



Selkirk High School

PLANS AND PROGRESS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022



The SHS Student Head Team

(clockwise from back left: Gully Turner, Angus McIntyre, Eden Collins, Bobby Turner, Niamh Davie) have launched the new improved SHS House Championship.

They are leading the prefects and House Captains in designing a truly inclusive programme of House Events, taking into account the ideas of all students- and the aim is that all students contribute through the year as they compete for the Munro Cup.

Students can earn house points through participation in extra curricular activity, wider achievement outside of school, classwork as well as the full range of house competitions. This is all recorded to make sure everyone is included and students, all of whom have a visual cv called an Achievement Journey, can record their wider achievement as well.



The Head Team launched their plan to the junior school at an Assembly. This was outstanding. House groups used their ipads to vote on year group House Captains and already are buzzing with ideas. It's going to be an exciting and inclusive year of wider achievement at SHS!



The Munro Cup.

By the end of the year, this Cup will symbolise an enormous amount of effort, participation and leadership...and this is what Yarrow, Ettrick and Tweed are fighting for!



New!

FAMILY LEARNING

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Chris Dolan as Principal Teacher Family Learning. By the end of the year, Chris aims to have a programme of family learning opportunities in place. Please complete the brief survey below to support this exciting development!

<https://forms.office.com/r/yi64d12XzA>



SHS House Champions The Munro Cup



How Can I earn House Points?

- House Competitions
- For Participation and Results
- Praise Postcards
- Extra Curricular Commitment (Termly)
- Wider Achievement

How do I find out what's on?

- House Teams
- Bulletin
- Notice Board in Hall
- See Your Heads of House

SHS ACHIEVEMENT JOURNEY

Qualifications Skills Values

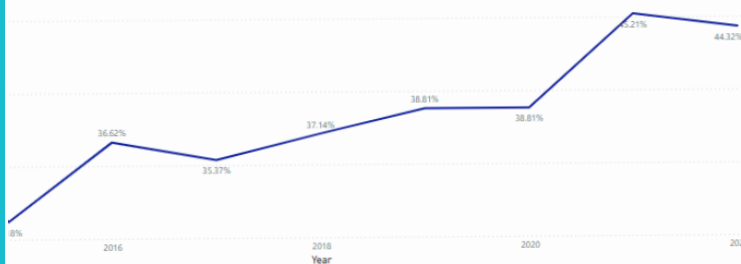
You can earn house points by participating in a range of ways. Well done to our Maths team who did so well in the Inter school Maths Challenge!



Attainment on the up at SHS!

1

We're very proud that the % of S4 students achieving 5 qualifications at N5 has continued to rise from pre pandemic levels. The trend for S5 achieving 5 Highers is similarly positive!



Qualifications Skills Values

Here you can add some detail about you achievements in your subjects, skills and values in action.

My Subjects and Qualifications- can you add any evidence of your progress eg pics of work or video or teacher feedback?

My Golden Skills- You put your Golden Skills into action all the time- can you give examples of your successes in class, extra curricular activity and/or use you been involved in 'real world' activities eg experience, VPI etc? Remember to add pics/videos/audio

S SKILLS

TEAMWORK
COMMUNICATION
PROBLEM SOLVING
CREATIVITY POSITIVITY

V VALUES

RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
RELATIONSHIPS
RESILIENCE

DF

Extra Curricular

Community

Every SHS student is on an **Achievement Journey** focused on Qualifications, Skills and Values.

Wider Achievements are a big part of this- whether in or outside of school.

Please make sure we know about the wider achievements of students! You can do this by responding to our weekly request which is sent alongside our school news!



This could be about any activity, volunteering, or participation out of school!

Local Benchmarking Measure: Literacy and Numeracy



The government uses a data set called Insight which compares the attainment of each student in a school to peers with a similar profile across the country. Our students have outperformed their peers in Literacy and Numeracy in S4 and S5 for the second year running!

3

Attainment in a range of subjects is extremely positive at SHS- and it's fantastic to see students achieving qualifications in new courses such as Cyber Security and Health Sector. Nowhere has improvement been more striking than in Maths- an amazing 75% of S4 students achieved a N5 Maths qualification last year!

The Meaningful Curriculum

- NPA Level 6 Communications/Literature
- NPA Level 5/6 Customer Service
- N5 Environmental Science
- NPA Level 5/6 E-Sports
- N4 Applications of Maths
- Higher Applications of Maths
- NPA Level 4/5 Digital Media
- NPA Level 5 Criminology

- NPA Level 5/6 Cyber Security
- App Development with Swift
- NPA Level 5 Film and Media
- NPA Level 5 Horticulture
- NPA Level 4/5 Photography
- N5 Travel and Tourism
- NPA Level 5 Health Sector
- Level 5/6 Creative Thinking

New Courses 2022-23

Over the last 4 years we have been on a mission to develop our curriculum offer. We have done this for several reasons.

1. Our curriculum needs to be inclusive and not simply designed to support academic pathways
2. We need to prepare students for the reality of a speedily changing world. Our business partners, Scotgov agencies and students and families all identify skills and digital skills to be a vital part of success.
3. Many new courses are more vocational in character and do not include examinations as part of the assessment.
4. This has all been achieved by creative timetabling and staff commitment- the traditional academic offer remains and is boosted by partnerships with other schools and Borders College.



Our new Digital Hub is now up and running for Coding, App development and Esports. This will also be used by S6 WeNetwork interns as they start their work experience for an international recruitment consultancy based in Singapore! Amazing!

Rian Faulds S4 captures the first batch of SHS organic honey from our very own bees!

Excitingly, from October the Borders College will be offering Horticulture at the school to groups of S3 and S4 students!



COMING UP...

Grace arrives at Selkirk High School!

In August we welcomed Vickie Robbie, our fabulous Home School Link Worker....and just before October she was joined by the much-loved family dog Grace! Grace is an experienced former Police dog, impeccably behaved and very intelligent, and she'll be supporting Vickie and providing comfort and entertainment for students who may be finding the school day a bit tough!



OUR WONDERFUL PARTNERS - THE HARRIS TRUST- CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING OUR STATE OF THE ART RECORDING STUDIO, THE TRUST IS NOW SUPPLYING CREATIVITY AND MUSIC PROGRAMMES FOR A RANGE OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN THE SCHOOL



Homelearning and Showbie

Staff are currently training to use an app called Showbie. This replaces ShowMyHomework/SatchelOne. It's a great way to communicate and organise Homework for students- in a way that is really clear for parents to follow! We aim to get this going in early November!

1

S2 and S3 Community Mentoring Programme

Led by former SHS great Graham Marshall and Brandon Murray our Youth Worker, this initiative links students with positive role models in the community. Students were so positive about this that were extending this to S3 as well.

2

S1 Nurture Groups 2022

These groups meet Period 1 every day and work on specific targets, whether social, academic or to do with self-regulation. This will begin at the end of October and will continue for a number of weeks.

3

Supporting Neurodiversity at SHS

As part of our ongoing drive to be a Nurturing and Inclusive school, we are proud to be working with Edinburgh University and The Harris Trust on a research project looking at Peer Support for Neurodiversity in Secondary Schools- the Neurodiversity Alliance.

SHS Achievement Journey Excursions 2022-2023

Skills and Values in Action

DRAFT!



S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
Oct Day Trip 1 Teambuilding	May 3-4 Days Residential	May Leadership 2-3 Day Options	Curricular Options	June Leadership Week + Team- Building Residential	Leadership Award
Dec Day Trip 2 CINEMA	NEWCASTLE- TON	-City -Mountains -Island -Homebased	Employability Enterprise Work Exp.		
May Day Trip 3 Outdoor Adventure	Values in Action				



Free for identified individuals
Sponsorship available
Fundraising to reduce costs for all

Values In Action (VIA) Days

**RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY
RELATIONSHIPS RESILIENCE**

Oct - Feb - April

**Fundraising
Volunteering
Community Action
Partnerships**

**S1 and S2
Skills In Action Every Week**

Golden skills

Teamwork
Communication
Problem Solving
Creativity
Positivity

The poster opposite is a **draft** and planning is underway! Times and details may change!

In our Summer Excursion survey parents were very clear:

- Excursions are be an extremely important part of the SHS Education
- Excursions should be accessible to all pupils
- Fundraising which develops Golden Skills and reduces the cost for all is appropriate.

In a second survey of S2 parents we recently checked the viability of the S2 Residential Excursion and received a very positive response. More info to follow!



All S3 are invited to participate in the Bronze Duke Of Edinburgh Award ... applications are now overdue. See Mr Haviland asap!



Selkirk High School

SHS PARENT PARTNERSHIP FUNDRAISER!

PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE

REVAMP YOUR WARDROBE

RECYCLE

MAKE MONEY!



SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER 10am-3pm

SELKIRK HIGH SCHOOL



How it Works

You can buy and/or sell - or just come for a coffee and chat
Clothes must be clean and good quality

Items should be clearly labelled with name or identification mark and must be dropped off at Selkirk High School on Wednesday 9th or Thursday 10th November ONLY

Items sold will be 75% to seller, 25% to SHSPP

Unsold clothes must be removed by 5pm on the day or will be put in the school clothes bank.

Please price reasonably to sell
Cash or Card accepted

**For any questions about the event contact
jane.macdonell@hotmail.com**





Selkirk High School

Appendix 1- *thank you to all parents for your support of our core expectations. The vast majority of students arrive in full uniform and are ready to learn. This creates a calm and purposeful atmosphere and really makes a difference!*

Ready To Learn Checklist

Every school day begins with RTL (Ready To Learn). Key safety messages are discussed and support is provided to students who are unsure about the day ahead. This really helps prepare students for a successful day.

Lesson after lesson and day after day- for all the years of school - the little things add up to make a very significant difference to the achievements of our young people.

Please have a look at the checklist below and help us to ensure every student is Ready To Learn.

Healthy Start	The link between performance and a healthy start is really clear and thank you for supporting this. Breakfast club is available at the school every day.	✓
Uniform	<p>Pupils who wear the full school uniform contribute enormously to the purposeful atmosphere, high standards and high expectations at the school as well as a sense of equality amongst our students.</p> <p>Students are expected to arrive at school in full school uniform every day- and to bring PE Kit in a bag.</p> <p>We thank you for supporting this. Please see below for information about the support available and/or how to access Clothing Allowance.</p>	✓
load	The <u>load</u> is now the 'school bag' of students at SHS- it's vital that students look after their <u>loads</u> responsibly and bring their fully charged <u>load</u> to school each day.	✓
Mobile Phones	<p>It is very clear to us that students who carry their phones about or have them in pockets during class are continually aware of them and easily and often distracted from their learning. <u>loads</u> mean that phones no longer have any role in class.</p> <p>More than ever, students (and everyone else!) are finding it difficult to separate themselves from their phones. In addition to the impact on learning, we are aware of significantly negative impact of social media on mental health.</p> <p>To encourage a more balanced relationship with phones, we therefore require S1/2/3 students to keep their phones at home. If senior students bring them to school, they must be in bags and out of sight during class time.</p>	✓
Lunchtimes	The performance of students in the afternoon who have a high sugar lunch appears to be very significantly less effective than students who make healthy choices. If you are not confident your child is making healthy choices in the town, please consider a packed lunch or our canteen. We do not allow energy drinks or sugary drinks in school.	✓



Selkirk High School

Appendix 2

SHS Uniform

The Selkirk High School Uniform

All students should arrive at school smartly dressed and ready to learn

- A white shirt and school tie tied at the top
- A plain black V-neck jumper, cardigan or black sweatshirt- not hoodies*
- Black tailored trousers or skirt- not jeans or leggings
- Smart, sensible, black school shoes

*Pupils wearing outdoor clothing are expected to change on arrival; lockers are available- please contact the school office.



We would like to thank parents and carers for supporting the school uniform. It is an indirect but significant factor in the school's ethos and success.

At Selkirk High School we are striving to set the highest standards, underpinned by our Values In Action ethos and Positive Relationships Policy.

By wearing the uniform, students contribute to the purposeful school environment and demonstrate that they are Ready to Learn. The uniform is aspirational. It represents our united effort to be the best we can be. It represents the pride we have in our school and our belief in every young person's unique and magnificent potential, regardless of their background and ability. It can give young people confidence, self-belief as well as a sense of community and belonging. Students also tell us that the uniform shows that everyone is equal and helps prevent prejudice based on appearance.

RELATIONSHIPS FOR LEARNING



Financial Support – Clothing Allowance and Free School Meals

- Did you know you can now apply for/renew your child's free school meals/clothing grant online? To reapply, visit our website <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/fsm> or scan the QR code on your renewal letter. You can also follow this link to find out if you're eligible and would like to claim.
- The school is developing a free clothes/kit recycling opportunity – and has other options if getting uniform is difficult for any SHS family: please phone the school for details