I can't wait to come back in September!"

Steve's visit to Newbattle High School was arranged by Sky Sports and the Youth Sports Trust as part of the school's prize for pupil Conor Fitzpatrick winning Sky Sports Student of the Year Award 2010. This scheme will continue in school from August; look out for what it can do for you!

Written by Ranaa Ahmed
Midlothian Council

Newbattle Community High School



The Modern Language Department would love to give a good home to unloved, abandoned language dictionaries.

Please donate generously to your local library for us to collect.



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

Keith Gray At Newbattle

As part of this year's Reading Day, award-winning teen author Keith Gray came to Newbattle for two sessions in the library.

The first session was a talk to pupils about how he became a writer and what that involved. It was interesting to hear that he was a reluctant reader at school and also dropped out of university. Although he was a keen reader of comics and graphic novels he said that his inspiration to write came from reading *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall. It was *The Machine Gunners* (available in the library for loan!) that made him realise that books were more than a chore and that they were entertainment as good as music or films and a great means of escapism.

He read a bit of his first novel 'Creepers'. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all with everyone on the edge of their seats dying to know what happened next.

The second session was a creative writing workshop with the aim of giving pupils an insight into his creative process. The workshop proved to be great fun for all with some great techniques learned. Everyone involved is now equipped with the basic techniques for writing creative pieces of their own to give Keith a run for his money.

It was a fantastic opportunity to have an award-winning author in school for the morning. The Newbattle pupils



from both sessions were fantastic, got involved and made Keith feel very welcome.

The library has a great selection of his books available for loan.

Mr McRobbie, Library

S2 University Week



The week at Edinburgh University was great. There was so much to do and even when you did have spare time on your hands you were never bored. Even though teachers were there with us we felt independent. It gave you a chance to show that we are responsible and mature.

The lectures were not as long and boring as we thought they would be. We had lectures such as Informatics (controlling robots), Chinese, Law, Physics and Film Studies. We went to three universities, Heriot Watt, Napier and Edinburgh. In the afternoons we took part in activities such as sport, visiting Chambers Street Museum, climbing Arthur's Seat and preparing our presentations for the last night. We usually had an hour or two to do as we liked before tea. Then after we had eaten we had time to meet in the Common Room for our evening activity

which included bowling, a witchery tour, and on the final night doing our presentations in front of everyone including two deputies from Beath High School and our own Mr Leach.

The favourite lectures for everyone were Chinese and Physics. We learnt a bit about Chinese history, some of the language and watched parts of their movies. In Physics we were shown what liquid nitrogen would do to your hand. We also made ice cream using liquid nitrogen.

Everyone had an amazing time at the university going to lectures and activities, meeting new people from Beath High School and getting to do what we wanted without much moaning!

By **Abby Rutherford 2FP**

Newbattle Netball

Newbattle ended another successful year in promoting and sustaining Netball. Girls from S1-S4 have represented Newbattle CHS in the Edinburgh League and Scottish Cup, as well as competing in local games. Although Netball is still an up and coming sport, in the Midlothian area, Newbattle did well to secure two convincing wins; one in the Edinburgh League against Broughton High and the other against Midlothian rivals Penicuik where Newbattle won 16-6! Our pupils have also had the opportunity to learn from the Scotland squad through Easter netball camps, which many of our pupils attended. To end the 2010/11 season we finished with the following Newbattle netball awards, voted for, by the squad.

Newbattle Netball awards:

Players' Player: **Holly Neilson 4AM**
Most Improved: **Natalie Cumming 4CM**
Newcomer Award: **Leanne Livie 1GP**

Thank you to all players for the great commitment and team work again this season. For all pupils interested in joining netball for next season please ask your PE teacher.

Mrs A. Alexander PE

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Cluster Camp



From Tuesday 17th to Friday 20th May, 150 Primary 7 pupils and nine members of staff from Gorebridge, Lawfield, Mayfield, Moorfoot, Newtongrange and Stobhill Primary Schools and Mr Baxter, Miss Forbes and Mr Moore from Newbattle, experienced a week of challenges and activities.

We stayed at Dounans, part of the Scottish Outdoor Education Centre and the week was designed to help pupils' confidence as they move up from primary school. From abseiling to pole climbing to riding the flying fox, the pupils had to work together to overcome fears and conquer challenges.

One of the most talked about activities was the Night Line, where a team of eight had to work together through an obstacle course, while they were all

blindfolded! All the groups did incredibly well on this task, while also getting extremely muddy!



Another challenge was raft building where teams were given drums, logs and pieces of rope to make a raft then get their whole team to the other side of the water. The teachers thought that they would have a go too, but Miss Forbes, Mr Moore and Miss Andrew (Newtongrange) ended up falling head first into the water! A fantastic week was had by all and it was a great opportunity for the Primary 7 pupils to make new friends ready for starting Newbattle in August!



Miss Forbes

CDT

Over the past few weeks, the CDT department at Newbattle has allowed a small group of people from TOP Service into their workshops on a Friday afternoon. The group, led by Mr Colley and Mrs Gemmell, has been created to give young people at TOPS an opportunity to work within a different environment and to give them a new experience which can be rarely found outside a craft workshop. The department has been a fantastic host so far, helping us develop our ideas, preparing materials and being there to answer any questions we have.

The group's initial aim is to complete a Jewellery Box project, where we hope to create a simple box and then help them develop their own ideas to produce a unique jewellery box. Some of the group have previous CDT knowledge, where others have had none, so the teachers have a challenge as well as those being taught!

This has proved very successful with excellent feedback from those who have attended.

*'It's lots of fun',
'I didn't like CDT but I do now!'*



Former Pupil

Ross Flockhart (1994-2000)

During his time at Newbattle Ross became particularly interested in the sciences and after gaining 'Highers' in Biology, Chemistry and Physics he decided to pursue these interests further at university. He recalls several inspirational science teachers at Newbattle during his time: Mr Clark and Mrs Lyall (Chemistry), Mr McPake (Physics) and Mrs Bennett (Biology). Truly great teachers! After leaving Newbattle in 2000, Ross attended Napier University to study Biomedical Sciences and he graduated in 2004 with a 1st class BSc (hons) degree. During his time at Napier, Ross became especially interested in cancer biology and decided to



forgo a career as a cancer research scientist. He joined the Department of Dermatology at Newcastle University in 2004 to undertake his PhD studies where his research focused on understanding how ultraviolet radiation in sunlight induces skin cancer. Ross made significant discoveries whilst studying both non-melanoma skin cancer and melanoma skin cancer and published several papers in highly-

respected cancer biology journals. He was awarded a PhD from Newcastle University in 2008 and having realised his passion for cancer research, he decided to pursue an academic research career by continuing his research as a post-doctoral scientist. Ross is currently a research scientist at a world-leading cancer biology lab at Stanford University, California, USA (since Jan. 2009) where he balances his research and student mentoring with enjoying the spectacular surroundings of the San Francisco Bay Area. Ross lives happily with his girlfriend and in his spare time he likes to unwind by playing golf, mountain biking, skiing, playing guitar, sight-seeing, reading and cooking.

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

Measles Alert From NHS Lothian

There has been a recent increase in the numbers of measles cases in Scotland and the rest of the UK, mainly affecting teenagers and younger adults. Many of the cases have been associated with recent travel abroad especially to France. A number of current measles outbreaks has been reported from France, Belgium and Switzerland.

Measles is highly infectious and can be a dangerous illness. It spreads easily in schools, universities and summer camps. Those who are not fully immunised with two doses of MMR are most at risk of developing measles.

As we approach the time of year when many children and students are travelling abroad on summer trips and family holidays, NHS Lothian is urging parents to protect their children against measles. If your child has missed out on two doses of MMR vaccine please consider getting your child fully immunised with MMR before you travel abroad during the summer break. Please contact your GP or practice nurse to arrange MMR vaccination as soon as possible.

Dr Janet Stevenson

Consultant in Public Health Medicine
NHS Lothian

Race for Life 2011



Newbattle pupils are well known for their generous spirit and their consideration for others. This year's fourth year is no exception.

Earlier in the year, a group of fourth year girls expressed an interest in entering the Race for Life, an annual event involving a 5km run in Holyrood Park, the purpose of which is to raise money for cancer charities.

The girls even managed to persuade a group of staff to join them! 'Team Newbattle' has now been entered for the race and consists of a total of 43 pupils and staff combined.

The event will take place on Sunday, 19th June, in Holyrood Park, and we aim to raise at least £1000.00 for Cancer Research.

We're already off to a great start as the girls organised a fabulous bake sale before they went off to study for their exams and managed to raise a grand total of £252.00.

Well done, girls, and good luck for the race!



Susan Bennett
Team Newbattle

S3 Dance Academy

Our S3 Dance Academy took part in a Primary Road Roadshow at **Gorebridge and Stobhill Primaries** in December 2010 and February 2011. The idea was to promote and showcase the exciting dances which the students have been working to perfection, to an audience of very excited P5, 6 and 7 students. This gave the Primary students an opportunity to see what happens at Newbattle High and what they could be doing soon when they come here.

Well done to all the girls who were involved. They danced, they introduced the dances and answered questions from the students. In doing so, they were a credit to Newbattle Community High and great ambassadors.

Ms Hamilton & Miss Wanstall





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S1 Chemistry Workshops

As part of our new improved CfE science course, staff from Edinburgh University visited Newbattle CHS to give S1 pupils an insight into the world of chemistry. Using liquid nitrogen they investigated the properties of rubber tubing. Pupils learned about pH and tested how



acidic or alkaline everyday substances are. They also tested the pH of rain water collected in the school grounds. This information was submitted as part of an ongoing water global experiment. The S1 pupils all enjoyed this experience and look forward to similar events in the future.

Careers Advice

If you are leaving school in the summer then see the school Careers Advisers, Joanne Boyd or Carla Bichan for more advice on college applications and employment opportunities

Make sure you have an up to date CV and are prepared for interview.

If you are thinking about staying on in to S5/S6 and want to discuss career options request an interview via guidance or the school library or email carla.bichan@sds.co.uk or joanne.boyd@sds.co.uk

Hockey Club

The hockey club has grown in strength this season with some very talented

students from S1/4 joining the squad. Tournaments have been played

throughout the season at most of the High Schools in Midlothian. We have played well in each, finishing in the top slots. In the last tournament of the season, playing for the prestigious Midlothian High School Trophy, we beat previous winners Penicuik High School 2-0 in the final to win the trophy for the first time, a great achievement for all our hard work! Goal scorers were Paul and Kyle Taylor. Well done to all the players and umpires. A big thank you to all our squad and coach Lorraine Nicholson-Bennett for all their hard work and commitment during the season. Good luck to our 6th year members Martin Wilson-Marr, Vikki Gibson, and Melina Schleinitz who will now leave school to follow their chosen careers.

Hockey Club will start again after the summer holidays. Look forward to seeing you all then..

Ms C. Hamilton PE Dept



Tall Ships

Congratulations to Amy Ronaldson S6 and Johnny Simpson S5 who will sail in different legs of the International Tall Ships Race and represent Midlothian

schools and Newbattle High in this prestigious event in July.

Amy will sail from Lerwick to Stavanger and Johnny will step on board at Stavanger to The Baltic.

The pupils were selected from nominations from Midlothian Head Teachers and PE departments, followed by an interview by Midlothian

Council and then finally selection by Ocean Youth Trust Scotland (OYTS).

The motto of OYTS is "Inspiring Young People--Building Futures"

In the next 2 months both pupils have to raise £100 sponsorship each, towards their personal costs, the rest is paid by OYTS. On their return they will come in and make a presentation to our S1/2 in assemblies in September.

This is an outstanding opportunity for them both, so please wish them luck as even in July the North Sea is no cruise in a sailing ship!

For more information see <http://www.oystScotland.org.uk/home.aspx>



**Mr Foley
Head of PE**





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

Celebrating Success

Hatwalk

A range of work from pupils from the Art and Design Department took part in an exhibition at the City Arts Centre in Edinburgh in May. The exhibition was set up with the charity 'Hatwalk'. The show helped raise funds for the local charity 'It's Good 2 Give' which helps young people with cancer.



SFA Soccer Ones

The Newbattle SFA Soccer Ones Team competed in an all day SFA Football Fest on the 27th May at Spartans football ground. The players showed great team work and cooperation to play in a section with Tyne-castle High, Earlston High and Bathgate Academy, which was a tough group. The boys were coached by three ex-pupils Amy Young, James Grubb and Lorna Esson who have coached the boys every Friday this year. In a thrilling final game Newbattle edged ahead of Bathgate by one goal to claim third place. Fantastic spirit and skills were shown and the boys look forward to being the Soccer 2 squad in August.



Trampoline Success for Newbattle



On Sunday 10th April, City of Edinburgh Trampoline Club hosted the annual Schools Competition, in partnership with Midlothian Council, at Lasswade High School Centre.

There were a total of 112 competitors on the day, from ages 4 to 21. They represented 56 different nursery, primary and secondary schools, universities and colleges in Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian & the Borders.

Medals were awarded to those achieving 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each category, and every participant was presented with a personalised certificate to recognise their placing/achievement.

Midlothian Depute Provost, Margot Russell presented 1st place medals.

The following pupils from Newbattle High School took part in this event with Midlothian Gymnastic/Trampoline Club. They train each week with the club (at either Mayfield, Danderhall or Gorebridge Leisure Centre) and did very well participating in their first competition.

- Holly Graham** (Intermediate Secondary Junior Girls S1-3) 3rd Place
- Jenna Scott** (Advanced Secondary Junior Girls S1-3) 1st Place
- Claire Young** (Advanced Secondary Junior Girls S1-3) 4th Place
- Kirsty Dilworth** (Advanced Secondary Junior Girls S1-3) 5th Place

Congratulations to all the Newbattle girls from the PE Staff and Coaches.

IKEA Challenge Success

In May, Midlothian Council in conjunction with IKEA held the annual 'IKEA CHALLENGE' at the Mining Museum in Newtongrange. All six Midlothian secondary schools' C.D.T. departments entered into the competition in the various categories on offer. The pupils selected from Newbattle were **Ashleigh Weir, Ben Gibson, Nathan Ferguson, Lauren Anderson, Zoe Anderson, Caitlin Carr** and **Danielle Watson**. The pupil work selected for the competition was chosen due to the high quality and was seen by the staff as a credit to the pupils themselves and the school.

A special mention must go to **Caitlin Carr** who won first place in the Higher Graphic Communication category. This is an excellent achievement by Caitlin and one which the staff were very proud of. Congratulations to all of the pupils for being selected to represent Newbattle.

XTRA Time



Well done to **Scott Veitch** and **Joshua Chisholm** who successfully completed the Xtra Time Coaching Course with Heart of Midlothian Football Club. They are pictured above with the other participants.



At Newbattle we like to celebrate the successes of our pupils both inside and outside 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.



Comments From Senior Management



Yet again we can look back on a very good year at Newbattle. In the background we have faced some real challenges as a community this year- both natural and man-made. We overcame the second severe winter in a row and we are all (in school and in homes around Midlothian) facing up to budget restrictions caused by the economic problems around the globe. The strong ethos of fairness and equality in Newbattle has guided me to ensure that resources are well directed and every penny is used to support all pupils to achieve their potential – as members of society as well as learners.

It is heartening to be able to report just how well our pupils have been doing. Their participation, and success, in a wide range of sporting and cultural ventures as reported in various editions of this newsletter has been inspirational to their peers and indeed their teachers. Academically, we continue to strengthen the very strong working relationships in the classroom and raise the aspirations of our pupils. Doing 'alright' is not good enough at Newbattle. Teachers here are

involved in individual target-setting with pupils to make sure that each and every one is aware of just how much they can actually achieve and how those achievements are going to be made.

Looking to the future, I recently had the pleasure of joining the Primary 7 camp for pupils who will be joining us from 22nd August. They are a lively bunch, full of energy and enthusiasm, and I look forward to them enhancing our school in the new academic session.

Finally, on behalf of the whole school community I would like to wish four teachers a very happy retirement. After more years than they would care to remember at Newbattle, Christine Hamilton (PE), Diane Falconer (Business Education), Peter Gray (Head of Art) and Duncan Sangster (Depute Headteacher) are moving on to pastures new. Best of luck for the next phase of your lives, and thank you for touching so many other lives through your teaching.

John Wilson
Headteacher (Acting)

Values For Life

Trust – to feel confident and secure by building relationships based on honesty and fairness

Respect – to be considerate of the needs, wishes and feelings of others as well as your own worth

Perseverance – continued determination to succeed and never give up in spite of difficulties

Responsibility – making informed decisions and being accountable for your own actions

Humour – maintain a positive outlook on life even in the face of adversity

Focus – concentrate fully on the task in hand and avoid distractions

Holidays

All Resume Monday 22nd August 2011

September Weekend Friday 16th September 2011
Monday 19th September 2011

October Week Monday 17th October 2011

Pupils Resume Tuesday 25th October 2011



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