

## SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD: SELKIRK HIGH SCHOOL

...All the latest news straight from the classroom



Pupils during the Rotary Young Chef competition. Images: Selkirk High School

**AH English Library Trip**  
Advanced higher English students visited Edinburgh Library two weeks ago for a day of specialist study.

As part of their course, they have chosen literature they enjoy and are writing a 2,500-word dissertation.

This involves using secondary sources, so the library provided them with literary criticism and they spent the afternoon making copious notes which will be really useful.

They all enjoyed the feeling of studying in a real library - excellent preparation for university or college next year.

**The Reel Book Club**  
Every Wednesday, Mrs Allan and Mrs McKeown welcome S1/2 pupils to their extracurricular club which helps students develop their literary and media talents.

So far, we have taken part in the Young Editors programme where we read and gave feedback on an unpublished book.

More recently, students have been producing creative writing based on 'Happiness in Nature' as part of the annual Selkirk Rotary Young Writers competition - watch this space for some winners (fingers crossed).

**Christmas Concert**  
The high school Christmas Concert takes place in school on Monday December 15. Doors open at 7pm. Entry is by donation.

A huge well done to the S1 - S3 girls who took part in a T1 rugby festival at Selkirk RFC.

They were joined by teams from Jedburgh GS and Gala Academy. An excellent display of pace, skill, tries, team work and communication from everyone who took part.

Although it was rainy and cold, it did not dampen the enthusiasm from the Selkirk girls.

A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes to allow these opportunities to happen. A massive thank you to Kieran, Selkirk RFC development officer and Miss McColl for coordinating and organising the festival.

Also, couldn't do it without our VIP referees Rory, Alfie, Struan, James, Aaron and Jacob and sports leaders Finley, Clemeney and Emma, for looking after the teams.

### Rotary Young Chef Competition

On Friday (November 28), Selkirk High School hosted the first school round of the Rotary Young Chef competition and what a day it was!

Such an impressive showcase of talent, determination, and creativity.



AH English pupils at Edinburgh Library

Our 13 budding young chefs were challenged to prepare a healthy two-course meal and present it to the judges in two



hours.

Prior to the day students attended planning meetings where they researched and amended recipes, costed their ingredients, planned their garnishes and table setting and designed their menu.

With only 120 minutes on the clock, students had to balance speed with precision, carefully planning each step to ensure both courses were completed to a high standard.

From knife work to seasoning, plating, and timing, competitors displayed advanced culinary techniques that highlighted their knife skills, heat control and dedication.

The atmosphere was intense yet inspiring, as students pushed themselves to the limit, showing resilience and focus under pressure.

The final dishes were not only delicious but beautifully presented, reflecting the effort and creativity invested. Judges praised the students for their professionalism in the kitchen and the high quality of their meals.

Holly Craig in S2 won first place with 57 points out of 60 with a decadent smoked salmon risotto and tangy lemon cheese cake, closely followed by Rowan McGurk in S3 with 56 points who

served an inspiring pan-fried salmon and seaweed salad and chocolate lava cake.

The competition was a celebration of skill, discipline, and passion for cooking, proving that with hard work, planning and creativity, even with a tight deadline, can produce outstanding results.

Well done to Lexie Stewart, Aaron Douglas, Kirsten Auld, Jack Vause, Lilly Hoppe, Esme Borthwick, Faith Blair, Paul McIntyre in S2, Bethany Robertson and Sonia Mendyk in S3 and Lily Jackson in S4 for their culinary flair and professionalism.

### Awards

We are over the moon to announce that we have been named winner of the highly acclaimed Climate Change Champion Trophy and also runner up in the Crown Estate Schools award for the 2025 Scottish Finest Woods award.

Alayah (S4) and Belle (S3) attended the awards ceremony at the Scottish Parliament to accept the awards and give a short speech about the importance of outdoor learning, climate change education and why farmers are essential.

They were both outstanding and we are very proud of them.



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards