

# SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD: SELKIRK HIGH SCHOOL

...All the latest news straight from the classroom



**MORE POWER:** Pupils looked at solar panels as they learned about renewable energy Image: Selkirk High School



**GAME ON:** Pupils took part in an esports tournament. Image: Selkirk High School

## Borders College, November 12

SIXTEEN Selkirk High School students took part in an exciting esports development event at Borders College on Tuesday, November 12, where they competed against schools from across the region and learned from industry professionals.

The event, organised by South of Scotland Enterprise, Borders College, Scottish Borders Council, DYW Borders, and SCAN Computing, featured three specialist workshops alongside a regional Rocket League tournament for S1 to S3 and S4 to S6 pupils.

Each of the eight participating schools - Selkirk, Jedburgh, Earlston, Peebles, Galashiels, Eyemouth, Hawick, and Berwickshire - entered three teams, with four of Selkirk's NPA esports students also supporting the delivery of workshops and helping to run the tournament.

Selkirk's four teams performed brilliantly throughout the day:

Selkirk One (S1-3): Eli Knoesen, Ayden Stephen, Rhys Clifford Selkirk

Two (S4-6): Alfie McKenzie, Kevin Makutenas, Finlay Kelly Selkirk Three (S1-3): Fraser Niven, Reese Potts, Luke Domin Selkirk Four (S1-3): Oliver Amos, Finlay Raffier, Alfie Wight

The senior team (Selkirk Two) reached the semi-finals, securing a top-four finish, while all three junior teams made it through to the final stages.

Selkirk Three defeated Berwickshire High School in their semi-final, while Selkirk One overcame Selkirk Four in the other. The final saw Selkirk Three crowned champions - with all three junior teams finishing in the top four overall.

The morning workshops offered valuable career insights and creative inspiration. Legendary esports manager Michael 'ODEE' O'Dell, recently appointed Team GB esports manager for the upcoming Olympic Games, shared his rise to fame and praised the standard of play on display.

"Your teams have some really good talent, and it's great to see them winning trophies," said ODEE.

Paul Coyle, esports and

gaming education manager at SCAN Computers, explored the entrepreneurial and transferable skills that gaming can build, while Finlay Pearston, games producer and lecturer at Abertay University, spoke about opportunities within the games industry.

Students also took part in a creative branding session, designing their own team logos using iPads.

One Selkirk student summed up the day by saying: "That was awesome, to experience a real tournament and learn a little bit about the careers and that as well."

Reflecting on the school's outstanding results, Richard Willan, head of creativity and enterprise, praised the students' preparation and teamwork.

He said: "We were in a fortunate position - our NPA esports students were able to run a full in-school tournament beforehand, and the winners from that earned their place at the regional finals today."

"Their hard work, organisation and teamwork really paid off."

## CPR workshop

The health sector class participated in an emergency care CPR workshop with the fire brigade.

## Science class

S1 science students made algal balls to study photosynthesis and carried out experiments in science.

## Renewable energy

The S4 science class investigated solar panels as a renewable energy source.

## Football

The Selkirk HS combined S2 and S3 football team recently played against Jedburgh Grammar School in Jedburgh.

Both teams showed great skill and effort and were a good advert for the sport.

Selkirk HS won the game 0-9.



**GAME ON:** Pupils took part in an esports tournament. Image: Selkirk High School



**STEM:** Kids in science class looked at using algal balls to understand photosynthesis. Image: Selkirk High School



**AND IT'S LIVE:** Selkirk High School pupils beat Jedburgh Grammar School 0-9 at football Image: Selkirk High School